

## DEER LICK HIKING TRAIL

- this trail is currently closed due to storm damage.

This 14.8 kilometer (9.0 mile) trail utilizes old railroad grades, roads and pipelines to form several loops for your skiing pleasure.

**Finding the area:** The trailhead and parking area is located at the intersection of Tollgate Road and US 6, east of Sheffield, PA.

**Skiing the area:** Watch the informational signs. This trail area is ungroomed and includes a combination of logging roads, railroad grades, and pipelines that offer challenges to a wide range of skill levels--from the novice to the most experienced skier. The Reservoir Loop is suitable for beginning skiers. The Deer Lick and Pipeline Loops are better suited for more experienced schussers. The Reservoir Loop offers a scenic view of Deer Lick Reservoir as you come down Deer Lick Run. Deer Lick Loop forms a loop inside the Pipeline Loop and offers a higher level of challenge. The Pipeline Loop offers the most challenge as it climbs to the headwaters of Deer Lick and Roystone Runs. The hemlocks down along Deer Lick Run offer visual variety in contrast to the Northern and Allegheny Hardwoods on the hillsides and up the plateau. Wildlife is abundant in this area; watch for turkey, deer, squirrels and birds, particularly down along Deer Lick Run.

**Safety:** The nearest hospital is located in Warren, thirteen miles to the west on US 6.

**Volunteers:** Appreciation is given to our volunteers. If you, a friend, or your club are interested in volunteering to help maintain this trail, please contact the Bradford Ranger District.

**Customer Service:** The Sheffield area offers food and gas facilities. The Warren area is a full service community.

## Hearts Content Cross-Country Ski Area

This 10.5 kilometer (6.4 mile) trail utilizes old railroad grades, roads and existing trails to form several loops for your skiing pleasure. Of significance is the old growth forest of hemlock, beech and white pine in the Hearts Content National Scenic Area - enjoy the solitude and grandeur of these ancient trees.

**Finding the area:** The trailhead parking lot is located at the picnic area of the Hearts Content Recreation Area 15 miles southwest of Warren, PA. To reach Hearts Content Recreation Area, take the Warren to Tidioute road from Warren or Tidioute to the junction of the Hearts Content Road. Follow this road four miles to the Hearts Content Recreation Area. From Sheffield, take the Austin Hill (Bull Hill) Road to the Hearts Content Road. Total distance is approximately 15 miles.

A trail map is available on-line.

### Regulations

**Skiing the area:** Watch the informational signs. This trail area offers challenges to the beginning skier. The more experienced skier will find these trails offer an easy afternoon. All three loops are rated as suitable for beginners.

The Hearts Content Loop offers a scenic tour through the grandiose old stands of beech, hemlock and white pine. Toms' Run Loop offers a gradual rise in elevation as it climbs the plateau along Tom's Run. At the headwaters of Tom's Run, the trail crosses the plateau and joins with the Ironwood Loop. This loop offers another opportunity for beginning skiers to experience the Hearts Content Cross-Country Ski Area, park at Dunham Siding on the Hearts Content Road instead of parking at Hearts Content Recreation Area. The Ironwood Loop receives less use than the other two trails and for that reason offers a little more solitude.

Wildlife is abundant in this area; watch for turkey, deer, squirrels and birds, particularly as you leave the roadways. The Hickory Creek Wilderness is nearby...another area of the Allegheny National Forest to enjoy! We do not recommend the Hickory Creek Trail for skiing.

**Safety:** The nearest hospital is in Warren, fifteen miles to the north.

**Volunteers:** These trails are maintained by the USDA-Forest Service, Bradford Ranger District. If you, a friend, or your club are interested in volunteering to help maintain this trail, please contact the Ranger District at 814-362-4613.

**Customer Service:** The Warren area is a full service community.

For more information about this and other winter activities, contact local Tourist Promotion Agencies or Forest Service Offices.

## Westline Cross-Country Ski Area

This 15.6 kilometer (9.8 mile) ungraded trail system was completed in 1991 with the use of cooperative inmate prison labor from FCI-McKean. These trails were specifically designed for the enjoyment of X-C skiers of all skill levels.

Finding the area: The trailhead parking lot is located 11 miles south of Bradford via US 219 and SR 59 approximately 1/8 mile off of FR 455.

A [trail map](#) is available on-line.

Skiing the area: The two-way trail system traverses a combination of logging trails, pipelines and forest routes which offer challenges to a wide range of skill levels -- from the novice to the most experienced skier. The Short Circuit Loop, with its gentle rolling terrain, is especially designed for the beginning skier and also provides a terrific warm-up run for anyone. Inside-Out and Boo-Boo's Delight Loops will suit more experienced skiers, who will enjoy the up and down-hill grades and scenic views of the headwaters of Thundershower Run. Ledges Loop offers large rock outcroppings along the ridge, making this an enticing trail to explore. The Thundershower Trail offers the most experienced skiers a beautiful view of Thundershower Run as it flows into Westline -- a small village which once supported a sawmill, a chemical wood factory and two railroads. Wildlife is abundant in this ski area; watch for turkey, deer, squirrels and birds, especially along Thundershower Run and its headwaters.

### [Regulations](#)

Safety: Please report any unsafe trail conditions directly to the Bradford Ranger Station, 814-362-4613. Include downed trees, icy areas, missing signs and markers, and plugged culverts. We appreciate your support. The nearest hospital is in Bradford, 11 miles northeast of the trailhead parking area. The nearest pay telephone is at the Westline Inn, Westline, PA, four miles south of the parking lot.

Volunteers: These trails are maintained by the Bradford Ranger District, Allegheny National Forest, in cooperation with the Kinzua Trail Club. Seneca Highlands Association supported production of this brochure. If you, a friend, or your club are interested in volunteering to help maintain these trails (or other trails on the Forest), please contact the Ranger Station.

Customer service: The Westline area offers food and lodging. You'll also find food, lodging and gasoline at Lantz's Corners.

For more information on this and other ski areas in the Allegheny National Forest, contact [local Tourist Promotion Agencies or Forest Service Offices](#).

## Laurel Mill

**WELCOME** to the Laurel Mill Cross-Country Ski and Hiking Trail System. The Laurel Mill Trail is a system of interconnecting loops totalling 17.2 kilometers (10.7 miles) for cross-country skiing and hiking. The trailhead offers parking, restroom and a warming hut that are accessible to persons with disabilities.

**FINDING THE TRAIL** - The Laurel Mill Trailhead is located three miles west of Ridgway on Township Road 307, often called the Spring Creek Road. The trails can be found on the Portland Mills quadrangle map.

**SKIING LAUREL MILL** - The trails are marked with blue diamonds. Laurel Mill offers challenges to a wide range of skill levels. The Elk Loop and Perseverance Loop are designated EASIEST and are suitable for beginning skiers. The Scout Loop, Hemlock Loop and One Mile Loop are designated MORE DIFFICULT and are suitable for more advanced skiers. The Sparrow Nest Loop is best suited to hiking. "You Are Here" signs are located at trail junctions and other key locations.

The Hemlock Loop offers some scenic views of the Ridgway Reservoir as you go up Spillway Hill. The Scout Loop adds some excitement as you twist down Suicide Slide and Brigg's Dike. Ski cautiously over Lewis Run Bridge. If you desire solitude, try the trails on the southern side of the system. The scenery and quiet will be well worth the effort. Enjoy a meal at Lunch Rocks or Gillis Flats on the Sparrow Nest Loop. Schuss down Sam's Slide on the One Mile Loop.

**REGULATIONS** - These trails are for hiking and cross-country skiing. Mountain bikes, motorized vehicles, ATV's and snowmobiles are not allowed on any of the trails. Forest trails policy prohibits the use of saddle, pack or draft animals on hiking and cross-country ski trails. Camping is allowed along the trail as long as your equipment does not block the trail.

**SAFETY** - The Laurel Mill Trails are designated EASIEST (for warm-up and beginners), and MORE DIFFICULT (requires some skill and challenge). Hills are marked with Caution signs. Please ski safely and within your level of control. Ski to the right when approaching other skiers or when being passed by other skiers: Track Right! Grooming of the trails may take place at any time. Please leave the trail when you hear the groomer approaching.

Please remember these safety tips: Dress in layers and always wear a hat and gloves. Carry extra wax. Ski

with a friend, especially at night. Boil water for drinking. Be aware that these trails are used by hunters in the spring and fall. It is a good idea to wear bright fluorescent colored clothing during hunting season.

Practice No Trace Ethics-Pack it in, Pack it out, and for sanitary disposal of wastes, dig a pit at least 6 inches deep and at least 200 feet from water.

**EMERGENCY - CALL 911.** The nearest hospital and telephone are located in Ridgway, three miles east. Please report any unsafe trail conditions such as downed trees and missing signs to the Marienville Ranger District. We appreciate your support.

**VOLUNTEERS** - If you, a friend, or you club are interested in volunteering to help maintain this area, please contact the Marienville Ranger District.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** - The Ridgway area offers food, lodging, gasoline, and medical facilities.

**Rimrock Access Road** (off State Route 59, east of Warren & Kinzua Dam) no trail map available. This access road is an easy ski trail with a connecting trail that goes east to the Morrison trail head (approximately a 4 mile loop). Volunteers cleared this trail 12/28/2003.

A public service of <http://www.pa-conservation.org>