

Schuylkill Valley Heritage Trail

Tamaqua to Middleport

BACKGROUND: The Schuylkill Valley Heritage Trail runs parallel to State Route 209 between Tamaqua and Middleport on land originally cleared to make Route 209 a four-lane highway. Scenic mountains, company patch towns, and anthracite mining along the trail highlight the valley's anthracite heritage. This trail was developed in 2002 through the cooperation of numerous community partners including: Schuylkill & Walker Townships, the Borough of Tamaqua, and the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission.



INFORMATION: This dog-friendly, level trail is 7 miles long, with a compacted gravel surface, and

mile markers posted in both directions. Park either at the Newkirk Tunnel trailhead near Tamaqua or in Middleport Borough.

CONTACT: For more information, call Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission at 570-668-2919 during regular business hours.

AREA ATTRACTIONS: The trailhead near Tamaqua is located at the Historic Newkirk Coal Mine Tunnel, constructed in 1868 to a depth of 505 feet into Sharp Mountain, and later expanded to 2,211 feet in the 1940s. Remnants of a cleaning plant and railroad loading facility are visible outside the tunnel, along with a treatment system designed by PA DEP to improve water quality at the tunnel's mine drainage outflow. Other nearby attractions include Heisler's Dairy Bar & Miniature Golf Course, Rosemount Camping Resort, Tuscarora and Locust Lake State Parks, local farm markets (in season), and the historic downtown Tamaqua Train Station. Food and drinks are available in Tamaqua as well as several restaurants, mini-markets, and gas stations.



GPS COORDINATES:

Lat 40°47'28.32" N Lon 75°59'08.58" W

RECOMMENDED GEAR: Comfortable walking shoes.