



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



D&H Rail Trail

Pennsylvania



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The 38-mile D&H Rail-Trail traces the former corridor of the Delaware & Hudson Railway, a line that primarily carried anthracite coal out of the Lackawanna Valley in the second half of the 19th century. The D&H Railway corridor's early claim to fame: it was on its predecessor—the D&H Gravity Line—that the first steam locomotive in America, the Stourbridge Lion, made its one and only run in August 1829.

A good starting point at the southern terminus is the Morse Avenue trailhead, west of the Lackawanna River. Here the trail connects seamlessly with the 32.4-mile [Lackawanna River Heritage Trail](#), which leads south to Taylor and north along a shared corridor with the D&H Rail-Trail for 10 miles to Stillwater Dam in Clifford.

Heading north on the D&H on an improved crushed-stone surface, the trail follows the Lackawanna River, crossing it four times in the first few miles. The scars of coal mining are evident in the beginning, but after passing Forest City, about 5 miles along the route, the trail passes into the scenic Endless Mountains Region, known for farmlands, stone walls, and forests.

At Forest City you'll reach the largest trailhead and parking area on the D&H. Forest City is a welcoming trail town with many goods and services, including restaurants and markets, located just two blocks west of the trail on Main Street. Heading north, you'll cross two more bridges before being treated to views of Stillwater Dam at Stillwater Lake.

The D&H also loosely parallels the unimproved O&W Rail-Trail for its first 8 miles, from Simpson to Stillwater Dam, and loop trips are possible with a mountain bike.

At about 10.2 miles along the trail in Union Dale, at the corner of South Main Street and Norton Hill Boro Street, you'll reach a trailhead with parking and a portable restroom. Also at this location are an original D&H pusher caboose, under renovation (expected to be complete by summer 2020), and the office for the Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, which manages the trail. Stop in for trail information, or grab a sandwich at the deli next door (open 6 a.m.–6 p.m.; closed Wednesdays).

Continuing north, the route passes through the rural areas of Herrick and Burnwood, where stone walls line the route. You'll pass three lakes before reaching Ararat at about 19 miles; this is the high point of the trail's grade, which can be challenging. An ADA-accessible trail ramp is located near the Ararat Road trailhead. Here many trail users opt to turn around and enjoy the downgrade back to Forest City or Simpson.

North of the Ararat Road trailhead, the trail surface reverts to



D&H Rail Trail

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States: Pennsylvania

Counties: Lackawanna, Susquehanna, Wayne

Length: 38 miles

Trail end points: Morse Ave., 1 block northwest of N. Main St./PA 171/Lackawanna River Heritage Trail (Simpson) to 0.5 mile north of Riverview Dr. and Damascus Road (Susquehanna)

Trail surfaces: Ballast, Cinder, Crushed Stone, Dirt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Parking & Trail Access

To reach the southern trailhead in Simpson from US 6, head north onto US 6 Bus. W (Roosevelt Hwy.)—if heading east on US 6, turn left, if heading west on US 6, turn right—and go 0.9 mile. Turn right onto Canaan St., go 0.2 mile, and then turn left onto Morse Ave. Go 0.1 mile, and take a slight left to stay on Morse Ave. for 0.5 mile. Look for a small trailhead parking lot to your right just after you cross the Lackawanna River. Additional parking is available about 400 feet southwest at the intersection of Morse Ave. and Enterprise Dr.

To reach the trailhead in Lanesboro from I-81, take Exit 230 for SR 171 toward Great Bend and Susquehanna. (If heading south on I-81, turn left onto PA 171; if heading north, turn right onto SR 171.) Go 8.1 miles on SR 171 S/PA 92 S, and turn right onto Exchange St. Go 0.2 mile, and turn left onto W. Main St. Go 1.8 miles, take a slight left onto S. Main St., and go 0.1 mile. After crossing Starrucca Creek, take the second right onto Depot St., and then go about 480 feet to pass under the Starrucca Viaduct. Veer left and then immediately right to reach the parking area at Luciana Park.

