

Story Map Captions
Updated: 4.15.19

1. Reading Pagoda

Commissioned in 1906 by William A. Witman Sr., the Reading Pagoda was officially completed in 1908. It sits 866 feet above sea level, is seven stories high, and has a total of eighty-seven steps to the top. The fish sculptures on the roof are to protect the Pagoda from fire. Inside, a cast iron bell made in Japan in 1739 hangs from the ceiling. The Reading Pagoda is the only Pagoda in the world with a fireplace and chimney! Many events both public and private are held throughout the year. Public tours are also available.

2. William Penn Memorial Fire Tower

Built in 1939 as a fire observation tower, the William Penn Memorial Fire Tower is situated in a park-like setting on Skyline Drive, just one mile from the Reading Pagoda. The fire tower is 120 feet tall and is constructed entirely of fire proof materials. Behind the tower are hiking and biking trails that meander through other areas of the Mount Penn Preserve. The tower is opened once a month when volunteers are available.

3. Angora Fruit Farm

The Angora Fruit Farm was privately owned by Alan D. Roth, an avid nature lover and outdoorsman. In 2011, Roth passed away leaving the fruit farm to his family. Granting the wishes of Mr. Roth by keeping his beloved farm preserved for future nature lovers to enjoy; his family sold the fruit farm to the County of Berks where it became a part of Antietam Lake Park. Today the farm is open to the public and provides numerous educational programs and outdoor classroom activities for all age groups.

4. Antietam Lake Park

Antietam Lake Park is a county-owned park comprised of approximately 663 acres and includes a lake, woodlands, wetlands, and many historic structures including the recently restored Valve House. In 2010, Berks County completed the Antietam Lake Park Master Plan to provide a framework for the long-term conservation of the site while exploring ways to enhance recreation opportunities for park visitors. The park allows for multiple activities such as fishing, biking, hiking, and educational programs.

5. Mountain Springs Captain's Cove

This establishment offers an outdoor seating area with a full bar (Captain's Cove) for warmer days and a finer cuisine inside year-round (Mountain Springs). The American-style dining includes burgers, seafood, sandwiches, salads, and pizzas. Vegetarian and gluten free options are available.

6. Reading Liederkrantz

Nestled on 10.2 acres, the Reading Liederkrantz was founded by eight German men who were originally a singing group of Brown's Hall on North 10th Street Reading, Pennsylvania. The Reading Liederkrantz hosts a variety of events including Karneval (Mardi Gras), Christkindlmarkt, and the oldest authentic Oktoberfest in Pennsylvania- one of the largest on the east coast of the United States and recently ranked the 4th BEST in the WORLD behind Munich Germany.

7. Stokesay Castle

Originally a vacation home inspired by a 13th century English castle with the same name, Stokesay Castle turned from a luxurious vacation home in 1931 into a restaurant in the 1970's. New ownership in 2009 sparked millions of dollars in restorations. The Lord's Dining Room hosts many fine dining options while the Knight's Pub offers a variety of drinks, cocktails and pub fare. The banquet hall hosts large parties and weddings throughout the year.

8. Esposito's Restaurant and Pizza

Esposito's offers indoor dining and nightly events in the Old School House Bar. Their menu offers sandwiches, seafood, chicken, gourmet pastas, Italian dishes, and pizza. Take out and online ordering are also available.

9. Bixler's Lodge

This establishment was originally built in the mid 1800's as a barn by the Krammer Organization. It stored a hand-pump fire truck for the neighboring factory, housed animals and was used for farming. The barn was bought by James Bixler in the 1930's and transformed into Bixler's Lodge. Bixler's offers daily AYCE specials, and serves a variety of libations and food including seafood, pastas, wings, steaks and sandwiches.

10. Klinger's on Carsonia

A family-operated casual restaurant and pub with free Wi-Fi and 15 flat panel HDTV's. Klinger's on Carsonia offers everything from comfort foods to tacos, steak fry baskets, flatbreads, wings, entrees, salads, and sandwiches. A variety of beverages including wines, cocktails and craft beers are also available.

11. Lucky House

Opening in 2011, the Lucky House serves a variety of Chinese and Japanese. They are open 7 days a week. Eat in, delivery and take out is available. A great place to get a quick bite after an enjoyable hike through the Mount Penn Preserve.

12. Jake's of Mt Penn

Jake's of Mount Penn is family operated business that has been thriving since the 1940's. This is one restaurant that takes pride in serving quality food and beverages across Mount Penn. Jake's of Mount Penn serves subs, wraps, burgers, hot dogs, and salads. The restaurant also serves breakfast.

13. Subway

The only corporate chain offered within the Mount Penn Preserve, Subway is known for the the \$4.99 foot long sub. Daily six inch combo specials are available for just six dollars. Those combos typically come with a choice of any twenty one ounce fountain drink and a choice of chips. Signature wraps are offered as well as personal pizzas. Breakfast sandwiches and breakfast wraps are served during the morning hours.

14. Suburban Tavern and Restaurant

The Suburban Tavern offers indoor and outdoor dining and a Cigar Lounge. The restaurant offers homemade soups, steak, burgers, chicken, veal and seafood. The cuisines often come with fresh bread and a crisp garden salad as side. The Tavern also offers weekly specials. The Suburban Tavern also hosts private events.

15. Abigail's Tea Room

Built in 1883, this three story Victorian Manor House is decorated to resemble a bygone era with crystal chandeliers, three fireplaces, cherry woodwork, stained glass windows, Austrian drapes, and Victorian artwork. Abigail's serves a full lunch menu and an Elegant Afternoon Tea, or a Victorian Royal High Tea, on exquisite Victorian China in many lovely floral patterns. Abigail's also offers a lovely gift shop with many tea related items, jewelry, and ladies fashion accessories.

16. Nino and Sons

Nino and Son's is an Italian Restaurant located at the base of the Mount Penn Preserve within the City of Reading. Well known for their pizza, the restaurant also serves appetizers, salads, cold subs, and seafood entrees. The restaurant is open 7 days a week.

17. City Park

City Park is the largest park owned and maintained by the City of Reading. At almost 50 acres, the park offers five large public basketball courts, three public tennis courts, and a playground. A Bandshell is also within the City Park limits and provides free entertainment to the community. The park also has several sculptures and a war memorial.

18. Hampden Park

Hampden Park is located adjacent to the Reading Senior High School grounds. The park includes open green spaces, a soccer field, tennis courts, softball field, and water pump building which includes benches for outdoor seating. Hampden Park is often used for recreational activities by the Reading Senior High School students.

19. Bed and Breakfast on the Park

Built in 1887, the Mould mansion was built for Johnathan and Julia (Bell) Mould. Mould, a broadly noteworthy figure in Reading, owned and operated a successful dry goods store called The Busy Bee on Reading's Penn Street. The Bed and Breakfast is a historic Queen Anne Victorian Mansion and offers five distinctive rooms. Accommodation includes an extended continental breakfast featuring homemade breads and pastries, cable TV, air conditioning, and off-street parking.

20. Volunteer Firemen's Memorial Bandshell

The Bandshell Concert Series originated in 1991 as a way to showcase diverse artists and genres of music from all over the world. The Berks Art Council and City of Reading hosts free community concerts each summer at the Bandshell. These shows bring thousands of music lovers to Reading's City Park in the spring, summer, and fall.

21. Anthony's Trattoria

Open 7 days a week, Anthony's Trattoria is a traditional Italian restaurant that has both indoor and outdoor seating. The true taste of Italy is largely derived from the Campania region of Italy and can be found on every other corner of the menu. A regular menu is available daily while the special menu changes several times a week.

22. Intel's Pennside Drive-In

The Pennside Drive-In has over 50 years of sandwich making experience and serves a variety of subs, burgers, dogs, and ice cream treats. Open 7 days a week, this is a great place for friends and family to enjoy a quick bite. Weekend car cruises and outdoor flea markets occur throughout the summer months.

23. Fiesta Mexicana

Opening in 2012, Fiesta Mexicana features a variety of Mexican inspired food, desserts and beverages. Open 7 days a week with indoor and outdoor seating, this restaurant is a great place to kick back and relax after a hard day fishing at Antietam Lake Park.

24. BAMBA Trail Head Parking Lot

BAMBA is a nonprofit organization and includes riders of all skill levels. The parking lot includes a bike station and kiosk with maps of the biking trails within the Mount Penn Preserve. In 2015, the Greater Reading Ride Area was evaluated by the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) as a BRONZE Level Rider Center, one of 37 Ride Centers worldwide.

25. Seidel Road Trailhead

In the 1830's, there were as many as 18 mills along Antietam Creek. One of them, Hinnershitz Mill Dam, included a grist mill and a saw mill operated by Harrison S. Hinnershitz. Today, the area features paved trails, benches and kiosks that share the history of the area.