



Boyce Park

Green Loop Trail: Park at the Boyce Park Soccer Fields to access this 2.25-mile trail. Walk about 100 feet past the Chimney Swift Habitat Tower to find the first green blaze on your right. The first half of this hike meanders through mixed woodlands. This easy-to-moderate trail then crosses the gravel service road and stays in the forest for a short distance before it quickly turns back, stays adjacent to the road and then back into the woods for the remainder of the hike. The last section follows along some of the largest Oak trees in Boyce Park. The trail exits just uphill from the Archery Range then crosses over the service road and back to the Soccer Field parking lot.

Yellow Loop: This 1.2-mile, easy-to-moderate hike begins at the Carpenter Log House Parking Area on Pierson Run Road. The trailhead is across the road, marked by a yellow blaze. Ford the stream at a rock-hardened crossing then continue to cross the utility corridor and follow the trail back into the woods up the small creek valley. The Yellow Trail will split shortly after entering the woods. Stay left at the "Y" and follow it to a clearing by the airfield. Take a sharp right at the opening and stay to the left where the Yellow and Blue Trails join for a short distance; stay left at the next intersection. You will wind through a young forest, an interesting section that is mostly Spicebush. As you come out of that patch, the forest opens up and large Oaks are numerous. You will exit into a small field where the trail turns to the right and makes a hard turn joining back on to the Blue Trail again (almost 180 degrees back into the woods). As you enter back into the woods, stay left on the Yellow Trail and follow a series of flowing downhill turns. The Yellow Trail crosses the Blue Trail again on an old access road and then drops down into a scenic valley filled with large Oak trees and beautiful wildflowers in the spring. You will be paralleling Pierson Run Road to your left and eventually cross a small bridge at the bottom of a valley. Stay to the left at the "Y" and follow the trail back to the parking lot.

Deer Lakes Park

Purple Trail: Access this two-mile moderately difficult trail by parking at the back of the Anglers Shelter parking lot off Cattail Drive. Enjoy a view of the quiet Upper Lake with mature Oak trees and beds of moss lining both sides of the trail. This will lead you to the edge of the Upper Lake and to a section of elevated path called a turnpike. The turnpike was installed to allow dry passage through a muddy section of trail along the edge of a wetland. Follow the creek upstream, turning right to cross a small footbridge and pass through the Disc Golf Course. Take in the Christmas Ferns that are abundant in this area. Cross a small footbridge and walk through a shallow stream to continue deeper into the forest. The trail will cross an access road, pass through an area full of mature Pine trees, and then bring you across the road again. Here the Purple and Orange Trails share a path that descends into the valley. When you come to a foot bridge turn left to follow the turnpike back to your starting point.

Green-with-Red-Dot Trail: This one-mile trail is an easy loop and ideal for all experience levels. The trail access can be found behind Carp 1 Shelter, where a restroom is conveniently located. The trail shares the beginning section with the Blue Trail. The Green-with-Red-Dot Trail then continues straight, diverging from the Blue Trail. The next section of trail is flat and will lead to mild elevation changes. The trail then flattens out again as it approaches a cemetery on the right, just beyond the park's boundary. The trail gets rocky before entering a large meadow. Pause in the meadow to take in the sights and sounds of the wildlife supported by this native habitat. AT the end of the meadow you will be led to a much wider section of trail that returns to the beginning. Add about two miles to the hike by connecting it with the Blue Trail.

Harrison Hills Park

Green Trail: The trail starts across the street from the lower Environmental Learning Center parking lot. This is a moderate loop trail of two miles with mild elevation changes. A restroom is located at the beginning of the trail. The first section is very wide, meandering above a creek bed and wetlands that attract birds, mammals and amphibians. This low, flat section takes a left turn and slowly climbs to a plateau with a variety of dense shrubs. After crossing the spring that feeds the tributary below, the trail descends to a steeper rocky section, passing under a mature tree canopy of various deciduous hardwoods. It then leads back to a road, which is a short walk from the parking lot starting point if you decide to end your hike early. The trail then cuts through the old farm field which is an excellent habitat to observe a variety of local bird species. The trail will make its way back into the forest and eventually come

out along the field near the edge of a bluff overlooking the Allegheny River. Enjoy a break on the bench and take in the view. The Green Trail next dips down into a small grassy valley which can become wet in some areas in the springtime. Finally, the trail climbs out of the valley and follows a ridge line back before descending to the parking lot again.

Red Trail: This five-mile loop circles the entire park, starting and ending at the Overlook parking lot. It's a moderate-to-difficult hike that offers stunning views of the Allegheny River. Restrooms are located at the trailhead and benches are scattered throughout. Find red blazes on the trees lining the fence at the end of the parking lot, marking the start of the loop. Turn right and cross a bridge at the top of a deep boulder-filled ravine that is lush with seasonal wildflowers. The trail will follow the edge of this ravine where you can enjoy views of the Allegheny River. The trail then leads toward the South Pond, where a bird blind sits at the end of a boardwalk. The bird blind lets you view and photograph birds without scaring them away. Look for a variety of birds and amphibians as the walkway passes beside sensitive plant species. The trail then climbs up out of the grass fields that surround the pond and through a mixed woodland before crossing Woodchuck Drive and passing Baneberry Shelter. The trail winds through a mature upland forest before descending to cross Cottontail Drive where it combines with the Green Trail for a half-mile. As you continue along the Red Trail, you will pass several little streams and then climb out of the bottom land and follow along the edge of an old farm field; take your time as this is a great place to look for birds. The trail heads north passing an old farm pond, eventually joining the Rachel Carson Trail. It passes a cell tower before going deeper into the forest to its most spectacular section: the Allegheny River. The last mile of the Red Trail positions you along the edge of a bluff for amazing views of the Allegheny River before returning to the parking lot.

Hartwood Acres Park

Purple Trail: This is a loop of moderate difficulty with minor elevation changes. It is 2.25 miles in length, starting and ending at the Hartwood Acres Mansion parking lot, which is accessible from Saxonburg Blvd. To find the entrance to the trail, look for the security gate just to the right as you exit the parking lot. Walk past the gate and look for a purple blaze on a tree on the left side of the road, marking the trailhead. The historic Hartwood Acres Stables are visible from this trail as you meander along the crest of the hillside through a mixed hardwood forest. The trail will gradually descend through a rocky forest offering views of pastures in the valley below. It will climb back to the top of the ridge and wind in and out of Oak-filled valleys as you travel along old bridle trails and narrower hiking trails. During your journey you will pass through a pleasing variety of shaded and sunny sections offering a

variety of plants and wildlife. The Purple Trail ends on the paved path across from the Mansion Parking lot where you began.

Paved Trail: Hartwood Acres features a paved trail system that stretches from one end of the park to the other. It measures 1.5 miles and is the perfect surface for walkers and strollers alike. Park at the Mansion lot and access the paved trail which is connected to the parking lot. Along the way, pass through groves of Hemlocks and Pines and mixed hardwood forests. Once you reach the Amphitheater area you can choose between multiple paths. Visit the sprawling concert grounds or follow the loop to the field behind the Amphitheater to view the beautiful wildflower meadow. These paths altogether will add about 1.5 miles to your walk or you can head back to the Mansion along the service road just before the dog park. As you climb back up from the Amphitheater area, you will get an excellent view of the Hartwood Acres Stables. The Mansion is only a short walk along the service road from the stables so feel free to explore it before you head back.

Both trails offer access to the **Sculpture Garden at Hartwood Acres**, Hartwood's newest attraction, with an anticipated opening in spring, 2022. This grouping of significant large-scale sculptures dating to the 1980s offers visitors an exciting new way to experience the park. The works were professionally conserved to restore their original grandeur and have been grouped for better viewing. They are located in the vicinity of the Mansion, with accessible walkways and interpretive signage to better experience them. The Sculpture Garden at Hartwood Acres is a project of the Allegheny County Parks Foundation in partnership with Allegheny County.

North Park

White Trail: At 2.4 miles, this moderately difficult trail is the most popular loop in North Park's South Ridge. Park at the far end of the Pie Traynor lot. Look for the soccer field sign at the end of the lot. Follow that gravel path to the right. At the end of the path make a left turn onto the white blazed trail. The trail descends into the valley, away from the busy South Ridge area and passes through a rocky woodland. Cross over a few small streams and pass through shaded Pine forests before ascending back out of the valley along former service roads. The second half of the trail closely follows the South Ridge Loop Road but stays tucked back far enough to offer a nice respite from busier park areas. As you wind your way back to the parking lot, pass beneath a large canopy of towering Oak trees.

Lake Loop: This five-mile paved path circles the scenic North Park Lake, the largest in Allegheny County. It attracts fitness enthusiasts of every ability all year long. The lake provides a habitat for several species of fish, turtles, birds,

amphibians and mammals. Start at the parking lot of the historic Boathouse. This stone structure, constructed in 1936 with New Deal funding and designed by landscape architect Paul Riis, the county's first park director, is one of the most recognizable buildings in Allegheny County's nine parks. Exit the parking lot to the right to the path that borders Pearce Mill Road. Take in the beautiful views of the lake on the right side. As you approach Babcock Boulevard, look across the lake to the right to see an island. In the winter this island is one of the most popular areas where Bald Eagles perch atop the tall trees. It also attracts Double-crested Cormorants, which come in large groups in the springtime. Osprey, Great Blue Herons and Mallard Ducks, among other birds, are also commonly seen here. Crossing the dam, the new North Park Meadow is on the left. The observation mound at the heart of the meadow offers stunning views of the area for all that climb atop it. As the trail follows Ingomar Road, keep your eyes on the water. There are active beaver lodges in this area and you might just catch a glimpse of a beaver swimming or gnawing on a tree. The next leg of the trail meanders along Lakeshore Drive for a quiet escape from the busier roadways. Keep an eye out for a variety of wildlife along this quiet one-way lane. Finally, return to Tennis Court Drive and finish the trail walk at the Boathouse. Upgrades to the Lake Loop were made by Allegheny County, in partnership with the Allegheny County Parks Foundation, that widened this busy path for safer use by pedestrians and bicyclists.

Round Hill Park

Harmony House Trail/Red Trail:

This trail is unblazed at the time of publication but is scheduled to be marked with red blazes.

This unique park features a variety of farm animals and crop fields. This easy-to-moderate trail is marked with red blazes and is two miles long. Park at Harmony House Shelter. The trailhead is marked by a section of split rail fence where you will see red and blue blazes. Both trails will take the same route for the first half of this hike. Follow this path which passes through the forest and fields, stay to the left at the first fork and the trail will enter a wide clearing with a fire ring that is used for scouting groups. The trail continues at the far end of the clearing. Stay left and go through a small strip of forest and proceed downhill through another small field. Stay left again and you will climb up a small knob and through a small Pine grove. As you descend the knob, continue following the edge of the wood line and stay to the left through the next two intersections. At the second intersection, the Blue Trail will break off, taking a shorter loop back to the trailhead. The trail will climb again slightly and then enter a small clearing with Pines bordering the far

edge, take the right turn and start descending down and around the side of this knob. You will enter another small clearing with a Chimney Swift Habitat Tower situated near the center. Follow the path to the right continuing downhill. You will notice power lines to your left; follow the wood line on your right past several mowed paths that go out to the power line. You will quickly reach a large open field to your right; enter the field and follow the wood line along the top edge. At the top, turn left, and follow the path as it parallels the wood line. You will enter the woods again at the far corner of the field. Once in the woods the trail turns left and then quickly descends to find a small bench and a wet stream crossing. Cross the stream and follow the trail as it gradually climbs up hill. This section is a much narrower path through the woods. At the top of your climb, the trail will widen again and then open into a field. Cross the field following the wood line on your right. Pass a small wet drainage just before arriving at the lower Harmony House parking lot. Walk up-hill on the side of the road where it joins the Blue Trail again just before reaching the Harmony House Shelter parking lot.

Harmony House Trail Short Walk/Blue Trail:

This trail is unblazed at the time of publication but is scheduled to be blazed blue in the near future.

This walk, marked by blue blazes, follows part of the same path as the Red Trail but is just over one mile in length and has far less elevation changes. The trailhead is marked by a section of split rail fence with both red and blue blazes. Follow this path through the forest and fields, staying to the left at the first fork as the trail enters a wide clearing with a fire ring used by scouting groups. The trail continues at the far end of the clearing. Stay left and go through a small strip of forest and proceed downhill through another small field. Stay left again and climb up a small knob and through a small Pine grove. As you descend the knob, continue following the edge of the wood line staying to the left. At the other end of the field you will see a marker indicating a sharp turn; the Blue Trail will take you back towards the parking lot while the Red Trail will continue on. You will come into another open field where the trail will “Y” again; stay to the left (right will take you back on the route you just came from.) Follow along a series of fields; some are fallow and others may have crops planted depending on the time of the year. The trail will curve through a final section of forest and then open into a final field where you will see the road again. Pass through a restoration tree planting and then meet the road just below the Harmony House Shelter parking lot where you will meet the Red Trail again.

Settlers Cabin Park

Waterfall Trail/Green Trail Loop: One of the newest features of Settlers Cabin Park, the Waterfall Trail has been reconstructed to allow greater access for the whole family. It is an easy-to-moderate hike which begins at the Waterfall Trail/Off Leash Dog Park parking lot. The trailhead entrance is located between two stacked stone piles and marked with a sign and green blazes. This trail leads to a picturesque natural waterfall nestled in a cool Hemlock ravine. The trail winds through the woodland, offering views of the valley bottom along the way. As the trail begins its decent into the valley, it narrows as you pass through a Hemlock grove and descend a set of timber steps. Step up to the split rail fence for your first view of the waterfall. Head down the timber and earthen steps to your left and follow the Waterfall Trail sign as you make the final decent to the stream below. Follow the trail back to the parking lot for a one-mile round trip.

Looking for a longer hike? Continue along the Green Trail, either by taking a left and following the green blazes from the split rail fence view point or turn around at the waterfall and follow the trail downstream to a stepping stone crossing. Cross the stones and stay to your right at the next intersection to remain on the Green Trail and continue into the valley (you can cross the second set of stone steps and follow the Green Trail back up to the top at this point as well). As the trail meanders along the creek in the valley, you will see many species of trees and wildflowers. Large boulders and rock outcroppings jut out from the edges of the valley all around you. The trail makes a right turn at the end of the valley and follows a small spring that climbs up out of the bottom. Along this section you will be treated to some impressive views of the valley below. The trail tops out on a flatter area and turns right to join the Red Trail for a short while. Again, the Green Trail will turn right as it splits from the Red Trail, descending back down into the valley just above the waterfall. Cross a small bridge and then a wet crossing above the waterfall. The Green Trail will complete the loop at the stairs and split rail fence. Follow the timber stairs back up and out of the valley to the parking lot. The whole loop is slightly more than two miles.

Red Trail: Something for the more adventurous. Bring a lunch and enjoy an all-day trip. Park at the Panhandle Connector lot to access this 7.75-mile, moderate-to-difficult adventure. The trailhead marker is underneath the large tree at the corner of the parking lot. Take the trail into the woods and follow it to a clearing in the utility corridor where the Red Trail splits; follow the Red Trail to the right, down the hill in the utility corridor and back into the forest. At times, the trail parallels a small stream that cascades over rocks, leading to a small pond. Go right along the edge of the pond and continue the hike along the beautiful Pinkertons Run valley, filled with a variety of wildflowers in

the spring. The trail eventually winds its way back up to a utility corridor and the climb leads to an open meadow. Follow the Red Trail to the left to Greer Road. Cross the road and follow the trail to the Gilbert Love Shelter parking lot. The trail crosses the park entrance road and into the Algonquin Shelter parking lot before dropping back into the woods. The Red Trail meets the Blue Trail and together they pass the Dek hockey rink and tennis courts before returning to the woods. The Red Trail then crosses the Waterfall Trail/Green Trail. (At this point you can follow the Waterfall Trail/Green Trail through the valley and connect back to the Red Trail for a scenic detour.) As you continue along the Red Trail you will pass through a beautiful section of White Pine forest and see some upland bogs on the left. The Red Trail separates from the Blue Trail at Tomahawk Shelter and continues along the valley where it joins the Green Trail for a short distance. The Red Trail then joins with the Yellow Trail before breaking away the final time and crossing the Panhandle Connector Trail. (Cut the hike short by taking the Panhandle Connector uphill back to the parking lot.) The Red Trail drops down into a small valley and then back up the hill before entering the lower Pinkertons Run valley. Pass a picturesque cascade on Pinkertons Run and then shortly you will find yourself at the first utility corridor. To finish your hike, head up the hill to the right and return to the parking lot on the trail where you started.

South Park

Montour Connector Trail: This crushed gravel, unblazed trail is family-friendly and two miles long each way (four miles out and back). It meanders through the woods, into a quiet valley with a stream crossing before it connects to the Montour Trail. Park at the Game Preserve parking lot on Sesqui Drive and look for the trailhead to the right of the bike racks. This trail is not a loop, so it can be shortened by turning back at any time. You will meander up and down through mixed woodlands and once you pass the model air field, the trail is a continuous downhill path to the creek. As you travel along the lower sections of the creek, keep your eye out for an old stone quarry where the stone for sites like the Vale of Cashmere, the Cascades and many of the original shelters was quarried. Be prepared for an uphill journey on the way back. This trail is mostly shaded but does have some sunnier spots along the way.

Vale of Cashmere Trail: At just under one mile, this short, easy hike winds through some of the earliest historical features of South Park, dating back to the 1920s. Traveling north on East Park Drive from the roundabout, look for the trailhead in the small parking lot on the left side of the road not long after the road enters the woods. This unblazed trail quickly descends to a shallow creek and crosses a bridge. A short walk leads to the Vale of Cashmere, which was once a series of five interconnected stone and earthen pools. It gets its

unusual name from a beautiful place described in the poem, “The Vale of Cashmere,” by Thomas Moore (1779-1852). This site now features the stunning remains of the largest pool and watercourse. The path follows along its stone walls up the valley, passing more of the Vale along the way, including subsequent pools and channels, though none as grand as the first. The trail winds through a sunny wetland area; stay to the right and cross a shallow creek. The trail then climbs back up almost to the road, following the creek downstream on the right. Pass a small stone-lined spring and see views of the Vale below. The trail leads back to the bridge near the hike’s starting point. (Improvements to this area are coming soon and will include new and additional bridges and walkways as well as improvements to the natural resources like wet meadow plantings and riparian restorations.)

White Oak Park

Green Trail: This moderately difficult trail is about 2.5 miles long and travels nearly the entire perimeter of the park’s main section. Start at the Wedding Gardens parking lot. To access the trail, head to the Trailhead Kiosk at the far end of the parking lot past the turn-around. Follow the green blazes along the wood line and at the bottom of the field you will see a post with blazes directing you into the forest. Follow the trail through the woods and shortly you will cross a rocky creek. Proceed sharply uphill for a short section. The trail meanders through forested areas with eye catching valley views on the left. About halfway through your journey, the Green Trail wraps around the furthest shelter in the park, Redwood Shelter. The trail hangs on the edge of the park’s steep hillsides and offers views deep into the valley. Once you are nearing the end of the loop, the Green Trail makes a sharp right turn uphill and the White Connector Trail will continue along the edge of the valley straight ahead (White will take you to McClintock Road and eventually the other side of the park where to the Park Office). The Green Trail will quickly come out at the bottom of a large meadow area with mowed trails. Turn left and follow the edge of the meadow, eventually cresting the hill and dropping down the other side where you will cross the park’s main road. As you cross the road the trail will turn left and lead back to the Wedding Gardens parking lot at the Trailhead Kiosk.

Yellow Trail: This 1.5-mile-long trail is moderate in difficulty and travels through a variety of the habitats and landscapes. There are several ways to access the Yellow Loop; we recommend parking at the trailhead behind and up the hill from the park Administration Building on Muse Lane near the Angora Gardens facility. Turn off Muse Lane and drive past the small parking area in front of Angora Gardens. Pull around the right side of the building and look for the short gravel driveway on the right, just before the fuel pumps. Park at the Trailhead Kiosk and follow the trail markers straight ahead,

passing the meadow on your left. Enter the trees and look for markers for the Yellow Trail to your right. Once you get to the Yellow Loop stay to the right to travel the loop in a counterclockwise direction. After about 0.25 miles you will climb onto an old strip mine bench and continue to gradually climb another 0.25 miles until you cross a sunny, unblazed, mowed trail. Descend for 0.25 miles to a service road. Cross the service road to stay on Yellow. At the service road, you can also access the three-mile Orange Loop for a longer experience. As you gradually descend into and then climb out of this stream valley, you will encounter many large Poplar, Oak, and Maple trees. From the service road it's about one mile until you're back where you started on the Yellow Loop.

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The Allegheny County Parks Foundation partners with Allegheny County to improve, conserve and restore all 9 Allegheny County Parks.

**Boyce Park | Deer Lakes Park | Harrison Hills Park | Hartwood Acres Park
North Park | Round Hill Park | Settlers Cabin Park | South Park | White Oak
Park**

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