



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Union Canal Trail

Pennsylvania



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The Union Canal Trail runs along the Tulpehocken Creek from the city of Reading up to Blue Marsh Lake in Leesport. The trail makes



The Union Canal Trail runs along the Tulpehocken Creek from the city of Reading up to Blue Marsh Lake in Leesport. The trail makes up a segment of the 71.7-mile Schuylkill River Trail in southeastern Pennsylvania. The flat, crushed-stone trail surface makes for a comfortable journey on foot, bicycle, cross-country skis, or even snowshoes.

About the Route

Leaving from a public parking lot at the Stonecliffe Recreation Area in Reading, the trail heads north along Tulpehocken Creek, a tributary of the Schuylkill River. About 0.8 mile into the route, a bridge crosses the creek that leads to the Berks Leisure Area of the Berks County Park Rangers. This area has a picnic pavilion and

restrooms.

Crossing back over the bridge and continuing down the trail another 1.8 miles will until reaching the Berks County Heritage Center, a historical interpretive complex. Here is the Gruber Wagon Works, a facility that made wagons from the 1880s to the 1950s. In the late 1970s, the building was relocated to its current location and designated a national historic landmark. The Heritage Center also includes the Red Bridge, originally known as Wertz's Bridge. The longest covered bridge in Pennsylvania, the Red Bridge crosses over the creek to provide trail access from its southern bank. Another site at the center is the C. Howard Hiester Canal Center, which details the history of the canal system in the United States and southeastern Pennsylvania.

Another 1.8 miles takes trail users to the end of the main portion of the trail at the intersection of Rebers Bridge Road. There is parking available just south of the creek across the bridge. This area is known for its fly-fishing. The remainder of the trail is also known as the Union Canal Connector, as it bridges the gap between the Union Canal Trail and the 28.6-mile Blue Marsh Lake Multi-Use Trail.

The first leg of the connector has a similar surface to the previous section of trail, though it's slightly less developed. About 0.8 mile from Rebers Bridge Road, trail users will encounter a fairly steep curved hill approaching a parking lot at Swiftwater Lane/Palisades Road. For the remaining mile of the connector, the trail traverses fields and grassland. This portion of the trail's surface is less compact than the rest and includes rolling hills.

Connections

At the northern end of the trail, trail users can connect to the [Blue Marsh Lake Multi-Use Trail](#).

The southern end of the trail connects to the [Schuylkill River](#)



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States: Pennsylvania

Counties: Berks

Length: 6.5miles

Trail end points: 1339 County Welfare Rd.
(Leesport) to Schuylkill River Trail (Leesport)

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone,Gravel

Trail category: Canal

Trail activities: Fishing,Mountain
Biking,Walking,Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The Union Canal Trail runs between 1339 County Welfare Rd. (Leesport) and Schuylkill River Trail (Leesport), with parking available at either end.

Parking is also available at:

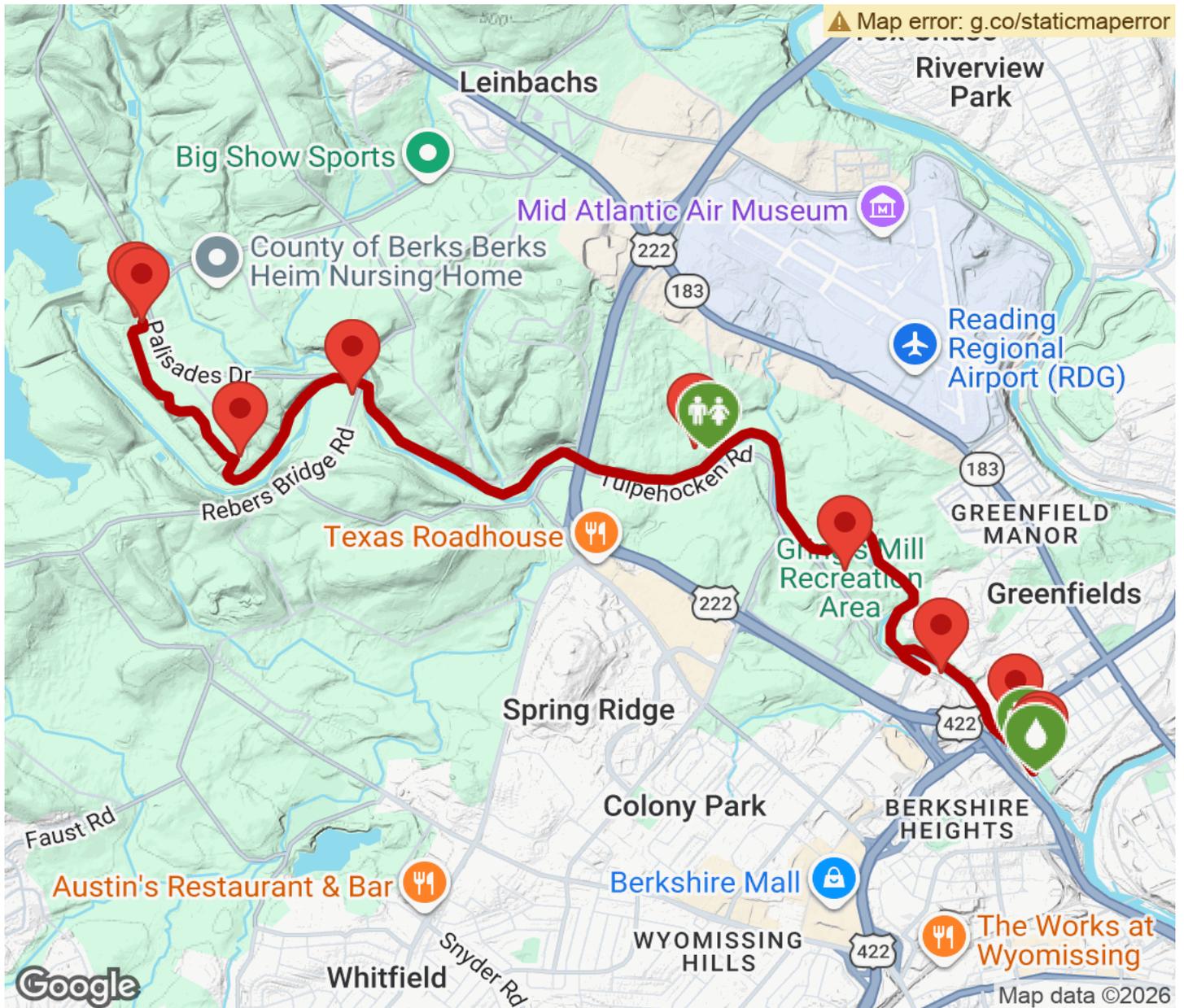
- 2083 Tulpehocken Rd. (Reading)

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