



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Chester Valley Trail

Pennsylvania



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The Chester Valley Trail provides opportunities for recreation and alternative transportation in the congested commercial center at the northern edge of Greater Philadelphia. The paved rail-trail rolls for just under 19 miles between King of Prussia and Exton, encouraging a variety of users, such as stroller-pushing parents, colleagues on a walking meeting, or cyclists seeking a quick 40-miler.

The trail uses the corridor of the Chester Valley Branch of the Reading Railroad, which was completed between

Bridgeport and Downingtown in the 1850s; the line hauled freight into the late 20th century (passenger traffic ended in 1935). Work by Chester and Montgomery Counties began in 2009 to convert the railbed into a trail. Plans call for extending it westward to Downingtown.

A 3.8-mile eastward extension to Norristown opened in March 2023 and connects the trail to the [Schuylkill River Trail](#), which creates access to Valley Forge National Historical Park to the north and Philadelphia to the south. The extension project also included building three new pedestrian bridges (South Gulph Road, Henderson Road, and Boro Line Road) and updating two bridges for pedestrian/bike use. The Chester Valley Trail is also part of the Circuit Trails, a developing 800-mile urban network of trails in Greater Philadelphia, of which about 350 miles are complete.

The 10- to 12-foot-wide asphalt path, which is open daily, 8 am–sunset, has a slight uphill grade from King of Prussia to Exton. A couple of mild, short hills face travelers in Malvern and just past PA 29. The trail parallels US 202, which you’ll barely notice as you travel through a wooded corridor that opens up to farmland approaching Exton.

At its eastern end, the rail-trail connects to the [Schuylkill River Trail](#) in Norristown. Crossing the river via a protected pedestrian/bike lane on the Norristown Dam Bridge, the Chester Valley Trail winds through Bridgeport and passes an old inn named for Frederick the Great. Leaving Bridgeport, the route curves south and then west as it meanders through King of Prussia, a community named for a local Colonial-era inn built in 1719. The renovated and relocated inn, which contains offices for the local chamber of commerce, stands 0.3 mile from the trail.

The rail-trail immediately crosses I-76 on a pedestrian bridge and heads west past retail centers and office parks along US 202. The route is a straight shot across the landscape, except for turns to accommodate busy road crossings. In the less



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States: Pennsylvania

Counties: Chester, Montgomery

Length: 18.6 miles

Trail end points: Schuylkill River Trail by Trail Junction Center (75 E Lafayette St, Norristown) to 0.3 mile west of Indian Run St & Commerce Dr (Exton)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking

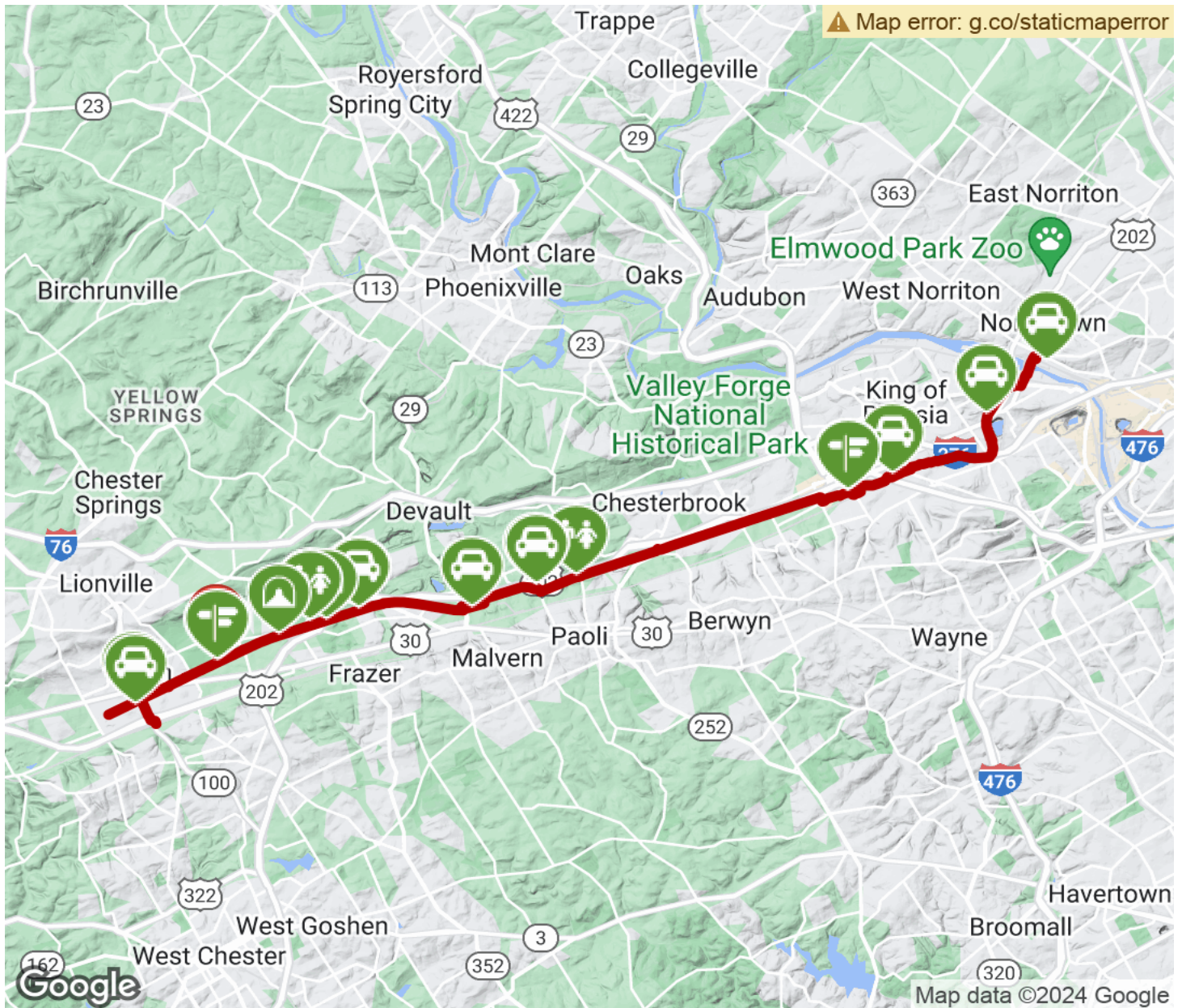
Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available at a number of locations along the trail. Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



Chester Valley Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com