



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Ghost Town Trail

Pennsylvania



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Winding through the scenic Blacklick Creek watershed east of Pittsburgh, the 53.3-mile Ghost Town Trail is composed of the 32-mile main stem (running between Black Lick and Ebensburg) and the 20-mile C&I Extension.

The C&I Extension includes the 4-mile Rexis 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).

About the Route

The trail passes 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 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 ends in the town of Ebensburg, the largest along the route, with dining and brewery options available after the ride.

Note that Saylor Park, at the western end of the trail, is also a trailhead for the [Hoodlebug Trail](#). Heading east, there are several crossings over Blacklick Creek and there's a salvage yard of discarded rail cars, their rusted hulks seeming to bloom among the trees.

Interpretive markers along sections of the trail provide information about the long-gone mining towns, as well as some of the historical features. Restrooms and a drinking fountain are available at the Dilltown trailhead, 12.5 miles from the western end of the trail.

Approaching the town of Vintondale, 18.5 miles from the western end, the trail splits to follow both branches of Blacklick Creek; to the left (north), the 19-mile C&I Extension spur trail travels along the former rail line of the Cambria and Indiana Railroad. When complete, the C&I Extension will form a loop—along with a portion of the main stem—in the Ghost Town Trail route.

Passing through the communities of Rexis, Red Mill, Strongstown, and the outskirts of Ebensburg, the trail



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States: Pennsylvania

Counties: Cambria, Indiana

Length: 53.3miles

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

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

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

Parking & Trail Access

The Ghost Town Trail runs between Saylor Park (1284 Old Indiana Rd, Black Lick), where parking is available, and Rowena Dr (Ebensburg).

Parking is also available at:

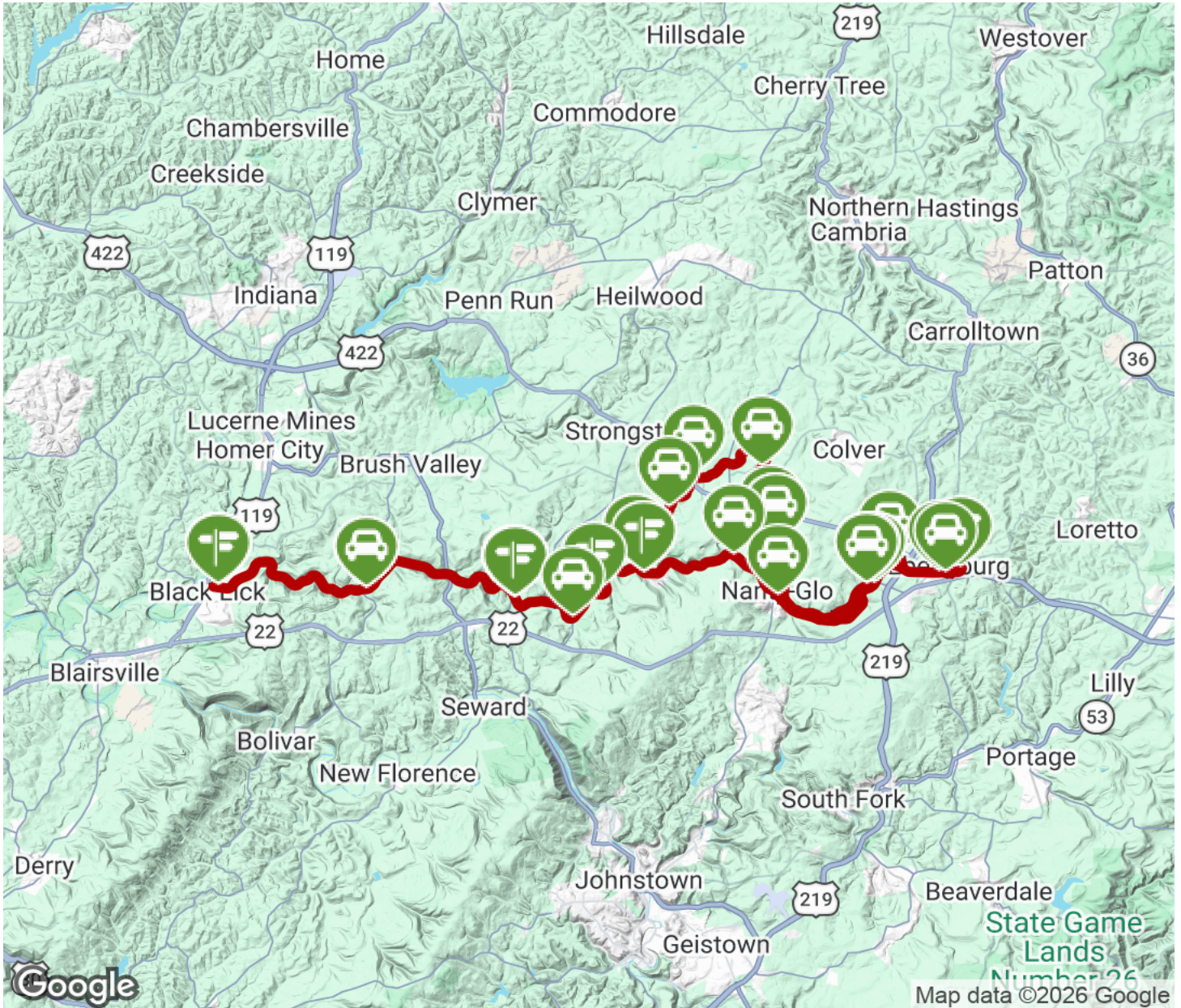
- North St/Cardiff Trailhead, 152 North St (Nanty Glo)
- Ebensburg Trailhead, 424 Prave St (Ebensburg)

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



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com