



2025

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Palmer  
Township  
Recreation  
Trail  
(Towpath Bike  
Trail)**

*Pennsylvania*



# Palmer Township Recreation Trail (Towpath Bike Trail)

Pennsylvania

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The Palmer Township Recreation Trail (a.k.a. the Towpath Bike Trail) is a terrific community asset for Palmer and Bethlehem township residents and a great destination for visitors as well. Three modes of transportation once operated on this corridor: Lehigh Canal, the Central Railroad of New Jersey and the Lehigh Valley Transit (LVT) interurban.

## About the Route

A smooth, 8-foot-wide asphalt trail traverses the canal corridor in a partial loop running nearly 8 miles from Easton High School to Riverview Park. The loop is the heart of the trail. The small spur section running south from Easton Area High School in Palmer Township makes a nice connection for locals to access the trail.

Heading north from the high school, is a spur known as the [Tatamy Trail](#), which stretches north for several miles, connecting a few small parks and reaching the community of Tatamy.

Mostly tree-shaded, the trail is pretty and well maintained, with mile markers, benches and flowerbeds sprinkled throughout. Starting at the high school, the trail cruises down a gentle grade to Riverview Park, which lines the banks of the Lehigh River. The first mile of trail passes through neighborhoods and parks, but the path quickly becomes secluded and serene as it weaves through farmland and woodland.

Around mile 5 the trail starts to loop back and runs along the river, although at this point the distance and tree cover make river views hard to see. To stay on the towpath trail and complete the loop, bear left. At this point, the river becomes visible to the right, and while gliding along the next to the river, stop and enjoy the gorgeous Chain Dam overlook. The trail then winds back from the water's edge through Riverview Park, with its picnic areas, ball fields, pavilions, restrooms and parking. Fishing is also available at this park.

## Connections

Close to mile 6 the trail intersects with another rail-trail the [D & L Trail: Lehigh Canal South](#), which heads south to Allentown.

## Trail History

Chartered in 1818, the privately owned canal remained in operation for 113 years, hauling anthracite coal from Mauch Chunk to the Delaware Canal at Easton. The Easton and Western branch was built in 1914 and fell into disuse in 1972. The LVT Easton line was part of a larger electric railways system that stretched from the a Delaware Water Gap to near Philadelphia.



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**States:** Pennsylvania

**Counties:** Northampton

Length: 7.8miles

**Trail end points:** S. 27th St. (Easton) to 1391  
Lehigh Dr. (Easton)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Fishing, Mountain  
Biking, Inline Skating, Walking, Wheelchair  
Accessible, Cross Country Skiing

## Parking & Trail Access

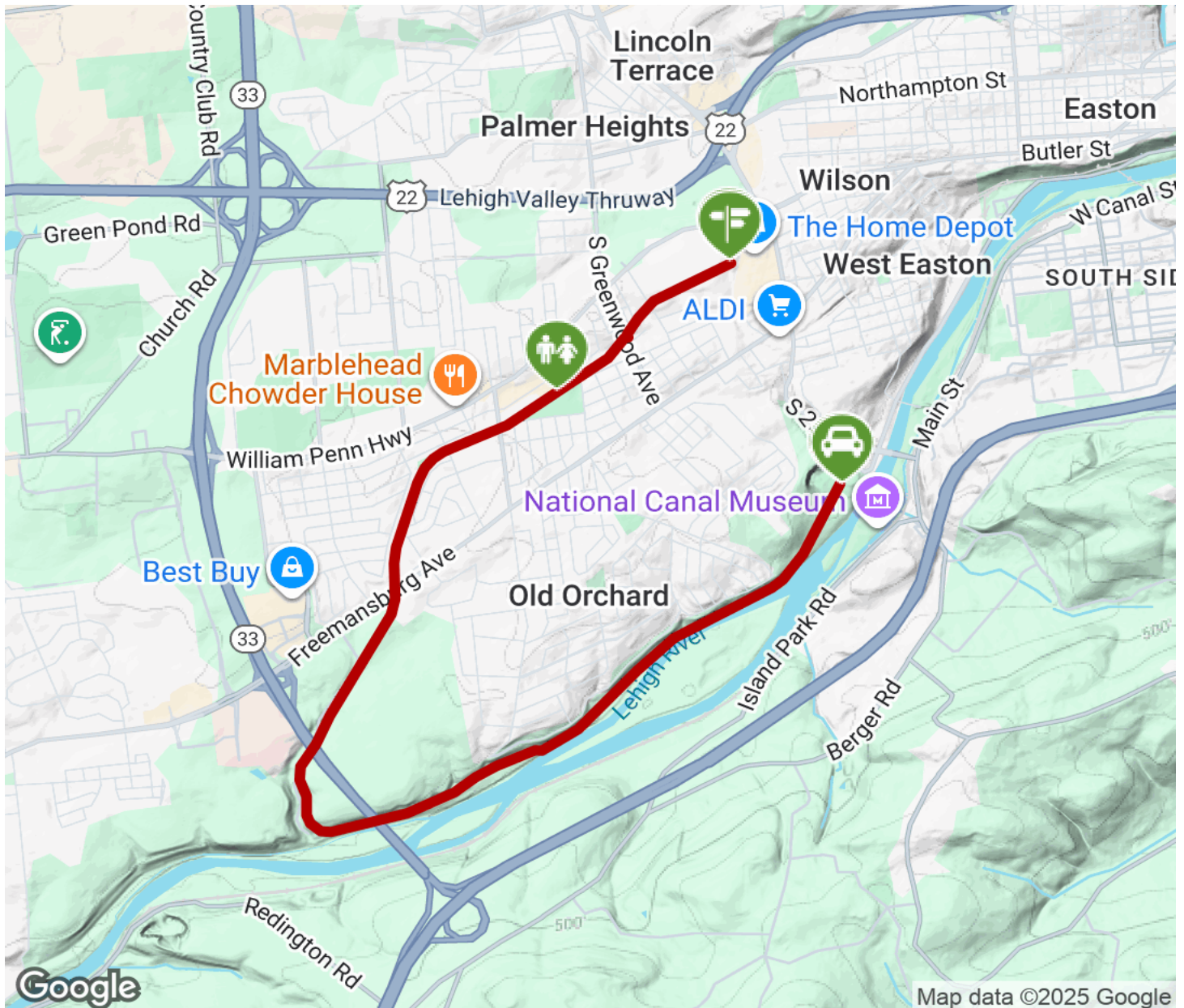
The Palmer Township Recreation Trail runs between S. 27th St. (Easton) and 1391 Lehigh Dr. (Easton), with parking available at both ends.

Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for detailed directions.



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
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