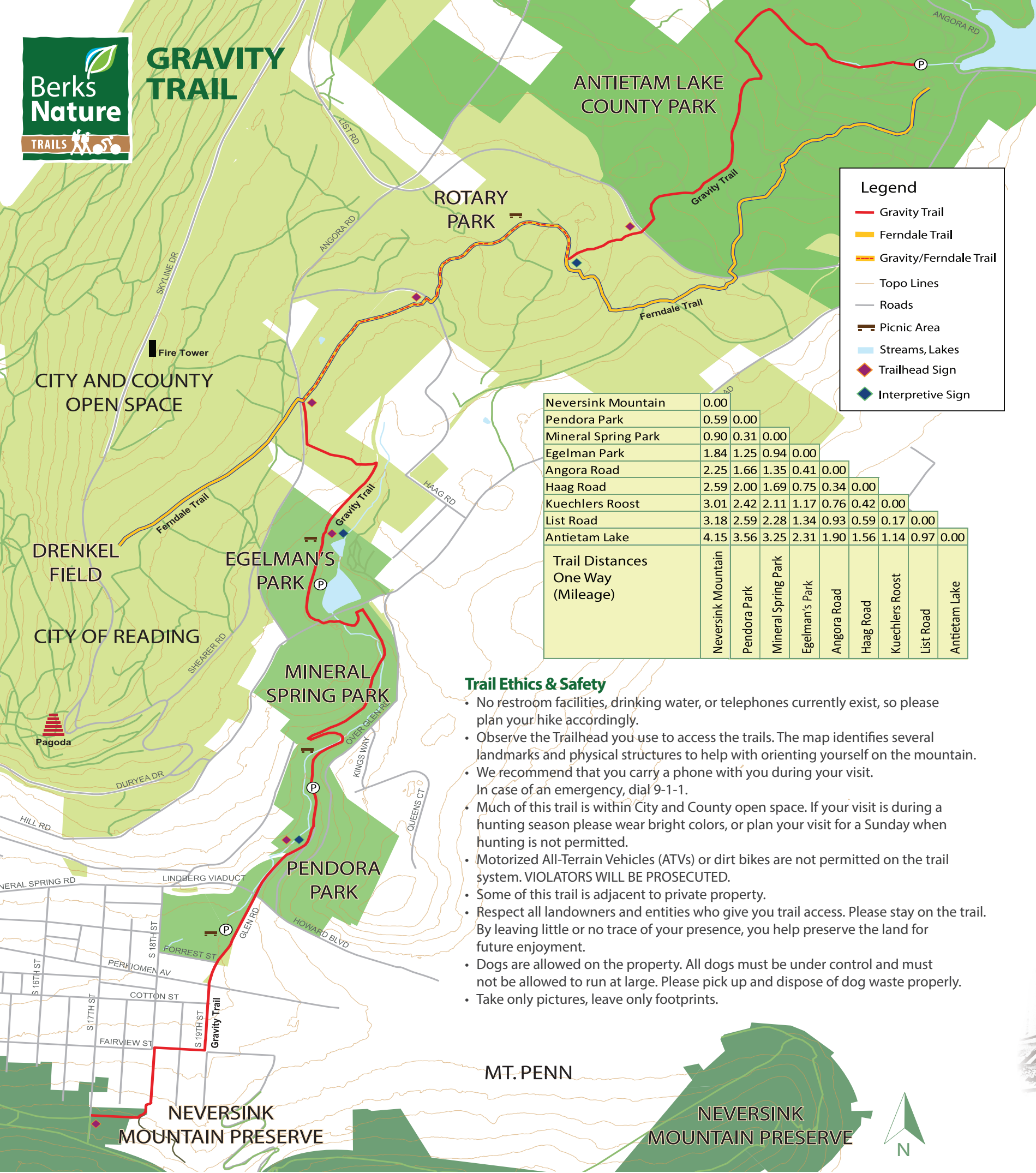




GRAVITY TRAIL



Legend

- Gravity Trail
- Ferndale Trail
- Gravity/Ferndale Trail
- Topo Lines
- Roads
- Picnic Area
- Streams, Lakes
- Trailhead Sign
- Interpretive Sign

Neversink Mountain	0.00												
Pendora Park	0.59	0.00											
Mineral Spring Park	0.90	0.31	0.00										
Egelman Park	1.84	1.25	0.94	0.00									
Angora Road	2.25	1.66	1.35	0.41	0.00								
Haag Road	2.59	2.00	1.69	0.75	0.34	0.00							
Kuechlers Roost	3.01	2.42	2.11	1.17	0.76	0.42	0.00						
List Road	3.18	2.59	2.28	1.34	0.93	0.59	0.17	0.00					
Antietam Lake	4.15	3.56	3.25	2.31	1.90	1.56	1.14	0.97	0.00				
Trail Distances													
One Way (Mileage)	Neversink Mountain	Pendora Park	Mineral Spring Park	Egelman's Park	Angora Road	Haag Road	Kuechlers Roost	List Road	Antietam Lake				

Trail Ethics & Safety

- No restroom facilities, drinking water, or telephones currently exist, so please plan your hike accordingly.
- Observe the Trailhead you use to access the trails. The map identifies several landmarks and physical structures to help with orienting yourself on the mountain.
- We recommend that you carry a phone with you during your visit. In case of an emergency, dial 9-1-1.
- Much of this trail is within City and County open space. If your visit is during a hunting season please wear bright colors, or plan your visit for a Sunday when hunting is not permitted.
- Motorized All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) or dirt bikes are not permitted on the trail system. VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED.
- Some of this trail is adjacent to private property.
- Respect all landowners and entities who give you trail access. Please stay on the trail. By leaving little or no trace of your presence, you help preserve the land for future enjoyment.
- Dogs are allowed on the property. All dogs must be under control and must not be allowed to run at large. Please pick up and dispose of dog waste properly.
- Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

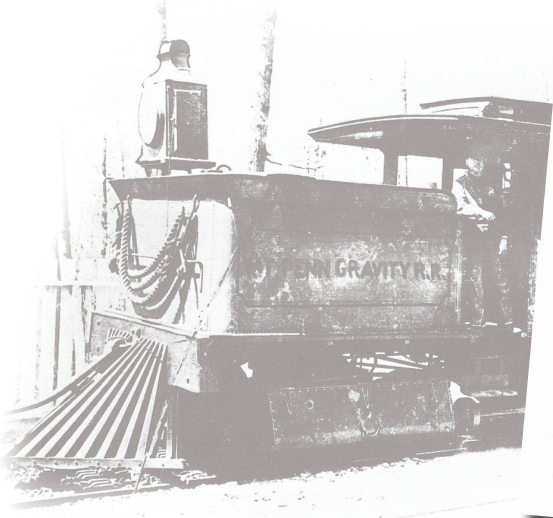
History of the Gravity Railroad

In 1889, the Mount Penn Gravity Railroad was built to provide scenic transportation on the mountainside to vacationers and local visitors on the 7½ mile long railway for a 20 cent ticket.



The Gravity Railroad provided the excitement of a mountain ascent through the glen overlooking Mineral Spring Park, through Egelman's Park, across Skyline Drive to the "summit" at the top of the mountain. The attraction at the summit was a stone dance pavilion known as the Tower Hotel. From the summit, a descent by gravity traveled 5 miles - over light grades, through groves, vineyards and mountain farms back to the station in Mineral Spring Park. For 33 years, the Gravity Railroad ran at regular ½ hour intervals throughout the summer.

With the introduction of the automobile and the Prohibition Era, there was a decline of the local resorts and railroad. The devastating fire of the Tower Hotel on the evening of April 26, 1923, brought an end to the Gravity Railroad. Shortly thereafter, the railroad tracks were torn up and sold for scrap.



Much of this trail system follows the old rail line and the Gravity Trail ultimately connects Antietam Lake to the Neversink Mountain Preserve and includes several city owned parks. Portions of the graded rail beds are still evident in certain areas along the trail.



Along the Gravity

The Gravity Railroad had many prominent sites along the route - summer resorts, picnic grounds and groves - to the summit's "lofty Stone Tower" on the mountain top, with views of the distant Blue Mountains. You could see 30 miles in all directions. Some of the stops included: Mineral Spring Hotel, Lauterbach Springs, the Summit Hotel, The Tower, Kuechler's Roost, and several winehouses and vineyards.

A RIDE UP THE GLEN BY STEAM. A MOUNTAIN RIDE BY GRAVITY.
Mt. Penn Gravity Railroad of Reading, Pa.
A MOST ATTRACTIVE SUMMER EXCURSION. 1200 FEET ABOVE THE SEA.

HEIGHT AT TOWER—1140 feet above the sea. 945 above the Schuylkill River. 880 above Fifth and Penn streets. 810 above head of Penn Street. 320 above Neversink Mountain at Highland House. 250 above Neversink Mountain at Lookout. 130 above the White Spot. Height of Tower, 50 feet.

MAP
 Showing location of the Mount Penn Gravity Railroad in Reading, Pa.

Station in Mineral Springs Park, within easy access by street cars from all parts of the city and railroad stations above the sea—the Black Spot. A lofty solid Stone Tower on the mountain top, from which appears a magnificent view of the city of Reading, the broad and fertile Schuylkill and Lebanon Valleys, the distant ranges and peaks of the Blue Mountains, to the horizon—30 miles in every direction. Large pavilions for shelter and rest and a well-conducted restaurant. From the summit a rapid flight BY GRAVITY, 5 miles, over a road of light grades, through groves, vineyards, and mountain farms to the starting-point. Along the road, attractive summer resorts and picnic grounds. Accommodation for excursions of any size. For further information and rates, apply to

C. M. DECHANT, Supt., Reading, Pa.