

# THE BERKS CONSERVANCY

The Berks Conservancy is a non-profit, charitable organization who is the leading agent for the conservation of the environment in Berks County. The Berks Conservancy connects people to nature through land protection, trail creation, water protection, land use projects, community gardens, municipal relationships, education, and events, such as nature walks, for the community.

We welcome your involvement! Learn more about our local programs that help keep Berks County a nice place to live, work, learn and play!

- Eco-Adventure Camp [www.ecoadventurecamp.com](http://www.ecoadventurecamp.com)
- Greater Reading Trails [www.greaterreadingtrails.com](http://www.greaterreadingtrails.com)
- Land and Water Protection
- State of the Environment
- Guided Hikes
- and Nature Walks
- GreenBerks.com
- Urban Gardens
- Green Drinks
- Events and Lectures
- Nature Preserves

BECOME A MEMBER!



25 North 11th Street  
Reading, PA 19601  
Phone 610-372-4992  
Fax 610-372-2917  
[info@berks-conservancy.org](mailto:info@berks-conservancy.org)  
[www.berks-conservancy.org](http://www.berks-conservancy.org)

Hike the Trails?  
Get the gear!

Greater Reading Trails  
hats, shirts and trail  
patches available at  
[www.greaterreadingtrails.com](http://www.greaterreadingtrails.com)

Visit the Berks Conservancy at  
[www.berks-conservancy.org](http://www.berks-conservancy.org)



# GRAVITY TRAIL



## HISTORY OF THE GRAVITY RAILROAD

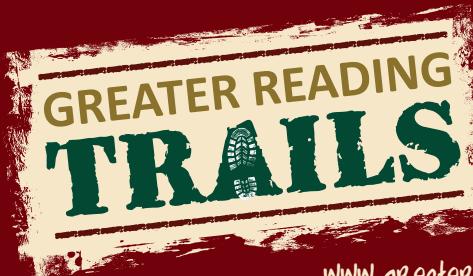
In 1889, the Mount Penn Gravity Railroad was built to provide scenic transportation on the mountainside to vacationers and local visitors on the 7½ mile long railway for a 20 cent ticket.

The Gravity Railroad provided the excitement of a mountain ascent through the glen overlooking Mineral Spring Park, through Egleman's Park, across Skyline Drive to the "summit" at the top of the mountain. The attraction at the summit was a stone dance pavilion known as the Tower Hotel. From the summit, a descent by gravity traveled 5 miles - over light grades, through groves, vineyards and mountain farms back to the station in Mineral Spring Park. For 33 years, the Gravity Railroad ran at regular ½ hour intervals throughout the summer.

With the introduction of the automobile and the Prohibition Era, there was a decline of the local resorts and railroad. The devastating fire of the Tower Hotel on the evening of April 26, 1923, brought an end to the Gravity Railroad. Shortly thereafter, the railroad tracks were torn up and sold for scrap.

Much of this trail system follows the old rail line and the Gravity Trail ultimately connects Antietam Lake to the Neversink Mountain Preserve and includes several city owned parks. Portions of the graded rail beds are still evident in certain areas along the trail.





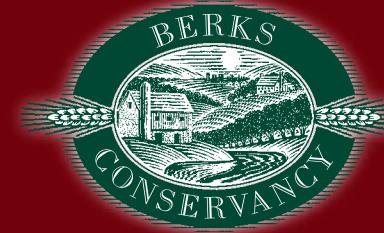
[www.greaterreadingtrails.com](http://www.greaterreadingtrails.com)

The Berks Conservancy's vision for the Greater Reading Trails partnership is to assist Berks County in implementing the Greenway, Park and Recreation plan for the metro region of "Greater Reading". We believe in enhancing our public greenway and recreational opportunities to enhance the quality of life in Berks County. Through greater use and appreciation of these natural resources and recreational assets by our citizens, improved stewardship and interest in the environment will ensue.

You can view and download additional free trail guides, a large Greater Reading Trail Map, and other trail links at [www.greaterreadingtrails.com](http://www.greaterreadingtrails.com). Get outside and explore what Greater Reading has to offer today!



**SUPPORT OUR TRAILS!  
BECOME A MEMBER.**



[www.berks-conservancy.org](http://www.berks-conservancy.org)

The Berks Conservancy is grateful for the support of the William Penn Foundation. They have helped to make our Greater Reading Trail projects and partnerships a great success.

## GRAVITY TRAIL



### MT. PENN



## SUPPORT OUR TRAILS!

Become a member of the Berks Conservancy.

Your member support provides:

- Continued free admission to all visitors every day of the year.
- A unique sanctuary for the community to experience nature.
- Educational experiences to promote green living.
- Newsletters to update you on events and our ongoing efforts.

### Giving Levels:

William Penn Society	\$5,000+
Schuylkill River Society	\$2,500-4,999
Leadership Circle	\$1,000-2,499
Watershed Circle	\$500-999
Conservationist	\$250-499
Land Steward	\$100-249
Family	\$50-99
Friend	Up to \$49
Amount of Donation	\$_____

You can also donate online. Visit our website at [berks-conservancy.org](http://berks-conservancy.org).

### Payment Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Please print your name as you wish to be listed.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My check payable to the Berks Conservancy is enclosed.

Please charge my:  VISA  MC

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC Code \_\_\_\_\_  
(Security code on the back of the credit card)

I would like more information about the Berks Conservancy.

- Volunteer opportunities.
- Protecting my land.
- Please subscribe me to the e-newsletters, "Conservation in your Community" and "Green Tips".  
(Be sure to include your email address in the space provided above.)
- Remembering the Berks Conservancy in my will or estate plans through the Woodland Society.

The official registration and financial information of Berks County Conservancy may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.