

LEIPER SMEDLEY TRAIL

This is a quick to-the-tracks-and-back trail that offers unique historical sites. Brave the noise from the highway to overlook the Italian Water Garden ruins and read the Viaduct interpretive panel while enjoying views to the Crum Creek valley below.

Themes: Exercise, History

Amenities: Creek Views, Interpretive Panel

Surface: Paved, 0.7 miles long

Slope: Mostly Flat, Inclines, 43 ft elevation gain

Hazards: (none)

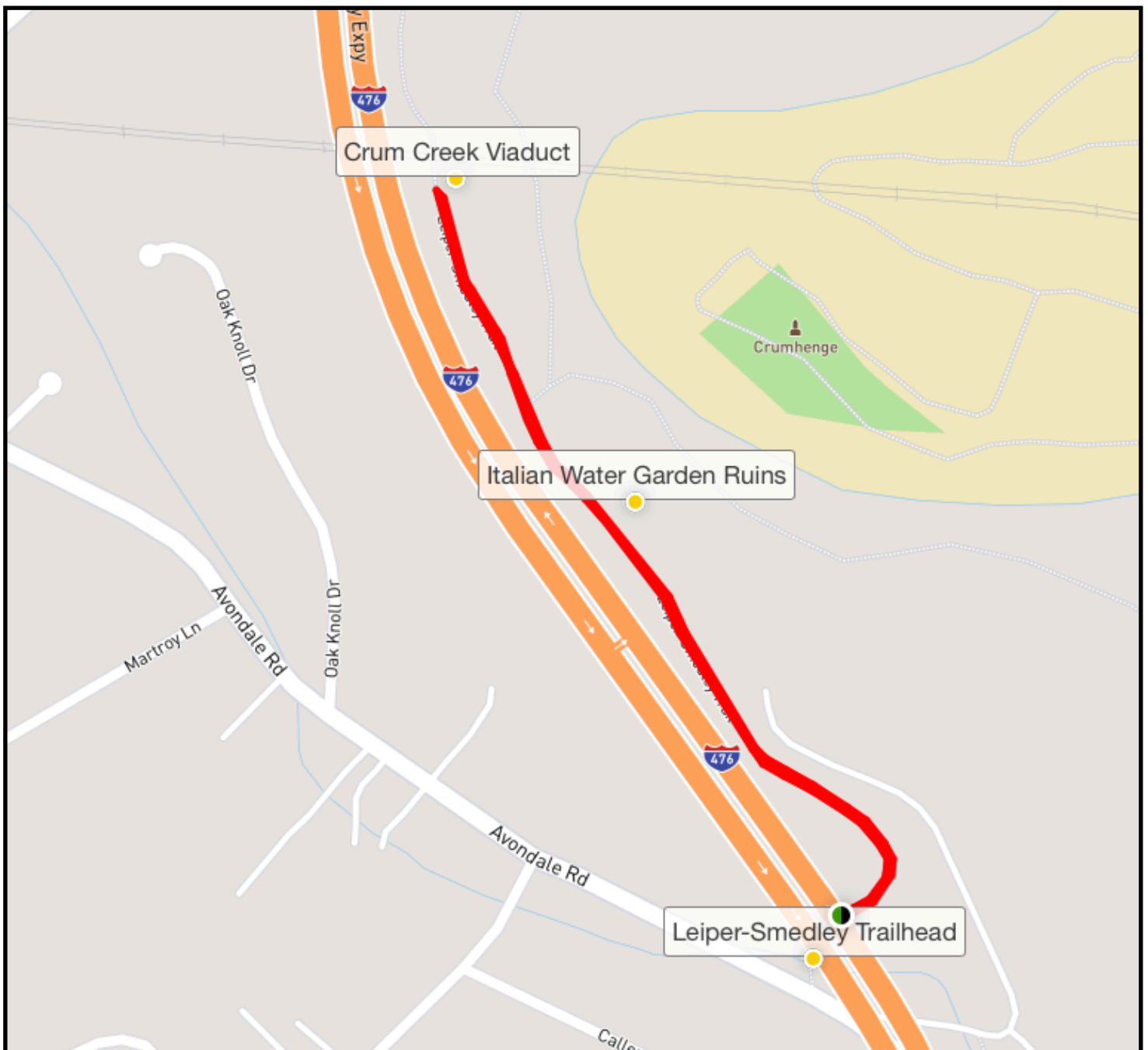
Emergencies: Call 911

Difficulty Rating: No Sweat - I exercise for fun, not to win contests. I like to explore at an easy pace, stopping to snap photos and smell the roses. Varied terrain doesn't scare me, but let's not do anything too extreme.

Swarthmore Senior Citizens Assn.

<https://swarthmoreseniors.com>

6/19/2020



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Waypoints Shown On The Map:

1. Leiper-Smedley Trailhead: Open from dawn to dusk, the trail's dirt parking lot under the Blue Route (I-476) has no benches or restrooms. Watch for bicyclists and runners using the trail.

2. Italian Water Garden Ruins: On the hillside below are remnants of a multi-level water garden with stone steps and a fountain that was left after the mansion was demolished sometime in the mid-1960s for construction of the Blue Route. Originally on land purchased from William Penn in 1681, an 1892 mansion was purchased in 1927 by Ward and Edith Hinkson. Their 32-acre estate, known as "Oak Knoll," once boasted a swimming pool, an arboretum, five greenhouses housing a vast orchid collection, as well as the Italian water garden.

Crum Creek Viaduct: The SEPTA interpretive panel tells the story of the bridge from 1850s to 2016 using historical illustrations and construction photographs. Notice Swarthmore College's 2016 restoration plantings on the hillsides near the bridge