



2024

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Sandy Creek
Trail (PA)**
Pennsylvania



Sandy Creek Trail (PA)

Pennsylvania

You'll want to pack water, food, and flashlights to travel the Sandy Creek Trail, as it crosses 12 miles of remote, but scenic, countryside



You'll 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. 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.

Local oilman Charles Miller built the Jamestown, Franklin and Clearfield Railroad, a subsidiary of the New York Central Railroad, through here around 1907 to take advantage of the oil exploration and production. The

corridor mostly carried passengers and coal, however, and later became part of the Penn Central Railroad, before the line eventually fell into disuse.

From the east, the trail trends downhill to the Allegheny River crossing and then follows the river downstream almost to the trail's end. A short gap exists between it and the 8-mile [Clarion Highlands Trail](#) in the east, and it crosses the 30-mile [Allegheny River Trail](#) spanning from Franklin to Parker.

Starting on Tarklin Hill Road a couple 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 path 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. You'll have unfettered views up and down the Allegheny River from the wooden deck of the through-truss bridge. This section of river is a national wild and scenic river. Below, you can see the paved [Allegheny River Trail](#). A stairway 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 mile 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.



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States: Pennsylvania

Counties: Venango

Length: 12miles

Trail end points: Tarklin Rd near US 322/Lakes to the Sea Hwy (Van) to Fishermans Cove Rd & T370 (Polk)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike,Inline

Skating,Wheelchair Accessible,Horseback

Riding,Mountain Biking,Walking,Cross

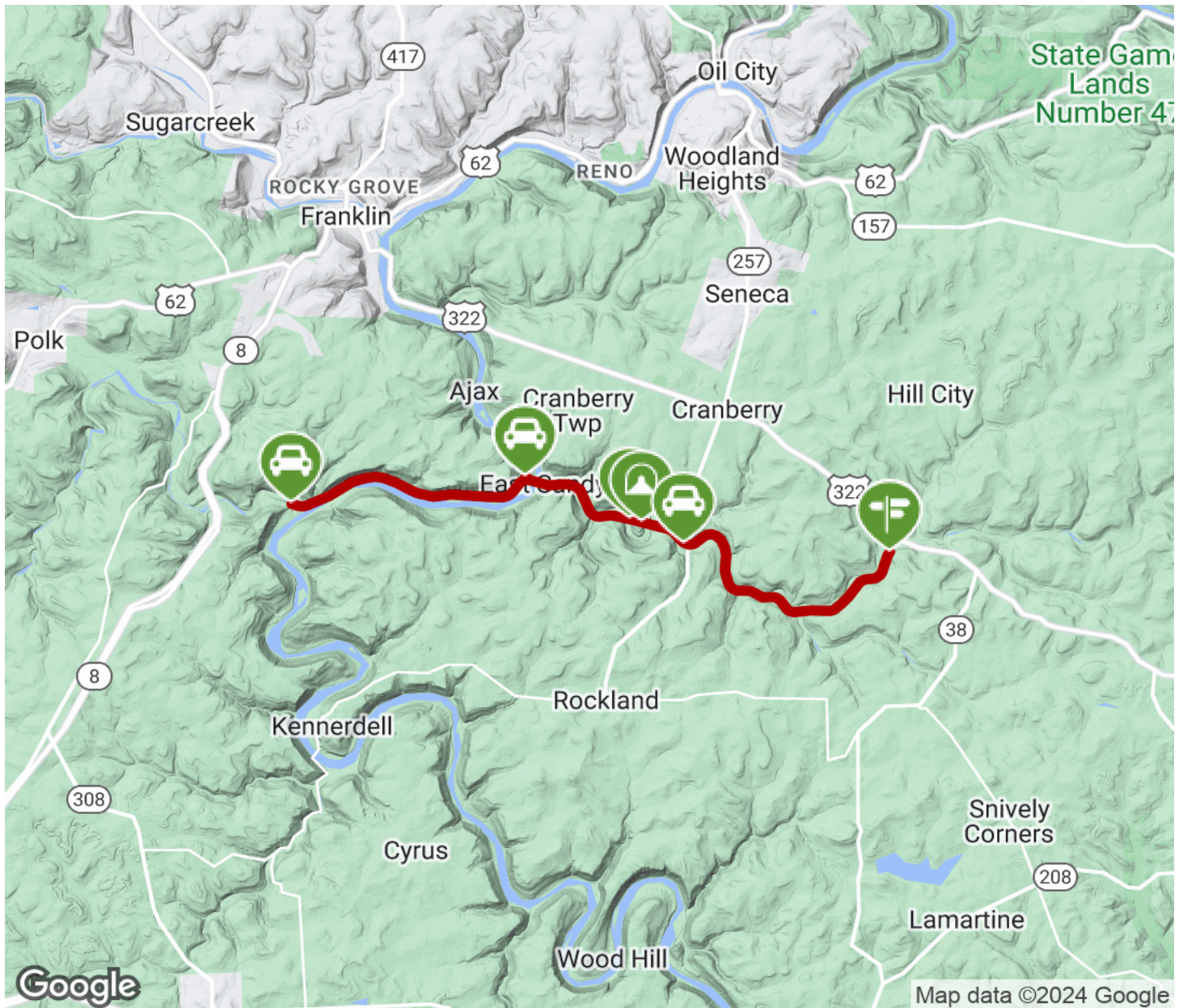
Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available at a number of locations along the trail including at the Western Endpoint at Fisherman's Cove Rd., at Rockland Rd. Trailhead, and at the Eastern Endpoint along Tarklin Hill Rd. See [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



Sandy Creek Trail (PA)

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
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