



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Stony Valley  
Railroad  
Grade**  
*Pennsylvania*



# Stony Valley Railroad Grade

Pennsylvania

*Note: During hunting season, Pennsylvania Game Lands Regulations require ALL non-hunters present on game lands*



Stony Valley Railroad Grade makes tracks through a state game land for nearly 20 miles past vanished coal boomtowns and tourist resorts. There are no services, but there is plenty of quietude for those who enjoy a forested reprieve from hustle and bustle. A fairly rustic rail-trail, the Stony Valley Railroad grade is best suited for hikers and mountain bikers.

Originally named St. Anthony's Wilderness by Moravian missionaries who arrived in the 1740s to convert the local American Indians, the Stony Creek Valley was a big draw for lumbering and coal mining companies in the 1820s due to its abundant natural resources. The Dauphin & Susquehanna Railroad entered the region in 1854 to haul coal to larger railroads, and it subsequently became the Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad in 1859, and then part of the Philadelphia & Reading Rail Road in 1872. The Reading pulled the plug on the money-losing line in 1939 after a bridge burned down.

The state game commission acquired the 44,000 acres in 1945 and later transformed the railroad corridor into a restricted road through State Game Land No. 211. Hunters come here for deer, squirrels, grouse, and turkeys. The route is closed to nonhunting bicyclists and equestrians in hunting season (the last Saturday in September through the third Saturday in January, and before 1 p.m. from the second Saturday in April through the last Saturday in May). Visitors must wear an orange vest during those periods. It is open one day a year to vehicles between the Ellendale Road and Gold Mine Road trailheads. The route can be susceptible to ravages of extreme weather, so be prepared for potholes and washouts.

Starting from the western trailhead, you'll experience a slight but steady grade for 13.0 miles, and then a downhill journey for the remainder of the route. You'll cross a bridge at 5.7 miles over Rattling Run, which shares its name with an old coal mining town up the hill. At 9 miles, a footpath on the right heads uphill to a deteriorating stone tower.

Note: During hunting season, Pennsylvania Game Lands [Regulations](#) require ALL non-hunters present on game lands between November 15 and December 15 (excluding Sundays) to wear a minimum of 250 square inches of fluorescent orange material on the head, chest and back combined, or, in lieu thereof, a hat of the same colored material. Orange material must be visible 360 degrees.

Bicycling is prohibited on in game lands from the last Saturday in September to the third Saturday in January during spring turkey season. Check the PA Game Commission [website](#) before you embark and heed the signs posted on the trail to avoid citations.

Tucked into the Appalachian Ridge and Valley region, the



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**States:** Pennsylvania

**Counties:** Dauphin, Lebanon, Schuylkill

Length: 19.7 miles

**Trail end points:** Ellendale Road, 1.5 miles east of Snyder Lane (Dauphin) to Lebanon Reservoir near Old Forge Road, 1.0 mile north of Oak Grove Road (Pine Grove)

**Trail surfaces:** Dirt, Gravel

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Fishing, Horseback Riding, Mountain Biking, Walking, Cross

## Parking & Trail Access

To reach the western endpoint on Ellendale Road from I-81, take Exit 67B, and merge onto US 22 W/US 322 W. Go 5.4 miles, and exit to Dauphin Borough/Stony Creek onto Allegheny St. Go 0.3 mile, and turn right onto Schuylkill St. Then go 250 feet, and turn right onto Erie St. Go 0.1 mile, and turn left onto Stony Creek Road. Go 4.9 miles, and Stony Creek Road becomes Ellendale Road at a traffic circle. Go 2.0 miles, and look for trailhead parking straight ahead at the gate.

To reach the Gold Mine Road trailhead from I-81, take Exit 100, and head west onto SR 443/Suedberg Road. Go 6.1 miles, and turn right onto Gold Mine Road. Go 2.8 miles, and look for trailhead parking on your right. The endpoint is located 2.4 miles farther east along the trail at the Lebanon Reservoir.

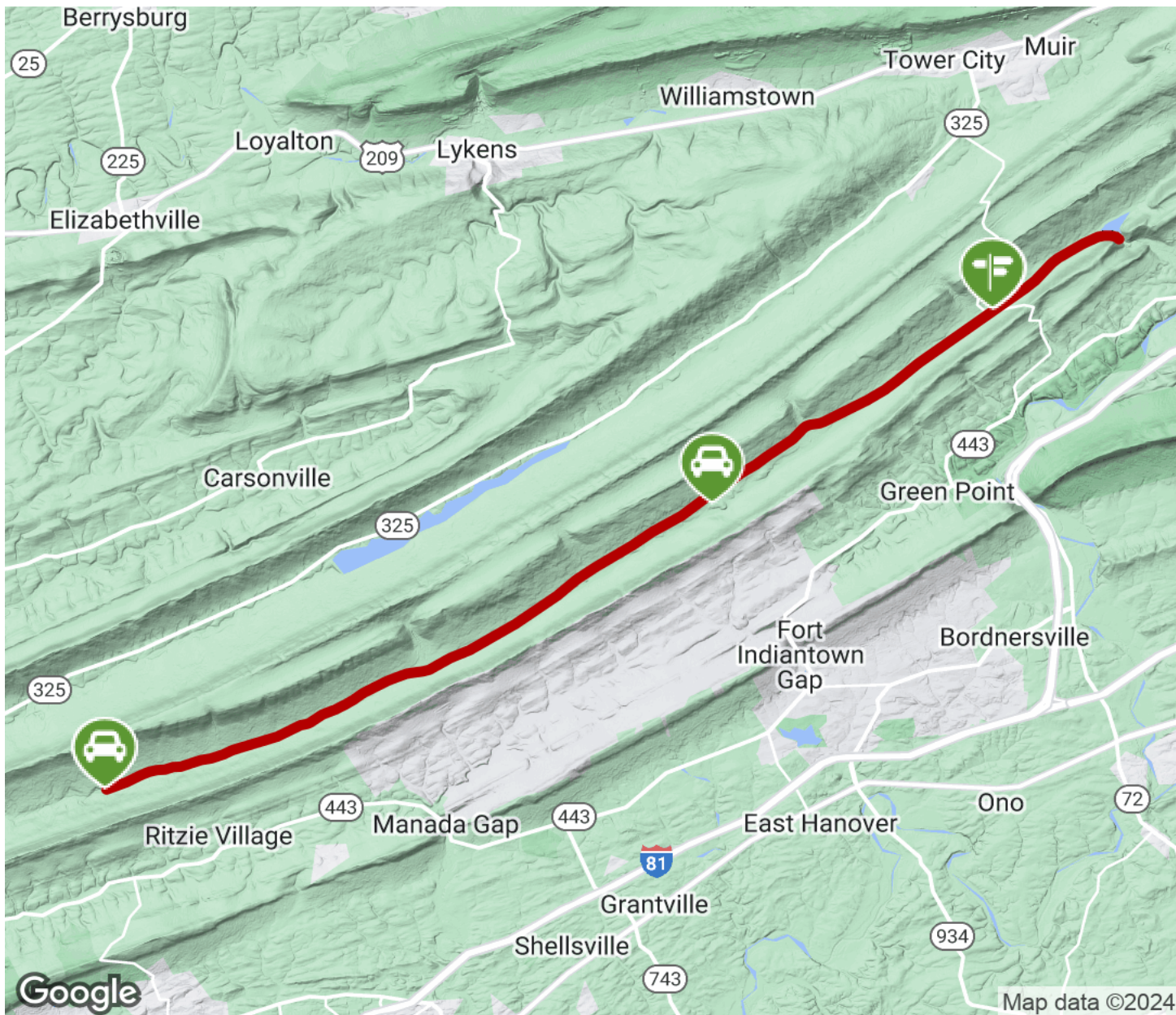
There are several parking options along the trailhead, see [TrailLink Map](#) for more information.





# Stony Valley Railroad Grade

Pennsylvania



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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