**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 mountaintop 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.

**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.