

Clarion-Little Toby Trail

About the Trail

The Clarion-Little Toby Trail, located in the heart of the Pennsylvania Wilds, is an 18-mile rail-trail that meanders along the Clarion River and Little Toby Creek through scenic woodlands. The trail is surfaced with finely crushed limestone and is nearly flat - perfect for hiking, running, bicycling, and cross-country skiing.

The main trailheads are located in the historic towns of Ridgway and Brockway. Both communities offer lodging, dining, service stations and grocery stores. Ridgway is also the home of two outfitters that offer bike rentals, repair service and expert advice.

While barely a trace of human activity exists, some historical remnants can be spied in this area that once buzzed with industrial activity during Pennsylvania's lumbering era over one hundred years ago.

Notable features along the trail include photogenic riverside panoramas, a swinging bridge over Little Toby, and numerous small waterfalls. Benches are placed to take advantage of scenic vistas. The big woods of Pennsylvania abound with wildlife. Watch for river otters, beavers, bald eagles and common mergansers along the Clarion River and Little Toby Creek. When you stop for a break, listen for woodland songbirds and watch for wild turkey, foxes, porcupines, white-tailed deer, and if you are lucky, a black bear.

Visit the Ridgway – Elk County Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center in downtown Ridgway to learn more about the attractions and events in this area (ridgwaychamber.com).

History of the Trail Corridor

The history of this area reaches back in time to the early Native American inhabitants, who camped

along the Clarion River using the area's numerous rock outcrops for shelter. Lured by the dense forests that covered this region, the first settlers arrived in 1798 and the town of Ridgway was founded in 1824. The Clarion River and Little Toby Creek served as important transportation corridors through this vast roadless wilderness. The early industry of the area was built around log drives and rafting of timber to markets in Pittsburgh, and even as far as New Orleans. The trail follows the route of the former Ridgway and Clearfield branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which was built in 1883. Over the years many of towns along the route faded away and the last train ran in 1968. The tracks were removed in 1972 and twenty years later, the idea of converting the corridor into a recreational trail was born. Visit our website to learn more.

Accessing the Trail

Ridgway Trailhead: From Main Street (PA 948) follow Water Street one block south. (41.4197, -78.7341)

Croyland Trailhead: From PA 949 follow Game Commission Road for 0.7 mi. (41.3565, -78.8187)

Brockway Trailhead: From Main Street (PA 28) follow 7th Avenue Ext. north for 0.3 mi. (41.2528, -78.7941)

For Your Safety and Enjoyment

- Cell phone service does not exist outside of Ridgway and Brockway.
- The trail shares a 1.8 mile section of the corridor with an active rail line. While it has minimal train traffic, stay on the trail.
- Wear fluorescent orange during hunting seasons.
- Timber rattlesnakes are occasionally seen on the trail. Appreciate them from a distance and let them move off the trail.

- There are no restrooms along the trail.
- If you venture off the trail, check yourself for ticks when you get home.
- Tricounty Rails to Trails does not own or maintain the swinging bridge, cross at your own risk.



About Us

The Clarion-Little Toby Trail was developed and is maintained by the non-profit Tricounty Rails to Trails Association, which was founded in 1992. The trail was completed in 2003 and now we are working to extend the trail to Brookville via the Five Bridges Trail, and to DuBois via the Wolf Run Trail. The Five Bridges Trail will connect to the Redbank Valley Trail in Brookville, which in turn connects to the Armstrong Trail, creating a regional network with over 140 miles of trails. Other trail groups are working to connect the Armstrong Trail to Pittsburgh which is the terminus of a multi-state network of trails that leads all the way to Washington, DC.

It takes a small army of dedicated volunteers and a steady flow of donations to maintain this wonderful resource and build new trails. You can help by volunteering, becoming a member, joining our Adopt-A-Trail program, or making a donation at our secure trailside containers or online. Visit us at TriCountyRailsToTrails.org for more information on volunteering or to make a donation.

Emergency Information

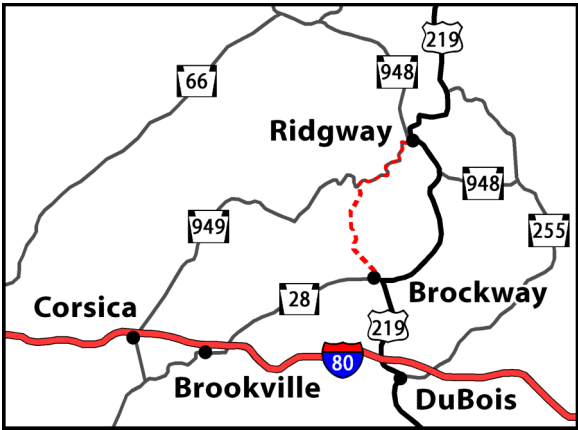
Call 911 for Emergencies

- QCare:** Ridgway, 104 Metoxet Street, (814) 788-5555
- Penn Highlands Hospital:** DuBois, 100 Hospital Avenue, (814) 371-2200
- Penn Highlands Elk Hospital:** St Marys, 763 Johnsonburg Road (PA 255), (814) 788-8000

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TriCountyRailsToTrails.org



Trail Rules

- The trail is open from dawn to dusk.
- There is no camping along the trail.
- Keep your dog on a leash and clean up their waste.
- Keep to the right and pass on the left. Bicyclists should signal other users before passing them.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited except for wheelchairs and other power driven mobility devices.
- Keep the trail beautiful by taking your trash home.
- Respect the rights and privacy of adjacent landowners by staying on the trail.
- A 1.8 mile section of the trail is located next to an active rail line. For your safety, please stay clear of the tracks at all times.

