



Trail Location

To locate the trailhead, follow the signs for Weaver Falls Access Area. Travel east on Rt. 913 and take the first turnoff to the left at the eastern outskirts of Saxton. About a mile further on Rt. 913, there is another road that leads to Weaver Falls. Both roads are marked with a sign directing you to the Weaver Falls Access Area. The trailhead is located at the east side of the steel bridge at the metal gate. If leaving a vehicle at the trailhead, please park at Weaver Falls Access Area.

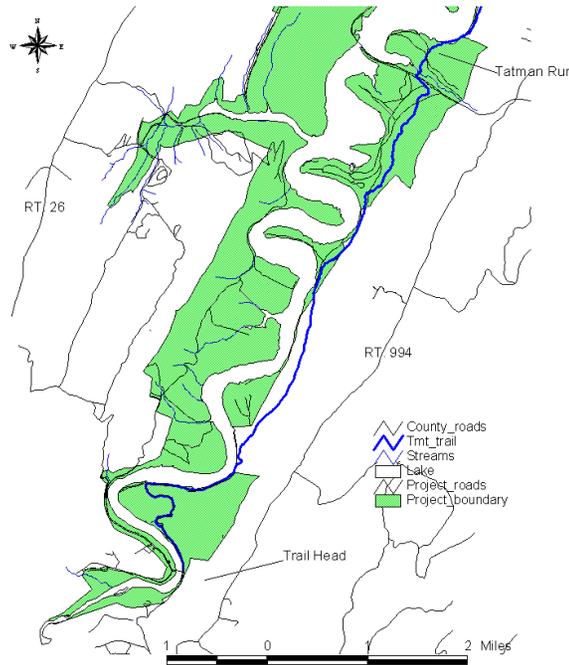
Trail Description

The first five and one half miles of the trail, between Weaver's bridge and Lake Raystown Resort, follows the old Tressler logging road. After leaving the Tressler road, the trail meanders through the woods, oftentimes becoming very rocky, but never too steep and still a pleasant walk.



The steep shale slopes common around Raystown Lake create a situation unique to the Ridge and Valley province of the Appalachians: the shale barrens. The shale barrens provide a dry, almost desert-like habitat which supports some very rare and unusual plant life. Some of these plants are found nowhere else in the world, while others are normally found much farther west. Plants such as a Hairy Lip Fern, Rock Selaginella, Barrens Bind-Weed, and Barrens Evening Primrose are found on the Raystown area barrens.

Trail Map



Shale outcrops along the first half mile of the trail comprise the Weaver Barrens, named in honor of Jacob Weaver, an early settler in the area. Please stay on the trail if you decide to look for some of the barrens flora; the environment is very fragile and easily disturbed. A field guide may be helpful in trying to identify these unique and interesting plants.

Forest Characteristics

A northern deciduous hardwood forest covers most of Terrace Mountain. A forest of this type is dominated by several species of hickory, oak and maple along with birches and Tulip Poplar. Smaller understory trees like Dogwood, Redbud and American Hop Hornbeam grow in the shade of the larger trees. The deciduous hardwood forest is also characterized by a spectacular show of spring wildflowers. Early in spring, before the hardwoods have produced leaves, plants like Trillium, Bloodroot, Hepatica and Trailing Arbutus quickly take advantage of the sunlight by rapidly growing and flowering. For the remainder of the summer, under the dense shade of the hardwoods, few flowers bloom.



While hiking, observe the changes in the forest. Usually a moist, sheltered area hidden from direct sunlight, supports the growth of White Pine, Eastern Hemlock and Rhododendron. Conversely, while walking over dry and rocky slopes, trees like Chestnut Oak and Pitch Pine will keep you company. However, the Terrace Mountain forest is composed primarily of the Tulip Poplar, maples, hickories and oaks. Try to identify these trees as you hike and patterns will begin to develop. Trees of a certain species will only grow where a suitable habitat is provided. A good field guide is a valuable tool when trying to identify these and other species along the trail.



Don't Forget

- ◆ Your favorite field guides
- ◆ Drinking water
- ◆ Compass
- ◆ Whistle
- ◆ Binoculars
- ◆ Camera
- ◆ First Aid Kit
- ◆ Snacks
- ◆ Rain Gear

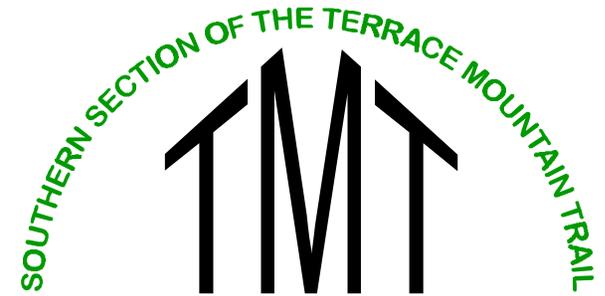
Trail Guidelines & Helpful Hints

- ◆ Camp only at designated areas.
- ◆ Camping facilities available at Paradise Point and Lake Raystown Resort.
- ◆ Build fires only in grills and fire places provided at the camping areas.
- ◆ Collect only dead, down wood for fires.
- ◆ Hunting and fishing are permitted, except in camping or picnic areas, in accordance with state regulations.
- ◆ Carry all refuse with you until it can be disposed of properly in refuse containers.
- ◆ Pets are permitted in Lake Raystown Resort campground but must be on a leash at all times.
- ◆ Only authorized vehicles are permitted on Terrace Mountain Trail. All other vehicles, including four-wheelers and snowmobiles, are prohibited.
- ◆ Please appreciate and observe plants and animals without disturbing them or removing them from their environment.

Before Leaving for Your Hike:

Leave a hike plan with someone at home and call the ranger station before you depart. Following this procedure ensures your safety. Should you not return to your car as planned, rangers will know when and where to start looking for you. The ranger office is located in the Seven Points recreation area and can be reached by telephoning (814)658-3405. Camping reservations at the Lake Raystown Resort can be made by calling (814)658-3500.

Southern



Raystown Lake



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Corps of Engineers