

# TOUR STOP 4

## FORMER PA RAILROAD BRIDGE IN AUBURN

This former Pennsylvania Railroad bridge crosses the Schuylkill River and was used to compete with the Reading Railroad for Schuylkill County's anthracite coal. Schuylkill River Greenways is transforming the existing structures to extend the Schuylkill River Trail, crossing the existing girder plate bridge and continuing partway through the second structure, the truss bridge.



This project will allow for the current trail you are on to connect with the existing Schuylkill River Trail at the Auburn Trailhead. The completed section will be a ¾-mile multi-modal trail wide enough for both cyclists and walkers to use together. The trail will eliminate the last remaining gap in the borough as well as create a 9.5-mile segment of the trail that will connect Berks and Schuylkill Counties .

## LOVE THE TRAIL? HELP US BUILD MORE!

Become a member!

Your membership donation supports the Schuylkill River Trail and the many other projects and programs that benefit the entire Schuylkill River region. Joining is easy, visit our website at [schuylkillriver.org/donate](http://schuylkillriver.org/donate)



## THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING

We hope you enjoy your ride!  
Visit our website  
and follow us online.

[www.schuylkillriver.org](http://www.schuylkillriver.org)

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Take a 12-mile heritage tour on the Schuylkill River Trail. Start from the Kernsville Trailhead (25 Kernsville Dam Road, Hamburg), then head west on the trail toward Auburn. Explore 4 tour stops along the way, then turn around at the Auburn Bridge where the trail ends. For the full virtual experience with videos, visit [schuylkillriver.org/rhodoride](http://schuylkillriver.org/rhodoride)

# TOUR STOP 1

## APPALACHIAN TRAIL & PORT CLINTON HISTORY

### The Appalachian Trail

- is lovingly referred to as the AT
- spans from Maine to Georgia
- is about 2,200 miles in length
- is currently the longest hiking-only trail in the world
- sees more than 2 million hikers a year



The AT intersects with the Schuylkill River Trail in Port Clinton, a town of 300. Port Clinton is located in the gap where the Schuylkill River cuts through the Appalachian Mountains. Port Clinton was a transportation hub throughout the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. The Schuylkill River, Schuylkill Navigation system, Pennsylvania Railroad, and the Reading Railroad all intersected in Port Clinton, making it one of the most important points of commerce for decades

The Appalachian Trail continues down the side of the mountain, through Port Clinton and under Route 61 before climbing back onto the mountain ridge.

# TOUR STOP 2

## RHODODENDRON FLOWERS

The word "rhododendron" comes from two Ancient Greek words—"rhodon", meaning rose, and "dendron", which means tree. Despite their name, most rhododendrons grow as shrubs, which are evergreen or deciduous. Evergreen types usually have large, paddle-shaped leaves. Deciduous plants often have small, elliptical leaves.



*Pink Rhododendron bush in bloom*



*Mountain Laurel, the PA State flower, bush in bloom*

***Rhododendron and Mountain laurel (Kalmia latifolia) are both members of the heath family (Ericaceae.)***

There are more than 1000 species of rhododendron that are native to Europe, Asia, North America and Australia.

In Southeastern PA, rhododendrons bloom in May and June, with their blooms lasting approximately 3 weeks.

At this location on the Schuylkill River Trail, rhododendrons thrive due to the rocky soil providing the perfect amount of water drainage and acidic-leaning pH. The dappled sunlight they receive through the tree canopy is their preferred amount of sunlight.

# TOUR STOP 3

## GEOLOGIC UNCONFORMITY

Outcrops of bedrock are the individual pages which geologists must read in order to understand the story of Earth's history. You see before you an Angular Unconformity where two rock formations of different ages and different types are positioned at different orientations from one-another along what is at this location a steeply tilted surface.



The older sedimentary rocks to the left were tilted, then eroded down to a horizontal surface. Subsequently the sedimentary rocks to the right were deposited upon the older ones.

Finally the pair of them were tilted together into their present orientation during the mountain building event which produced the Appalachian's ridges and valleys.