



In the spring of 2025, PA Parks & Forests Foundation conducted an online survey of “Your Favorite Trail to ...”. Here are some resulting ideas for scenic overlooks.



Michaux State Forest. Photo by David Raymond.

Recommended State Parks and Forests for Scenic Overlooks:

Tiadahton State Forest
Ohiopyle State Park
Susquehannock State Forest
Allegheny National Forest
Clear Creek State Forest
Tioga State Forest
Blue Knob State Park
Colonel Denning State Park
Loyalsock State Forest
Pine Grove Furnace State Park
Elk State Forest

Forbes State Forest
Hyner View State Park
Lehigh Gorge State Park
Little Pine State Park
Michaux State Forest
Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center
Parker Dam State Park
Samuel Lewis State Park
Shawnee State Park
Susquehanna Riverlands State Park
Trough Creek State Park

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

While the Appalachian Trail is rich in gorgeous scenery, Hawk Rock in Perry County, PA offers a relatively accessible overlook of the Susquehanna River. From the gravel parking lot off of Watershed Drive, the trail follows white rectangular blazes for about 2 miles, at which point the effort is rewarded with the view from Hawk Rock.

Ohiopyle State Park

The Baughman Trail actually begins at the Baughman Overlook just a short walk from the parking lot. From here, the view of the Youghiogheny River Gorge is breathtaking. The strenuous trail

continues in a 4.8 mile loop marked with red blazes, but for an easier hike, look no further than the Fern

Cliff Trail. This shorter 1.8 mile loop is relatively flat, and provides multiple overlooks of the Youghiogheny River. So long as hikers follow the black blazes, they should have a great time!

Colonel Dennings State Park

Next to the Environmental Classroom Amphitheater in Colonel Denning State Park is a

footbridge that also serves as the trailhead for the Flat Rock Trail.

Following the trail, the red blazes that mark the way turn blue as hikers leave the state park and enter Tuscarora State Forest. After hiking 2.5 miles, the trail ends up at the



The Baughman Overlook in Winter

Ohiopyle State Park. Photo by Jim Murphy.

top of Blue Mountain at the titular overlook, an immense outcrop of natural rock.



Hyner View State Park. Photo by Beth Vanhorn.



Lehigh Gorge State Park. Photo by Cindy Snow.

These fact sheets are funded, in part, by a grant from AARP.

