



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Sandy Creek
Trail (PA)**
Pennsylvania



Sandy Creek Trail (PA)

Pennsylvania

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Trail users will want to pack water, food, and flashlights to travel the Sandy Creek Trail, as it crosses 12 miles of remote, but scenic, countryside in Northwestern Pennsylvania. Named for separate Sandy Creeks at each end, the paved trail passes through forests and a tunnel and makes seven stream or river crossings, including the spectacular Belmar Bridge spanning the Allegheny River. There are no services along the route or at either end.

About the Route

From the east, the trail trends downhill to the Allegheny River crossing and then follows the river downstream almost to the trail's end.

Leaving off from Tarklin Hill Road a couple of miles north

of the crossroads community of Van, the trail begins its descent through evergreens before it emerges into a hardwood forest. The path keeps to the ridge south of East Sandy Creek (also known as Turkey Run) until a high crossing just before Cranberry Rockland Road.

At 5.6 miles past the trailhead, the trail crosses the creek on another high bridge and enters a tunnel—known variously as the Mays Mill or Deep Valley Tunnel—that's 967 feet long. The 100-year-old railroad tunnel, suffering from a crumbling ceiling, has been improved by building a smaller tunnel inside and filling the gap with concrete and recycled rubber tires.

Once outside the chilly tunnel, the trail continues to descend and crosses the creek three more times before reaching the 1,385-foot-long Belmar Bridge. Trail users will have unfettered views up and down the Allegheny River from the wooden deck of the through-truss bridge. This section of the river is a national wild and scenic river. Below, trail users will be able to spot the Allegheny River Trail and the stairway that connects with the trail.

After the bridge, the path runs along a hillside above the river for 4 miles. Then the trail crosses another Sandy Creek and veers inland for 0.2 miles to the trailhead on Fishermans Cove Road. The railroad grade (not part of the trail) continues another 3 miles on the dirt road until it reaches Old SR 8 in Polk.

The path is part of the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition's developing 1,500-mile trail network through Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, and New York.

Connections

At the eastern end of the trail, the [Clarion Highlands Trail](#) is just a short distance away.

Near the trail's midpoint, the Sandy Creek Trail connects to



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States: Pennsylvania

Counties: Venango

Length: 12miles

Trail end points: Tarklin Hill Rd. (Cranberry)
to Fisherman's Cove Rd. (Franklin)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Horseback

Riding, Mountain Biking, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross
Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

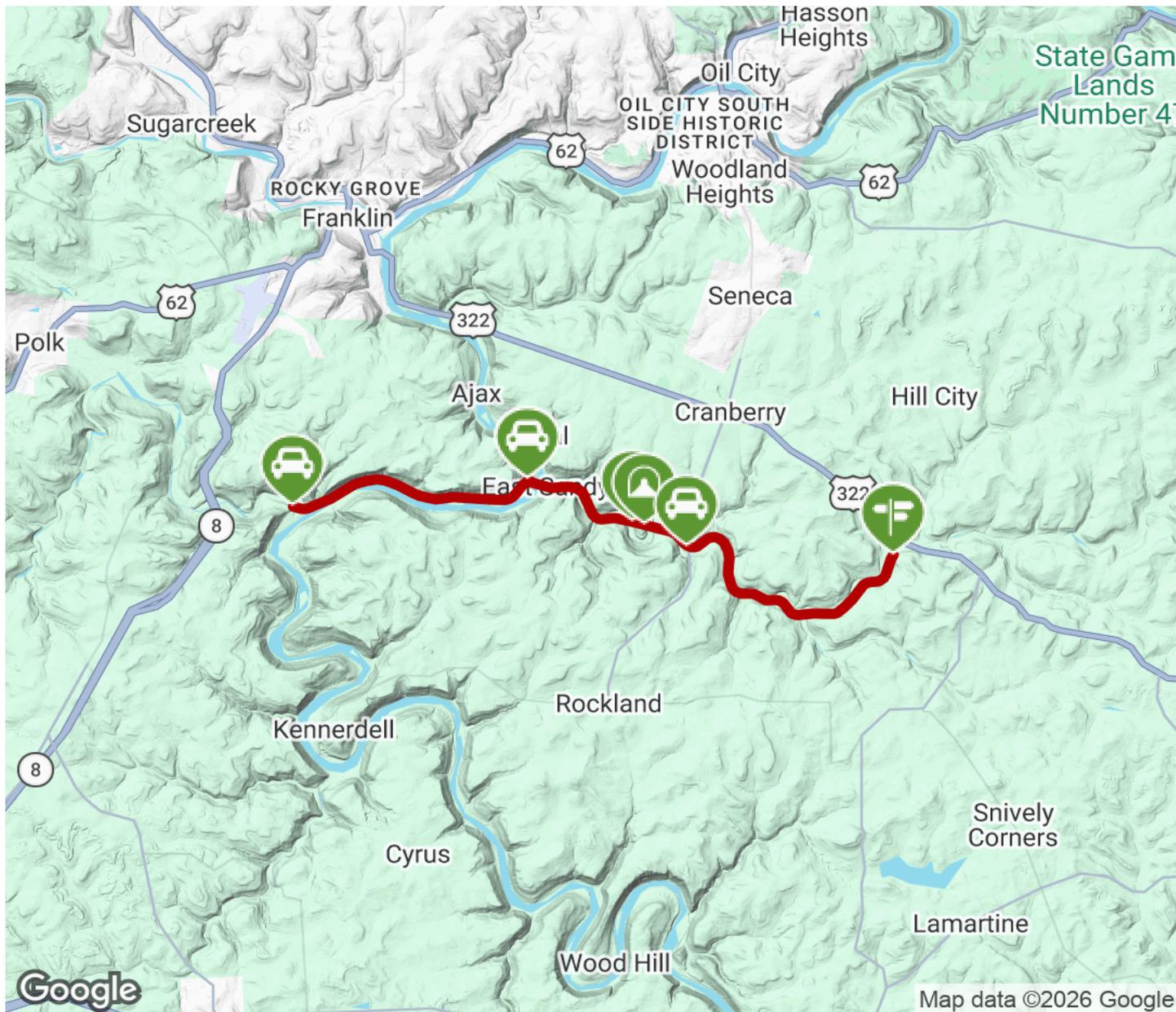
The Sandy Creek Trail runs between Tarklin Hill Rd. (Cranberry) and Fisherman's Cove Rd. (Franklin), with parking available at both ends.

Parking is also available along Belmar Rd. and Rockland-Cranberry Rd. These parking lots do not have official addresses, please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Sandy Creek Trail (PA)

Pennsylvania



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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