

Port Clinton Towpath Trail

Port Clinton

BACKGROUND: Originally established in 1824 as a path that was used to tow canal boats along the Schuylkill Navigation Canal, this trail includes the remains of four locks, including Rishel's Lock, named for Lenhard Rishel, who owned part of the land at that time. The towpath was used by both men and later mules to tow the boats through the canal. The canal was used in transporting lumber and coal from Schuylkill County to the seaport in Philadelphia.



INFORMATION: The trail is accessed west of the Port Clinton playground off Broad Street.

Look for the trailhead near the remnants of one of the four locks near the Schuylkill River. The trail is approximately 1-3/4 miles long and of moderate difficulty. It begins with a fairly flat dirt path along the river's edge. As you travel through the woods, the trail becomes very narrow at times. You climb over fallen trees, cross a stream by way of a footbridge and cross a large, rugged rock bed. The trail continues over an area of smooth, sloped rock. The deepest single lock (14 feet) on the upper canal can be found at the 1-3/4 mile mark of the trail. There are worn marker signs found occasionally on trees. There are no benches or rest areas throughout the trail.

CONTACT: This trail is no longer maintained.

AREA ATTRACTIONS: The trail is very scenic with beautiful rock formations and a waterfall. Of local historic interest is the Moncure Robinson house (currently a private home), that was the home of the civil engineer who designed the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. The Port Clinton Historical and Transportation Museum located in the old schoolhouse on Penn Street features artifacts from early canal and railroad days. Other attractions in Port Clinton include The Union House Bed and Breakfast, Port Clinton Hotel and the Port Clinton Peanut Shop where you can still buy loose candy by the



pound. There is a playground and Little League field adjacent to the trailhead with restrooms open seasonally. Bring fishing gear to fish the Schuylkill River. Two miles south of Port Clinton is Cabela's, the World's Foremost Outfitter, Walmart, and a vast array of eateries.

GPS COORDINATES: Lat 40°34'40.36" N Lon 76°01'44.09" W

RECOMMENDED GEAR: Sturdy hiking boots are recommended.