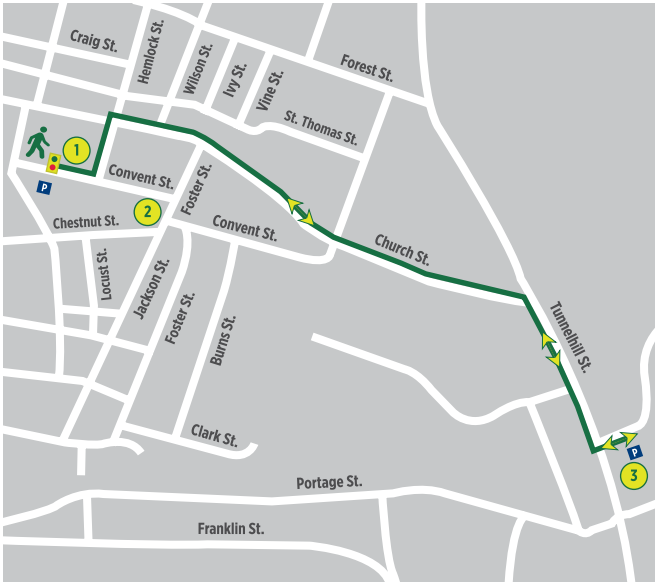
Allegheny Mountain Magic Walk Route



WalkWorks

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

1. Gallitzin Tunnels Park & Museum
2. Gallitzin Tunnels
3. The Former Railroad Town of Bennington Overlook

P Parking

Start/Stop

. . . . . Distance 1.4 Miles

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1 **Gallitzin Tunnels Park & Museum**

The Gallitzin Tunnels Park & Museum features a souvenir shop, historical artifacts, and a display of photographs depicting the community's industrial, social, and religious heritage as well as a restored 1942 Pennsylvania caboose whose interior is visible to visitors. Immediately adjacent to the museum is a 24 seat theater offering scheduled videos and programs dealing with railroad heritage and other current topics. The Museum also houses the borough office, a police station, a library and an archival room.

2 **Gallitzin Tunnels**

The Gallitzin Tunnels formed the Pennsylvania Railroad's passage through the Allegheny Mountains in western Pennsylvania. Ownership has since passed from the Pennsylvania Railroad to the Norfolk Southern Railway with the tunnels currently being used by Norfolk Southern freight trains and Amtrak passenger trains. The first of three tunnels, the "Allegheny Tunnel," originally named "Summit Tunnel," was built between 1851 and 1854. The Allegheny Tunnel is 3,612 feet long and is located at an elevation of 2,167 feet above mean sea level. The second tunnel, the southernmost of the bores, was constructed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 1852 to 1855 as part of the New Portage Railroad. Construction on the third tunnel, the "Gallitzin Tunnel," located immediately to the north of the Allegheny Tunnel, began in 1902 and was completed in 1904.

3 **The Former Railroad Town of Bennington Overlook**

Beginning as a Pennsylvania Railroad company town, Bennington was a railroad town during the mid1800's until the early 1900's when it was abandoned. Bennington was a coal mining and railroad village located one half mile east of the Gallitzin Tunnels along the Pennsylvania Railroads mainline. The only remains of the town of Bennington are the cemetery and a few old Coke furnaces. Irish and other immigrant laborers started the town by building shelters, during the construction of the Gallitzin Tunnels, in order to have a place to live as they worked to hand dig 3,650 feet length of the tunnel through the Allegheny Mountains.