

A PIECE OF POCONO HISTORY

The name "Rail Gap" comes from the Wilkes-Barre & Eastern (WB&E) Railroad, which transported coal, ice, and passengers between Wilkes-Barre and Stroudsburg from the 1890s to the 1930s. The former railroad bed is now part of the white trail, with a distinct "gap" where the trail meets Pocono Creek. A stone cliff is all that's left of the railroad bridge that once crossed the flowing water. Any trace of the opposite bridge support has disappeared due to time, floods and the rerouting of Pocono Creek to build Route I-80.



WB&E Railroad bridge crossing Pocono Creek, circa 1894

AN OASIS AWAITS

Just minutes from busy Route 611 in Bartonsville, this remarkable preserve offers both nature and history. From the main parking lot on Shafers Schoolhouse Road, visitors can access a beautiful stretch of Pocono Creek, with Class A Wild Trout Waters – clean and cold enough to support a naturally reproducing trout population (fishing permitted, catch and release only). Sit awhile beneath the humbling groves of Pennsylvania's state tree, the eastern hemlock, and soak in the sights and sounds of nature.

EXPLORING THE WESTERN SIDE

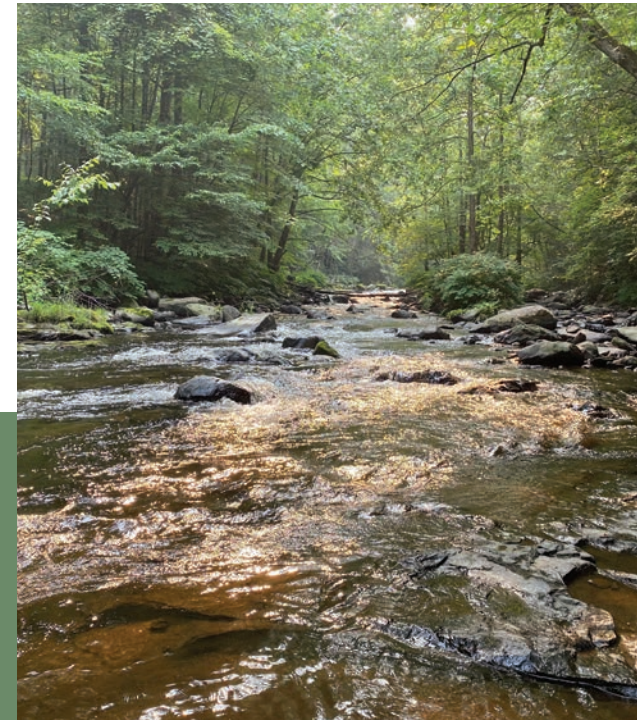
An abandoned old car? Curious. A water tower, made of *wood*? It's true! Although the history of the water tower and other artifacts are unknown, even more surprising is that wooden water towers are still manufactured today – so lightweight they're sometimes used on city rooftops. Because the wood swells when the tower is filled with water, no nails or adhesive are necessary; the steel bands that encircle the wooden planks allow it to be tightened as needed. The water tower, a vintage 1920s car, and an assortment of antique farm equipment are all on the western side of the preserve, which can be accessed from the secondary parking lot on Brislin Road.



Sam Prynda photo
Historic wooden water tower.



Rail Gap Pocono Creek Nature Preserve



Pocono Heritage Land Trust

1539 Cherry Lane Road
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
www.phlt.org; 570-424-1514

Founded in 1984, Pocono Heritage Land Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the natural heritage of the Pocono Mountains region by conserving land and inspiring people to care for, enjoy, and explore their natural world.



This brochure made possible by a generous grant from 1 for Nature.

1forNature.org

THINGS TO DO HERE

Hiking, history, fishing

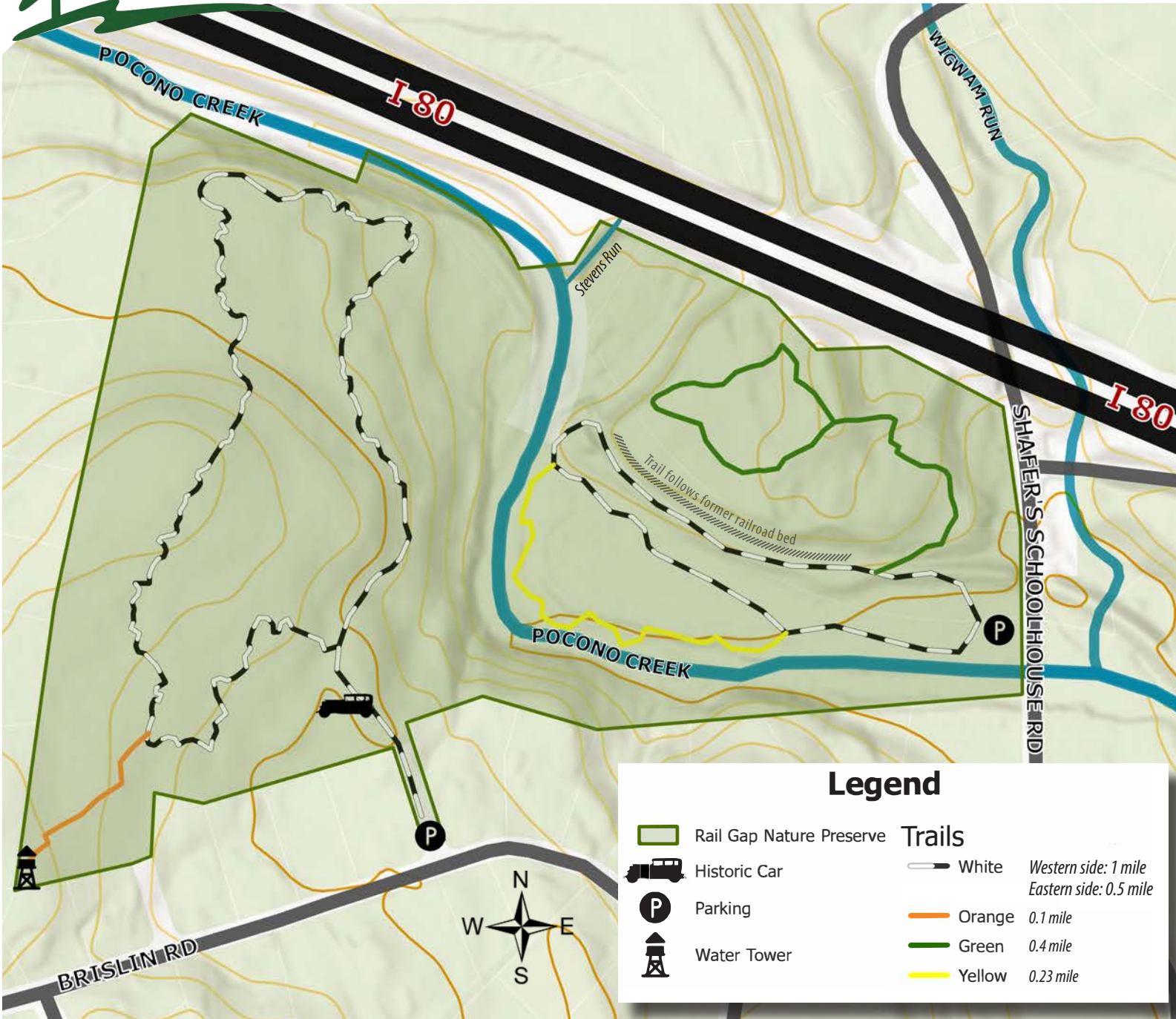
Rail Gap Pocono Creek Nature Preserve



Scan for online updates:
phlt.org/np-rail-gap.html



Rail Gap Pocono Creek Nature Preserve is divided by the creek into two parcels.



EAST OF POCONO CREEK

Parking area: 3555 Shafer's Schoolhouse Road

White trail

The white loop trail is flat and wide with a gentle grade. The lower half of the trail is an old access road; the upper half of the loop incorporates the former WB&E railbed. Rustic steps descend back to the trailhead near the parking area.

Yellow trail

The yellow trail is a spur from the white trail. It follows Pocono Creek, providing an up-close view of the water.

Green trail

The green trail is a "lollipop" design that loops back on itself. It branches off from the railbed to provide nice views of Stevens Run, which flows into Pocono Creek near the I-80 corridor.

WEST OF POCONO CREEK

Parking area: 1529 Brislin Road

White trail

The main trail on this parcel is a forested loop that begins near the site of an historic car, seed drill, and other old farm equipment before traveling downhill to overlook Pocono Creek and I-80. The loop continues uphill, past the orange trail, back to the old farm equipment.

Orange trail

The orange trail is a short spur leading to an old wooden water tower near the boundary of the preserve. It is an out-and-back trail.

Legend

Rail Gap Nature Preserve	Trails	
Historic Car	White	Western side: 1 mile Eastern side: 0.5 mile
Parking	Orange	0.1 mile
Water Tower	Green	0.4 mile
	Yellow	0.23 mile