

Chester Protect Lands and Trails in the Pennsylvania Highlands

Chester County protected lands include public and non-public fee and easement lands within the Pennsylvania Highlands. Trails include local and regional hiking trails and water trails.

Appalachian Mountain Club

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Introduction

The Appalachian Mountain Club has compiled the protected lands, public and non-public fee and easement lands, as well as local and regional hiking trails and water trails that are within the Pennsylvania Highlands within the county of Chester. Regional hiking and water trails are within a minimum of three municipalities. Local hiking trails are within one or two municipalities. Hiking trails include both on and off road trails.

This compilation is meant to be a resource for those living and working in the Pennsylvania Highlands. However, because protection of lands and trail development are constantly evolving, please understand that the information in this guide will also change. While we will do our best to keep the information current, please make sure to check other sources and the internet for the most current information.

If you know of protected lands or trails that we should add or updates that we need to make, please let us know by emailing amcpahighlands@outdoors.org.

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Chester County

Total GIS Acreage	485,712
GIS Acres within the PA Highlands	138,139
% of County within the PA Highlands	28%

East Coventry Township		7,018 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	0	0%
County	Fee	205	3%
Municipality	Fee	222	3%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	21	< 1%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	81	1%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	230	3%
Total		759	11%
Lands Protected Since 2012		86	
Trails		GIS Miles	
Local Land Trails		0.1	
Regional Land Trails		0	
Water Trails		3.6	
Total		3.7	

Regional water trail within East Coventry Township includes the Schuylkill River Water Trail.

East Nantmeal Township		10,466 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	0	0%
County	Fee	5	< 1%
Municipality	Fee	33	< 1%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	725	7%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	3,177	30%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	791	8%
Total		4,731	45%
Lands Protected Since 2012		257	
Trails		GIS Miles	
Local Land Trails		0.4	
Regional Land Trails		1.7	
Water Trails		0	
Total		2.1	

Regional hiking trail within East Nantmeal Township includes the Horse-Shoe Trail.

East Vincent Township		8,714 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	0	0%
County	Fee	5	< 1%
Municipality	Fee	182	2%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	170	2%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	101	1%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	706	8%
Total		1,164	13%
Lands Protected Since 2012		4	

Trails	GIS Miles
Local Land Trails	2.1
Regional Land Trails	2.4
Water Trails	2.5
Total	7.0

Regional hiking and water trails within East Vincent Township include the Schuylkill River Trail and the Schuylkill River Water Trail.

Elverson Borough		644 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	5	1%
County	Fee	3	< 1%
Municipality	Fee	23	4%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	35	5%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	0	0%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	25	4%
Total		91	14%
Lands Protected Since 2012		0	
Trails		GIS Miles	
Local Land Trails		6.9	
Regional Land Trails		0	
Water Trails		0	
Total		6.9	

Honey Brook Borough		299 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	0	0%
County	Fee	0	0%
Municipality	Fee	4	1%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	3	1%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	0	0%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	5	2%
Total		12	4%
Lands Protected Since 2012		0	
Trails		GIS Miles	
Local Land Trails		1.1	
Regional Land Trails		0	
Water Trails		0	
Total		1.1	

Honey Brook Township		16,036 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	396	2%
County	Fee	63	< 1%
Municipality	Fee	12	< 1%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	133	1%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	350	2%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	3,234	20%
Total		4,188	26%
Lands Protected Since 2012		1,740	
Trails		GIS Miles	
Local Land Trails		1.4	
Regional Land Trails		0	
Water Trails		0	
Total		1.4	

North Coventry Township		8,823 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	470	5%
County	Fee	0	0%
Municipality	Fee	771	9%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	61	1%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	56	1%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	611	7%
Total		1,969	22%
Lands Protected Since 2012		76	
Trails		GIS Miles	
Local Land Trails		18.1	
Regional Land Trails		0	
Water Trails		3.3	
Total		21.4	

Regional water trail within North Coventry Township includes the Schuylkill River Water Trail.

Sadsbury Township		3,993 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	0	0%
County	Fee	0	0%
Municipality	Fee	87	2%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	443	11%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	0	0%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	564	14%
Total		1,094	27%
Lands Protected Since 2012		45	

Trails	GIS Miles
Local Land Trails	4.6
Regional Land Trails	0
Water Trails	0
Total	4.6

South Coventry Township		5,017 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	0	0%
County	Fee	69	1%
Municipality	Fee	299	6%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	109	2%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	543	11%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	454	9%
Total		1,474	29%
Lands Protected Since 2012		50	
Trails		GIS Miles	
Local Land Trails		5.8	
Regional Land Trails		1.9	
Water Trails		0	
Total		7.7	

Regional hiking trail within South Coventry Township includes the Horse-Shoe Trail.

Spring City Borough		525 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	0	0%
County	Fee	0	0%
Municipality	Fee	26	5%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	0	0%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	31	6%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	0	0%
Total		57	11%

Lands Protected Since 2012		0	
Trails		GIS Miles	
Local Land Trails		0.9	
Regional Land Trails		1.5	
Water Trails		0.7	
Total		3.1	
Total		7.0	

Regional hiking and water trails within Spring City Borough include the Schuylkill River Trail and the Schuylkill River Water Trail.

Upper Uwchlan Township		7,629 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	1,414	19%
County	Fee	35	< 1%
Municipality	Fee	325	4%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	431	6%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	132	2%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	0	0%
Total		2,337	31%
Lands Protected Since 2012		143	
Trails		GIS Miles	
Local Land Trails		27.2	
Regional Land Trails		0	
Water Trails		0	
Total		27.2	

Wallace Township		7,637 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	290	4%
County	Fee	387	5%
Municipality	Fee	287	4%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	182	2%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	382	5%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	4	< 1%
Total		1,532	21%
Lands Protected Since 2012		8	
Trails		GIS Miles	
Local Land Trails		21.5	
Regional Land Trails		0	
Water Trails		0	
Total		21.5	

Warwick Township		12,146 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	341	3%
State	Fee	2,853	23%
County	Fee	467	4%
Municipality	Fee	276	2%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	729	6%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	1,663	14%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	524	4%
Total		6,853	56%
Lands Protected Since 2012		204	
Trails		GIS Miles	
Local Land Trails		17.3	
Regional Land Trails		8.4	
Water Trails		0	
Total		25.7	

Regional hiking trail within Warwick Township includes the Horse-Shoe Trail.

West Brandywine Township		8,479 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	29	< 1%
County	Fee	140	2%
Municipality	Fee	209	2%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	92	1%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	404	5%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	68	1%
Total		942	11%
Lands Protected Since 2012		74	
Trails		GIS Miles	
Local Land Trails		7.2	
Regional Land Trails		0	
Water Trails		0	
Total		7.2	

West Caln Township		14,241 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	0	0%
County	Fee	1,168	8%
Municipality	Fee	299	2%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	381	3%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	120	1%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	322	2%
Total		2,290	16%
Lands Protected Since 2012		3	

Trails	GIS Miles
Local Land Trails	13.5
Regional Land Trails	0
Water Trails	0
Total	13.5

West Nantmeal Township		8,569 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	117	1%
County	Fee	207	2%
Municipality	Fee	27	< 1%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	2	< 1%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	82	1%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	2,239	26%
Total		2,674	31%
Lands Protected Since 2012		145	
Trails		GIS Miles	
Local Land Trails		0.6	
Regional Land Trails		0	
Water Trails		0	
Total		0.6	

West Sadsbury Township		6,714 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	0	0%
County	Fee	0	0%
Municipality	Fee	139	2%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	0	0%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	0	0%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	1,274	19%
Total		1,413	21%
Lands Protected Since 2012		20	

Trails	GIS Miles
Local Land Trails	0
Regional Land Trails	0
Water Trails	0
Total	0

West Vincent Township		11,190 GIS Acres	
Public Landowner	Type	GIS Acres	% of Municipality
Federal	Fee	0	0%
State	Fee	0	0%
County	Fee	49	< 1%
Municipality	Fee	329	3%
Non-Public Landowner			
NGO/Non-Profit Organization	Fee	338	3%
Private Landowner	Conservation Easement	797	7%
Private Farm Owner	Agricultural Easement	489	4%
Total		2,002	18%
Lands Protected Since 2012		26	
Trails		GIS Miles	
Local Land Trails		2.0	
Regional Land Trails		4.9	
Water Trails		0	
Total		6.9	

Regional hiking trail within West Vincent Township includes the Horse-Shoe Trail.