

# Lehigh & New England Trail

## Tamaqua

**BACKGROUND:** In 1904, the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company purchased the Lehigh and North East Railroad company. In 1910, construction began on the 32-mile extension of the Lehigh and New England main line from Danielsville to Tamaqua to access the rich anthracite coal fields in the Tamaqua and Panther Valley areas. The Tamaqua extension opened in 1912 and closed in 1961 when the railroad ceased all operations.

**INFORMATION:** The beautiful Lehigh and New England Trail is a 3-mile, flat, crushed stone trail that follows a section of the former Lehigh and New England Railroad corridor. A lush tree canopy separates the trail from nearby SR 309. Detailed signage regarding the general history of the trail is posted at the trailhead off Dairy Road, and there are

mile markers along the trail. Benches are available at the trailhead entrance. About halfway through the trail are the remains of the Shellhammer Ice Dam, a former recreation and entertainment complex. Use caution at the road crossings, especially those with steep grades. This trail is ideal for bikers, runners, walkers, and pets. Parking is available at the trailhead just off Dairy Road.

**CONTACT:** Call the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission at 570-668-2919 for additional information.

**AREA ATTRACTIONS:** Several restaurants, gas stations, mini-markets and a restored 1874 railroad station can be found in Tamaqua. Stonehedge Gardens is located near the eastern trailhead. Nearby are Heisler's Dairy Bar, Rosemount Camping Resort, and local farm markets (in season).

**GPS COORDINATES:**

Lat 40°45'36.25" N Lon 75°56'37.84" W

**RECOMMENDED GEAR:** Comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots are recommended.

