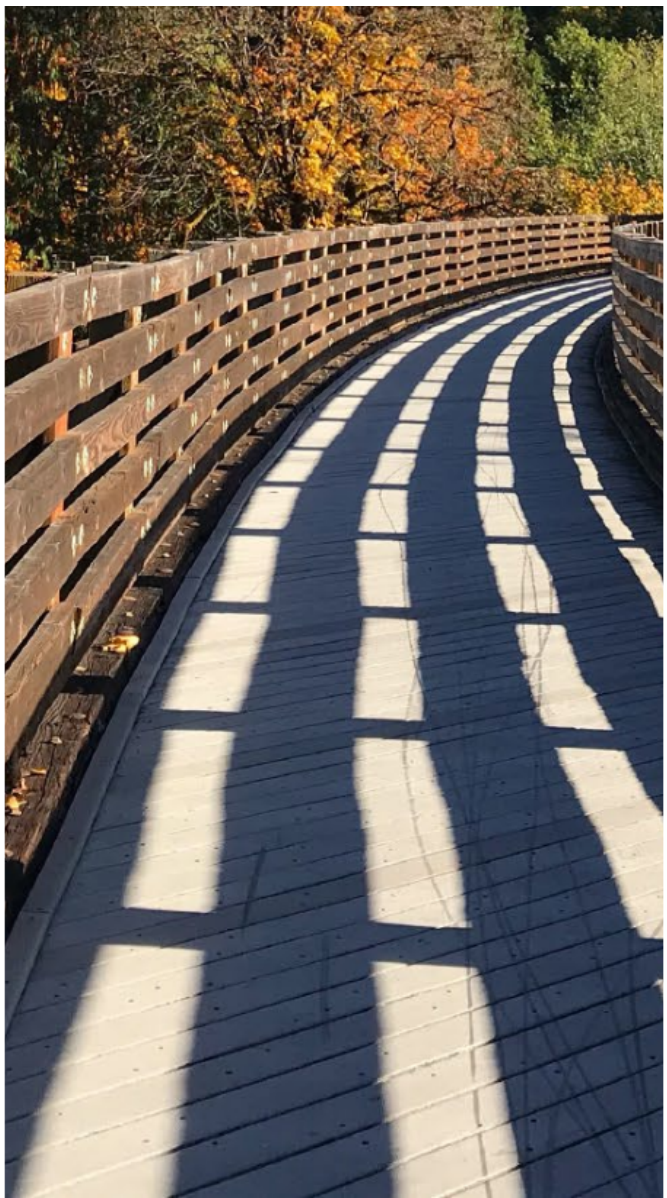
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2026

TrailLink Unlimited

Guides



Ironton Rail Trail

Pennsylvania

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The Ironton Rail Trail connects nearly a dozen parks and two dozen historical sites in east-central Lehigh County. The rail trail comprises a 5-mile loop around Coplay and Hokendauqua on the Lehigh River north of Allentown and a 4-mile spur west toward Ironton.

The trail is paved from end to end.

About the Route

Starting from the north side of the trail's loop on Chestnut St., trail users will find parking and restrooms. Heading east, clockwise around the loop, the trail arrives at Saylor Park in 0.7 miles. From a distance, trail users might think they've stumbled into Hogwarts on the set of a Harry Potter movie. These are the nine 90-foot-high brick cement kilns built for the Coplay Cement Company in 1893. The kilns were only operated for 11 years before they became obsolete, but they survive today as an open-air museum of the cement industry. The Coplay community pool sits across the trail from the kiln.

The trail bends right at the Lehigh River, a Pennsylvania Scenic River. Heading south, you can see some of the deteriorating buildings of the Thomas Iron Company on the riverfront. Beginning in the 1850s, the company ran hot blast iron furnaces using locally mined iron ore until it went out of business in 1921. The community of Hokendauqua grew up around it.

The trail's riverside run ends 2.1 miles from the trailhead as the route turns right and arrives at the athletic fields at the Hokendauqua Park and Playground. The route heads north along Coplay Creek and comes to a junction 1.4 miles past the park. Turn right to finish the loop, or turn left for the 4-mile spur toward Ironton.

The spur trail rolls through the 110-acre Whitehall Parkway for 0.5 miles, where trail users will find dirt trails heading into the forest, as well as ruins of kilns and other historical buildings. The path then passes along the shoreline of Ranger Lake for about 0.5 miles before you come to the Troxell-Steckel House and Farm Museum. The stone farmhouse here was built in 1756, and the red barn dates from the 1800s.

The westernmost 2 miles of trail offer more evidence of the cement industry along the last 2 miles of trail before arriving at the western trailhead at North Whitehall Township Recreation Park, which has baseball/softball fields and three lighted basketball courts.

Trail History

The Ironton Rail Trail follows the route of the Ironton Railroad, which obliged the future trail makers by creating a

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States: Pennsylvania
Counties: Lehigh
Length: 8.9miles
Trail end points: 3200-3218 Levans Rd. (Coplay) to Hokendauqua St. (Hokendauqua)
Trail surfaces: Asphalt
Trail category: Rail-Trail
Trail activities: Bike,Inline Skating,Walking,Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The Ironton Rail Trail runs between 3200-3218 Levans Rd. (Coplay) and Hokendauqua St. (Hokendauqua).

Parking is available at:

- 4041 Chestnut St. (Whitehall)
- 245 N 2nd St. (Coplay)
- Hokendauqua Park, 3417 Lehigh St. (Hokendauqua)

See TrailLink Map for all parking options and detailed directions.

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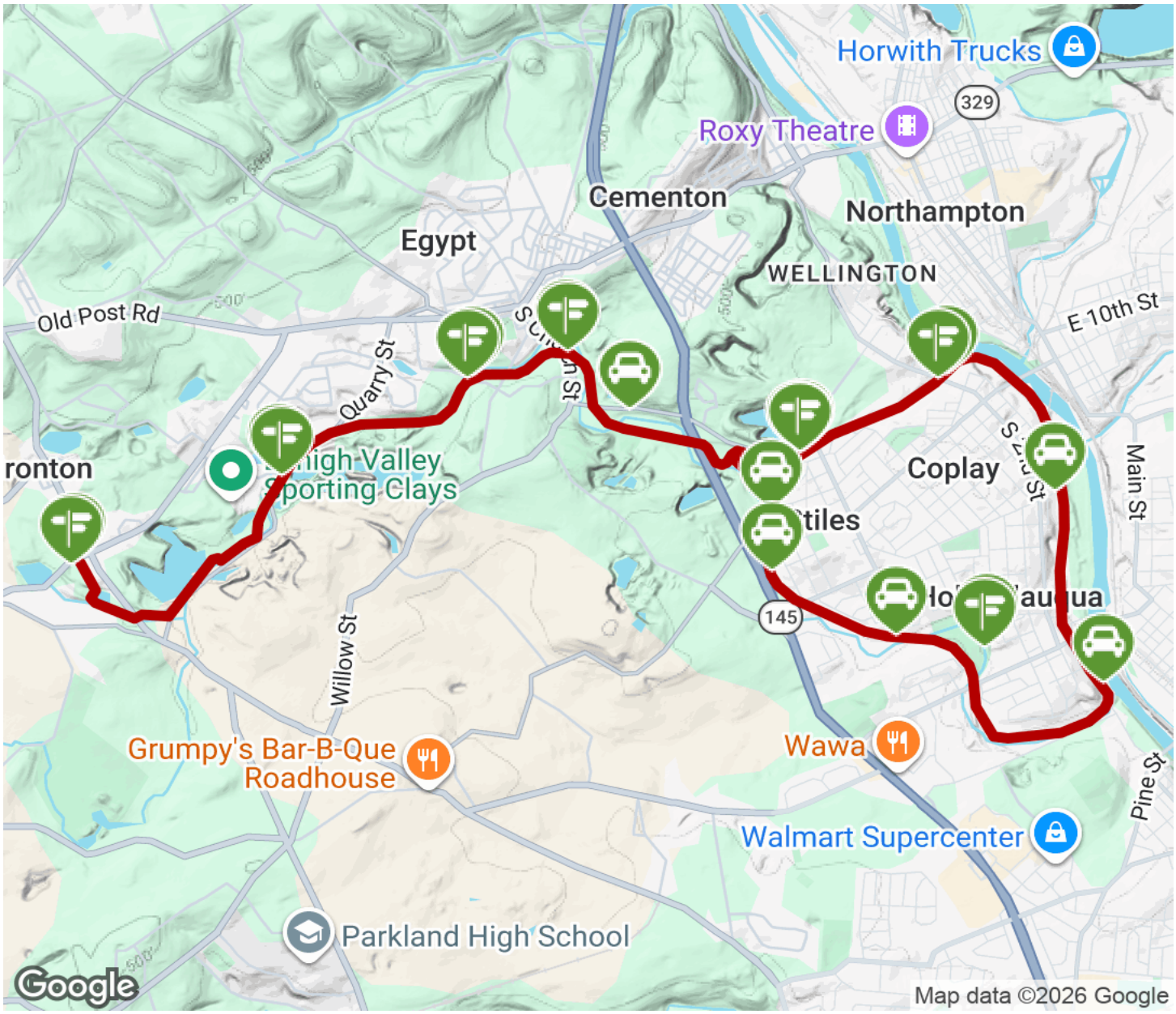

Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

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