



## Contrail</t



## **Pennypack Trail** *Pennsylvania*



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The Pennypack Trail travels through wooded parks on the outskirts of Philadelphia, following the wooded banks of Pennypack Creek to its mouth where it joins the expansive Delaware River. Deriving its name from a local American Indian term for a slow-moving creek, the trail is rich with history, including the remains of 19th-century mills, the oldest surviving road bridge in the United States, and the site of a 1920s head-on train crash.

## About the Route

The Pennypack Trail has two segments. The northern segment in Montgomery County runs from 1696 County Line Rd (Huntington Valley) to Rockledge Park (Rockledge) The southern segment, in Philadelphia County, picks up nearby at 8639 Pine Rd (Philadelphia) and follows Pennypack Creek south to its mouth at the Delaware River. A gravel path, the Lorimer Park Fox Chase Farm Trail, links the two segments.

The Pennypack Trail's northern endpoint is at 1696 County Line Rd, in Huntington Valley, where it meets the northeasterly Newtown Rail Trail. Heading southeast from the endpoint, the trail crosses beneath the Pennsylvania Turnpike, and enters the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, a lush forest preserve, home to several native plants and animals. Half a mile south of Byberry Road, the trail passes through an area known locally as Death Gulch, where two trains collided in 1921, resulting in 27 deaths. In another 1.4 miles, the trail finds a weekend food truck at the Bryn Athyn Post Office (a former train station) and picnic area. Continuing south, the trail crosses SEPTA's West Trenton line, at the historic rail interlocking. Use caution in crossing the active railway. Upon crossing Moredon Road, a direct trail connection to the trail's southern portion is available via the 0.6-mile gravel Lorimer Park Fox Chase Farm Trail. The northern, Montgomery County section of the Pennypack Trail continues just over 1 mile farther south to Rockledge Park, where it terminates at 203 Rockledge Ave.

The trail resumes in its southern segment at 8639 Pine Rd, at the edge of Pennypack Park. The wooded route trends downhill toward the river, and some short hills are steep. The woods make this section of trail seem remote, although users will pass beneath multiple bridges carrying traffic overhead. Side trails connect with adjacent neighborhoods along the route. At Frankford Avenue, the stone-arch bridge built in 1697 is considered the oldest surviving road bridge in the United States. At Torresdale Ave, the trail runs adjacent to the road for a short distance, to cross over the creek, before continuing southwards. After crossing underneath I-95, trail users can access the Holmesburg Station on SEPTA's Trenton Line, a short distance off the trail via Rhawn St.

The southernmost portion of the trail passes a prison complex



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States: Pennsylvania Counties: Montgomery,Philadelphia Length: 16.8miles Trail end points: 1696 County Line Rd. (Huntington Valley) to Pennypack on the Delaware Park at Baxter Trail (Philadelphia) Trail surfaces: Asphalt,Boardwalk,Cinder, Crushed Stone Trail category: Rail-Trail Trail activities: Bike,Inline Skating,Fishing,Wheelchair

## **Parking & Trail Access**

Pennypack Trail runs between 1696 County Line Rd (Huntington Valley) and Pennypack on the Delaware Park at Baxter Trail (Philadelphia), with parking available at Pennypack on the Delaware Park.

The SEPTA commuter rail provides transit access to the trail. If taking your bike aboard a train, please observe the transit agency's rules. The trail can be accessed from the following stops:

- Bethayres (West Trenton Line)
- Holmesburg (Trenton Line)

Parking is also available at:

- 1750 Byberry Rd (Huntington Valley)
- 8750 Pine Rd (Philadelphia)
- Rhawn St & Holmehurst Ave (Philadelphia)

These are approximate addresses and there are numerous parking options along this route. See <u>TrailLink Map</u> for all parking options and detailed directions.









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