

Northern Central Rail (NCR) Rail Trail - Bike

Y 0996

Baltimore County, Maryland

25k, 27k and 25k Bike Event

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YRE Description

The Northern Central Railroad (NCR) Trail, officially known as the [Torrey C. Brown Trail](#), covers nearly 20 miles in Maryland, stretching from Ashland Road in Hunt Valley to the Mason-Dixon Line. The trail is generally 10 feet wide with a stone dust surface; it features clear and accurate mile markers along the whole length. The most popular activities on the trail are hiking, running, bicycle riding and horseback riding. The trail also provides access for fishing and tubing along the Gunpowder River.

The NCR continues another 20 miles into Pennsylvania as the [York County Heritage Trail](#), ending in the city of York, PA. This section is also an American Volkssport Association (AVA) Year-Round Event (YRE) and is sanctioned by the York White Rose Wanderers. The surface changes somewhat in Pennsylvania. The rails are still in place and the trail occasionally crosses from one side of the tracks to the other. The trail in PA features a cool tunnel and historic Hanover Junction.

Shade is generally abundant. Carrying water is recommended. The trail is on natural surfaces. Rated 1B.

AVA Special Programs

Rails – to – Trails

Par For The Course

Registering for the walk

When you register for the walk event you can download the PDF file with walk information. The PDF includes directions to the walk start and walk instructions. The fee for the download is \$2. You will be credited for this fee if you complete the walk event and pay the participant fee within 60 days.

After you have completed the walk event

Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration after doing the event. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant's Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including the date the event was walked or biked, the distance walked or biked, and the selection of applicable special programs that person is participating in. Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user's Event Bank when they submit the event completion info as a paying for credit participant. Note however that the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF expires in 60 days.

Driving Directions to trail start points

As noted above, the NCR Trail is popular among many types of users for various activities. Because of its popularity, parking lots often fill quickly, especially on weekends and holidays.

Per the ncrtrails.com web site, here are the major parking lots along the Maryland portion of trail, although there are many more small lots (including the [Ashland Rd](#) lot at Mile 0.0). GPS Coordinates are provided for use with vehicle navigation systems. The three suggested start points are shown in bold type below:

- **Mile 0.5 Paper Mill/Ashland** (GPS 39.50182, -76.63366): Take York Road (Route 45) to Cockeysville (Exit 18 off I-83). Turn right (east) on Ashland Road. Bear left onto Paper Mill Road. Go less than ½ mile, crossing the trail to the parking lot on the left. There are no spot-a-pots at this location, but a half mile north, just beyond mile marker 1, there are a couple.
- **Mile 2.0 Phoenix**: Take York Road north of Shawan Road in Hunt Valley (Exit 20 off I-83). Turn right (east) on Phoenix Road. Travel 1.7 miles and look for the parking lot.
- **Mile 3.8 Sparks**: Take York Road north of Shawan Road to Sparks (Exit 20 off I-83). Turn right (east) on Sparks Road. Go less than 1 mile to parking lot. This location features the Sparks Bank Nature Center, a water fountain, and a spot-a-pot.
- **Mile 7.2 Monkton** (GPS 39.57936, -76.61538): Take I-83 to Exit 27, go toward Hereford (east) 0.4 miles on MD-137/Mt Carmel Rd. Turn right on York Road then immediately turn left (east) on Monkton Road. Follow for 3 miles, and look for the parking lot and park office on the left. This location features restrooms, water, telephones and picnic tables. The parking lot at this location is small, but there's plenty of space along the shoulder of Monkton Rd.
- **Mile 10.8 White Hall**: Take I-83 to Exit 27, go toward Hereford (east) 0.4 miles on MD-137/Mt Carmel Rd. Turn left on York Road and go 2.4 miles north. Turn right (east) on Weisburg Road for 1.4 miles. Turn right, staying on Weisburg Road for another 0.4 miles. The parking lot is on the right at Weisburg and White Hall Roads. Spot-a-pot.
- **Mile 12.9 Parkton** (GPS 39.64097, -76.65935): Take York Road to Parkton (Exit 31 off I-83). Turn left (west) onto Frederick Road, and park at 18858 Frederick Road.
- **Mile 15.5 Bentley Springs** (GPS 39.67493, -76.67062): Take York Road north of Parkton (Exit 33 off I-83). Turn left (northwest) onto Kaufman Road. Follow Kaufman Road for less than 1 mile, and turn left (west) onto Bentley Road and proceed to parking lot. Spot-a-pot.
- **Mile 18.6 Freeland** (GPS 39.70580, -76.68299): Take York Road north almost to the Pennsylvania line (Exit 36 off I-83). Then turn left (west) onto Freeland Road. Follow for 2 miles to parking lot. Water and restroom facilities.

**Baltimore Walking Club (BWC) Northern Central Rail (NCR) Trail Bike
(YRE 0996)
25K/27K/25K Trails Rated 1B**

This bike event has been divided into three segments: Option 1 (Ashland) (25K), Option 2 (Monkton) (27K), and Option 3 (Freeland) (25K). You can choose to bike any of the segments, or all 3. Restrooms along the trail are limited.

Rules of the Trail: Walkers and bicyclists yield to horses. Bicyclists yield to horses and walkers.

Directions for the Option 1/Ashland 25K bike event: At the end of the ramp from the parking lot, **TURN LEFT** (South) and bike 0.5 miles to the Ashland parking area at the beginning of the rail trail. Turn around and ride north, passing the start/finish point, and bike on to the Monkton Train Station. Turn around at the station, and return to the start/finish point.

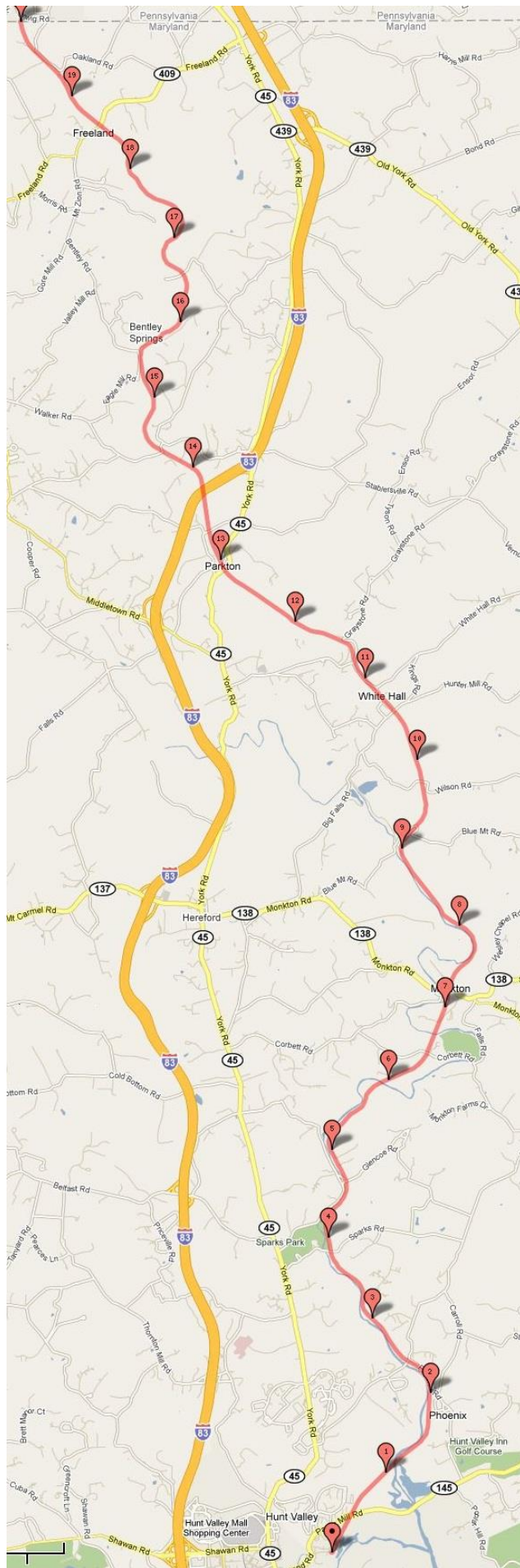
Directions for the Option 2/Monkton 27K bike event: From the rail station, **TURN LEFT** (north) on the trail. Pass mile marker 15 and continue to Bentley Springs. Turn around and return to the start/finish point.

Directions for the Option 3/Freeland 25K bike event: From the parking lot, **TURN RIGHT** (south) and ride past mile marker 13 to a waterfall on the right. Turn around and bike north past the start point. Cross the Pennsylvania border and continue to New Freedom. Turn around at the rail station (restrooms available) and return to the start/finish point.

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These walk directions and map may only be used in
conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association
athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

In case of Emergency, dial 911.

Event Assistance, call Jim at 443 504 5552.



Internet Resources

State of Maryland: <https://maryland.gov>

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/central/tcb.aspx>

York White Rose Wanderers:

<https://sites.google.com/site/yorkwhiterosewanderers/home>

Baltimore Walking Club: <https://www.baltimorewalkingclub.com>