CYCLING IN THE ALLEGHENIES

Thirty-six miles of single track mountain biking trails is heaven to some folks. If you are one of those people who believe rocks were meant to hop and stumps jumped, find your bliss at Allegrippis. (There are two acres of practice area, too!) Photo by Raystown.org

The Fort Roberdeau Revolutionary Tour is a 22-mile cruise through the beautiful backcountry surrounding the fort, one of the many Revolutionary War sites already found within the Rothrock State Forest. The fort is one of the stops along the Tuscarora Trail, an excellent backcountry multi-use trail. Photo by Devon Balet

REFERENCES

(For state parks or forests, visit DCNR.PA.gov)

Cycling:
Lower Trail: RTTCPA.org
Allegrippis Trails: https://sites.Google.com/Site/AllegrippisTrailsV2/home
Friends of Rothrock: Facebook.com/FriendsOfRothrockStateForest

Backpacking:
Mid State Trail: Hike-MST.org
John P. Saylor (and other trails): PAHikes.com

Day Hiking:
Tuscarora Trail: PATC.net

On the Water:
Casselman River: CasselmanWatershed.org

Uniquely Alleghenies:
Greenhouse Park: TheStonycreek.org/Greenhouse

Don’t subscribe? Sign up today at PAParksAndForests.org
BACKPACKING IN THE ALLEGHENIES

You can't talk sensibly about backpacking in the Alleghenies without including first and foremost the Mid State Trail. Billed without a hint of exaggeration as Pennsylvania’s Wildest Trail, the Mid State is over 500 km long (you’ll need to shift your thinking because kilometers is how they roll here) and will put your socks into the bottom of your boots. Be wise; get the maps from the Mid State Trail Association and once you’ve fallen in love with the trail, join the MST.

Before tackling the Mid State, consider the John P. Saylor in Gallitzin State Forest. At a little more than 17 miles, the trail can be done in one day but as a double loop it’s fun to consider taking an overnight in a counterclockwise direction and take advantage of the overnight shelter about nine miles in.

Photos MST and JPS by Scott Adams

ON THE WATER IN THE ALLEGHENIES

The Casselman River Watershed Association has established a series of seven access points for fishermen and paddlers.

Bear in mind that in spring, the river moves and in summer it does not paddle. So paddle in April and fish for smallmouth in September. The Casselman is a River for All Seasons.

Photos by Bob Fry

UNIQUE IN THE ALLEGHENIES

Still primarily on the subject of “On the Water,” the Alleghenies is home to Greenhouse Park, a project of the Pennsylvania Environmental Education Association and the Casselman River Watershed Association. Not just another township park, Greenhouse is home to Whitewater Park, Pennsylvania’s first set of manmade rapids, where novice paddlers can learn the basics and experienced paddlers can hone their skills.

The Casselman River is an easy brownwater river which rises in Cranberry, MD and continues on its winding way to Confluence, PA where it joins the Tyrone River and heads to Ohiopyle.

Photos by Bob Fry

DAY HIKING IN THE ALLEGHENIES

The Tuscarora Trail could certainly be included in the “Backpacking” section of the Pocket Guide, extending as it does over 250 miles from Virginia to Pennsylvania. Let the easy red-blazed Honey Creek Trail in Reeds Gap State Park provide a nice two-mile stroll or when combined with the slightly elevated blue-blazed Blue Jay Trail in Bald Eagle State Forest, a little over three miles through woodlands.

Photos MST and JPS by Scott Adams

Backpackers can continue on the Mid State Trail to Confluence, PA where it joins the Tyrone River and heads to Ohiopyle.

Photos by Bob Fry