

Historical Information About the Lancaster Junction Recreation Trail:

This 2.3-mile path is here for you to run, hike, horseback ride or simply walk and enjoy. The route travels through open meadows, rich farmland and next to a meandering creek. As you enjoy this scenic area, please remember that properties on both sides of the trail are privately owned; this includes the picnic pavilion near Colebrook Road. Please respect the rights of these property owners.

The trail first began as a railroad, and operated for over 120 years. It was built by the Reading & Columbia Railroad and its first train ran in 1863. The railroad was built to transport coal, iron ore, and general merchandise and to connect the City of Reading to the Chesapeake Bay Region via the Susquehanna Tide Water Canal.

During the railroads' heyday, the line expanded into Marietta and Lancaster, and carried as many as ten passenger trains a day. Through the years, the railroad declined in use, until it was totally abandoned in 1985.

Because of efforts of many dedicated citizens, the trail was bought by the County of Lancaster. It was officially dedicated on October 14, 1987, and is managed by the Lancaster County Department of Parks and Recreation.

There are two ideal locations to park your car and to begin your tour. At the northern end of the trail, you can park at Lancaster Junction. This hamlet can be found at the intersection of Auction Road and Warehouse Road. At the southern end, you can park at the end of Champ Road. This road intersects Spooky Nook Road and parallels PA Route 283.

Remember, automobiles, ATV's, snowmobiles, hunting and alcohol are strictly forbidden along the trail. For more information about Lancaster County Park's rules and regulations, please refer to Ordinance #10 at www.lancastercountyparks.org.

Enjoy a journey through the quiet countryside. As you do, reflect for a moment of how this trail was once part of a busy, high-tech railroad.

For more information about this and other County Park locations, call the park office at 717-299-8215.