



2024

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Wissahickon
Valley Park
Trail System**
Pennsylvania



Wissahickon Valley Park Trail System

Pennsylvania

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Visitors to northwestern Philadelphia can acquaint themselves with the parks that surround Wissahickon Creek on a 8.5-mile system of multiuse trails. In the north, the Wissahickon Trail (also known as the Green Ribbon Trail) passes along the quiet creek in Fort Washington State Park. Then a short section of roadside trail links to more dramatic scenery on the Forbidden Drive and Lincoln Drive Trails in Wissahickon Valley Park in the south.

About the Route

The Wissahickon Valley Park Trail System leaves off from its northern endpoint along Skippack Pike, where it enters

Fort Washington State Park, named for a temporary military fortification during the Revolutionary War.

The 12-foot-wide multiuse trail in the state park is a combination of asphalt and gravel as it passes through lush woods laced with sunlit pockets where shrubbery thrives. Also known as the Green Ribbon Trail, it leaves the state park to travel a segment of Wissahickon Valley Park, and then returns to Fort Washington State Park–South to complete its 2.5-mile journey at Stenton Avenue.

Nearly a mile south on Stenton Avenue, another section of the trail follows alongside West Northwestern Avenue in front of the 92-acre Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania for 0.6 mile. It ends at Germantown Pike in Lafayette Hill. Montgomery County intends to extend this section another 0.2 mile to the Forbidden Drive Trailhead in Wissahickon Valley Park.

The Forbidden Drive Trail is a rare road-to-trail conversion that runs along the most spectacular section of Wissahickon Creek for 5.4 miles. Constructed in the mid-1800s as a turnpike, this roadway was renamed Forbidden Drive in 1920 when vehicles were banned from it. Today, the trail is open to walking, horseback riding, and bicycling, although the gravel and dirt surface is not suitable for bikes with skinnier tires.

A picturesque trail experience, Forbidden Drive Trail users will pass many interesting historical and natural features. Notably, the historical circa 1850 Valley Green Inn is a full-service restaurant and special events venue located 2.5 miles from the trailhead.

The 2,000-acre Wissahickon Valley Park contains some 50 miles of trails. Hikers are allowed on any of them, but horseback riders, cyclists, and mountain bikers must get a special permit to use trails other than the Forbidden Drive and Lincoln Drive Trails. Permits are available [here](#).



Wissahickon Valley Park Trail System

Pennsylvania

States: Pennsylvania

Counties: Montgomery, Philadelphia

Length: 8.5 miles

Trail end points: E Skippack Pike

(Whitemarsh Township) to W Valley Green Rd

(Flourtown) to Stenton Ave. (Philadelphia) to

Lincoln Dr. (Philadelphia)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Dirt, Gravel

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Horseback

Riding, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Wissahickon Valley Park Trail System in two distinct sections from E Skippack Pike (Whitemarsh Township) to W Valley Green Rd (Flourtown) & Stenton Ave. (Philadelphia) to Lincoln Dr. (Philadelphia).

Additional parking is available at:

- Fort Washington State Park, 500 S Bethlehem Pike (Fort Washington)
- Flourtown Day Use Area, 6199 W Mill Rd (Flourtown)
- 200 W Northwestern Ave (Philadelphia)

See [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



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