



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Indian Creek Valley Bike Trail

Pennsylvania



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Notice: In July 2021, a storm exposed a steep drop off along one side of a portion of the trail's gorge section. As of November 2023, the washout is cordoned off with red tape and there is adequate space to navigate around it. Please exercise appropriate caution.

The Indian Creek Valley Bike and Hike Trail winds through the rugged hills in the former coal-mining region of southwestern Pennsylvania. Although remote, the trail passes through several small towns, where travelers can find food and drink at country markets and cafés. The locations of restrooms and drinking water are marked on the [TrailLink map](#).

The trail traces the Indian Creek Valley Railroad corridor that got its start primarily hauling timber out of the

mountains in 1906. The railroad soon added passenger cars to serve communities along the line. By the time the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad acquired it in 1926, lumbering had declined, but coal mining and coke production boomed.

As those industries dwindled, B&O stopped using the line in 1969, and Saltlick Township acquired the section between Champion and Indian Head for use as a trail, known today as Indian Creek Valley Bike and Hike Trail. The nonprofit Mountain Watershed Association later acquired other segments, which became the Indian Creek Valley Trail, explaining why the trail has two names.

Several miles of private property separate the main sections that comprise the 13.7-mile trail. The larger northern section runs alongside Indian Creek between Jones Mills and Indian Head. The isolated southern segment passes through scenic Indian Creek Gorge to the confluence with the Youghiogheny River. Long-range plans call for connecting these two segments and building a river crossing to link with the [Great Allegheny Passage](#).

Alonzo Kalp Jr. Donegal Extension (1.7)

Beginning at the State Route 31/SR 381 intersection in Jones Mills, the trail runs southwest at the foot of the Roaring Run Natural Area on Laurel Ridge for about 1.5 miles to Champion on the Westmoreland–Fayette County line. Along the way, it passes a facility operated by Babcock Lumber and established during the timber-cutting boom.

In less than a mile, you'll likely see families from the Mountain Pines Campground enjoying Indian Creek on the opposite shore. The creek also draws kayakers and rafters to its stretches of whitewater.

Saltlick Township (5.1)

Continuing seamlessly from the previous section, the trail



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States: Pennsylvania

Counties: Fayette, Westmoreland

Length: 16.6 miles

Trail end points: SR 31 & SR 381 (Jones Mills) to Indian Creek (Normalville) to Steyer Bridge to Indian Creek Gorge (Mill Run)

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone, Dirt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Wheelchair

Accessible, Mountain Biking, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

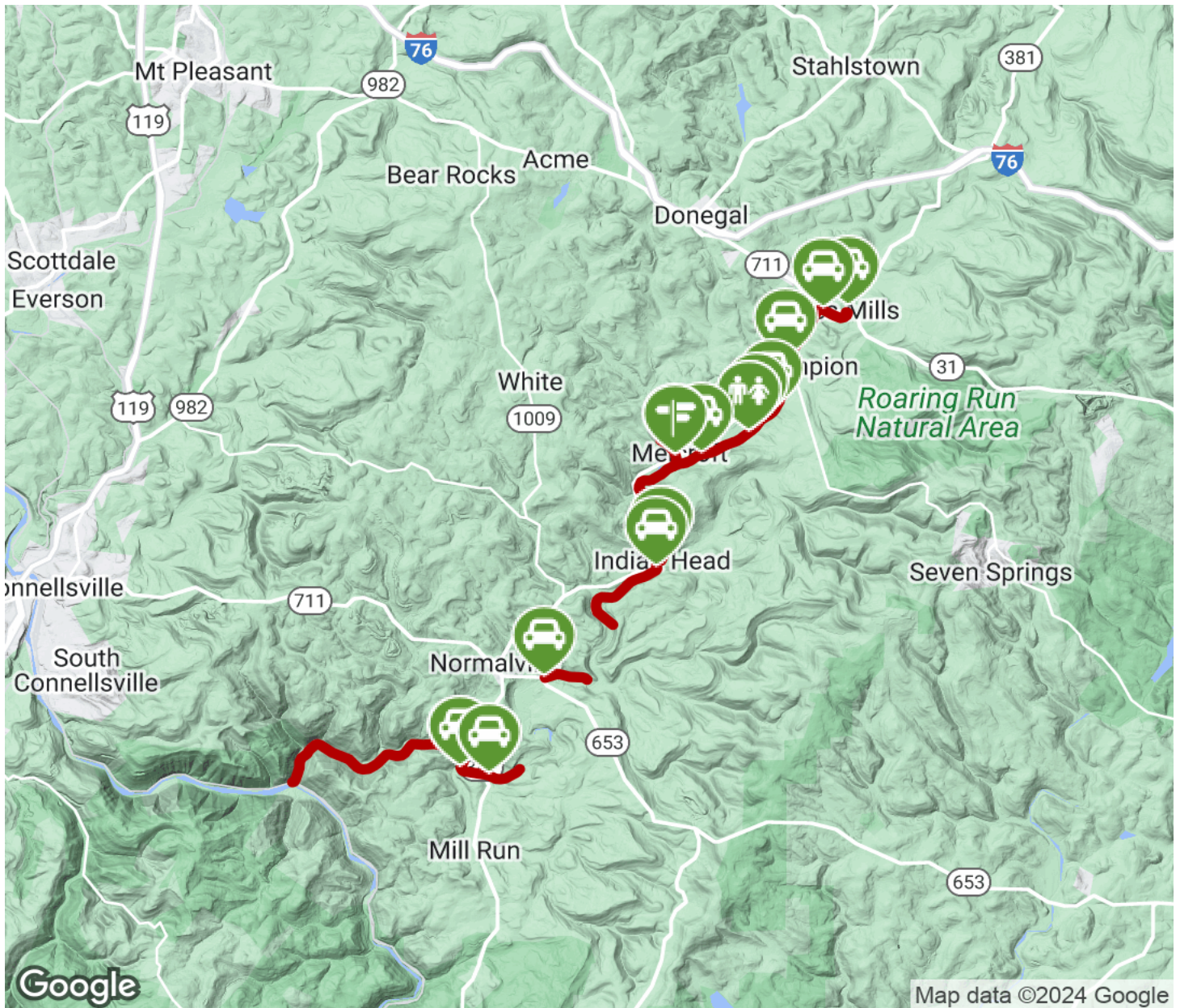
Parking & Trail Access

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



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com