



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



## Ghost Town Trail

*Pennsylvania*



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Part of a larger system in Western Pennsylvania known as the Trans Allegheny Trails, the Ghost Town Trail was named for the long-abandoned towns strung along the tracks of the Ebensburg & Black Lick Railroad and Cambria and Indiana Railroad. When the coal--mining industry started declining in the early 1900s, so too did the towns along the rail route, eventually fading into the ghost towns of today. Established in 1991, the Ghost Town Trail is a designated national recreation trail. The pathway is also part of the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition's developing 1,500-mile trail network through Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, and New York.

Winding through the scenic Blacklick Creek watershed east of Pittsburgh, the 51-mile Ghost Town Trail is composed of the 32-mile main stem (running between

Black Lick and Ebensburg) and the 19-mile C&I Extension.

The C&I Extension includes the 4-mile Raxis Branch (from Vintondale to US-422), the 8-mile Stritty's Way (from US-422 almost to Beulah Road), and a separated 5-mile section (from the 219 underpass in Ebensburg, where it connects to the main stem, to Springfield Street in Nanty Glo).

As of August 2023, there is a 1.5-mile gap in the route. When completed, it will create a continuous loop as part of the larger Ghost Town Trail.

#### Main Stem

You'll pass massive iron furnaces, long-disused tipples (equipment that loaded railroad cars with coal), slag (a by-product of mining), old railroad ties, and other artifacts attesting to the path's rich rail history. Coexisting with these industrial castoffs is a variety of wildlife; hit the trail early enough and you're likely to encounter deer and more than a few chipmunks. Once the sun gets high, watch out for the occasional snake sunning itself on the warm pathway. Black bears have even been spotted crossing the trail!

The trail rises a bit more than 1,000 feet from west to east, so if you're planning a one-way trip, it might be tempting to start at the eastern trailhead and ride downhill; resist the urge and make an uphill ride instead. Spread over 32 miles, the slope is gradual, and you'll end in the town of Ebensburg, the largest along the route, with dining and brewery options available after the ride.

Note that Saylor Park, where you begin your ride, is also a trailhead for the 10.5-mile [Hoodlebug Trail](#). You'll soon make one of several crossings over Blacklick Creek—your near-constant companion along the route—and encounter a salvage yard of discarded rail cars, their rusted hulks seeming to bloom among the trees.



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## Pennsylvania

**States:** Pennsylvania

**Counties:** Cambria, Indiana

Length: 51 miles

**Trail end points:** Saylor Park (1284 Old Indiana Rd, Black Lick) to Rowena Dr & Tanner St (Ebensburg)

**Trail surfaces:** Crushed Stone

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Wheelchair Accessible, Mountain Biking, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

## Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available at a number of locations along the trail. Please view the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.

To reach the Black Lick trailhead at Saylor Park (1284 Old Indiana Road, Blairsville) from the intersection of US 22 and US 119 in Blairsville, head north on US 119. Go 2.3 miles, and turn right onto Main St./SR 2017. Go 0.5 mile; as the road curves left, it becomes Old Indiana Road. In 0.2 mile turn left into the parking lot at Saylor Park. The trailhead is located at the southwest side of the parking lot; head south on the spur, past the baseball field, and turn left onto the Ghost Town Trail.

To reach the Black Lick trailhead from the intersection of US 422 and US 119 in Indiana, head south on US 119. Go 7 miles, and turn left onto Old Indiana Road. Go 1.3 miles, and turn right into the parking lot at Saylor Park. Access the trail by following the directions above from Saylor Park.

To reach parking near the endpoint in Cardiff from the intersection of US 22 and US 119 in Blairsville, head east on US 22. In 21 miles take the exit for SR 271, and turn left. Go 1.7 miles, and turn left to continue on SR 271/Second St. In 3.1 miles turn right onto Expedite Road, and go 1.6 miles. Turn right onto North St., and go 0.1 mile to the parking lot.

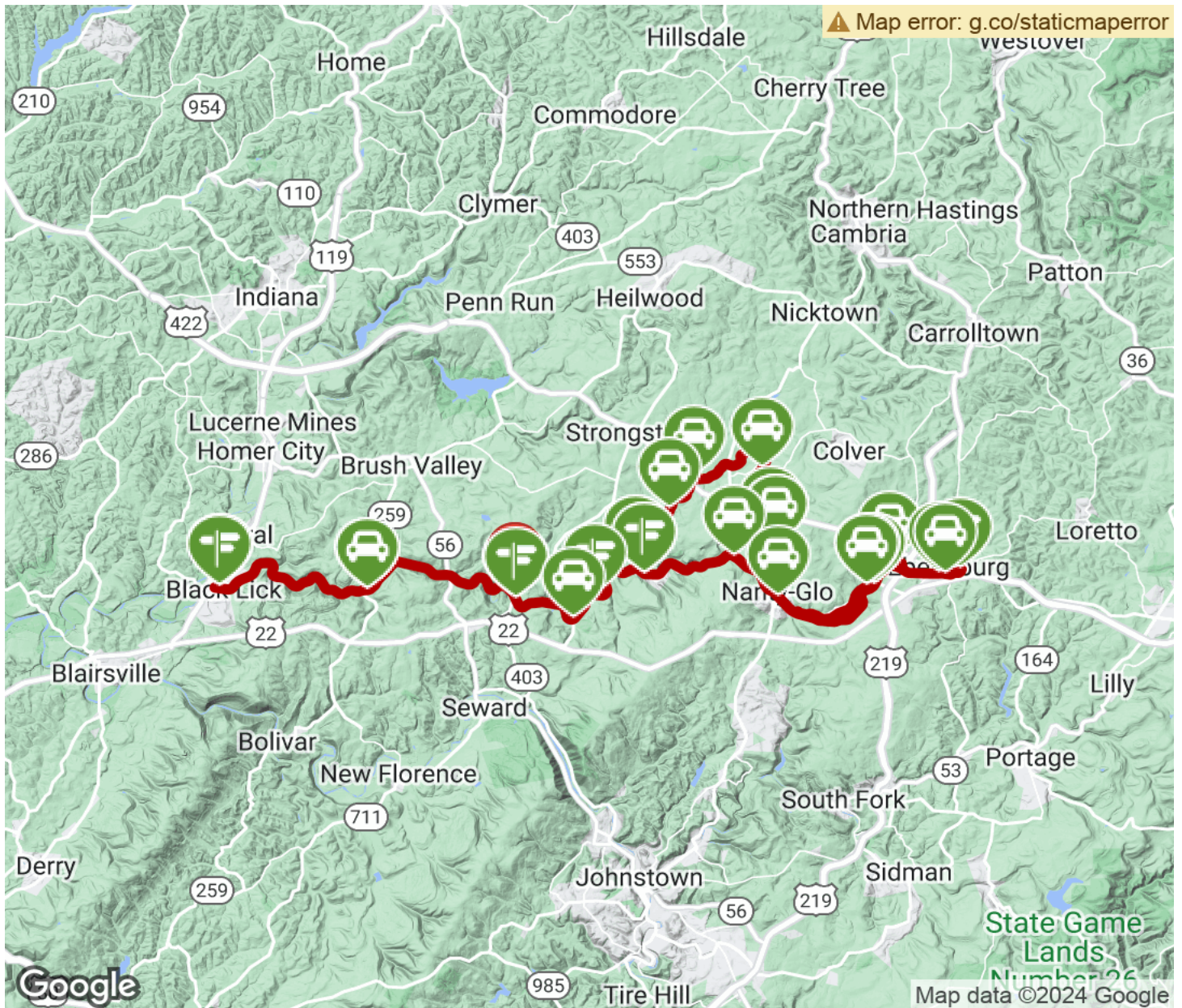
To reach parking near the eastern endpoint in Ebensburg from the intersection of US 22 and US 119 in Blairsville, head east on US 22. Go 27.8 miles, and turn left onto S. Center St. (you'll curve left at S. Locust St. to stay on S. Center St.). In 0.3 mile (near the curve) turn left onto Prave St., and look for parking immediately on your left.





# Ghost Town Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
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