



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Butler- Freeport Community Trail

Pennsylvania



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Built in 1871 to transport the region's high-quality limestone to support Pittsburgh's growing steel industry, the Butler Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad was the first railroad in Butler County. After a two-day celebration of the opening, the railroad conducted a mock funeral for the stagecoach that ran between the two towns. A branch of the Western Pennsylvania Railroad, the line became part of the Pennsylvania Railroad system in 1903 and discontinued service in 1987. After a volunteer effort organized by the local community, the Butler Freeport Community Trail officially opened in 1992 and was formally completed in 2015. The all-volunteer Butler - Freeport Community Trail Council manages and maintains the trail, which is owned by Buffalo Township.

Located about 30 minutes northeast of Pittsburgh, the

trail is nestled in the scenic wooded valley that follows Little Buffalo Creek to Buffalo Creek and on to the Allegheny River at Freeport. The surface of the trail comprises mostly crushed stone, with about a mile of asphalt south of the Monroe trailhead and the Buffalo Township Municipal Authority. Mile and 0.5-mile markers line the trail, and restroom facilities along the trail are open seasonally, May–October. Cross-country skiing is permitted—as is horseback riding in designated areas during dry weather (see the [Facebook page](#) for updates).

Keen observers will spot old stone foundations and the remainders of brick kilns, and small dams and waterfalls also appear along the route.

The path begins on the east side of the town of Butler on Kaufman Drive, where a large sign greets trail users. Just a mile northeast on Main Street, you'll find restaurants, shops, hotels, and gas stations. Heading south from Butler, you'll immediately cross over a small bridge as you make your way out of town, with the route on a slight incline for 7 miles to Cabot.

The trail travels southeast along Herman Road for the first couple miles, and then veers left through wooded farmland on the outskirts of Herman. You'll pass multiple road crossings and then cross over Herman Road on a small overpass. About 5.4 miles along the trail at Dittmer Road, just past Herman Road, you'll find a trailhead, restrooms, and parking to your right, and a small bike shop and café to your left. From here the route begins to head directly south, passing a golf course with a café and clubhouse in about 0.7 more mile, and then several more road crossings, before reaching Marwood, where you'll pass Freehling Lumber Company at the site where a post office and railroad station from earlier days once stood.

From Cabot, the trail heads 13 miles on a downhill trajectory, passing through rural landscapes in Sarver. At miles 14 and



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States: Pennsylvania

Counties: Armstrong, Butler

Length: 19 miles

Trail end points: 150A Kaufman Dr, Butler to
Just south of Main St, near Old Pike Road
(Freeport)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone, Dirt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Wheelchair

Accessible, Horseback Riding, Mountain
Biking, Walking

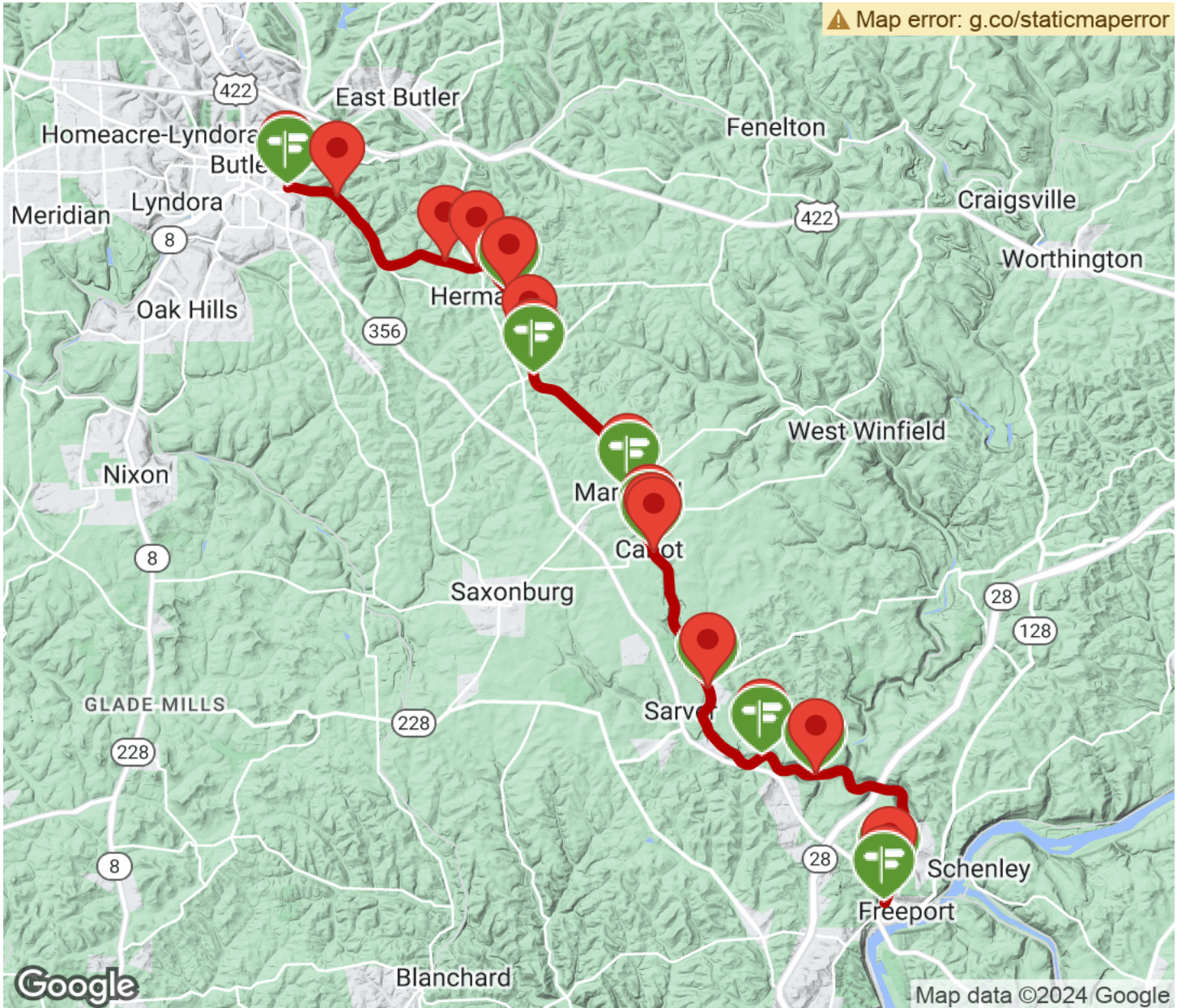
Parking & Trail Access

The northwest endpoint has a small gravel parking lot (150A Kaufman Dr, Butler) and the southeast endpoint has a slightly larger, paved lot just south of Main St, near Old Pike Road in Freeport. Parking is available at numerous locations along the trail. View the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com