



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Cynwyd  
Heritage Trail**  
*Pennsylvania*



# Cynwyd Heritage Trail

Pennsylvania

## Overview *The Cynwyd Heritage Trail runs between the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA's)*



### Overview

The Cynwyd Heritage Trail runs between the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA's) Cynwyd Station and Bala Cynwyd Park and also connects the historic West Laurel Hill Cemetery, and Westminster Cemetery, as well as a pedestrian bridge across the Schuylkill River. Though only 1.9 miles long, the trail offers a number of scenic stops.

### About the Route

The northern end of the route leaves off from Belmont Ave. and heads slightly north as it curves along the outer edge of the Westminster Cemetery, passing by the entrance to the Manayunk Bridge Trail

Interpretive signs along the route tell about the cemeteries, former train stations (Cynwyd and Barmouth), and an old cotton mill along the route. A gravel footpath parallels the asphalt trail at various points, where you will find benches and Adirondack chairs overlooking the river.

The trail curves back around and crosses under Belmont Ave. Here, the route passes the historical site of the Barmouth station on the left and the 187-acre West Laurel Hill Cemetery on the right, where notable figures from the 19th and 20th centuries are buried. During the warmer months, you'll see wildlife and possibly goats, as the cemetery keeps them on hand to help consume the growth on the ridge between the trail and the cemetery.

Just south of Bala Cynwyd Park, the trail reaches its southern endpoint at SEPTA's Cynwyd station, where trail users will find a small coffee shop and restrooms.

### Connections

Near the trail's northern end, a connection is available to the [Manayunk Bridge Trail](#), which guides trail users across the river to the [Schuylkill River Trail](#).

The Cynwyd Heritage Trail is part of the Circuit Trails, a developing 800-mile urban network of trails in Greater Philadelphia.

### Trail History

The Cynwyd Heritage Trail takes its name from the Bala Cynwyd community, which was settled by Welsh Quakers who named the area for villages they left behind in Wales in the late 1600s. The trail traces the former route of Pennsylvania Railroad's Schuylkill Branch, which ran from Philadelphia to Norristown beginning in 1884. SEPTA took over the commuter line in 1983 but closed the segment north of the Cynwyd station in 1986. SEPTA leased the section to



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**States:** Pennsylvania

**Counties:** Montgomery

Length: 1.9miles

**Trail end points:** 726 Belmont Ave (Bala Cynwyd) to Cynwyd SEPTA Station (Bala Cynwyd)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt,Gravel

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike,Walking,Cross Country  
Skiing

## Parking & Trail Access

The Cynwyd Heritage Trail runs between 726 Belmont Ave (Bala Cynwyd) and Cynwyd SEPTA Station (Bala Cynwyd), with parking available at both ends.

Parking is also available at:

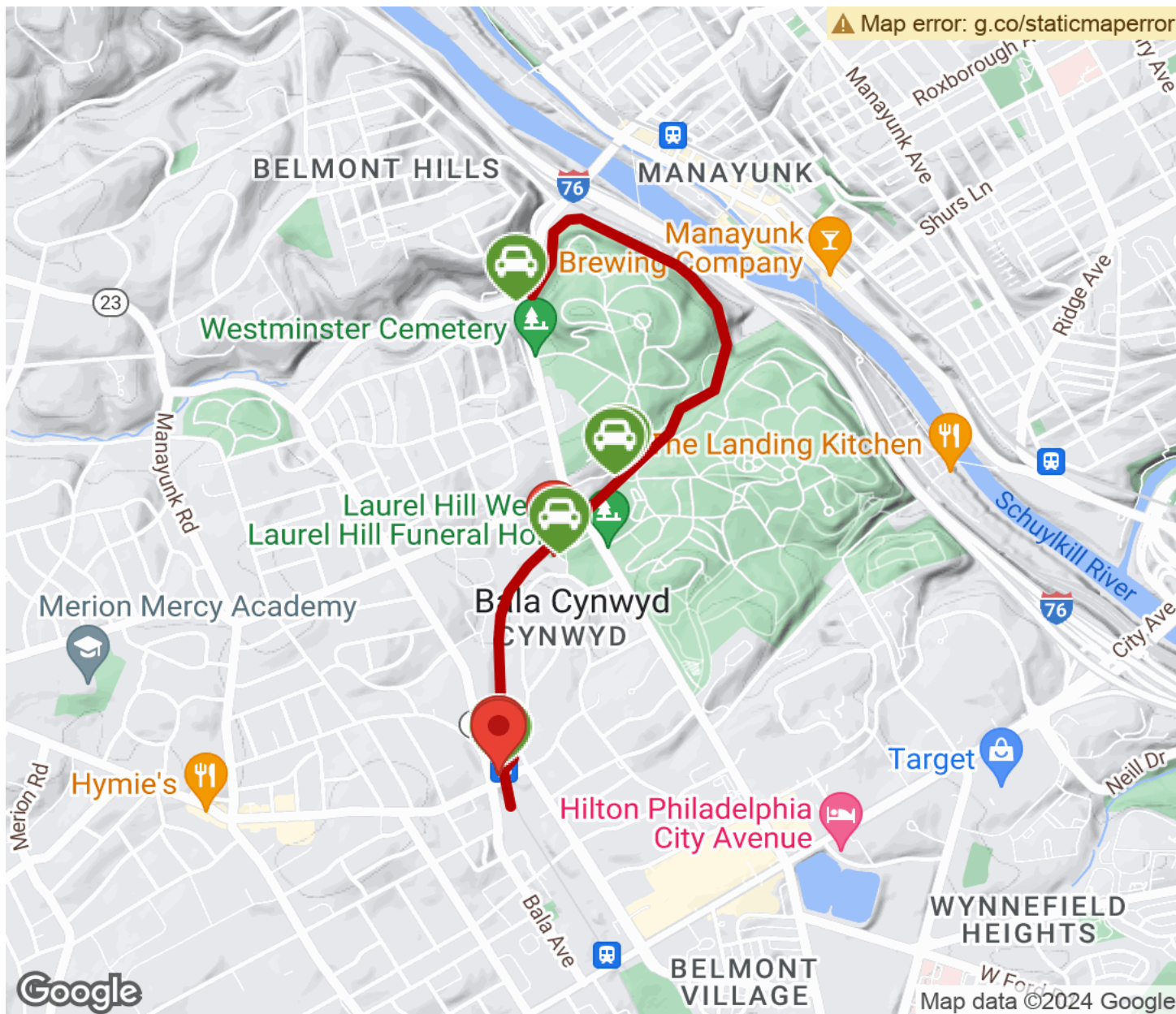
- 215 Belmont Ave (Bala Cynwyd)
- 374 Trevor Ln (Bala Cynwyd)

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



# Cynwyd Heritage Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



## TrailLink

by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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