

Things to look for..

PENNYPACK PRESERVE TRAIL MAP



Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust
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Welcome to
the Pennypack Preserve.
We have over 800 acres
and 11 miles of trails.
Trails open from dawn to dusk.

YOU MAY:

- Walk, hike and jog on trails
 - Walk pets on leash (on designated trails)
 - Bike (on designated trails)
- Ride horses (on designated trails)

YOU MAY NOT:

- Hike or jog off trails
 - Build fires
- Drive motorized vehicles
 - Swim
- Collect animals or plants
- Release animals or plants
 - Drink alcohol
 - Hunt or trap

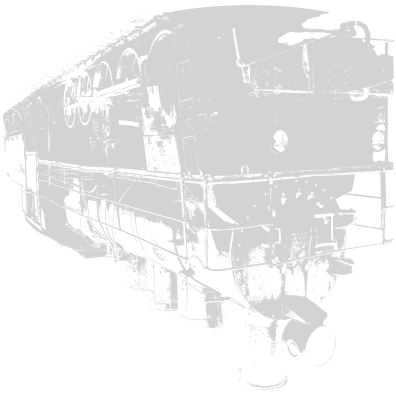
The mission of the Pennypack
Ecological Restoration Trust is to
protect, restore and preserve
the lands of the Pennypack Creek
valley so that they:

- Remain forever an enhancement to the quality of residents' lives,
- Remain forever a natural wilderness supporting native plant and animal life, and
- Become a standard of excellence for innovative restoration and stewardship practices to be shared with other individuals and organizations joined in common commitment to the environment.

Historic

- A) Bone Hill Mill**
The stone wall from the lowest level of a three-story mill is visible adjacent to the Creek Road Trail. In its later years, this mill may have ground animal bones for fertilizer. It was powered by an unusual waterwheel that rotated horizontally rather than vertically as more traditional overshot or undershot waterwheels do.
- B) Creek Road Bridge**
(Montgomery County Bridge #35). The Creek Road Bridge, built in 1840, is Montgomery County's third-oldest extant bridge. Its 34-foot stone arch bore Creek Road over Pennypack Creek in a single clear span.
- C) Historic Train Wreck**
"Death Gulch," the narrow rock cut along the abandoned Reading Railroad tracks 1,500 feet south of Creek Road, marks the location of the fiery head-on collision of two trains in December 1921 that killed 27 people and led the railroads to replace wooden passenger coaches with metal cars.
- D) Hallowell-Langstroth-McDowell Mill**
Englishman Thomas Langstroth came to America in 1767 and established a profitable business along the Schuylkill River. In 1792, he bought an existing paper mill (c. 1760) along the Pennypack from Israel Hallowell. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1809, and then rebuilt with the assistance of public subscription. Later, the mill was sold to Philadelphia Joseph McDowell, who enlarged and modernized it. Fire destroyed the structure a second time in 1858 and it was never rebuilt. Ruins of a second mill, the George Brown Mill, now mostly buried by fill emplaced for the Reading Railroad track in 1878, can be found in the woods on the east side of the creek.

- E) Mason's Mill Dam**
Mason's Mill, built in 1762, was situated in what is now Upper Moreland Township's Mason's Mill Park. The dam that provided water power for the mill was located a half-mile upstream.
- F) Paper Mill Road Bridge**
(Montgomery County Bridge #36). Constructed in 1817, the Paper Mill Road Bridge is the second-oldest extant bridge in Montgomery County. It is a rubble-filled stone arch structure with two 30-foot spans crossing Pennypack Creek.
- G) Shelmir Mill Dam**
Stacks of large rocks extending into Pennypack Creek from both banks are the ruins of the dam that supplied water power to several downstream mills, including one owned by George Shelmir. Milling operations ceased in 1860, and the dam, no longer needed, was breached by floods and never repaired.
- H) Webb Walk Springhouse**
This 18th century springhouse served as a natural "refrigerator" for the farmhouse uphill. Before electricity, the cool spring water extended the useful life of milk and other perishables.
- I) Wynkoop house**
The original section of the house, "two windows wide," was built in 1790. The house was enlarged in 1833, and then significantly expanded and modernized in 1925.
- J) Parking**
Parking for the picnic area, Office, and Visitors Center.



- K) Crossroads Marsh**
Springs seeping from the hillside above the pond provided clean water for milling operations and for a community of millworkers whose houses were in the area. The present water body dates from 1976, when the Trust created a shallow wetland that quickly became an important haven for wildlife.
- L) "The Falls"**
When the Reading Railroad tracks were laid alongside the Pennypack in 1878, the builders filled a meander loop, confining the creek to a narrow channel to the west of the fall. This rerouting and straightening caused the creek to descend rapidly, forming the dramatic rapids known locally as "The Falls."
- M) Peak Woods**
Because of its steepness and rockiness, this woodland may never have been completely cleared for agriculture, though it was used as a source of timber, firewood, building stone and pasture. Massive tulip trees lend a sense of great age, but the oldest trees are oaks that sprouted from acorns around 1760.

Natural

HIKING, BIKING, HORSES, PETS ON
LEASHES; NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES

Pennypack Creek Trail (0.6 mi.)
Level dirt footpath; may be muddy in the winter and following rains. Floodplain forest and conifer plantations.

HIKING ONLY TRAILS

FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY; NO PETS

Webb Walk (0.3 mi.)
Level dirt footpath, some sections of which are uneven and muddy. Wooden footbridges over scenic stream and through wet meadows lead to 18th century springhouse. Impressive display of naturalized spring flowers. Not a through path.

A horizontal number line with three tick marks. The first tick mark on the left is labeled 'O'. The second tick mark is labeled '500 ft'. The third tick mark on the right is labeled '1000 ft'.

