



Enola Low Grade Trail Providence Township Section

Please enjoy the 8+ miles of the
Enola Low Grade trail system
running through our Township
and Quarryville Borough

A Publication of Providence Township
Providence Township Municipal Office
200 Mt. Airy Road
New Providence, PA 17560

Keeping our residents informed



Temporary Parking area at the Fairview Road #2 Trailhead

Volunteers and resident feedback needed

The Providence Township Park and Recreation Committee meets the second Thursday of each Month at 7:00PM. Meetings are held at the Providence Township Municipal Building.

Township residents and residents from adjoining townships are welcome to attend!

Please visit our website @ <http://www.providencetownship.com> for trail updates

Please contact us @ parks@providencetownship.com

Telephone: 717-786-7596
Fax: 717-786-2565

Township Hours:
Mon-Thurs 6:30AM - 4:30PM
Closed Fridays

History of the Enola Low Grade

In 2008 the townships adjacent to the Enola Low Grade in Lancaster Co. came to an agreement with Conrail, Antrak and the Pennsylvania P. U. C., and ownership was transferred to each jurisdiction. Providence Township also acquired the Quarryville section as part of the agreement. For more detailed information, please visit our website.

Early years >>>

The Enola Low Grade, built between 1903 and 1906 by the Pennsylvania Railroad, was a marvel of engineering for its time and location. Its construction from Chester Co. to Harrisburg which is almost entirely flat, never exceeding a 1% slope and with curves no sharper than 2 degrees was unique in this geographical region. The intent of the rail line was to provide efficient transport of freight from the East coast to the Midwest freeing up the existing heavily used and less efficient lines for passenger use.

Accomplishing this feat through the relatively inaccessible and often rugged terrain of southern Lancaster County required the efforts of many laborers, both local and immigrant, as well as much of the heaviest equipment of the time. The landscape was significantly changed as evidenced by the large areas of cut and fill.

The cuts were achieved

through dangerous blasting, while many elevated areas of track were constructed on raised pilings, some as high as one hundred and fifty feet, allowing side dumping. The Low-grade has cars to be driven on top, dumping loads of fill until the pilings were encased and the track supported by the fill. Top-ping off, or rather holding up, this amazing feat of earth engineering are the many stone arch tunnels along the line.

Constructed over roads, creeks and streams, some small, some tall, (as high as 60'), most simple arches and some angled with ribbing, all constructed with 3' x 3' x 6' to 8' stones. In all, the totality of this engineering and history have earned the Low-grade a place in the National Historic Registry.



Trail Features >>>

Bisecting the Southern End of Lancaster County, the Enola Low Grade Trail crosses through many of the natural and cultural features that make the County unique. A short walk or ride can bring views of:

- Historic Stone Arches and Steel Bridges
- Creeks, Streams, Rivers, Woodlands, farmland, and local wildlife
- "Plain Sect" and "English" farms.
- Wildlife and bird habitats
- Access to various Boroughs, Towns, and Villages such as: Quarryville, Aiglen, Smithville and Martic Forge.
- Access to Hauer-Trout Run Natural heritage Preserve.

Our Goals >>>

It is the Township's intent to protect, preserve and enhance this engineering, historic, environmental and recreational treasure for the use and enjoyment of the community.

The short-term goals are:

- Address trail user safety
- Finish an initial clean-up
- Stabilize minor erosion
- Provide basic (limited) parking
- Provide informational/directional signage
- Survey and clearly mark all trail property boundaries
- Make others aware of this resource

The long-term goals are:

- Develop a working relationship with neighboring Townships, aiming for a consensus to support a contiguous trail, open across the county, and eventually beyond.
- Develop a Master Plan defining the specific improvements required to create a first-class trail.
- Implement the Master Plan

Due to the undeveloped state please exercise extra caution entering, using and exiting the trail.

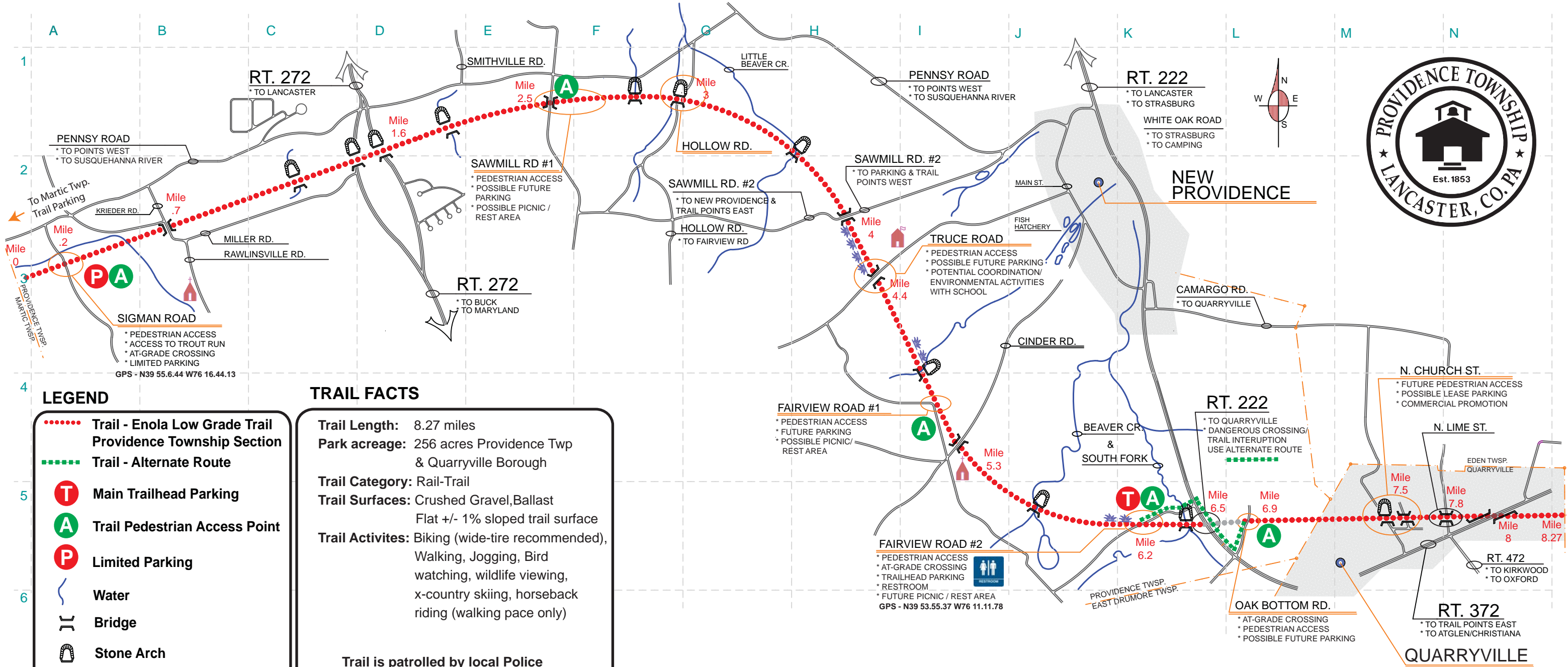
The currently undeveloped line is open to the public.

Parking is available at the Main Trailhead located at Fairview Rd. #2. Limited parking space is available at Sigman Rd. and Hollow Rd (See trail map)

Pedestrian access is available at Oak Bottom Rd., Fairview Rd#1 & #2., Sawmill Rd., and Sigman Rd.).

ENOLA LOW GRADE TRAIL- PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP SECTION

PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE



LEGEND

- Trail - Enola Low Grade Trail Providence Township Section
- Trail - Alternate Route
- T Main Trailhead Parking
- A Trail Pedestrian Access Point
- P Limited Parking
- Water
- Bridge
- Stone Arch
- Wetlands
- School
- Church

TRAIL FACTS

Trail Length: 8.27 miles
Park acreage: 256 acres Providence Twp & Quarryville Borough
Trail Category: Rail-Trail
Trail Surfaces: Crushed Gravel, Ballast
 Flat +/- 1% sloped trail surface
Trail Activities: Biking (wide-tire recommended), Walking, Jogging, Bird watching, wildlife viewing, x-country skiing, horseback riding (walking pace only)

Trail is patrolled by local Police

In case of emergency please dial 9-1-1

- Please respect the trails neighbors
- Trail users must stay within trail visible right-of-way (approx. 30' from either side of the main gravel trail surface)
- Please respect other trail users
- DO NOT attempt to climb the catenaries
- Trail is open from dawn to dusk
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited
- Pets are permitted, but must be kept on a leash
- No motorized vehicles
- Leave No Trace: pack out what you pack in
- Horses must be ridden at a walking pace at all times, travel single file and on the trail side opposite of power poles
- Dog owners and horse riders/owners must immediately remove all horse/pet waste from the main trail surface

