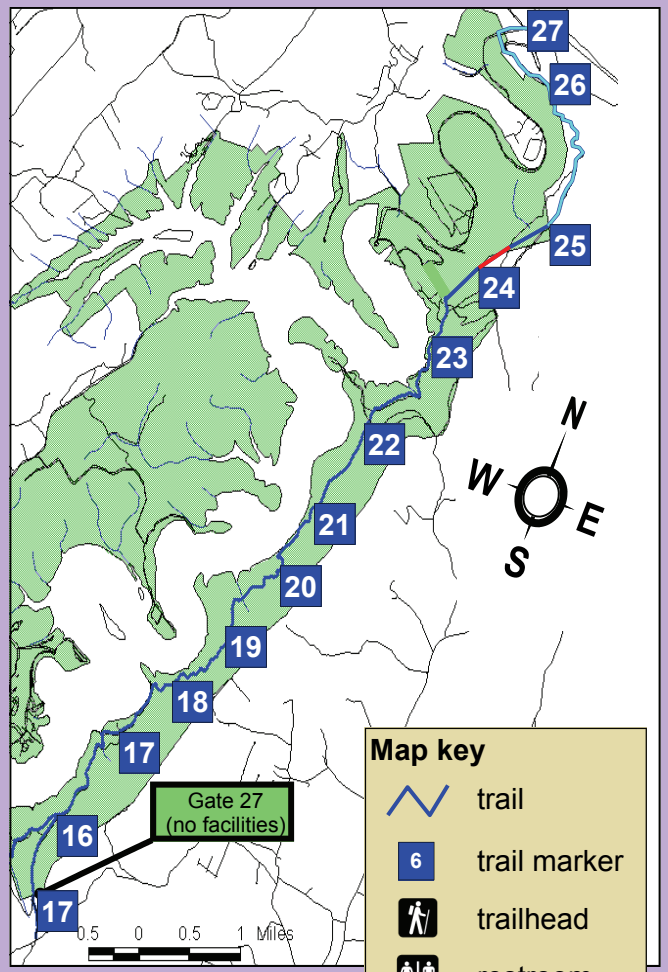


You travel at your own risk! Cell phone coverage is not available along portions of the trail & emergency access is limited. Hike wisely and be prepared.

In emergencies call

911

Camping is only permitted at designated sites.

Terrace Mountain Trail

North-Central Section

Distance: 5.1 miles

Rating: moderate to strenuous

Terrain: sloping, many sections rigorous

Surface: mostly dirt, some rock

Restrooms: Trough Creek State Park

Public Campgrounds: Trough Creek State Park

General Trail Description:
The North - Central Section runs from the Ice Mine located in Trough Creek State Park (mile 11.9) to Gate 27 (mile 17). The beginning of the trail follows the old Juniata & Southern Railroad before turning north on old logging roads and foot paths which cut across the face of Terrace Mountain before finally climbing to the top of the ridge at Gate 27.

Unique Features:
Continuing with the history surrounding Great Trough Creek, this section explores old railroads and logging paths used during coal and timber booms that were the base of local industry for nearly a century beginning in the 1830s.

Traveling farther north the trail steadily climbs to offer impressive and unique views of the lake– only seen from the Terrace Mountain Trail!

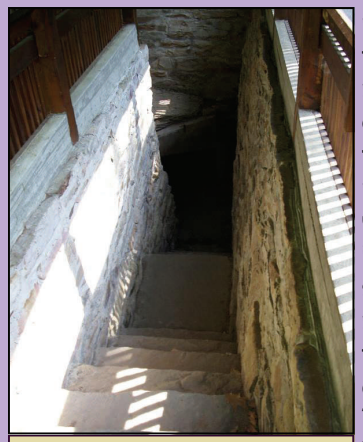
Bridges offer novelty and convenience for stream crossings. "Swiss-Cheese" rocks, cliffs and mountain views are just some of the other geologic features this section of trail has to offer.

US Army Corps of Engineers®
Baltimore District

Raystown Lake
6145 Seven Points Rd.
Hesston, PA 16647
(814) 658-3405
http://raystown.nab.usace.army.mil

points of interest

11.9 Mile, Ice Mine. On a hot day, find relief by visiting the Ice Mine. Air trapped within the layers of rock, forming the hillside above, sinks into the mine keeping it cold year-round. In spring, melting snow enters the mine. Upon meeting the flow of cold air it re-freezes. In summer, warmer air condenses when it meets the cold air of the mine and the resulting condensation often freezes to form even more ice. With or without ice, walking into the mine is like stepping into a refrigerator. From the ice mine parking area continue on the Terrace Mountain Trail down the road, towards the lake and around the metal gate.


Ice Mine

Layered Sandstone, 12.0 Mile. Rock outcroppings like these are primarily sandstone of the Pocono formation. 340 million years ago this formation would be forming amongst lush, humid jungle. Our nation's coal formed during this same era. Close examination may reveal thin bands of coal present today in the cliffs of Trough Creek Valley.

Juniata & Southern Railroad, 12.7 Mile. If you were on this same path nearly 100 years ago you'd be dodging oncoming trains loaded with coal timber, and mining equipment. The small 15 mile-long Juniata and Southern (J&S) Railroad operated from the village of Aitch (present day Marklesbeg) to Jacobs (present day Broad Top). Both the coal and the J&S Railroad disappeared in the 1920's.

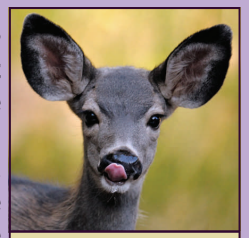
Bridge Crossing

Stone Walls, 13.4 Mile. The stone wall is proof that a farm once existed in this spot. Farmers constantly removed rocks, placing them on the edges of their fields. Over the years the walls would climb higher and higher. It is said, a substantial stone wall is a sure sign of a prosperous farm.

Stone Wall

Red cliffs, 14.2 Mile. 360 million years ago mud was deposited in an ancient flood plain and eventually pressed into this distinctive red layer of rock called the "Hampshire Formations"- which stretches throughout the Appalachian Mountains.

Saw Dust Pile, 15.5 Mile. Near the trail is an old saw dust pile well worth seeing. The erosive action of wind and rain have formed numerous spires. Abundant deer signs around the pile suggests the pile may be used as a "lick".


Deer

Swiss Cheese & Trail Spur, 16.4 Mile. Where the trail splits, rocks with Swiss Cheese like holes can be seen along the downhill side of the trail. Over the ages, weathering has eaten away pockets of soft rock, leaving only the surrounding hard rock.

Once across the wooden foot-bridges, the trail splits. Go uphill to shortcut along the main trail through the woods to the ridge top. Go downhill, to take a scenic byway along the lake shore before circling back uphill to reconnect with the main trail.

Trail Re-joins, 16.6 Mile.

Trail Split, 16.9 Mile. The trail intersects with a dirt road. At this point, the hiker has two options:

1. Complete the North-Central Section. Continue uphill to ascent to an elevation of 1,774 feet. Gate 27 will be at the top of the ridge.

2. Continue onto the North Section by going downhill. The lakeshore will be approximately 1 mile from this point.

Gate 27, 17 mile. The North-Central Section ends at this intersection of John Bum and Fink's roads. To return to Trough Creek State Park turn right as you exit the trail onto John Bum Road. Continue 1.8 miles and turn right onto Terrace Mountain Rd. which ends at the park after another 2.2 miles.

Timber Management

Although the trees in this area soar up to 60 feet high today, their younger than you might think. This forest has been repeatedly harvested by coal, iron and lumber industries. It's hard to imagine, but only a hundred years ago you'd be hard pressed to find a tree. With the timber removed and the land ravaged by subsequent fire this area was treeless and devoid of wildlife.

Timber Harvest

At the height of the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was assigned to the area. Workers fought fires, replanted trees and restored the area. Careful timber management today includes selective harvesting to enhance wildlife habitat, encourage new growth , and minimize the threats of disease and invasive species.