

WELCOME!

Heritage Rail Trail County Park, in southern York County, extends more than twenty-one miles, winding through scenic areas.

The ADA trail is a 10-foot wide compacted stone surface designed for hiking, bicycling, running, horseback riding, as well as winter sports such as cross-country skiing and snow shoeing.

This linear park connects the historic district of downtown York, Pennsylvania with Maryland's Torrey C. Brown Trail while traveling through 11 different municipalities. Adjacent to the trail is an active rail line.

The park is open year round, dawn until dusk, and is patrolled by York County Park Rangers.

NORTHERN EXTENSION TO RAIL TRAIL

The Heritage Rail Trail is being extended over 6 miles to John Rudy County Park. At this time, 4.1 miles of it has been completed from John Rudy Park to Route 30. Horse are prohibited on the Northern Extension.

Future plans will extend the rail trail to Colonial Court House in York. Once that is completed, there will be over 27 miles of rail trail, starting in John Rudy County Park to the Maryland line.

Once at the Maryland line, users can enjoy another 21 miles of the Torrey C. Brown Trail, which is part of the Maryland State Park System.

HISTORY OF THE RAIL

The 19th century saw the growth of the Northern Central Railroad, a vital link between Washington, D.C., Harrisburg, PA, upstate New York and Lake Ontario. Its passage through York County brought prosperity to the area's farmers, merchants and manufacturers, and spurred the growth of communities like New Freedom, Glen Rock, Seven Valleys, Hanover Junction and the aptly-named town of Railroad.

The railroad was also a prime target for the Confederate Army prior to the Battle of Gettysburg. Rebel troops cut telegraph wires and destroyed bridges in their efforts to isolate Washington D.C. from the rest of the Union. After the destructive Battle, President Lincoln traveled via these rails to Gettysburg to deliver the Gettysburg Address and stopped at Hanover Junction.

2017 heritage rail trail/mp/mf 1-17

FEATURES OF THE TRAIL

Although the grade throughout the trail is reasonably level, New Freedom is the high point of elevation (818 ft) and the low point of elevation is (400 ft) in York City. Facilities along the trail include benches, picnic tables and restrooms. Communities along the trail offer more extensive services and facilities. Trail and restrooms are ADA accessible.

Other historic features of the trail include: Howard Tunnel, four Railroad Bridges, New Freedom Train Station, & Hanover Junction Train Station, all listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hanover Junction is restored to the 1863 era.
New Freedom is restored to its 1940 railroad history.

Both historical museum stations are open on select dates throughout the summer and fall each year and supported by the Friends of the Heritage Rail Trail Corridor. For museum hours, contact the Administrative Headquarters.

PARK REGULATIONS

- The railway is operational. Stay clear of the tracks at all times and cross only at established crossings.
- Do not walk on tracks!
- Users must stay on the trail, as property adjacent to the trail is privately owned.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trail except for the use of emergency and maintenance vehicles.
- Pets are permitted on the trail, but must be kept on a leash. Owners must clean up after their pets.
- All riders are encouraged to wear approved helmets.
- Horseback riders should clean up after your horses.
- Horses are prohibited on the Northern Extension.



Bikers Yield to Horseback Riders/Hikers.
Horseback Riders have the right-of-way.
Hikers Yield to Horseback Riders.

Volunteers are an integral part of our operation. If you would like more information about volunteering within the York County Parks, please call (717) 840-7440.

Membership Form & Fees

Benefits include:

- One-year newsletter subscription with Program Listing
- 10% Discount @ Nixon Park Gift Shop
- Special "Members First" and Free Members-Only programs
- Pavilion rental discount(one per year)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone#: _____ Date: _____

- \$10-Student
- \$75-Contributor
- \$10-Senior
- \$100-Patron
- \$25-Individual
- \$250-Corporate
- \$30-Family

Make checks payable to: **YCPFCT**

Mail to: York County Parks
400 Mundis Race Road
York, PA 17406-9721.

- I would like to receive my newsletter via email.

E-mail: _____

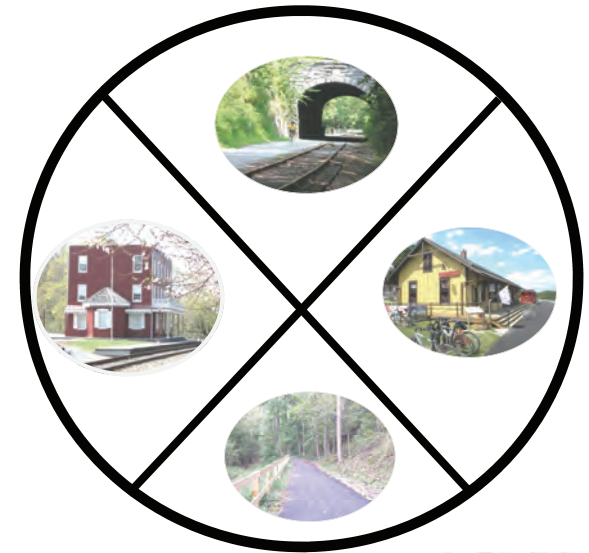
I'd like to make an additional tax deductible contribution to:

- York County Parks Foundation Charitable Trust, Inc.
- Friends of Wallace-Cross Mill
- Friends of the Heritage Rail Trail Corridor
- Friends of Canine Meadows
- I'm interested in volunteering.



In accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act, those individuals needing accommodation for access within the York County Parks, please call the County of York at (717) 771-9214.

HERITAGE RAIL TRAIL COUNTY PARK



YORK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
AND RECREATION



ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS:

At John Rudy County Park
400 MUNDIS RACE ROAD

YORK, PA 17406-9721

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