About the Enola Low Grade Trail

The Enola Low Grade is a multi-use recreational trail that stretches across southern

Lancaster County. The trail spans eight municipalities on land owned by several local governments and agencies. Please contact the appropriate trail manager with questions or concerns:

Enola Low Grade

 Manor Township:
 Quarryville Borough:

 717-397-4769
 717-786-2404

 Conestoga Township:
 Eden Township:

 717-872-4301
 717-786-7915

 Martic Township:
 Bart Township:

 717-284-2167
 717-786-2877

 Providence Township:
 5adsbury Township:

 717-786-7596
 610-593-6796

Emergencies: Call 911

Rules of the Trail

- Enjoy the trail at your own risk. The trail is open year round, dawn to dusk, conditions permitting.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited except for emergency and maintenance vehicles.
- The trail is available for walking, bicycling, jogging, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.
- Pets must be kept on a leash at all times.
 Owners are responsible for removing all pet waste.
- Keep the trail clean carry out all waste.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Use caution when crossing bridges, roads, and railways, because they are actively used.
- Please do not disturb natural habitats.
- Discharging of weapons on or from the trail is prohibited. Hunting may be permitted on adjacent lands.
- Other borough, township, or park ordinances shall be in effect.

Discover Lancaster County's Scenic Southern Trail

Experience railroad heritage by riding the Enola Low Grade Trail. The crushed gravel trail crosses creeks and streams on historic stone arches and bridges, reveals picturesque views of the Susquehanna River and winds through woodlands and beautiful southern Lancaster County farmlands.



The Enola Low Grade line was built between 1903 and 1906 by the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR). The purpose of the line was to reduce rail traffic by separating heavy freight trains

from passenger service on the PRR's main line. The line ran through southern Lancaster County, north along the Susquehanna and on to the Enola Yard, west of Harrisburg.

It was an ambitious project that dramatically changed the landscape from hilly and rugged to flat and smooth, which required more than 22 million cubic yards of earth to be moved. Over 200 lives were reportedly lost during construction. The new streamlined superhighway of rail helped satisfy the fuel and food demands of the eastern seaboard for decades. The Enola Low Grade line closed in 1988.

Susquehanna River – The trail starts at the base of Turkey Hill and overlooks the Susquehanna River for over five miles. Hikers will enjoy a challenging trek on a spur trail up to a scenic overlook. Where the Conestoga and Susquehanna Rivers meet you can view the Safe Harbor Dam, constructed in 1931 and

still in use today. The Safe Harbor Dam generated hydroelectric energy which powered the railroad. It now powers the Turkey Hill Dairy operations and millions of other customers.



Bridges & Woodlands

- The trail traverses the
Conestoga River and
Pequea Creek on trestle
bridges. The Safe Harbor
trestle bridge stands 140
feet high and stretches



1,560 feet over the Conestoga River, making it one of the largest in Pennsylvania. The Martic Forge trestle bridge over the Pequea Creek stands nearly 120 feet high. The view from either bridge shows the rugged terrain the PRR had to contend with when creating the Low Grade Line.



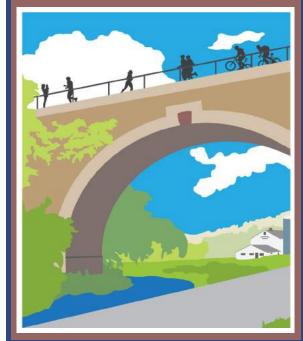
As the trail turns east, river views are replaced with expansive farm country and natural habitat. Snakes, mink, turtles, deer, foxes, turkeys, hawks, falcons, and bald eagles are common sites along the way. The varying

habitats of woodland, wetlands, and meadows have attracted many species of birds and butterflies, and some of the more elusive mammals and amphibians in southern Lancaster County.

Quarryville & Farmlands – The trail crosses Church Street on a historic skewed arch bridge and then skirts the northern edge of town, which began as a company town for the nearby quarry. Today, Quarryville is a central hub for the southern Lancaster County community, especially Amish residents. Quaint shops, stores, and restaurants are not far from trail access points.

Beyond Quarryville, the trail runs in a cut through classic Lancaster countryside along working Amish farms. Pennsylvania Railroad electric lines still stand on the side of the trail supplying electricity from Safe Harbor Dam to Parkesburg for Amtrak service.

ENOLA LOW GRADE TRAIL ACCESS GUIDE



Susquehanna National Heritage Area is a regional non-profit organization advancing a vision for the Susquehanna River as a national destination for outdoor fun and cultural discovery.

SUSQUEHANNA
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

www.SusqNHA.org

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Please respect the parks/trail rules and regulations established to protect you and Lancaster County's natural resources. In the event of an emergency, call 911 for police, fire, ambulance, or search and rescue.

---- Municipal Border

Community

Conestoga

Enola Low Grade Trail Access Guide

& E. State St

Conservation, Pa Heritage Areas Program

