

**MONOCACY
TRAIL
GUIDE
TO
Sand Island
Illick's Mill**

The Monocacy Trail parallels the Monocacy Creek, for a distance of approximately 3 miles, from the Ice House, at Sand Island, in Bethlehem, to the Falls at Monocacy Park, on Illick's Mill Rd. Access is possible at any of the road crossings except Broad St. All parts are easily walked or biked.

The trail consists of compacted red shale stone, from the Main St extension to Burnside. Other parts are grass, wood chips or compacted dirt, and there are many road crossings. For first time users, the trail may not seem easy to follow, but, if you keep the creek or railroad in sight, and stay on the red shale, or the well-maintained paths, you will have no problems.

Starting at the Ice House, cross the canal bridge and Lehigh St, and go to Spring St, at which point the red shale begins, immediately adjacent to the bridge. Follow the trail along the left side of the creek, under the Hill-toHill bridge, and continue to the second of two footbridges. Make a right, over the bridge, and pick up the trail again. Now you are on the right side of the creek. Follow the red shale, under the Broad St bridge, to Union Blvd, where there is a traffic light. Immediately upon crossing, turn left, on the sidewalk, and cross the bridge, where you will see a sign for The Monocacy Trail. Enter here, and follow the red shale again, then crossing an interesting wooden walkway, until you reach the Burnside Plantation, where the red shale ends. Follow the short winding path through Burnside, to the grassy area, and make a right, toward the railroad and creek. Follow the Weeping Willow trees and railroad to the Burnside entrance, which is on Schoenersville Rd.

Cross the road. Be careful! Traffic can be a problem. On the other side of the road is the entrance to the Monocacy Nature Center, a Sanctuary which winds along the railroad and creek, ending at Illick's Mill Rd. There are a variety of paths and trails, all well-maintained. Just follow the main path, around the pond, until the railroad reappears. Bear left, again along a well-maintained path, until you get to a grassy area with a huge grass field on the hillside to your left. Shortly, there will be a break in the trees to your right, where you can cross the railroad, after which you can continue on the trails in the Monocacy Nature Center. At this point, feel free to explore some of the paths along the creek, or, bear left, to the parking lot at Illick's Mill, an historic structure which is in the process of restoration. There is also a Trail Guide available for the Monocacy Nature Center.

Cross Illick's Mill Rd (careful!), and cross the creek again, to enter Monocacy Park, which has several pavilions, a footbridge, restrooms, drinking water, and a rather spectacular waterfall. The park was built in 1936, is well maintained, and includes some impressive stone construction.

On returning, explore some of the parallel routes, such as: Conestoga Rd, the Moravian historic restoration area, and some of the paths in the Nature Center.

*Participating partners: City of Bethlehem, Charlie Brown, Parks & Recreation;
Delaware & Lehigh Navigational Canal Heritage Corridor; Monocacy Creek Watershed Assn;
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