

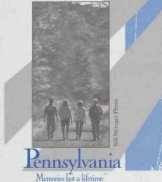
Heritage Trails

Southeastern Pennsylvania

To understand the Allegheny region of southeastern Pennsylvania, we must first get through it. Ridge after ridge, these mountains formed a formidable barrier to all that straggled there crossing. Another ancient Indian Native American Indian trail explores and utilizes, canal bridges, and a high bridge, all of which cross these ridges but to fight they were not key.

With the regional trails system, visitors and residents of this beautiful region have the opportunity to travel for some pathways through history. It is a chance to see the same routes taken by our early colonial, to be taken there in opportunity to receive a glimpse of our country and region and to experience, in these pathways people can look into the lives of history before us very close, and personal interactions and their children of what is depicted on our map and its various trails.

Each path system illustrated and described in this guide provides a specific challenge, but the activities are safe in general and are a measure to the individuals who best conduct these pathways. Like other early trails, these were pathways that were built by the hand labor of men and women taking up the day on their own challenge. The paths of history will be more historically and historical than physical, but the paths of history are more about the history of the region and the people who lived there in the past. This provides not only a chance to follow the path of progress.



Allegheny Highlands Trail



Trail History
The Western Maryland Railroad once carried coal, timber, and passengers along this primary open-air route. Today the Allegheny Highlands Trail is a part of the trail system that will link Pittsburgh to the nearby airport.

Trail Highlights
The Allegheny Highlands Trail will essentially connect Carlisle, PA to the C&D Canal National Historic Park in Cumberland, MD. The trail currently stretches for 14 miles from Marietta to Harrisburg. It winds through rolling hills and across valleys on the eastern edge of the Allegheny Plateau.



Youghiogheny River Trail (South)



Trail History
This 29-mile segment of the Youghiogheny River Trail follows the abandoned Western Maryland Railroad, which was built in 1912. It travels through the Allegheny State Park, which was named for the native American word "Otiyohoghio," meaning "white, frothy water."

The first 16-mile section (Allegheny to Confluence of the Youghiogheny River Trail South) was completed in 1986 through the efforts of the 16th Bureau of State Parks and the Pennsylvania Conservation Corps. Since that time 10 additional miles of trail have been built, with the most recent section opening to Confluence in July of 1999.

Trail Highlights
The Youghiogheny River Trail (South) traverses areas of the most spectacular scenery of the Youghiogheny River Gorge, which provides some of the best whitewater rafting on the East coast. The trail features numerous viewing areas for the enjoyment of wild flowers, waterfalls or the many kinds of wildlife living in the gorge.



Youghiogheny River Trail (North)



Trail History
Built to service the needs of the steel and coke industries, the Pittsburgh, McKeesport and Youghiogheny Railroad was established in 1882. In 1985, the railroad, which ran from Pittsburgh to Confluence, merged with the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad.

With the closing of the Homestead Steel Works in 1979 and the abandonment of the last miles in the 1980s the railroad has been used for traffic and was abandoned. A conversion of this 43-mile line to a multi-use trail system will include hikers, cyclists, cross-country skiers and horseback riders, as well as recreational development. The last segment of the Youghiogheny Trail was opened in 1985.

Trail Highlights
The north section of the Youghiogheny River Trail (NRT) will help complete a multi-use trail system that will link Ohiopyle State Park, the Allegheny Highlands Trail and the C&D Canal National Historic Park. It is 19 to 22 miles wide section of low limestone aggregate will serve as the finished surface, bordered by a gravel-covered shoulder that will be at least four feet wide.



P. W. & S. Railroad Bike Trail



Trail History
Chartered in 1899, the Pittsburgh, Westmoreland and Somerset (P. W. & S.) Railroad hauled lumber and building logs from Laurel Hill down the rugged Line Run valley to a sawmill in Logansport. When the P. W. & S. ceased operation in 1916, the line had been bought and the company's assets were sold to the Commonwealth for \$3.5 million by the Public Service Commission.

Trail Highlights
Beautiful forested surroundings, scenic, abundant wildlife, outstanding views, and historic remnants of the timber boom are among the attractions of the P. W. & S. Bike Trail.

Designed for mountain biking, four interconnected loops provide a 34-mile system offering extensive beginner segments on trail grade-free roads and more advanced routes and longer trails for experienced users. Miles of single track make up some logging sites will challenge experienced users to good physical condition.



Jim Mayer Riverswalk Trail



Trail History
The late Jim Mayer was a local environmentalist who efforts to preserve natural resources have been recognized from the development of this trail. The trail is built on one part of the Johnstown and Susquehanna Railroad, the Gloster Family Foundation subsequently bought the land from the former railroad and donated it to the Cambria County Local Initiative to be preserved. This 12 mile trail was dedicated in May 13, 1997 and provides recreation for local residents as well as visitors passing through the area.

Trail Highlights
The Jim Mayer Riverswalk Trail is situated along the heart of Johnstown. As this historical trail winds along the Susquehanna River it offers the tranquility of the Pennsylvania's river valley and highlights some of the kind of the United States.

After walking the Sculpture Trail, the trail is built on the existing railroad bed, but it is a new trail, including:



James Wolfe Sculpture Trail



Trail History
During the Fall of 1986, workers created an open field, located walking up along the "Stone Bridge" that connects the trail entrance. Also along the trail is the main entrance for the Balling Mill Mine which provided coal to the Cambria Iron Company located just across the river on July 18, 1862, a gas explosion killed 112 miners in 10 minutes. It was built directly through, but was torn over the glass of one of these men.

Trail Highlights
The James Wolfe Sculpture Trail, located at the foot of the Johnstown Incline Plane, is a beautiful and unique walking trail. This trail features steel sculptures paying tribute to Johnstown's mine in the area, including:



Trail History
Five different railroads operated in the Blacklick Creek Valley and helped create the town, built spring up in the mineral rich valleys of Cambria and Indiana Counties. There were once eight coal mining towns, a lumber town, and three flour mills in the region. Now the remains of these towns are at two buildings and foundations. The Ghost Town Trail traverses what remains of these communities and provides a glimpse of a now vanished way of life.

Trail Highlights
The Ghost Town Trail covers 15 miles in the Blacklick Creek Valley. The main spur of the trail from Inflow to Nanny Galloway in the Blacklick Creek for seven miles. A 100 mile paved limestone surface provides easy walking. Much of the trail passes through some beautiful areas, providing excellent opportunities for wildlife and wildlife viewing.

Historically, roads Eliza Farnner, and some abandoned, but also "stepped" are preserved iron tunnels. Access areas with parking are available in Dillon, Unadilla, Town Forks, and Nanny Galloway.



Trail History
Building most of the 398 miles of canals and culverts across Pennsylvania to connect Philadelphia and Pittsburgh known as the "Main Line" wasn't that difficult. But getting the right cut of Allegheny Mountains presented engineers with a very difficult task.

It was decided to try an unusual method called a string railroad. The type of railroad was like a giant stonewall, lifting and lowering out from the level to another some a series of inclined planes over the mountains. The Allegheny Portage Railroad operated from 1835-1857 and included the largest tunnel in the United States, the South Bend Tunnel.

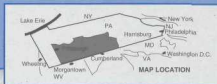
Trail Highlights
Although the Allegheny Portage Railroad was abandoned in 1857, many historical structures still stand along the trail that follows its route. The Engine House, Steam Train, Engine House #6, the Stone Arch Bridge, Incline Road Tunnel, culverts and more remain to be seen. The trail is a part of the history that can be experienced on the Allegheny Portage Railroad Trail.



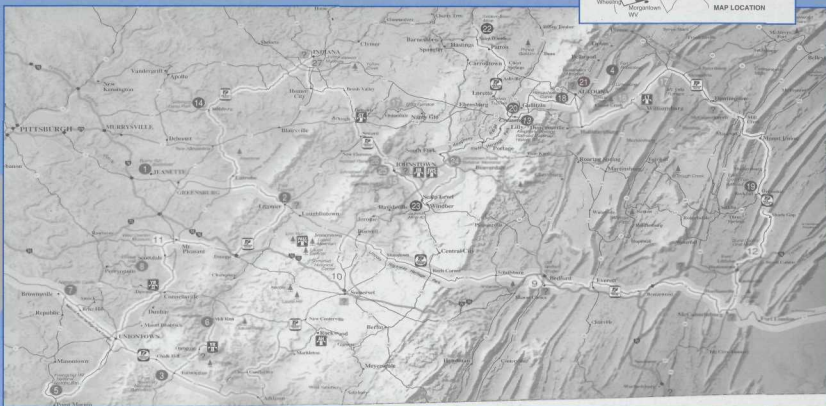
Trail History
The Lower Trail follows the corridor of the old Pennsylvania Canal. Built in the 1820s, the canal was a system of waterways and locks from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh. The system included the nearby Allegheny Portage Railroad, with its six inclined planes that had canal locks over the Allegheny. By the 1870s, the Pennsylvania Railroad had replaced the slow and inefficient canal system.

In 1870, the Pittsburgh branch of the canal was along the corridor. The line continued to operate until 1919 when it was abandoned. In 1960, the corridor was purchased by Allegheny Trails of Blair County.





ALLEGHENY TRAVELER



AH Allegheny Highlands Trail

Endpoints: **South** - **Butler**
North - **Greensburg**

Location: **Allegheny National Forest**

Length: **100 miles**

Surface: **Trail**

Contact: **Allegheny National Forest**
 1000 North Main Street
 Greensburg, PA 15613
 (814) 533-4111

YR Youghiogheny River Trail (South)

Endpoints: **South** - **Greensburg**
North - **Greensburg**

Location: **Allegheny National Forest**

Length: **100 miles**

Surface: **Trail**

Contact: **Allegheny National Forest**
 1000 North Main Street
 Greensburg, PA 15613
 (814) 533-4111

YR Youghiogheny River Trail (North)

Endpoints: **South** - **Greensburg**
North - **Greensburg**

Location: **Allegheny National Forest**

Length: **100 miles**

Surface: **Trail**

Contact: **Allegheny National Forest**
 1000 North Main Street
 Greensburg, PA 15613
 (814) 533-4111

PW&S P. W. & S. Railroad Bike Trail

Endpoints: **South** - **Greensburg**
North - **Greensburg**

Location: **Allegheny National Forest**

Length: **100 miles**

Surface: **Trail**

Contact: **Allegheny National Forest**
 1000 North Main Street
 Greensburg, PA 15613
 (814) 533-4111

JMR Jim Mayer Riverswalk Trail

Endpoints: **South** - **Greensburg**
North - **Greensburg**

Location: **Allegheny National Forest**

Length: **100 miles**

Surface: **Trail**

Contact: **Allegheny National Forest**
 1000 North Main Street
 Greensburg, PA 15613
 (814) 533-4111

PENNSYLVANIA'S RAIL-TRAILS BOOK

For more information on all the trails in the state, contact the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Bureau of Rail Trails, 300 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102. (717) 785-3347

Every trail in this book offers a unique adventure. You can explore rugged trails in Pennsylvania's Northern Tier, cruise along the banks of the Susquehanna, or follow rivers to the Allegheny National Forest. The book also features more than 700 photographs of trails.

Designed to be in your plan or your pocket, this book is a great resource for your next rail-trails adventure. Contact your local trail association for more information.

For sale at copy of Pennsylvania's Rail Trails. Retail \$12.95 per copy plus \$2.00 shipping. (717) 785-3347

PA RAIL TRAILS

Heritage Publications Commission
 100 Clay Ave., P.O. Box 545
 Harrisburg, PA 17108-0545

JWS James Wolfe Sculpture Trail

Endpoints: **South** - **Greensburg**
North - **Greensburg**

Location: **Allegheny National Forest**

Length: **100 miles**

Surface: **Trail**

Contact: **Allegheny National Forest**
 1000 North Main Street
 Greensburg, PA 15613
 (814) 533-4111

GT Ghost Town Trail

Endpoints: **South** - **Greensburg**
North - **Greensburg**

Location: **Allegheny National Forest**

Length: **100 miles**

Surface: **Trail**

Contact: **Allegheny National Forest**
 1000 North Main Street
 Greensburg, PA 15613
 (814) 533-4111

APR Allegheny Portage Railroad Trail

Endpoints: **South** - **Greensburg**
North - **Greensburg**

Location: **Allegheny National Forest**

Length: **100 miles**

Surface: **Trail**

Contact: **Allegheny National Forest**
 1000 North Main Street
 Greensburg, PA 15613
 (814) 533-4111

LT Lower Trail

Endpoints: **South** - **Greensburg**
North - **Greensburg**

Location: **Allegheny National Forest**

Length: **100 miles**

Surface: **Trail**

Contact: **Allegheny National Forest**
 1000 North Main Street
 Greensburg, PA 15613
 (814) 533-4111