



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Heritage Rail Trail County Park

Pennsylvania



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The Heritage Rail Trail County Park (HRT) runs between the Pennsylvania–Maryland state line and York, Pennsylvania. Most of the trail has a crushed-stone surface, although portions of the trail, including most of the trail north of the city of York. In winter months, the path is also popular among cross-country skiers and snowshoers.

About the Route

The northernmost section of the trail is located at John C. Rudy County Park, a 150-acre greenspace which offers restrooms, sports fields, pavilions, a dog park, and a variety of other outdoor amenities. The northern section of the trail all the way south to Hartley Rd. near Seven Valleys prohibits horses. See posted signage.

4.5 miles from the northern endpoint, the trail travels underneath US 30, connecting users to a parking lot and three short switchbacks which take users up from the parking lot, over the Codorus Creek and back onto the southbound trail which continues along the opposite side of the creek.

As the trail passes York High athletic fields, the trail turns into Hanover St. where bikers must share the road with cars. This short on-road section of trail leads trail users back across Codorus Creek via. US 83, where the trail picks back up along a new asphalt section of the route.

As the trail passes through the heart of the city of York, it follows a shaded, tree-lined route alongside Codorus Creek as the route passes the historic downtown York, the nearby York College of Pennsylvania and Regent's Glen Country Club.

South of York, the trail approaches Seven Valleys and nearby Howard Tunnel. Built in 1838, the 370-ft stone-arch tunnel is one of the oldest in the country.

The southernmost ten miles of the trail travel primarily between Hanover Junction and New Freedom, where the trail parallels an active rail line. During the Civil War, the Hanover Junction station served as a telegraph office and a major source of communication between Gettysburg and Washington, D.C.; President Abraham Lincoln also changed trains here on his way to deliver the Gettysburg Address. History and railroad buffs can learn more about these and other Civil War events at the station's museum, which has been restored to its 1863 appearance.

The trail here parallels closely to the rail line along a crushed stone surface, so trail users can expect regular train traffic and are warned to look both ways before crossing the tracks at any point. For a more immersive historical experience, trail users can board the train that parallels the route. An 1860s steam locomotive, the Steam Into History ride includes performances by costumed historical figures and musicians.



Heritage Rail Trail County Park

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States: Pennsylvania

Counties: York

Length: 27.4miles

Trail end points: John C. Rudy County Park,
400 Mundis Race Rd. (York) to PA/MD Border,
Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail (Freeland, MD)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Horseback
Riding, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross
Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Heritage Rail Trail County Park runs between John C. Rudy County Park, 400 Mundis Race Rd. (York) and the PA/MD Border, Torrey C. Brown Rail Trail (Freeland, MD), with parking at the northern end.

Parking is also available at:

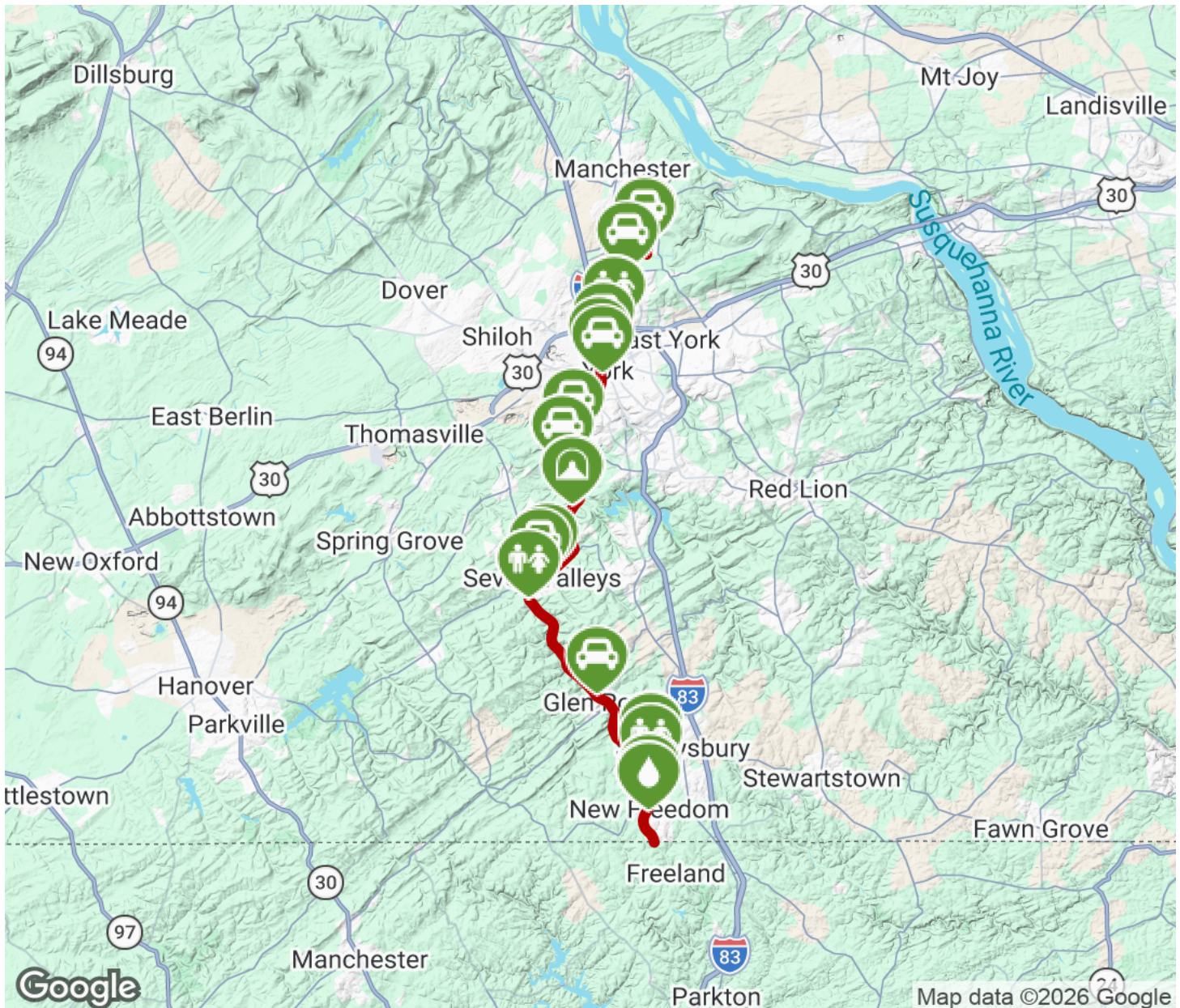
- 31 Hamilton Ave (York)
- Hanover Junction Station, 2433 Seven Valleys Rd (Seven Valleys)
- 1 E High St (New Freedom)

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



Heritage Rail Trail County Park

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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