



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Enola Low
Grade Trail**
Pennsylvania



Enola Low Grade Trail

Pennsylvania

Overview Running through southeastern Pennsylvania, the Enola Low Grade Trail is remarkably flat, even for a rail trail—it says so



Overview

Running through southeastern Pennsylvania, the Enola Low Grade Trail is remarkably flat, even for a rail trail—it says so right in the name! Even across hilly terrain, the trail's grades never exceed a 1% slope due to a feat of civil engineering.

The Enola Low Grade Trail is under the auspices of several townships that acquired ownership and responsibility for the sections within their boundaries. With management divided between several municipalities, trail conditions can differ from one to the next, though the overarching elements—including trail regulations, signage, style of benches, and the like—remain consistent. The trail is open from sunrise to

sunset.

Western Section (Manor Township): 5.5 miles

With ample parking available, the westernmost trailhead in Manor Township is a good choice to start a quick trail excursion. The crushed-stone and clay-aggregate surface makes for a smooth and easy nearly 5.5-mile ride along the north bank of the Susquehanna River to the point where the Conestoga River empties into it and the Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge spans the Conestoga River. This section of the trail is extremely popular with families and is wheelchair accessible.

Visible from the path are active Norfolk Southern tracks, situated downslope from the trail close to the water's edge; the elevation difference between tracks and trail puts the top of passing trains nearly at your feet. Near the trailhead, there is a restored 1947 Norfolk Southern caboose and a replica of an old railroad lookout tower. These towers were built along the rail line at three-mile intervals and were used by the cable walkers on the lookout for debris on the track. There are also picnic shelters, restrooms, observation platforms overlooking the Susquehanna, and signage that explores the history of the railroad.

A quarter-mile-long pedestrian bridge over the Conestoga River connects this section of the trail with the 3.4-mile Middle Section. Following a multi-year reconstruction of the old railroad trestle, the Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge opened in May 2022. The paved bridge features unparalleled views of both the Susquehanna River and the Safe Harbor Dam, a Great Depression-era hydroelectric public works project. There are six glass panels built into the bridge offering views through the rafters to the Conestoga River below.

Middle Section (Conestoga): 3.4 miles

Continuing east from the Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge, the trail continues along the Susquehanna River to the South Wall



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States: Pennsylvania

Counties: Chester, Lancaster

Length: 29.15 miles

Trail end points: Turkey Hill Nature Preserve at River Rd (Conestoga) to Main St/Zion Hill Rd (Atglen)

Trail surfaces: Ballast, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Mountain Biking, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

Turkey Hill Nature Preserve at River Rd (Conestoga) and Main St/Zion Hill Rd (Atglen), with parking at the western end.

Parking is also available at:

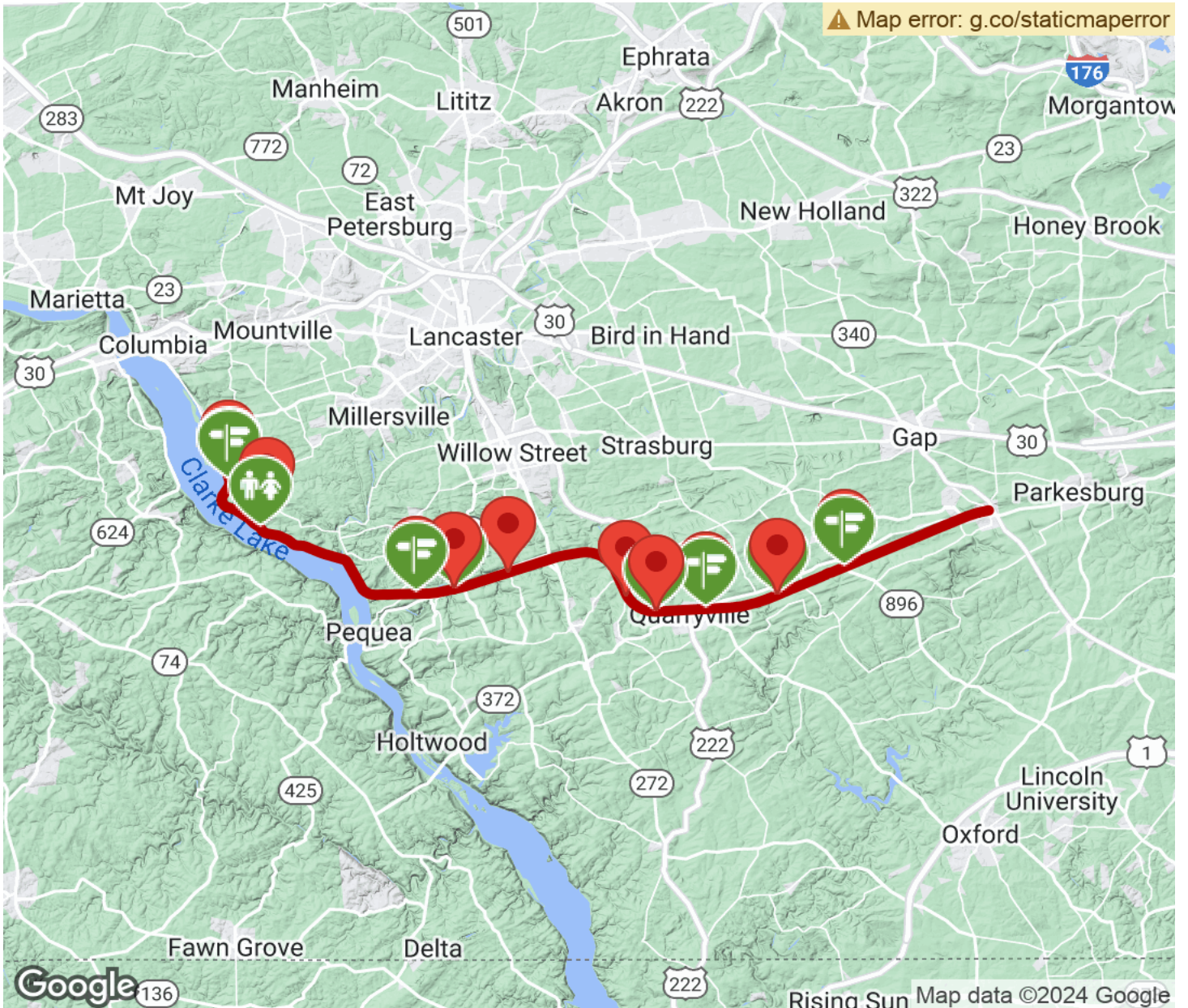
- Chesnut Grove Natural Area, 43 Chestnut Grove Rd (Conestoga)
- 18 Red Hill Rd (Pequea)
- 527-503 Fairview Rd (New Providence)

Parking is available at the western end of the trail and at multiple points along the route. Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



Enola Low Grade Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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