

Two Lick Creek Water Trail Guide

Stream Description

The Two Lick Creek Water Trail stretches nearly 13 miles from Indiana to Black Lick in Indiana County, Pennsylvania. The trail begins at the Waterworks Conservation Area, located along Waterworks Road, just off South 6th St. in Indiana. The takeout in Black Lick requires a short upstream paddle of Blacklick Creek and is located just beyond the US 119 bridge. Parking in Indiana is located at Waterworks and at Saylor Park in Black Lick.

If it is not desired to paddle the length of the trail, there are other locations along Two Lick Creek in which one can takeout, but they are not recognized as public access areas. The first takeout is near the US Route 119 bridge and the second is by the Old Route 119 Bridge. These shortened trips are slightly over 4 miles.

Two Lick Creek is a **Class I - II** stream on a scale of VI. A paddle along this stream would include encountering some faster moving water with easily avoidable rocks, holes, and waves, and is suitable for a novice paddler. Keep in mind that conditions can change with higher water levels.

Recommended River Levels

The ideal water level to paddle Two Lick Creek is around **3.1 feet**, with the lower limit being about 2.5 feet. The first mile of the stream is usually the most shallow. There is a USGS water gauge located in Graceton. Data on the current stream flow conditions can be obtained by accessing the USGS website at this link http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?r=pa&id=ww_current and clicking on the Graceton gauge.

Potential Hazards

There are two known potential hazards along the trip. There is a slight, yet sudden drop in the stream at the sharp bend between miles 3 and 4. The drop is caused by some large rocks that once served as the base of an old timber dam at the former Cliffside Park. The best place to pass the old dam is to go through an opening in the rocks just left from center then stay towards the right bank around the rest of the bend.

The second, and more dangerous, hazard is the **lowhead dam** located in Graceton at around the 9.5 mile mark. No paddler, regardless of



experience, should ever attempt to float over this dam. The recirculating current can easily prevent a swimmer from resurfacing. There is room on the right bank to takeout and carry around the dam.

Other potential hazards include strainers such as trees. Strainers allow water through but not solid objects. A paddler can become trapped. Be aware of the current at all times and never underestimate the power of moving water. Cold water can also pose a risk to paddlers as sudden immersion can lead to cardiac arrest. Prolonged exposure to the cold can lead to hypothermia. The heat can also be hazardous so wear protective clothing and sunblock and drink plenty of fluids.



Water Trail
Restaurants & Lodging



Safety Tips

- Always wear a life jacket.
- Scout ahead when possible. Know and learn the stream.
- Never float alone. Safety increases with numbers.
- Have a reliable outside contact. Let this person know when and where and contact them immediately after trip is safely completed.
- If the water appears too hazardous for swimming, then its too hazardous for paddling.
- Kneel in a canoe to increase stability entering rougher water.
- Never attempt to go over a low head dam.
- Avoid wearing cotton fabrics.
- If a collision with an obstruction occurs, lean toward it. This maneuver decreases the chances of capsizing.
- Be prepared for changing weather conditions.



Along the Trip

The trip begins at the canoe access location within the Waterworks Conservation Area. The access area is on the north bank, the same side as Waterworks. Two immediate sights upon entering Waterworks are the lime dosing silo and the artificial wetland. The silo is part of an acid mine drainage

(AMD) reclamation effort. The hydrated lime is released into the stream in premeasured amounts. The wetland was constructed because of the Clean Water Act's "no net loss" clause. Wetlands were lost during the expansion of Indiana's Jimmy Stewart Airport. This wetland is part of the remediation process. There are also public restrooms, parking, and a pavilion at Waterworks.



About 3.5 miles downstream, remains from Cliffside Park (circa 1921 - 1936) can be witnessed. Just before entering a sharp left bend in the stream, the location where the access road to the park once existed can be seen just above the right bank. The most telling feature of what once was, however, is the row of large rocks left behind when the timber dam was removed. The dam was built hundreds of feet down from the park so that the water at the park could be deep enough for swimming and boating.

Around mile 9.5, a lowhead dam is located at the Homer City Power Plant. The power plant is strictly a coal-fired operation. The power plant's most outstanding feature is its 1,216 foot chimney, claimed to be the tallest in the country.



The Hoodlebug Trail runs along or near Two Lick Creek for the duration of the float. It is a 10.5 mile asphalt recreational trail that stretches from Indiana to Black Lick. A road route continues to Blairsville, connecting it with the West Penn Trail. The trail gets its name from the self-propelled passenger coach that ran on the rail line until 1940. In Black Lick, the Hoodlebug Trail connects with the Ghost Town Trail which travels 36 miles to Ebensburg. It is also a rail trail and has a crushed limestone surface. It is named for several ghost towns that are encountered along the journey. The locations of both trails make it possible to paddle and run or bike on the trails all in the same trip. The takeout is



located on Blacklick Creek. This requires a short upstream paddle to finish the trip. The takeout is just passed the US 119 Bridge.

PA Boating Regulations

- All children 12 years and younger are required to wear a life jacket at all times when in a canoe or kayak.
- Between sunset and sunrise, all canoes and kayaks must carry a white light that can be displayed in time to avoid a collision.
- All canoes and kayaks using PA Fish & Boat Commission access areas must be registered or have a valid launch permit.
- The use of drugs or alcohol when paddling is illegal and strictly enforced.

Visitor Information

Indiana County Parks & Trails

1128 Blue Spruce Road
Indiana, PA 15701
(724) 463-8636

www.indianacountyparks.org

Indiana County Tourist Bureau

Indiana Mall
2334 Oakland Ave, Suite 68
Indiana, PA 15701
(724) 463-7505
www.VisitIndianaCountyPA.org



Emergency Information

EMERGENCY CALL 911

Nearby Medical Centers

Indiana Regional Medical Center (724) 357-7000
835 Hospital Road, Indiana, PA
(next to Mack Park and near KCAC Complex)

IRMC at Chestnut Ridge (724) 459-IRMC (4762)
25 Colony Blvd, Blairsville, PA
(next to Chestnut Ridge Golf Course)