

TRAIL PLAN

Describing the Trail Alignment and Connection Options, that have evolved through the course of this Feasibility Study can be found in the **Master Plan: Sheets 1 through 6**, included in the pockets of this report, is best accomplished by breaking the Rails-to-Trails corridor into its geographic parts, of which there are four.

1. Warwick Township: Township Campus to Cocalico Creek (Sheets 1 thru 3)

A. Nature and Type of Use

- 1) Primary use of this section of the Trail is expected to be recreational in nature.
- 2) The primary users of this section of the Trail will be the residents of nearby residential neighborhoods (both existing and future), students and classes at the John R. Bonfield Elementary School, possibly employees of nearby businesses, those who have walked or biked from other sections of the trail, and those who have driven to the Township Campus to utilize the Trail. At this time, this is the only section of the Trail that will provide formal parking facilities.
- 3) Support facilities, such as rest rooms potable water and parking already serve as "Formal" trailhead accommodations and can be found on the Municipal Campus.
- 4) Non-motorized use of the trail (except for agricultural implements and Municipal maintenance vehicles) will be enforced. Horseback riding and cross-country skiing will be permitted.

B. Proposed Trail Improvements

- 1) Compacted stone dust surface throughout with the exception of trail heads, watercourse, and roadway crossings
- 2) Trail connections (major and minor, as described hereafter)
- 3) Strategically placed benches, trash/recycling receptacles
- 4) Interpretive and regulatory signage
- 5) Landscaping (planting, fencing, etc.)
- 6) Improvements to bridge at Cocalico Creek

- 7) Revised grading at the Westerly East Newport Road approach

C. Proposed Connections

- 1) Major connections

- a) The Conestoga Trail System intersects with the proposed rail/trail corridor at Mill Creek Road.
- b) As most of the surrounding properties are active farms, no major North or South connections are proposed for this Section.

- 2) Minor connections

- a) Erb's Covered Bridge, that crosses Hammer Creek, allows a historic connection by using Picnic Woods Road.

D. Acquisition Requirements

- 1) Within Warwick Township, from the Township Campus to the Borough/Township line, the claims to ownership appear to rest between the State (Roadway R.O.W.), Township (Roadway R.O.W.), and adjacent farmers et al. It is recommended that the Township meet with the adjacent farmers/landowners, whereupon the Township would seek a 30-foot right-of-way easement (15-foot from each of the landowners on each side of the trail) for purposes of developing the Rails-Trail Park.
- 2) Due to a quitclaim deed on the R.O.W., a formal request to the applicable party (ies) should be made to prove acquisition and proof of ownership/clear title to the property. This may help to alleviate any further problems with multiple ownership issues.

Another option in dealing with the third party claimant (possessing a quit claim deed) and the various farm owners (including Hurst, Pfautz, and Zimmerman) is to have each applicable Township (or the conglomerate trail entity) represent the land/farm owners in legal action to have the third party claim revert back to the land/farm owners whereupon the Township/Trail Association would seek an easement of up to 30-feet in width (15-foot from each owner) for purposes of developing the Rails-to-Trails Park, if and when it is extended east of the Township's Campus and Park.

- 3) As a last resort, condemnation may be pursued with adjacent landowners unwilling to work with the Township.

2. **Central Section: Ephrata Township (Sheets 3 – 5)**

A. Nature and Type of Use

- 1) The portion of trail within Ephrata Township is bisected by Akron Borough. As with the rest of the trail, primary use of this section of Trail will be recreational in nature.
- 2) Users of this section of the Trail will include those who have walked or biked from other sections of the trail. It is foreseeable that users may also include residents desiring to travel to destinations using alternative means of transportation.
- 3) Non-motorized use of the trail (except for agriculture implements and municipal maintenance vehicles) will be enforced. Horseback riding and cross-country skiing will be permitted.

B. Proposed Trail Improvements

- 1) Paved trail sections (near residential areas of Akron Borough)
- 2) Pedestrian tunnel
- 3) Strategically placed seating / interpretation areas, trash / recycling receptacles
- 4) Interpretive and regulatory signage
- 5) Landscaping (planting, fencing, etc.)
- 6) Improvements to bridge at Cocalico Creek

C. Proposed Connections

- 1) Major connections
 - a) One church adjoins the trail affording an important community connection.
- 2) Minor connections
 - a) Keller's Mill Covered Bridge that crosses Hammer Creek allows a historic connection.

D. Acquisition Requirements

The same approach to acquiring the interest in the rail corridor as discussed in 1.D above would apply to this trail section as well.

3. **Central Section: Akron Borough (Sheet 4)**

A. Nature and Type of Use

- 1) The primary use of this Section of the Trail will be recreational in nature.
- 2) The great majority of the users of this section of the Trail will be those who reside in the neighboring community through which the trail runs.
- 3) Non-motorized use of the trail (except for agriculture implements and municipal maintenance vehicles) will be enforced. Cross-country skiing and horseback riding will be permitted on this Section.
- 4) On-street parking will serve as an "Informal" trailhead.

B. Proposed Trail Improvements

- 1) Paved surface throughout
- 2) Pedestrian culvert/underpass
- 3) Seating and interpretation areas
- 4) Site and regulatory signage

C. Proposed Connections

- 1) Major connections
 - a) Currently along this portion of the corridor, some adjacent residents have made their own way of connecting themselves with the potential greenway through use of structures or grading. Should the Trail be constructed, the option should be given to the adjacent landowners to remain directly connected to it.
 - b) Several high-density developments (i.e. Fulton Manor and Heritage Village) adjoin the trail.
 - c) Colonial Drive Park directly adjoins the rail corridor.

- 2) Minor connections
 - a) Westview Golf Course is located several blocks to the North of the trail.

D. Acquisition Requirements

The same approach to acquiring the interest in the rail corridor as discussed in 1.D above would apply to this trail section as well.

4. **Eastern Section: Ephrata Borough (Sheets 5 & 6)**

A. Nature and Type of Use

- 1) The primary use of this Section of the Trail will be recreational and alternate transportation. Most of the Trail within Ephrata Borough has been designed as part of a prior project and is awaiting contract award.
- 2) The great majority of the users of this section of the Trail will be those who live adjacent to or near the Trail. Due to the more populous nature of the surrounding land, more opportunities to utilize the Trail exist for an alternative means of travel.
- 3) Non-motorized use of the Trail (except for municipal maintenance vehicles) will be enforced. Cross-country skiing and horseback riding will be permitted only on portions of this Section.
- 4) Within one mile (to the Ephrata Township Building) is easy access to public off-street parking and restrooms, serving as a "formal" trailhead.
- 5) Within one mile (to downtown Ephrata) is easy access to public parking and restrooms, serving as an "informal" trailhead.

B. Proposed Trail Improvements

- 1) Strategically placed benches, trash/recycling receptacles
- 2) Paved surface throughout
- 3) Seating and interpretation areas
- 4) Informational and regulatory signage

C. Proposed Connections

1) Major connections

- a) The proposed Ephrata trail project currently awaiting bid approval and construction.

2) Minor connections

- a) Ephrata Performing Arts Center
- b) Local commercial business (i.e. Kmart, etc.)
- c) Tom Grater Community Park
- d) Ephrata Cloister

D. Acquisition Requirements

As stated previously, most of the Trail within Ephrata Borough has been obtained through negotiations with adjacent landowners. Remaining lots will most likely be obtained through the same efforts taken previously.