



2024

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Schuylkill  
River Trail**  
*Pennsylvania*



# Schuylkill River Trail

Pennsylvania

*Overview Once an important thoroughfare for commerce carried by canal barges and railroad cars in southeastern Pennsylvania,*



## Overview

Once an important thoroughfare for commerce carried by canal barges and railroad cars in southeastern Pennsylvania, the Schuylkill River (pronounced skool-kl) corridor now accommodates walkers, bicyclists, and others on the Schuylkill River Trail.

The trail forms the backbone of the five-county Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area, currently stretches about 82.4 miles, and follows the route of old canals and the Pennsylvania Railroad that hauled resources out of the anthracite coalfields. Planning for the trail began in the late 1960s, with construction starting in the 1990s and continuing today.

## Frackville to Reading

The northernmost section of the trail, between Frackville and Reading, is the most disconnected with several small sections in the towns of Pottsville, Hamburg, and Leesport. This northernmost leg is also commonly known as the John Bartram Trail. This section of the trail is entirely composed of crushed stone.

In Frackville, the northernmost short section of trail runs south towards St. Clair along SR 61. In Pottsville, another short section travels south from Mount Carbon. The longest section here is a 6-mile segment near Hamburg, with two other short nearby sections in Auburn and Landingville. Here, the trail also crosses paths with the Appalachian Trail.

Between Hamburg and Pottsville, Horseback riding is allowed on these three disconnected segments.

## Reading to Pottstown

The Schuylkill River Trail is a nearly continuous route south of Reading. As the trail heads south through Reading, the trail crosses the Schuylkill River three times. A short section of the trail between Gibraltar and Birdsboro is on-road, although the road is lightly trafficked and signage points the way. The southernmost portion of this section is paved south of Riverfront Park in Pottstown.

This section of the trail is also known as the Thun Trail.

## Pottstown, Industrial Highway to Rte 422

The trail's route between Reading and Philadelphia is only briefly interrupted by an interruption in Pottstown as the trail crosses the Schuylkill River. This segment of the trail that parallels Route 422 over the river is complete but remains closed to the public pending the construction of a 0.95-mile segment between Industrial Highway and the U.S. 422 Bridge



# Schuylkill River Trail

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**States:** Pennsylvania

**Counties:** Berks, Chester, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Schuylkill

Length: 82.4 miles

**Trail end points:** SR 61 (Frackville) to Overlook at 61st Street (Philadelphia)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt, Boardwalk, Concrete, Crushed Stone, Dirt, Gravel

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline Skating, Fishing, Wheelchair

## Parking & Trail Access

The Schuylkill River Trail runs between SR 61 (Frackville), which offers parking, and Overlook at 61st Street (Philadelphia).

Parking is also available at:

- Schlegel Park, 100 E Wyomissing Blvd. (Reading)
- Longford Park, 100 Longford Rd (Phoenixville)
- 5 Lock St (Philadelphia)

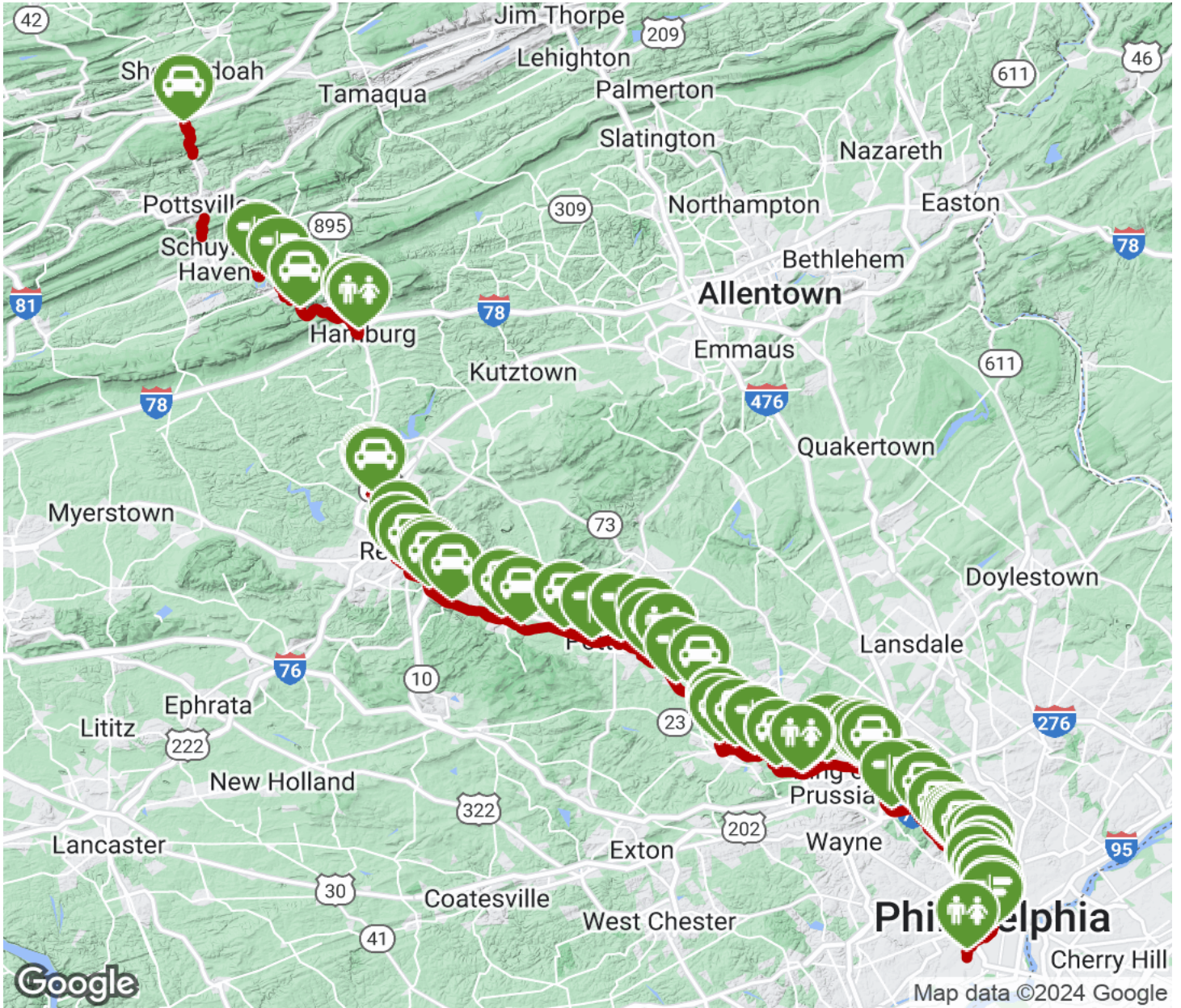
There are numerous parking options along the route, please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.





# Schuylkill River Trail

Pennsylvania



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



## TrailLink

by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

[TrailLink.com](https://www.TrailLink.com)