

About the River Trail



The Northwest Lancaster County River Trail is a fourteen-mile, multi-use, recreation trail along the Susquehanna River. The trail spans five municipalities on land owned by several local governments and agencies. Please contact the appropriate trail manager with questions or concerns:

Columbia Borough: 717-684-2467
Conoy Township: 717-367-4927
East Donegal Township: 717-426-3167
Marietta Borough: 717-426-4143
Lancaster County Dept. of Parks & Recreation:
717-299-8215
Emergencies: Call 911

Rules of the Trail

- Enjoy the trail at your own risk. The trail is open year round, dawn to dusk, conditions permitting.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited except for emergency and maintenance vehicles.*
- The trail is available for walking, bicycling, jogging, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.
- Pets must be kept on a leash at all times. Owners are responsible for removing all pet waste.
- Keep the trail clean – carry out all waste.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Use caution when crossing bridges, roads, and railways, because they are actively used.
- Stay to the right on the trail and warn when passing.
- Please do not disturb natural habitats.
- Discharging of weapons on or from the trail is prohibited. Hunting may be permitted on adjacent lands.
- Other borough, township, or park ordinances shall be in effect.

*Individuals with mobility disabilities should refer to the trail's ADA accessibility policy regarding the use of powered mobility devices on the trail. This policy is available at municipal offices and on Lancaster County's website at: <http://web.co.lancaster.pa.us/DocumentCenter>.

Published by:

SUSQUEHANNA HERITAGE

Susquehanna Heritage is a non-profit organization and Pennsylvania Heritage Area advancing a vision for the Susquehanna Riverlands as a national destination for outdoor fun and cultural discovery.

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www.SusquehannaHeritage.org

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PHC 516

Discover Lancaster County's Scenic Northwest Waterfront

From the time of Native people, land and water routes along the Susquehanna River have been essential to American transportation and helped define settlement patterns. The river trail traces the route of Pennsylvania's Main Line Canal and uses some of the original towpath.



Columbia—The trail's southern gateway is the Columbia Crossing River Trails Center, a visitor facility managed by Susquehanna Heritage for Columbia Borough. On the waterfront in Columbia River Park, the trails center includes visitor information, exhibits, and rest rooms. The park offers scenic views, power boat and paddlecraft launches, picnic areas, and a seasonal outfitter. Park visitors also get a close-up look at the 1930 Veterans Memorial Bridge, along with the piers of a covered bridge burned in the Civil War to stop a Confederate invasion. Columbia is home to museums, art galleries, antique shops, restaurants, and a market house.

Chickies Rock County Park—At the south end of this 420+ acre park, trail travelers pass through Point Rock Tunnel, an abandoned railroad route carved through 180 feet of solid rock. The trail runs along the former Kerbaugh Lake, now a reclaimed woodland and meadow area, on the beds of an old canal and railroad, including a re-constructed bridge over Chiques Creek. Towering 220 feet above is Chickies Rock, a vertical quartzite outcropping popular with climbers. The rock is home to some of Pennsylvania's oldest fossils, *Scolithus lineris*, the 600-million-year-old borings of a marine worm. The



park includes the ruins of several anthracite-fired iron furnaces that were part of a once-thriving 19th century industrial complex known as "Little Pittsburgh."

Marietta—Steps from the trail in the river town of Marietta are beautiful historic buildings and many great restaurants, pubs, and shops. Historically, Marietta was known for its canal, lumber yards, planing mills, and pig iron furnaces. Along the trail is the Musselman-Vesta Iron Furnace Center, the office building for a furnace operation from 1868 to the 1920's. The building is now managed by Rivertownes PA USA as a public education center about the area's iron-making heritage. Also near the trail is the privately owned Chickies Furnace No. 2 engine house (1854-1899).



East Donegal Township—This section of trail runs through scenic river woodlands and farmland. A long trail section traverses Riverfront Park, a key visitor access point that boasts beautiful views of the Susquehanna. The park offers a large pavilion, promenade, boat ramp, and places for picnicking and exploring nature. Extensive wetlands in the park were restored through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetland Reserve Program.

Conoy Township—Just off the northern reach of the trail are the communities of Bainbridge and Falmouth. Bainbridge is home to the historic Haldeman Mansion, where internationally known scientist Samuel S. Haldeman was born. This part of the trail includes the scenic Shocks Mill Railroad Bridge Walkway and the White Cliffs of Conoy, a unique riverfront moonscape of tailings from



an old limestone quarry. Views of Conewago Falls, river potholes and the York Haven Dam await visitors to the trail's northern trailhead at Falmouth, which is famous for its annual goat races.



NORTHWEST LANCASTER COUNTY RIVER TRAIL GUIDE

*Bike & Hike
The River!*



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Northwest Lancaster County River Trail

Trail Access Guide



Funded in part through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PA Heritage Area Program.



The Northwest Lancaster County River Trail is a joint initiative of these community partners:

- Columbia Borough
- Conoy Township
- East Donegal Township
- Marietta Borough
- West Hempfield Township
- Lancaster County Conservancy
- Lancaster County Department of Parks & Recreation
- Lancaster County Planning Commission
- Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Susquehanna Heritage

Legend

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|--|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | Walking/Hiking Trail | | Trail |
| | Bike Trail | | Undeveloped/Proposed Trail |
| | Boat Launch | | Downtown Route |
| | Camping | | River Access Point |
| | Canoe/Kayak Launch | | Feature |
| | Drinking Water | | Mile Marker |
| | Parking | | Park |
| | Picnic | | River/Lake/Stream |
| | Restrooms | | Borough/Town |
| | Services | | Village |
| | Wheelchair Accessible | | |

* Two days advance reservations required. Phone 717-367-2981.
Trail map developed by the Lancaster County Planning Commission

