

Historical Information About the Conewago Recreation Trail:

This five-mile linear park is perfect for running, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, or bicycling. The journey takes you on a flat course through thick woods, a boulder field, and picturesque farms. As you enjoy the scenic area, remember that property on both sides of the trail is privately owned. Please respect the rights of these property owners.

This route first began as the Cornwall & Lebanon Railroad in 1883, which operated for almost one hundred years. It was built by Robert H. Coleman to compete with the Cornwall Railroad for the iron ore traffic between Cornwall and Lebanon. The line was later extended to Conewago Junction, to connect onto the Pennsylvania Railroad. By 1910, there were eight passenger trains each day on this route. A passenger could make connections allowing him to travel anywhere in the United States. In fact, from Conewago Junction a passenger boarding a train at 10:50 a.m. could be in New York City before 5 p.m. that afternoon.

With competition from the interstate highway system, train service steadily declined. After receiving damage from Hurricane Agnes in 1972, the tracks were completely abandoned. Never again would the lonesome train whistle be heard. Fortunately, the County of Lancaster preserved the trail in 1979 with funding assistance from the PA Department of Community Affairs, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. Today it is managed by the Lancaster County Department of Parks and Recreation.

As you journey through this peaceful corridor, think for a moment of the many people who once traveled this route when it was part of the world's largest railroad system.

Remember that automobiles, ATV's, snowmobiles, hunting and alcohol are strictly forbidden along the trail. For more information on Lancaster County Parks' rules and regulations, visit [www.co.lancaster.pa.us/parks/Ordinance 10](http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us/parks/Ordinance%2010), or contact the Park Rangers at 717-295-3605.

