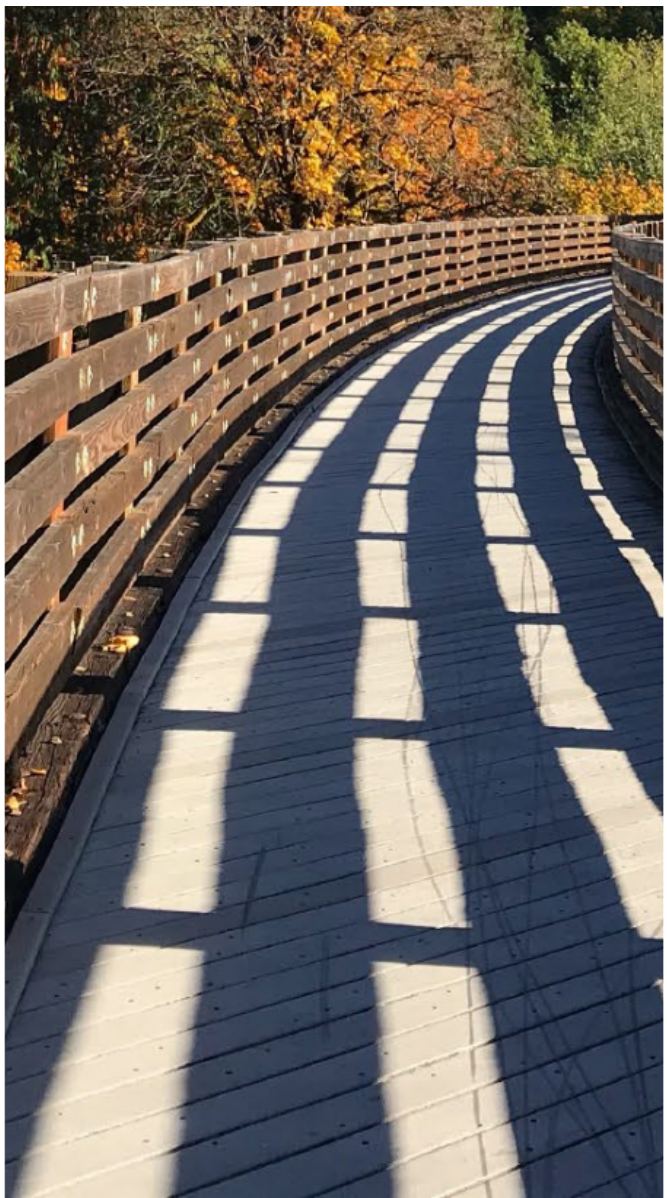
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2025

TrailLink Unlimited

Guides



Bellefonte Central Rail Trail

Pennsylvania

Bellefonte Central Rail Trail

Pennsylvania

Serene year-round, the Bellefonte Central Rail Trail (BCRT) in central Pennsylvania runs along 1.3 miles of the old Buffalo Run,

Serene year-round, the Bellefonte Central Rail Trail (BCRT) in central Pennsylvania runs along 1.3 miles of the old Buffalo Run, Bellefonte and Bald Eagle Railroad corridor. The original 19-mile line connecting the towns of Bellefonte and State College, home to Pennsylvania State University, was built in the mid-1880s to move iron ore. It changed hands in 1892 to become the Bellefonte Railroad and transported passengers, including many students and freight, until it ceased operation in the 1980s. In 1953 President Dwight Eisenhower and First Lady Mamie Eisenhower traveled on the Bellefonte Central to visit Dwight's brother, then-president of Penn State.

The Bellefonte Central Rail Trail is part of the master plan for the Arboretum at Penn State, where it will be a major artery through the site. Visitors and staff will use it to reach the botanical gardens, wetlands and research facilities, and—closer to the trail—woodlands that are being restored to the oak and hickory forest that dominated the area before invasive, nonnative plants appeared.

The trail sets out a 0.25 mile west of Sunset Park along the McKee Street and Clinton Avenue Bike Path. The southern end of the trail is less than 1 mile from Pennsylvania State University, making the trail a popular route for commuting students. For most of the way it is tree lined, with open fields beyond the shade-lending serene pastoral views, until it ends after passing over a culvert and shortly before reaching the Mt. Nittany Expressway overpass.

An informal trail extends nearly 2 more miles to Toftrees Resort and Golf Course, residential areas and beyond, ending at Montauk Circle in the town of Port Matilda. At its far reaches, the trail becomes rugged and is best suited for pedestrians or mountain bikes. A feasibility study is looking into extending the developed trail to Toftrees and another 13 miles to Bellefonte in the future.

Bellefonte Central Rail Trail

Pennsylvania

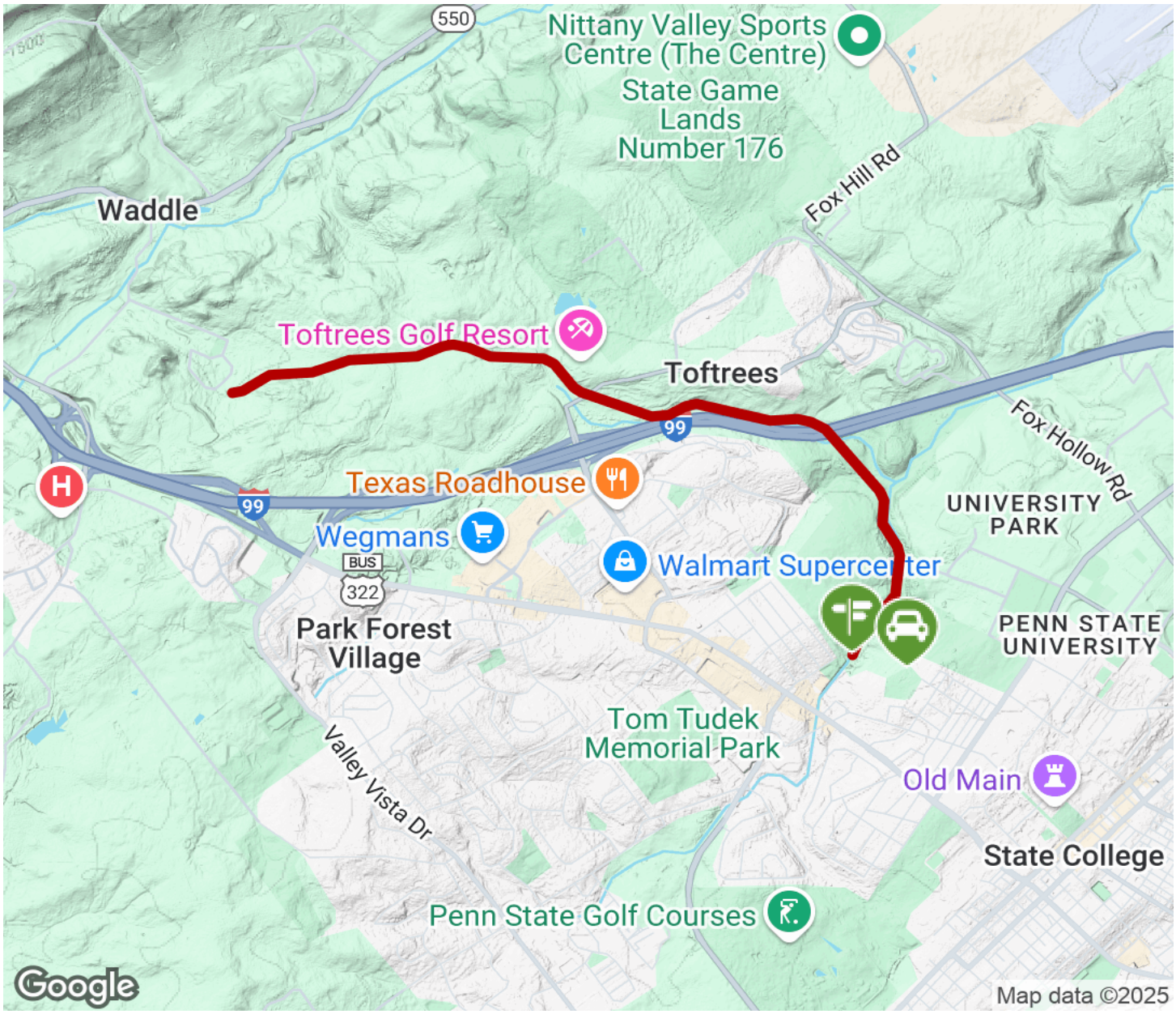
States: Pennsylvania
Counties: Centre
Length: 1.3miles
Trail end points: Clinton Avennue Bike Path off Sunset Park to Montauk Circle
Trail surfaces: Asphalt,Cinder,Crushed Stone
Trail category: Rail-Trail
Trail activities: Bike,Wheelchair Accessible,Mountain Biking,Walking,Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

To McKee Street trailhead: From I-80 west, take exit 161, turn left and follow US-220 South 11 miles toward Bellefonte. Take exit 74 toward Penn State University on E Park Ave. At 2.3 miles turn right at McKee Street. At the end of McKee Street (about seven blocks) are Sunset Park (with parking and restroom facilities) on the left and McKee Street/Clinton Avenue Bike Path straight ahead. Follow the bike path downhill less than a quarter mile to the flat where the Bellefonte Central Rail Trail begins.

Bellefonte Central Rail Trail

Pennsylvania



Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com