



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Conewago Recreation Trail

Pennsylvania



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Farms and pastures surround the Conewago Recreation Trail, but it was the discovery and mining of iron ore that led to the development of the railroad that eventually resulted in this trail. The path rolls northeast from the outskirts of Elizabethtown for about 5 miles to a seamless connection at the Lancaster–Lebanon County line with the Lebanon Valley Rail-Trail. The connecting trail continues nearly 15 miles to Lebanon. Both trails are part of the September 11th National Memorial Trail that connects the World Trade Center, Flight 93, and Pentagon Memorials, and both occupy the former railbed of the Cornwall & Lebanon Railroad.

About the Route

The Conewago Recreation Trail follows a creek of the

same name for its entire length. Its crushed-limestone surface (renovated in 2007) is hard-packed and flat enough to make it wheelchair accessible, except for the Mill Road crossing about 1.4 miles from the Elizabethtown trailhead. Open dawn–dusk, the trail is shaded in the summer, although the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has been removing trees infested with the emerald ash borer beetle.

Trail users can pick up supplies for their trip in Elizabethtown, called E-town by the locals, and located about 2 miles southeast of the trailhead. The town's population has ballooned since the early days of the 20th century, when it was home to a shoe factory and Klein Chocolate (now owned by Mars and making Dove brand chocolate).

The path is wooded for a short distance, and then passes some fields before plunging back into the woods. There's a steep slope at the Mill Road crossing at 1.4 miles where a trestle has been removed; note that this specific intersection is not conducive to wheelchairs. Other road crossings along the trail are at the same level, except for the passage under PA 283. A couple of road crossings later, the trail passes through Bellaire, which has an old mill that's now used as a carpentry shop. Not long after passing Prospect Road, the trail becomes the Lebanon Valley Rail-Trail. **Connections** The Conewago Recreation Trail meets the [Lebanon Valley Rail-Trail](#) at its northern end. **Trail History**

The Cornwall & Lebanon Railroad, built in 1883 as a private venture to compete with a railroad that already served the iron ore mines in Cornwall. To challenge an established railroad was risky enough; now consider that the new railroad's owner was Robert Coleman, one of the richest men in Pennsylvania and a cousin of the existing railroad's president. Lawsuits ensued, and the newcomer's railroad tracks were torn up at least once.

As it turns out, there was enough business for everyone. Coleman, however, made bad investments elsewhere and eventually lost his railroad; the Pennsylvania Railroad ended



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States: Pennsylvania

Counties: Lancaster

Length: 5miles

Trail end points: 2385 N Market St.
(Elizabethtown) to Lebanon Valley Rail Trail

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Fishing, Horseback
Riding, Mountain Biking, Walking, Cross
Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Conewago Recreation Trail runs between 2385 N Market St. (Elizabethtown), where parking is available, and the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail.

Parking is also available at:

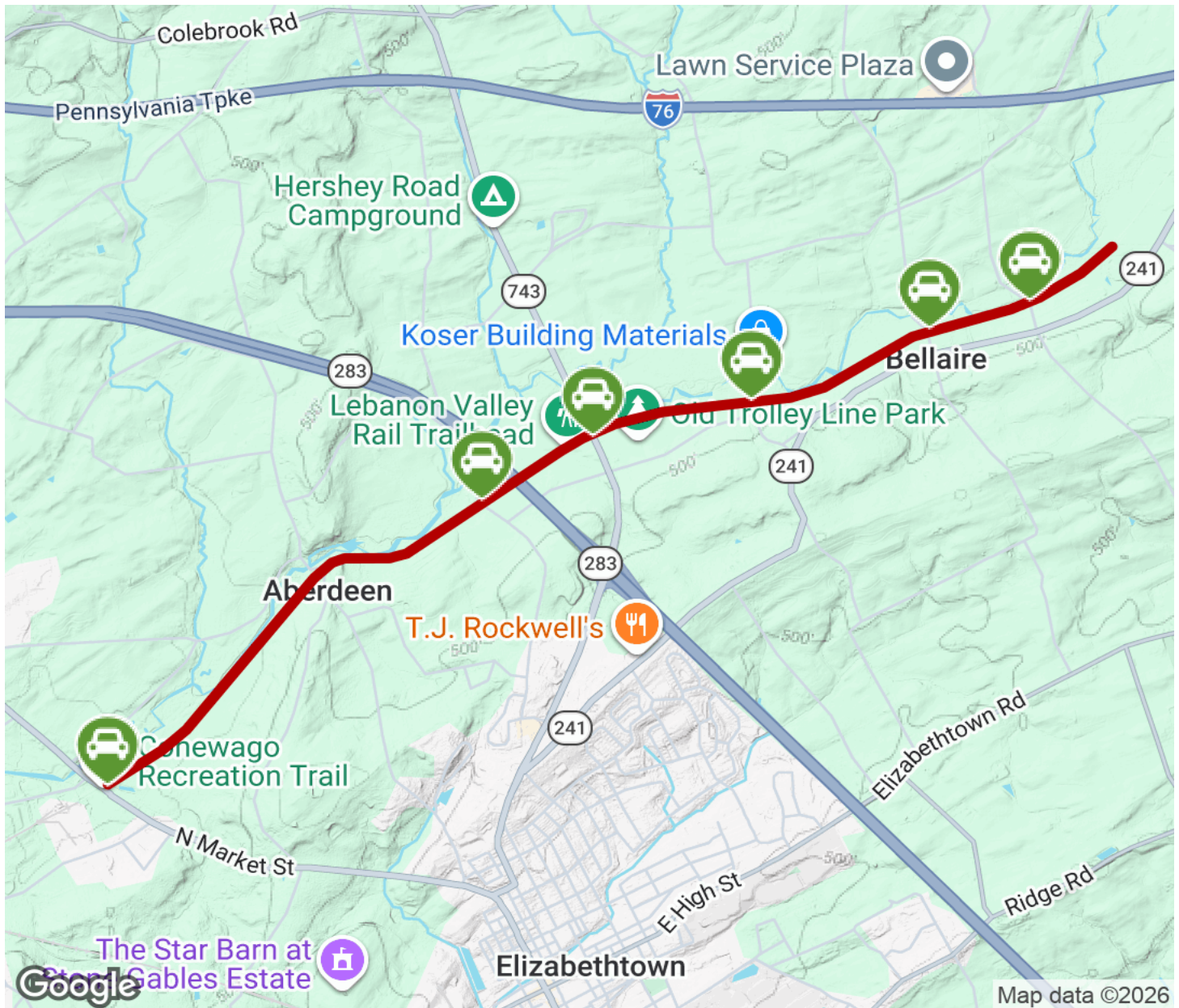
- 988 Old Hershey Rd. (Elizabethtown)
- 230 Koser Rd. (Elizabethtown)

Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Conewago Recreation Trail

Pennsylvania



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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