

# LAUREL MILL

## CROSS-COUNTRY SKI/HIKING AREA

**WELCOME** to the Laurel Mill Cross-Country Ski and Hiking Trail System. The Laurel Mill Trail is a system of interconnecting loops totalling 10.6 miles for cross-country skiing and hiking. The trailhead offers parking, restroom, and a pavilion 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.

**REGULATIONS** – These trails are for hiking and cross-country skiing. When there is snow on the trail, hikers should not walk in ski tracks. If you bring your dog, please keep it off the tracks also. Skiers cannot ski over your footprints. Mountain bikes, motorized vehicles, ATVs, 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 is located in Ridgway, three miles east. Please report any unsafe trail conditions such as downed trees and missing signs to the Marienville Ranger District. Be aware that cell phone service is limited or not available in different areas throughout the Forest—please plan accordingly.

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

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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** – about this and other recreation opportunities, contact:

### Marienville Ranger District

131 Smokey Lane • Marienville, PA 16239  
814-927-6628 • [www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/allegheny)

### NW Pennsylvania’s Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau

2801 Maplevale Road • Brookville, PA 15825  
800-348-9393 • [www.visitpago.com](http://www.visitpago.com)

Please recycle by returning your brochure to the rack when you have finished your visit, unless you want to keep it. Thank you for helping reduce brochure expenses, as well as saving paper. Enjoy your visit! **ENJOY THE TRAIL!**

This brochure can be obtained in large print at the Allegheny National Forest, 4 FarmColonyDrive, Warren, PA 16365, (814) 723-5150.

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United States Department of Agriculture



Forest Service

# Laurel Mill X-C Ski/Hiking Area

Allegheny  
National  
Forest

# Laurel Mill X-C Ski/Hiking Area

## Allegheny National Forest

Trailhead Elevation = 1740'

Elevation Range = 1420' – 1800'

### Leave No Trace!

Leave No Trace is a National non-profit organization that unites public and private partners to teach minimum impact skills and ethics to all outdoor enthusiasts.

### 7 Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics Principles

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.



Land stewardship ethics courtesy of Leave No Trace (www.LNT.org)

### Hemlock Loop

Brigg's Dike

Suicide Slide

Lewis

Run

Bridge

Scout

Loop

### Elk Loop

Coston

Corner

Ridgway

3 mi.

### Laurel Mill Trail

### Easiest

For warm-up and new skiers

### More Difficult

For advanced beginners and experienced skiers

### Legend



Pavilion



Parking Lot



Restrooms



0.8 Miles Between Points



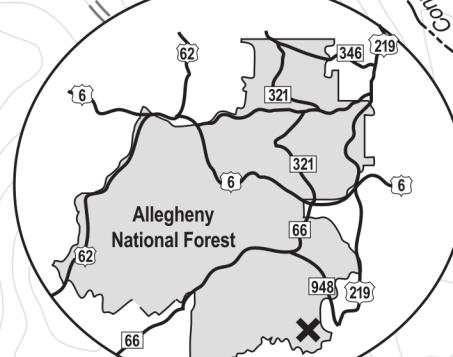
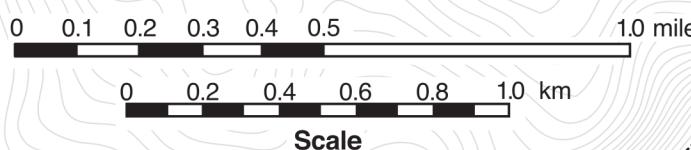
Ski Trail



Highway



Hill



RIVER  
CLARION