

TRAILS IN CHARLESTOWN

Charlestown is fortunate to host five beautiful trails, with more in the planning and dreaming stages – (For that, we need your help!).

The Horse-Shoe Trail is sponsored and maintained by the Horse-Shoe Trail Conservancy (www.hstrail.org) for use by hikers and horses. Founded in 1935, it is open from Valley Forge to its connection with the Appalachian Trail northeast of Harrisburg. Much of the trail is hosted by private landowners, through whose generosity those of us who hike or ride have the opportunity to enjoy some beautiful Pennsylvania country.

Several miles of the trail traverse Charlestown (red line on the map). The trail is well marked with yellow blazes and the occasional signpost.

Access Points with parking can be found:

- On Rees Road near the pipeline. Look for the Parking signs. Cross Rees Road from the parking lot to access the trail.
- At the Great Valley Nature Center at the corner of Hollow Road and Rte 29. Park in their lot on Hollow Road, detour up the hill to enjoy the Raptor Center behind the barn, and the small animal/reptile exhibit in the barn.
- Cross Hollow Road and walk towards the small bridge to the right; turn left just before the bridge to access the trail, marked by a Horse-Shoe Trail signpost
- At the Charlestown Elementary School on Charlestown Road.
 - Park toward the rear of the main parking lot. Look for trail blazes to the left of the drive, and behind the large play equipment.
 - Or, cross Charlestown Road (carefully), go right and look for blazes on the left.
- At Brightside Farm on Yellow Springs Road. Brightside Farm is owned by the township, and offers community garden plots, and its own trail. Park diagonally along the drive, and look for the Brightside trail signs to the right of the driveway.
 - To access the Horse-Shoe Trail, cross Yellow Springs Road and proceed along Valley Hill Road. Look for the yellow blazes on the left.

McDevitt Trail. Moderate 0.75 miles: (#3 Purple line on map). Parking for the McDevitt Trail is at the old Longwood School at the corner of Valley Hill and Bodine Roads. Follow the signs to your right from the School right on Bodine Road, down the hill 50 yards on the left of Bodine Road.

The Brightside Trail. Moderate 1.5 miles: (# 6 Orange line on map) Take time one day to walk the Brightside Trail, which circles the farmed hayfields – along the edges of the fields. The small stone house on Yellow Springs Road, near Hollow Road, is the Wisner-Rapp House a 18th century house and saddle shop on the National Register of Historic Places. It is owned and maintained by the Charlestown Historical Society. Parallel parking for Horse Trailers is on the left of the Farm's drive, diagonal parking for cars on the right side of the drive. To turn around and exit, trailers drive to the Y in the drive, pull into the right leg of the Y and back into the left leg to complete the turn. Brightside Farm driveway is on the right of Yellow Spring Road just north of Valley Hill Road.

The Pickering Trail. Moderate 1 mile: (#11 Dotted yellow line on map) parallels the Pickering Creek between Charlestown Road and Route 29. This is a beautiful hiking trail, and a favorite spot for fly fisherfolk. The stream is stocked with trout. **There are two public access points:**

- Park along Pickering Dam Road below Route 29. There is room for two or three cars on the stream side. Look for the trail entrance, and follow the trail across the bridge and turn left.
- Park on the shoulder of Charlestown Road beside the Charlestown Mill (historic, 19th-century mill now owned and preserved by Charlestown Township), cross Charlestown Road VERY carefully, and enter the driveway. Follow the signs to the trail.
- Residents of Charlestown Hunt can access the Pickering Trail from their own perimeter trail. Just follow the trail that goes down hill toward the creek!

Charlestown Park Trail. Easy 1.5 miles: (#13 Pink line on map) This is a paved loop trail in Charlestown Park located at the corner of Coldstream and Township Line Roads. Parking is off the drive that enters the park from Township Line Road (first right turn).

Charlestown's trails depend on your stewardship. We ask you to respect landowners' privacy, and to care for our beautiful trails. It seems insulting to ask, but PLEASE: do not leave trash!! Better yet, take a plastic bag and pick up any trash you find and take the bag home.

Thank you for taking care of our neighborhood and enjoy our trails.

Questions? Please become involved in preserving our trails; and in building more – especially lanes for bicycles!

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