



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**West Penn  
Trail**  
*Pennsylvania*



## West Penn Trail

Pennsylvania

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The West Penn Trail meanders 15 miles between Saltsburg and just west of Blairsville. The rail-trail winds through woods, fields, and along the Conemaugh River.

### About the Route

Other than the middle sections, which are best suited to mountain or hybrid bikes with thicker tires, most of the rail-trail is accessible by wheelchair. Equestrian use is allowed west of Auen Road in Conemaugh Township.

Along the route, there are remnants of the historic Main Line Canal that was replaced by railroads in the late 19th century, as well as rare rail-trail features, including switchbacks and a flight of stairs. Please note that these may impact accessibility.

In Saltsburg, the trail's northwest endpoint by the Kiskiminetas River is a dead end about a mile north from the bridge over Blacklegs Creek and 2 miles from North Park on Salt Street, where there is trail access and parking.

Traverse historic Saltsburg along the canal path to a trailhead on the east end of town. For an alternate route along the Conemaugh River, turn right off the trail onto Point Street, take a left onto Water Street, and head 0.4 mile to the trailhead. At Canal and Water Streets, this trailhead also serves as the northernmost endpoint of the 17.8-mile Westmoreland Heritage Trail. Then follow the river through wooded areas and beside an active rail line for the next few bends in the pathway.

About halfway through the route, the terrain becomes hilly, making for a challenging workout. Elders Run marks the start of the 2.2-mile Dick Mayer Section stretching to the Conemaugh Dam. Expect challenging uphill grades as the trail heads up and across railroad tracks and through the forest, as well as a quick downhill stretch approaching State Route 3003/Tunnelton Road, less than a mile from Elders Run.

Follow the steep zigzagging trail to the Conemaugh Lake National Recreation Area at 7.7 miles from the northern endpoint. To the left, the Conemaugh Dam offers beautiful views of the river. As portions of trail can be submerged east of the dam, especially in the spring, be sure to check the trail website for the latest conditions. Continue through the park past a visitor center, playground, parking lot, picnic area, water fountain, and restrooms.

The trail then diverges from the rail corridor onto a low-traffic shared roadway. Known as the Bow Ridge Switchback, this segment is the most challenging. Study the elevation graph provided along the path to gauge your abilities before continuing over an impressive stone-arch bridge that once carried the rail line over the Conemaugh River. After crossing the bridge and passing two sealed tunnels, the trail grows



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**States:** Pennsylvania

**Counties:** Indiana, Westmoreland

Length: 15.2 miles

**Trail end points:** dead end by Kiskiminetas River (Saltsburg) to Newport Rd (Blairsville)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt, Crushed Stone, Gravel

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Horseback

Riding, Mountain Biking, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

## Parking & Trail Access

The West Penn Trail runs between a dead end by Kiskiminetas River (Saltsburg) and Newport Rd (Blairsville), where parking is available.

Parking is also available at:

- North Park, Salt St (Saltsburg)
- Conemaugh River Lake Federal Recreation Area, 1665 Auen Rd (Saltsburg)
- dead end of Livermore Rd (Blairsville)

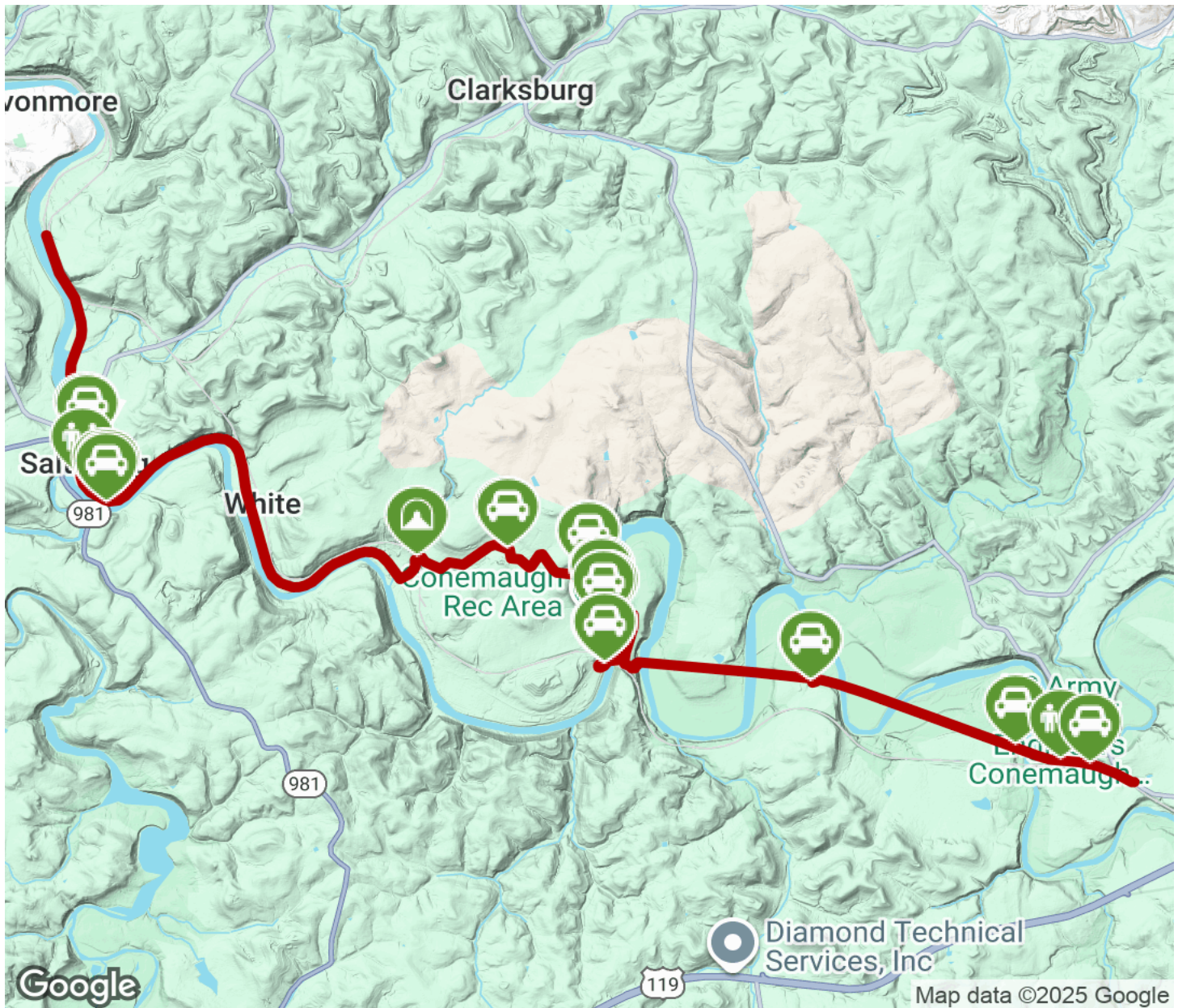
These are not all official addresses, please visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and more detailed directions.





# West Penn Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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