Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails

Trails Description

Like so many trails in this area, the Great Hazleton Rails to Trails occupies the former Delaware, Susquehanna and Schuylkill rail line that supported the local coal mining industry. After a half century of disuse, the local community has turned the corridor into a source of community pride. Today, the trail totals 5.6 miles ending near Hazlebrook. A future planned extension will reach Eckley Miners' Village. Eventually, the trail will be 16.4 miles and serve as a critical connection in the Delaware Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Trail system (known as the D&L Trail).

The trail begins at SR 93 and SR 424 in the southeastern corner of Hazleton. It is well maintained with a crushed limestone surface perfect for walking and biking. It has nice amenities, including good signs, mile markers, benches, picnic tables and parking facilities with trail maps.

There are five permanent exercise stations along the first mile as well as a story walk with 16 stations changed regularly by our local library.

There is only one major road crossing before the 1-mile mark, and it is well signed. At about mile 2.5, the trail briefly loses its tree cover and picks up water views, as it runs alongside Dreck Creek Reservoir. At the end of the reservoir, enjoy a scenic overlook, a pavilion with picnic table and a dog watering station in the warmer months. From here the trail winds back into the woods and then into an area showing signs of early coal mining.

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Parking and Trail Access

From Interstate 81 on the south side of Hazleton, take Exit 141, turning onto the Arthur Gardner Parkway (Route 424). Travel east about 4 miles until it dead-ends at Route 93. Turn left at the Rte 93 intersection. The trail entrance and parking lot are immediately on your right and well marked by a large sign.

Sharing the Trail

The Greater Hazleton Rail Trail allows multiple uses, and considerate cooperation is essential. Please do your best to ensure everyone has a safe and pleasant trail experience by following these tips:

- Stay on the trail.
- Stay right except to pass.
- Pass on the left alerting others before passing. Bicyclists use a bell or call out "passing on your left."
- Keep dogs on a leash and clean up after.
- Please do not litter.
- Trail is only open from sunrise to sunset.
- E-bikes should be limited to Class 1.

Emergency

From the Rte 93 parking lot turn right and travel 1½ miles to the Lehigh Valley Hospital. It will be on your left at the first traffic light.

