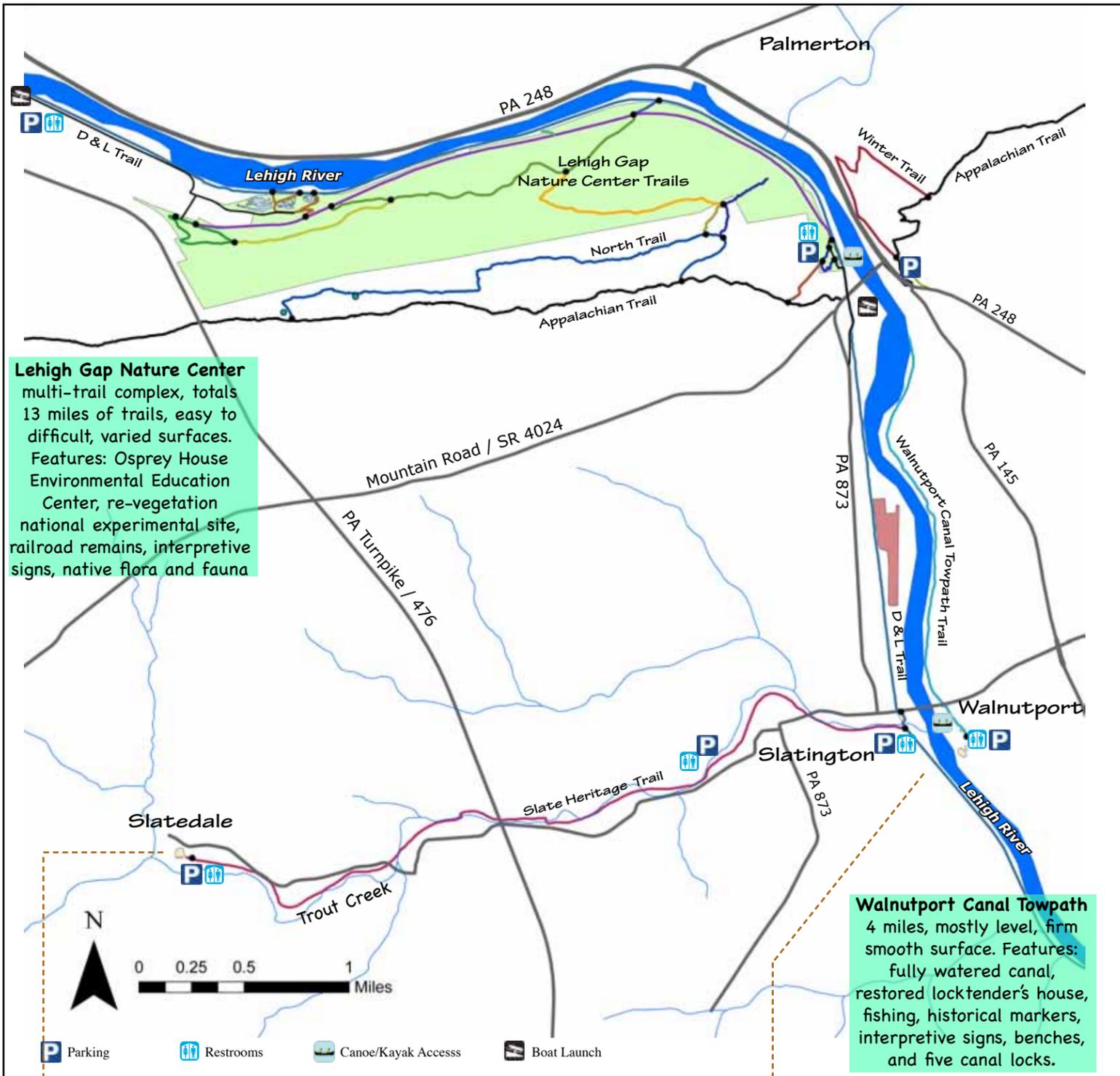
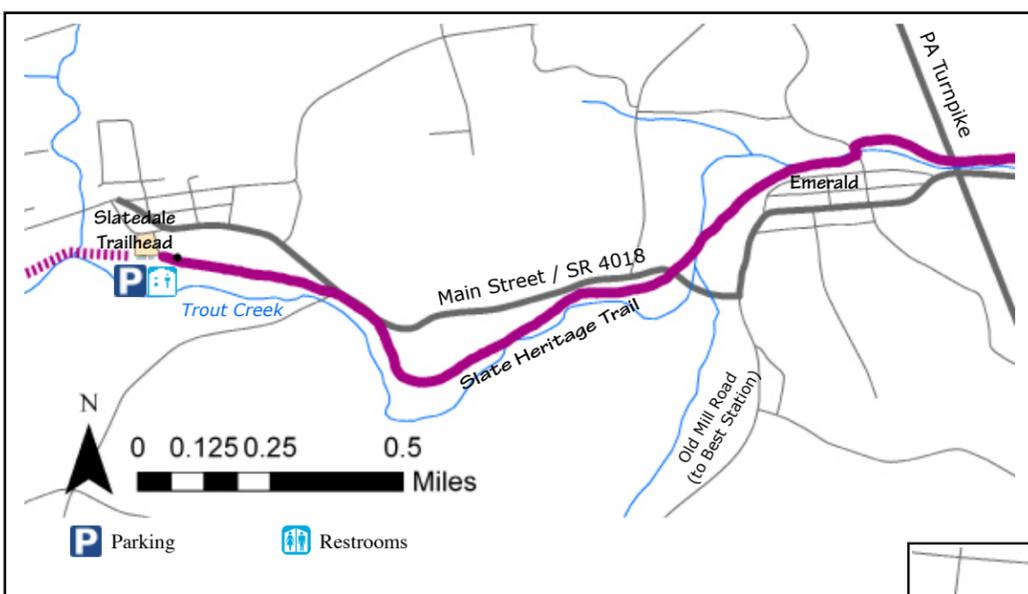


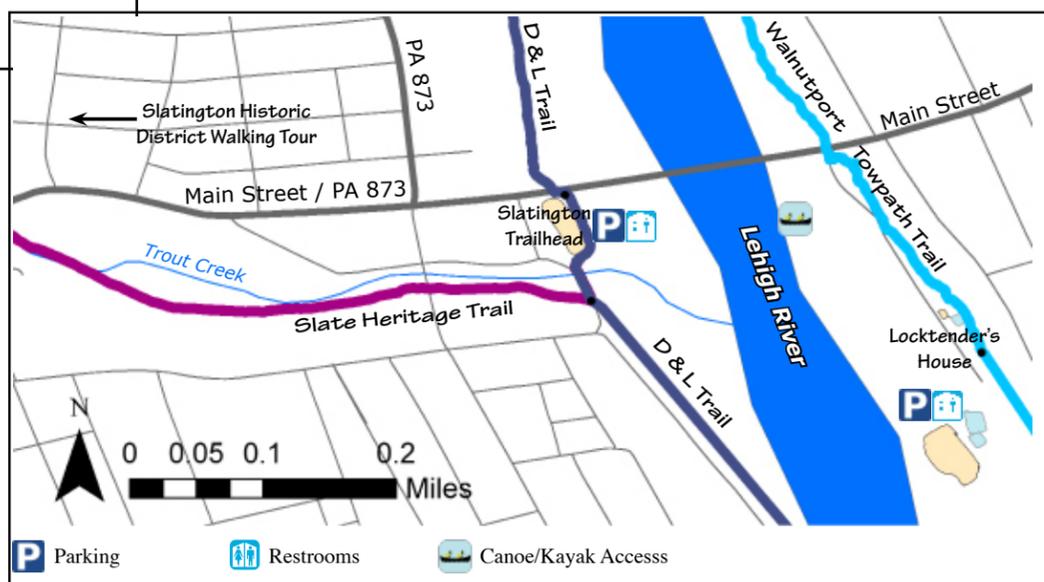
NORTHERN LEHIGH TRAIL SYSTEM MAP



SLATEDALE TRAIL SYSTEM



SLATINGTON-WALNUTPORT TRAIL SYSTEM



German log cabin in Slatedale

EXPLORE THE NATURE AND HISTORY OF NORTHERN LEHIGH TOWNS

WALNUTPORT

Walnutport, named for the many Walnut trees which grew in the area, was incorporated as a borough in 1909. It is typical of the many canal towns that flourished as a result of being situated along the Lehigh Canal. During the years that the Canal was in operation, Walnutport served as a boat repair center and was a stopping place for boat crews.

Today the restored canal area serves as a recreational area where residents and visitors can hike, bike, picnic, enjoy nature and cross country ski on the four mile towpath trail or fish and boat in the waters. The restored Locketter's House provides a glimpse into life during the Canal Era.

Stroll the picturesque streets to view well maintained Victorian style homes, an active community playground, a Veterans Memorial Park, several historic stone structures, and neighborhood stores. A shopping center, numerous restaurants and professional offices are located along the Route 145 corridor.



The Walnutport Canal Association has restored a canal lock and a locktender's house in the Borough. This is also the trailhead for the Walnutport Canal Towpath Trail

SLATINGTON

Nicholas Kern founded Slatington in the late 1730's when he secured a land warrant to farm along the western side of the Lehigh River. A small-scale agricultural plantation developed along Trout Creek and included a sawmill, gristmill, log homes and a tavern.



The Fireman's Statue, donated in the early 1900s, is in honor of all volunteer services and a landmark in Slatington.

Industrial development spurred on by the discovery of slate rapidly changed the area. The advent of railroads and the opening of the Lehigh Valley Railroad depot in 1866 allowed for the rapid expansion of the slate industry. Slatington's swift growth led to its incorporation as a borough in 1864.

The slate industry was crucial in developing the particular character of Slatington. The area became the leading producer of school slates for the country, and was known as the "Blackboard Capital of America."

A walk through Slatington and along Trout Creek provides a glimpse into Slatington's storied history. Simple homes located next to extravagant Victorians demonstrate how quickly the slate industry swept through the area and transformed agricultural Kernsport into industrial and prosperous Slatington.

SLATEDALE

Slatedale was originally called LaBarsville after the principal landowners George and Nelson LaBar. The LaBar's opened and operated the area's first slate quarry in 1848. A few years later, Francis Shenton, a partner in the Locke Slate Company purchased the interest of the LaBar's and changed the name of the village to Slatedale.

A branch line of the Lehigh Valley Railroad (LVRR) opened in 1870. This line ran along Trout Creek between Slatington and Slatedale, and allowed many slate quarries ready access to ship their products. Much of the land surrounding the village was used largely by the slate industry, with the remaining acreage devoted to agriculture and farms.



The Graver House, a Victorian style home in Slatedale.

Slatedale was blessed with an abundance of hard slate, the type preferred for roofing slates. The Crescent Slate Company was known for the manufacture of the Federal Government roofing slate. The slate roof on Independence Hall and other government buildings comes from Slatedale.

The steady decline of the slate industry has left only one slate company in operation today. Penn Big Bed Slate Company continues to supply slate products throughout the country. The company carries on the proud tradition of past quarrymen.

ABOUT THE NORTHERN LEHIGH TRAILS

The Northern Lehigh area is the hub of eight multi-use trails offering walking, hiking, bicycling ,x-c skiing, skating, river and creek access, and connections to the national trail network. Centered on the historic towns of Slatington, Walnutport, Slatedale, Emerald, and the nationally recognized Lehigh Gap Nature Center, these trails offer extensive variety in terrain, scenery, and opportunities to observe nature's wonders. Historically important areas, such as the path of the men who traced the Walking Purchase and the Lehigh Canal at Walnutport, provide a tie to the past in this key area for industrial development in centuries gone by. See the site of the mill where Benjamin Franklin purchased lumber for the construction of forts along the Blue Mountain. Learn the role of the canals and railroads which powered the industrial revolution, visit the "blackboard capital of the world" and see the Victorian mansions built by wealthy quarry owners.

Today's trails provide challenge for experienced enthusiasts, or easy-going scenic strolls or bike rides for the person with the urge to get outdoors and enjoy the beauty of this geographically diverse area. Parking with trail, river and creek access points dot the area, providing convenience and ease of use. The Walnutport Canal Towpath, the Slate Heritage Trail, and the D&L National Heritage Corridor Trail have firm surfaces and only minor elevation changes. A visit to the Northern Lehigh Trails will reward you with a variety of opportunities to enjoy the natural beauty of the area and an educational peek into a key piece of our nation's development.

NORTHERN LEHIGH TRAIL SYSTEM



View from the Appalachian Trail on Blue Mountain



Hikers on the scenic Charcoal Trail at Lehigh Gap

The Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC) is a new outdoor natural resource in the Northern Lehigh Area. Founded in 2003, the Center was created from a barren moonscape of land denuded by air pollution. LGNC, headquartered at the Osprey House, has successfully revegetated about 400 acres with native

LEHIGH GAP NATURE CENTER

prairie grasses, creating a unique grassland ecosystem on its refuge. LGNC has built a network of trails on the Kittatinny Ridge (Blue Mountain) and is open to the public free of charge. The Nature Center's network of about 13 miles of trails connects two national trails, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) and Delaware & Lehigh Heritage Corridor Trail (D&L Trail) to create hiking loops of anywhere from two to more than 13 miles in length. Access to LGNC is along Paint Mill Road which turns off PA 873 two miles north of Main Street in Slatington. Park at the new and expanded, nationally-recognized Osprey House Visitor and Education Center to walk, hike, bike on the rail trails, paddle or fish in the Lehigh River, watch birds, or photograph nature. For more information see

<http://lgnc.org> or contact the Center at 610-760-8889 or lgnc@ptd.net.