



2024

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Pine Creek
Rail Trail**
Pennsylvania



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The Pine Creek Rail Trail is one of Pennsylvania's destination trails, and for good reason. The 62-mile well-maintained trail runs at the bottom of scenic Pine Creek Gorge, commonly called the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania. Small towns along the route cater to trail visitors, and numerous trailheads, comfort stations, campgrounds, and lodging make extended stays possible. The finely crushed limestone surface is best suited for hybrid bikes; a service road next to the trail from Ansonia to Tiadaghton Campground (just northwest of where the trail intersects T357/Tiadaghton Road) is open to equestrians as well. It's a good trail for families, but remember that bicyclists aged 12 and under must wear a helmet.

About the Route

Melting glaciers carved the gorge, which runs 800–1,400 feet deep and a mile wide. A natural travel route through northern Pennsylvania for Native Americans, the gorge in 1883 became the route of the Jersey Shore, Pine Creek and Buffalo Railway—later named Pine Creek Railway—that served lumber companies that clear-cut the mountainsides. The last freight passed through in 1988, and the trail was born in 1996 and extended to its present length in 2012.

The trail slopes imperceptibly downhill alongside Pine Creek, from Wellsboro Junction in the north to Jersey Shore in the south. Pines and hardwoods now carpet the bare slopes left behind by loggers. Deer, elk, wild turkeys, and black bears inhabit the area bound by the Tioga and Tiadaghton State Forests, and trail users might be treated to river otters or beavers in the water and bald eagles or ospreys above. The northern section is bound by state parks, and more food and lodging are available in the south. Visitors can use bike rental and shuttle services, as well as canoe and kayak liveries, and horse-drawn wagon rides are available on some sections.

The trailhead at Wellsboro Junction is the northern starting point and the first 7 miles to Ansonia are fairly wide open, but the gorge begins forming soon after the trail joins Pine Creek. The route passes between Colton Point State Park on the right and Leonard Harrison State Park on the left. Take the Turkey Path trail at 3.5 miles past the Darling Run trailhead to enjoy waterfall views.

The next 12.5 miles to a store at Blackwell travel through the most remote section of the gorge, passing only the Tiadaghton Campground. After Blackwell, SR 414 follows the trail south as the surroundings become more populated. A good swimming hole lies at Rattlesnake Rock, 1.8 miles past Blackwell, and in another 4 miles, Cedar Run has a popular café.



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States: Pennsylvania

Counties: Lycoming, Tioga

Length: 62.5 miles

Trail end points: County Rd. 287 (Wellsboro)
to Seminary St. (Jersey Shore)

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Fishing, Wheelchair
Accessible, Horseback Riding, Mountain
Biking, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Pine Creek Rail Trail runs between County Rd. 287 (Wellsboro) and Seminary St. (Jersey Shore), with parking available at the northern end.

Additional parking can be found at:

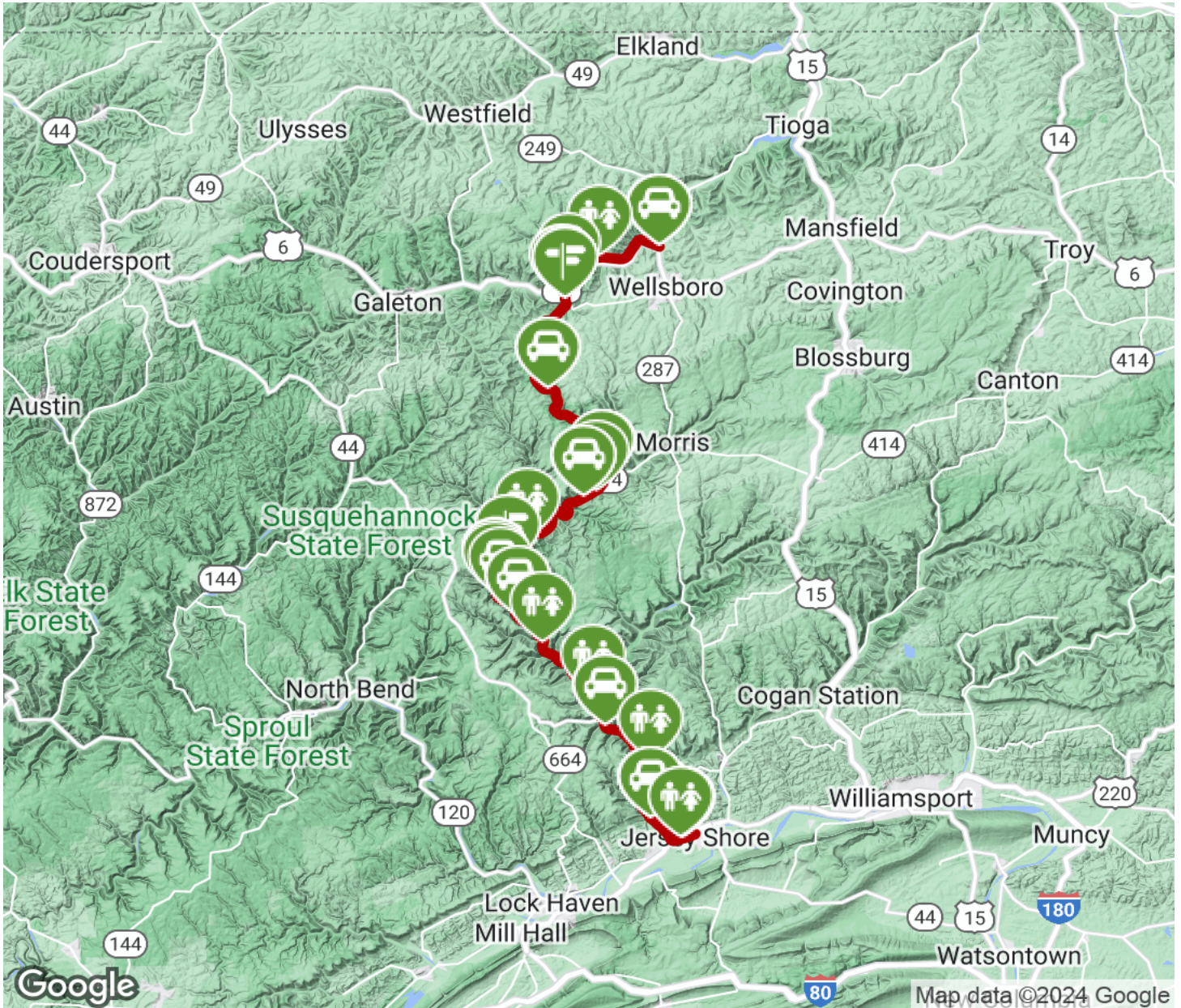
- 21892 State Rte. 414 (Morris)

Parking is available at a number of locations along the trail. See [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Pine Creek Rail Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com