

Day: Friday	Start Time: 9:00 am	End Time: 2:45 pm
Co-Leader:	Co-Leader:	Limit: 12 people
Transportation: Van or Personal Cars	Driver:	Bus Captain: n/a
Fees: \$18 Transportation Fee	Travel Distance: 14 RT	Travel Time: 20 Min RT

Moderate Eight-Mile Shohola Falls and Marsh Reservoir Birding Hike

Embark on a captivating hike as we admire Shohola Falls from three unique perspectives. This magnificent waterfall, spanning seventy-five feet in width and rising fifty feet tall, showcases the breathtaking power of nature. The constant flow of water cascades dramatically, leaving spectators in awe, even during drier seasons when neighboring falls may run low.

Our adventure continues as we explore the diverse landscapes surrounding the Shohola Marsh Reservoir within the State Game Area. Experience stunning views of the lake and its rich habitats, home to various bird species. This engaging eight-mile hike features gentle elevations, totaling less than 500 feet of gain, making it accessible and enjoyable for all.

Recognized by Audubon Pennsylvania as a vital birding hotspot, Shohola Marsh Reservoir is primarily managed for waterfowl while supporting numerous other wildlife. Various shorebirds visit the marshy areas and shorelines each spring and fall, foraging for food during migration. The lush wetlands, thick with alders, sedges, rushes, and buttonbush, provide essential nourishment and shelter for migrating and nesting birds.

The history of Shohola Creek includes the damming process that formed the lake and flooded low-lying timber stands. The resulting standing dead trees offer nesting opportunities for various bird species. Cavity-nesting birds such as the wood duck, hooded merganser, eastern screech owl, northern (yellow-shafted) flicker, and hairy and downy woodpeckers utilize these trees. Furthermore, great blue herons, green herons, waterfowl, and ospreys frequently perch on these snags, creating a vibrant scene for nature enthusiasts.

- Bring Standard Hiking Gear: Snack, Water, Hat, Decent Hiking Shoes, and sun lotion.
- Pack lunch during breakfast.
- [Google Maps of variation of hike](#) / [YouTube of Falls](#)
- [Description of Shohola Falls](#)
- [Pics of State Game Land 108](#)
- 7 Miles / 10 Min from Camp
- 9:00 am ~ 3:00 pm
- Cost: \$18 Transportation Fee (Drivers go free)

Logistics:

- 9:00 am Depart from Camp Nah-Jee-Wah
- 9:00 am – 9:15 am Travel from Camp Nah-Jee-Wah to Shohola Falls and Dam parking lot.
- 9:15 am – 9:30 am Gear-up and Round Table Talk
- 9:30 am – 2:30 pm Hike Shohola Falls and Marsh Reservoir
- 2:30 pm – 2:45 pm Return to Camp

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Although there are many parking lots, this one was open on a Sunday in winter when others were gated. Trails for the falls are accessed directly from this parking lot.



TRAIL CONDITIONS:

Trails are not marked or maintained. Expect to have to maneuver through some blowdowns. Even though maps show trail names, no signs exist with these names. The trails along the falls are not shown on the maps, and several paths branch off. It is obvious where to go once there, and it is hard to get lost since the lake is always nearby and makes a great reference point.

[State Game Lands 180](#) - Pennsylvania Game Commission

HIKE DISTANCE:

Shohola Falls - Overlook Tower - Chucks Trail and Horseshoe Trail: 8 miles

THE HIKE: From [Gone Hikin' Website](#)

For orientation purposes:

Heading west, turn left before the Route 6 bridge towards Shohola Falls Inn (A) to the paved parking lot; Come out from the falls/gorge trail in the small gravel lot (b); Cross to the other side of Shohola Creek via the Route 6 bridge (c)



From the parking lot, facing the dam, take the trail at the right corner of the lot where my dog is to get to the lower falls.



Descend on a series of wooden steps.



Shohola Falls after descending steps.



Retrace from this point back to the parking lot. (From what I read, the icy section is slippery even when there is no ice, but the trail does not continue on the other side, so you must go back to get to the upper level.

Back at the parking lot, walk a few steps along the left side (with your back to the dam), and look for paths into the woods that will run parallel to Shohola Creek above the gorge.



A view of the lower-level steps from the upper-level trail.



The trail will follow on a ledge with a steep drop down the gorge through a beautiful hemlock forest.



Come into a small gravel parking area, walk around the guardrail, and turn left to cross over Shohola Creek on the Route 6 bridge.



A view of the gorge from Route 6 bridge.

Keep walking along Route 6 a short distance to the end of the guardrail and turn left. You might see faint paths in this area, but if not, it is a short distance before coming out on a wide grassy clearing with an overlook to the left. On your way to the overlook, note where to access the trail for the other side of the falls on your way:



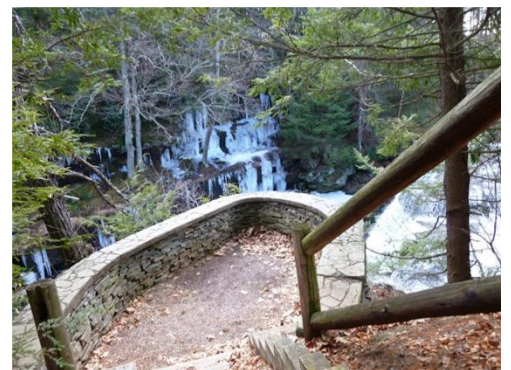
The overlook is at the split rail fencing to the far left, and my dog is sitting at the trail entrance, about halfway between the overlook and the utility pole. A blowdown obstructs it. I broke away as many branches as possible to make it more obvious.



The trail will follow a fence along the other side of the gorge, heading upstream towards the falls and dam.



Another series of steps leads to a stone-walled overlook at the other side of the falls.



Beyond the dam trails, the service and woods roads lead to an observation deck.



View from the observation deck.



Entrance to Chucks Trail (not marked) from the gravel service road.



The named paths on the maps not signed by name in the game lands are grassy woods roads, sometimes very swampy.

A beautiful view of Shohola Lake and the countryside is descending on the Horseshoe Trail.



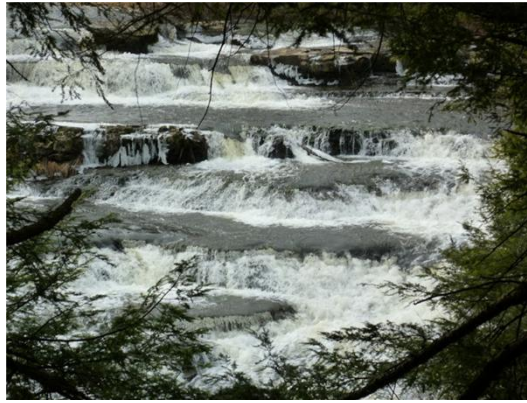
Return to the parking lot by crossing the bridge on Route 6, turn right into the gravel parking lot, then access the trail at the left side of the fence.

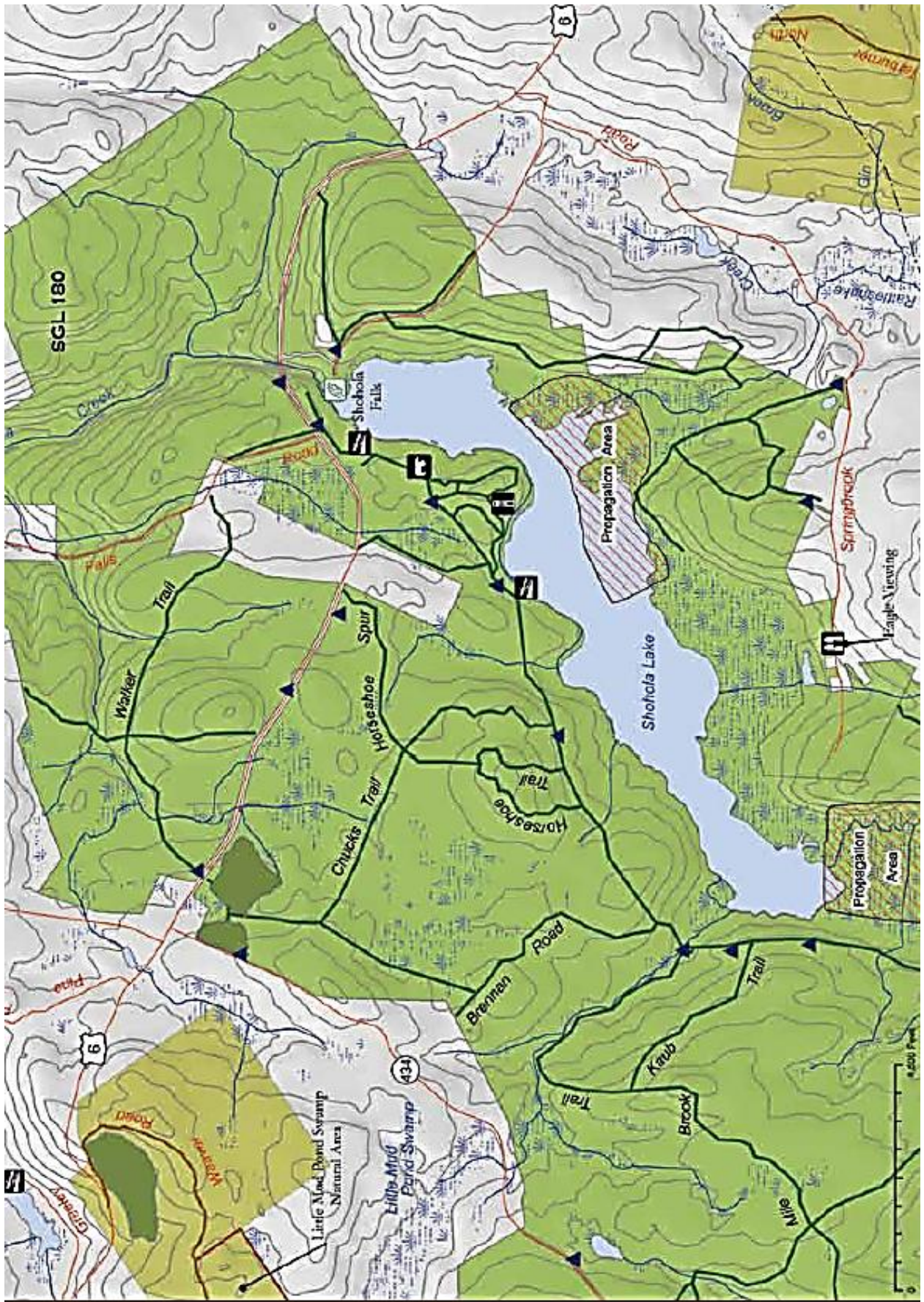


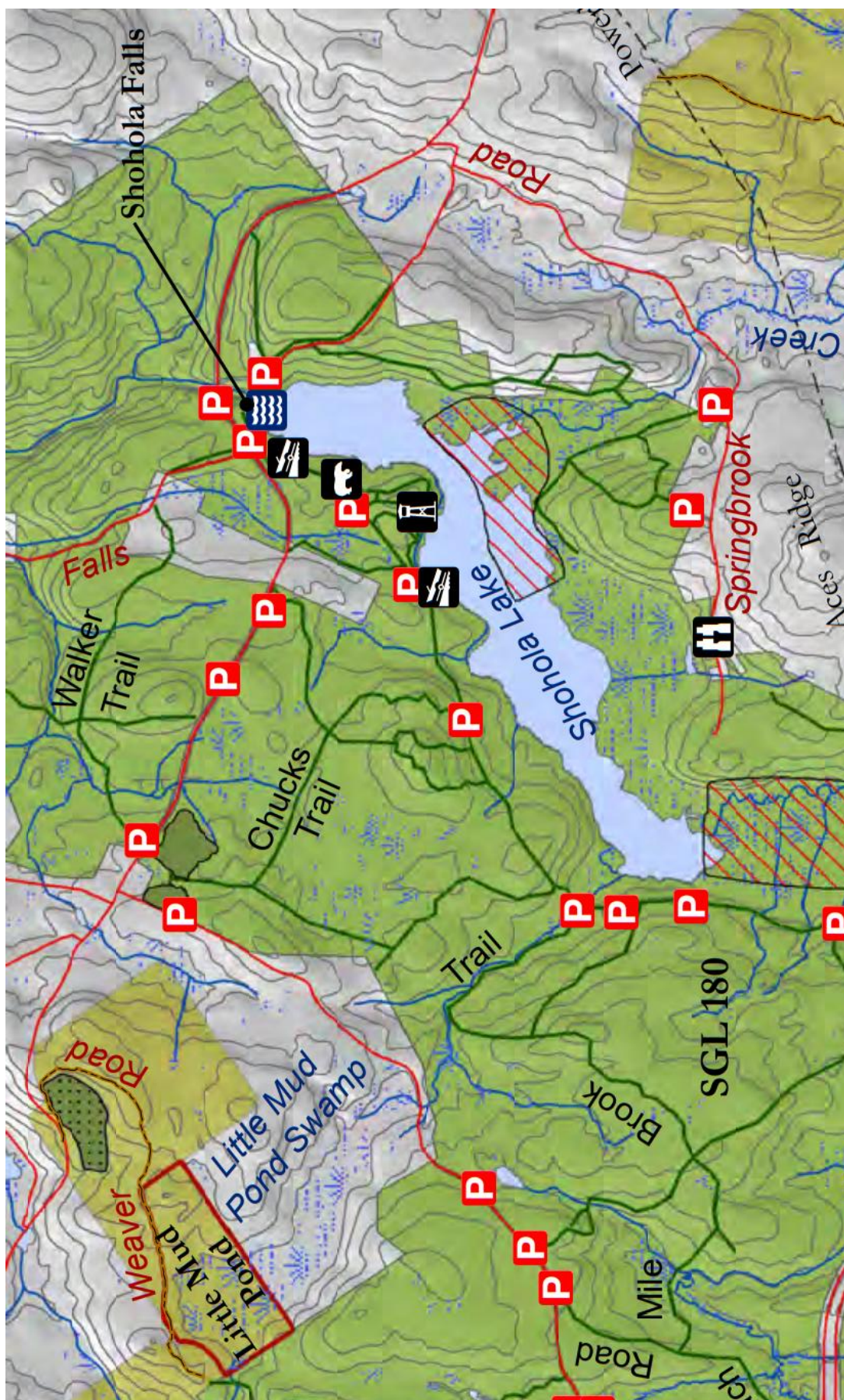
Follow the trail along the upper rim of the gorge through the hemlock forest.

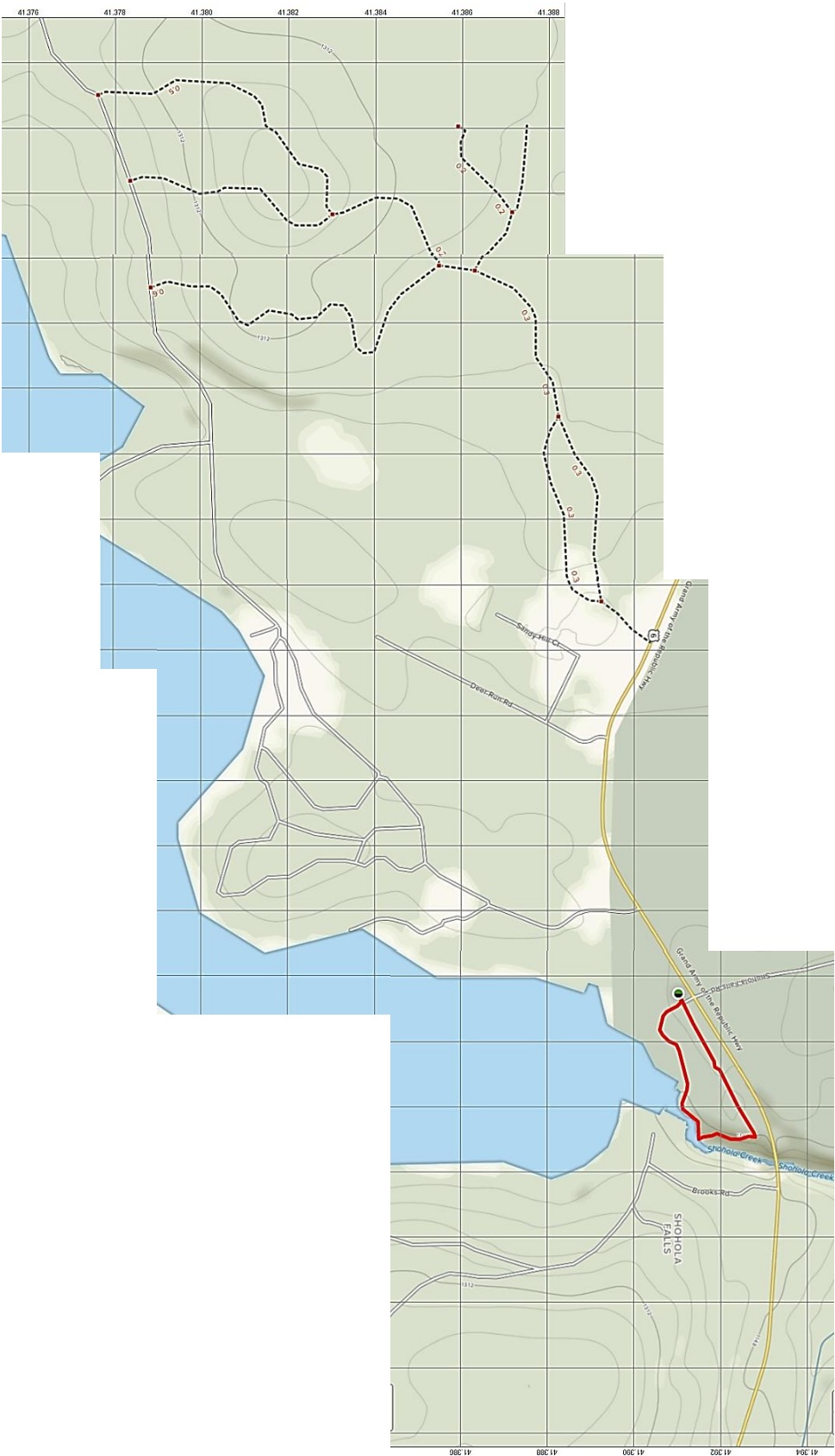


Shohola Falls from the Upper Trail.









HIKE SUMMARY:

- [0.00] Take the trail from the right corner of the parking lot facing the dam; descend a step to the bottom of the falls; at the end of the trail, retrace back to the parking lot. Take the path into the woods from the parking lot to the left and follow the upper trail along the ridge above the gorge through a hemlock forest.
- [0.35] The Trail ends at the gravel parking lot. Turn right to the end of a guardrail, turn left on Route 6, and cross over the bridge, continuing to the end of the guardrail.
- [0.50] Turn left at the end of the guardrail and continue briefly through woods to the clearing, then veer left to overlook the fence; retrace a few steps and turn left on the path before the utility pole
- [0.60] Keep to the right along the fence and down the steps to the fall overlook
- [0.75] Falls overlook; retrace a few steps, then go up steps to the left continuing towards the dam; at the dam, veer right across the open area on a mowed path
- [1.00] At the paved parking lot, turn left and walk along the pavement
- [1.10] Turn left at the picnic and trail sign opposite the parking lot entrance on the right; at the clearing, turn right on the path into the woods at the "boating" sign
- [1.30] Turn left at the T-intersection (right goes back to the paved road); at the paved boat ramp, turn right, proceed a few steps, then turn left on the path into the woods
- [1.50] Left at fork
- [1.75] The Trail veers slightly away from the lake, comes out at the clearing behind the yellow game commission building, continues right on the gravel road, passes the yellow building at the gravel service road, turns left
- [2.20] Turn left at the woods road (Hill Trail on Game Commission map) - if you miss this, the following woods road has an "observation tower" sign, and you can turn left there, also
- [2.40] Observation tower: descending tower steps, continue straight, then turn left on the woods road; turn left at the following woods road
- [2.65] Continue through the clearing to the gravel service road; turn left on a gravel road (turn right if only hiking out to the observation tower)
- [2.80] Gravel parking lot on the right and boat launch on the left (shown on map); continue on the gravel road through gates
- [3.20] Gravel road crosses the creek (shown on Pike County map, not game lands map)
- [3.45] At the top of the hill, as the gravel road levels out, turn right on grassy woods road (Chucks Trail on both maps)
- [3.85] Trail veers left and becomes somewhat more narrow
- [4.05] Turn left at T-intersection (Horseshoe Trail) (shown as the 4-way intersection on maps)
- [4.30] At the next T-intersection, turn left; as the trail descends, a view of Shohola Lake ahead
- [4.70] Turn left on the gravel service road
- [4.80] Parking lot on the right (shown on map)
- [4.85] Pass Chucks Trail on the left
- [5.10] Gravel road crosses the creek
- [5.70] Continue through gates with a gravel parking lot on the left and boat launch on the right
- [6.10] Straight on a gravel road at the observation trail sign on the right
- [6.70] Continue as the gravel road becomes paved at the yellow building on the right
- [6.95] Turn right on a paved road at Shohola Falls sign
- [7.00] As the pavement widens into the parking lot, watch on the left for the trail into the woods; turn left and follow the trail through picnic tables - The trail branches off along the contour of the lake
- [7.30] Continue right around the dam on a mowed grass path toward falls trails
- [7.45] Falls overlook; turn around and go up steps to the right
- [7.60] Go through the clearing, then through woods briefly towards the guardrail and turn right on Route 6 and cross the bridge; turn right at another end of the guardrail, then right again into the gravel parking lot; take the trail to the left of the wooden fence along Hemlock Gorge
- [8.00] Back at the parking lot

About State Game Lands 108

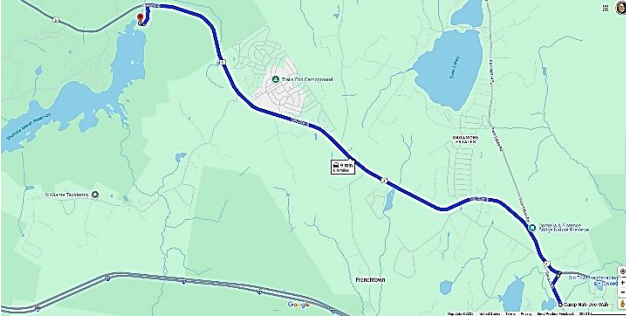
State Game Lands (SGL) 180 covers 11,492.81 acres, located south of U.S. Route 6, north of Interstate 84 and SR 739, and east of SR 434. The terrain features rounded hills, narrow valleys, and swamps, with steep slopes near Shohola Gorge. The oak forests are typical of the Appalachian Plateau, dominated by Red Oak, White Oak, and Chestnut Oak, alongside Black Oak, Scarlet Oak, White Pine, and Eastern Hemlock. Wetlands, approximately 765 acres, vary in size due to beaver activity, while the Shohola Lake Waterfowl Impoundment spans 909 acres.

Public access to Game Lands 180 is via U.S. Route 6, SR 434, and SR 739, with Farms Road providing primary access. This gravel road runs about four miles from U.S. Route 6 to Shohola Creek, offering roadside parking (20 areas total). Access is limited to hunting and fishing seasons, closed beyond the southern boat launch. Foot access is available on grass-covered timber sale roads with moderate grades for hiking.

Recreational hunting targets include White-tailed Deer, Eastern Cottontail, Wild Turkey, American Woodcock, Black Bear, Eastern Coyote, Ruffed Grouse, Gray Squirrel, and various waterfowl. Trapping opportunities exist for Raccoon, Grey Fox, Bobcat, and Beaver. Snowshoe Hare populations are limited.

Popular activities include geocaching, hiking, boating, and fishing, particularly on Shohola Lake for Largemouth Bass and panfish. Shohola Creek is stocked annually with trout, designated as an Approved Trout Water by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, upstream from Shohola Lake and near U.S. Route 6.

Driving Directions for Camp to Shohola Falls



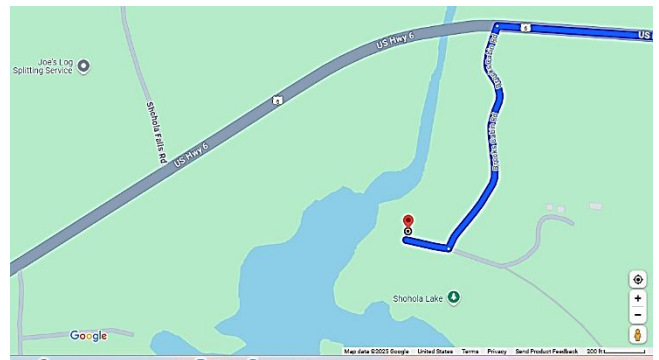
10MIN / 6.3MI

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZGW1oJkfcyFobtnG7>

Start: Camp Nah-Jee-Wah, 570 Sawkill Rd, Milford, PA 18337

1. Head out of the camp driveway and turn left, northwest on Sawkill Rd and toward Bridge Rd.
 - a. Then 0.21 miles, 0.21 total miles
2. Take the first right onto Bridge Rd.
 - a. DO NOT TRY TO TURN LEFT ONTO RT. 6 FROM SAWKILL ROAD. This is a hazardous intersection. Using the short detour onto Bridge Rd. is much safer.
 - b. Then 0.16 miles, 0.37 total miles
3. Turn left onto US-6 W.
 - a. Then 0.00 miles, 0.37 total miles
4. Take US-6W past Sawkill Rd. Continue to follow US-6 W.
 - a. Then 5.74 miles, 6.11 total miles
5. Turn left onto Brooks Camp Rd.
 - a. If you cross over the bridge for Shohola Creek and reach Shohola Falls Rd, you have gone about 0.3 miles too far.
 - b. Then 0.23 miles, 6.34 total miles
6. Go a 0.2 mile to the end of the road, turn right towards the dam, and fall.
7. Park in either the upper or lower lot. The hike starts in the upper lot.

Shohola Falls, near 127 Brooks Cabin Rd, Shohola, PA 18458 ([41.39045, -74.96895](https://www.google.com/maps/place/41.39045,-74.96895))



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Nearest Hospital: Bon Secours Community Hospital (160 E Main St, Port Jervis, NY 12771)

<https://providers.wmchealth.org/locations/bon-secours-community-hospital>

845-858-7000

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Coc127Vc978HZ2cz9> 23 Min/ 19 Miles

