

Allegheny Highlands Trail in PA (part of the Great Allegheny Passage), PA

Trail Location: Garrett to Fort Hill

Trail Length: 24 miles

Counties: Somerset

Activities:

Walking, Biking, Cross Country Skiing, Fishing, Wheelchair Accessible

Trail Surface(s):

Crushed Stone

Trail Description:

The Allegheny Highlands Trail in Pennsylvania follows the former Western Maryland Railroad right-of-way through Somerset County, PA. This trail is part of the Great Allegheny Passage, a 152 mile bicycle and walking trail that will eventually connect Pittsburgh with the C&O Canal in Cumberland, MD, on non-motorized trails.

Twenty-four of the 42 miles of the Allegheny Highlands Trail in Pennsylvania are complete (as of June of 2000). The trail is currently open from the village of Fort Hill to the Salisbury Viaduct between the towns of Garrett and Meyersdale. The 1.5 mile section of trail from the Viaduct to Meyersdale is not complete but has had improvements made and is currently passable.

The Salisbury Viaduct is 1,908 feet long and over 100 feet at highest point. Two other major structures exist on the Allegheny Highlands Trail: the Keystone Viaduct, a 910 foot long bridge, and the Big Savage Tunnel, a 3,294 foot long structure. Both are currently being engineered and closed to the public. Most of the Allegheny Highlands Trail in Pennsylvania follows the Casselman River as it passes through the scenic gorges of the Laurel Highlands.

Parking & Trail Access:

Parking at all of the trailheads is free. There is trailhead parking adjacent to the trail at the Meyersdale Station, Garrett, Rockwood, Markleton and Fort Hill.

***Equestrian use is only permitted on the section of trail from Garrett to Rockwood, with parking available at the trailhead in Garrett.**

Allegheny Highlands Trail

Cumberland MD to Frostburg MD, over Big Savage Mountain into PA, then along Casselman River to Confluence in Somerset County PA

The Allegheny Highlands trail will run for 62 miles through woods and small towns, climbing from the terminus of the C&O Canal Towpath at Cumberland along Wills Creek and Jennings Run to Frostburg, then up the eastern flank of Big Savage Mountain. After crossing under the crest of the mountain in a kilometer-long tunnel, it will descend along Flaugherty Run to the Casselman River at Meyersdale, then follow the Casselman to Confluence.

Initial development is concentrating on the Casselman River section. The continuation along Flaugherty Run will follow. The exact routing of the Maryland section is now being negotiated. Since the sections of this trail that are not officially open are officially closed to the public, we give only short descriptions of the future routes.

Allegheny Highlands Trail, Maryland Section (undeveloped)

From Cumberland to Frostburg, then along Big Savage Mountain to Maryland state line in Allegany County MD

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources is planning a connection from Cumberland to the Maryland/Pennsylvania state line. They hope to share the right-of-way of the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad for 15 miles to Frostburg, then use the abandoned Western Maryland right-of-way for 5 miles north to the Mason-Dixon line. They are also considering a side trail to Mt Savage.

Allegheny Highlands Trail, Flaugherty Run Section (undeveloped)

Along Flaugherty Run from Maryland state line near Deal to Meyersdale in Somerset County
From the Mason-Dixon Line, the trail will continue for 11 miles on the Western Maryland route to Meyersdale. The major development challenge will be the kilometer-long Big Savage Tunnel, which takes the trail under the mountain and saves 200 feet of climb. Emerging from the woods at Deal, it will descend along Flaugherty Run to Meyersdale.

Allegheny Highlands Trail, Casselman Section

Along Casselman River from Meyersdale to Confluence in Somerset County

The completed trail will follow the Casselman River for 31 miles from Meyersdale to Confluence, where it will connect with the Youghiogheny River Trail. In fall of 1995, the 7 mile section from Rockwood to Garrett and the 7.5-mile section from Rockwood through Markleton to the trestle before Pinkerton Tunnel were complete. This provides a continuous 16.2-mile section, from mile 16.5 nearly to mile 33 of the final trail.

Location: Addison, Lower Turkeyfoot, Upper Turkeyfoot, Black, Summit Twps, Somerset County

Trailheads: Markleton, Rockwood, Garrett,

Length, Surface: 24 miles developed, crushed limestone

Character: Uncrowded, wooded, mixed sun and shade, flat

Special usage restrictions: No motorized vehicles; no snowmobiles

Amenities: Portable toilets, bike rentals, food

Driving time from Pittsburgh: 1 hour 45 minutes southeast

Trail organization: Hank Parke, Somerset County Rails to Trails Association, 829 North Center Av, Somerset PA 15501, (814) 445-6431, (814) 443-4313 (fax). Membership: \$20/year individual or family

[Brought to you as a public service of Pennsylvania Super Trails on Pa-Conservation.Org](http://Pa-Conservation.Org)