

Transforming the “T” word: Planning, Mapping, and Partnering for Trails



Chester County Trail Inventory

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Chester County Planning Commission

Tuesday, October 5, 2010
10:30 am – 11:45 am

Why Did We Start the Chester County Trail Inventory?

- ▶ We had many “Questions” asked about trails
 - How many miles of trails are in the County?
 - Does the County inventory trails?
 - How much money has been invested in trails?
 - Does the County have a map of trails within the County?
- ▶ Other reasons
 - Implementing Landscapes2
 - Tracking purposes
 - Multi-municipal trail planning
 - Overall interest of trails within the County

What Did We Do?

- ▶ Steps involved
 - **Define:** What is a trail?
 - Setup database with attributes
 - Create GIS shapefile of trail alignments using adopted municipal documents
 - Coordinate with municipalities, County departments, and other trail stakeholders
 - Distribute county-wide trail data for planning purposes

What is a Trail?



Attributes

- Trail name
- Location
- Status
- Surface material
(Asphalt, concrete, gravel, grass, dirt, other)
- Access (Public / private)
- Mileage
- Owner/maintainer of trail alignment
- Permissions
(Walking, biking, equestrian, pets)
- ADA
- Source of data

Trail Name Trail Name	Location County	Status Open Closed	Surface Material Asphalt Concrete Gravel Grass Dirt Other	Access Public Private	Mileage Mileage	Owner/Maintainer City County State Other	Permissions Walking Biking Equestrian Pets	ADA Yes No	Source of Data Map Other
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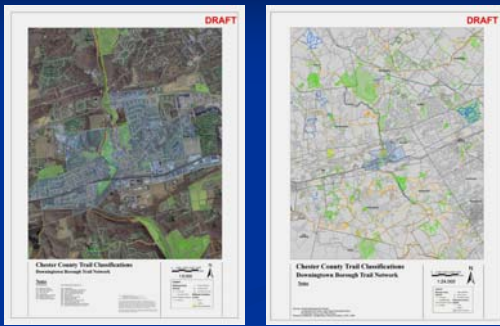
Data Collection (GIS Trail Alignments From Plans)



Stakeholder & Municipal Coordination

- ▶ Set-up one-on-one meetings to review trail alignments and attribute accuracy
 - Who was involved?
 - 73 County municipalities
 - Chester County Parks & Recreation
 - Chester County Open Space & Preservation
 - Various County conservancies & lands trusts
 - Meetings were held over nine months.
- ▶ Report and record trail alignment and attribute changes to existing inventory

Municipal Coordination (One-on-one trail meetings)



Municipal Coordination (One-on-one trail meetings)

Chester County Trail Classification Database
Development Borough Trails
Inventory Worksheet (Trail Data)

TRAIL NAME	TRAIL NUMBER	LOCATION NAME	Trail ID	Status	Surface Material	Access	Coordinates	County	Municipal	Priority	Length	Year	Priority
Cherryvale Trail	001	Cherryvale Park	001	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Cherryvale Trail	002	Cherryvale Park	002	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	003	Lee Park	003	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	004	Lee Park	004	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Trail	005	Lee Park	005	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Trail	006	Lee Park	006	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Trail	007	Lee Park	007	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	008	Lee Park	008	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	009	Lee Park	009	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	010	Lee Park	010	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	011	Lee Park	011	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	012	Lee Park	012	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	013	Lee Park	013	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	014	Lee Park	014	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	015	Lee Park	015	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	016	Lee Park	016	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	017	Lee Park	017	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	018	Lee Park	018	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	019	Lee Park	019	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							
Lee Park Connector	020	Lee Park	020	Complete	Asphalt/Concrete	Public							

Please correct any data or provide data not available

Results: How many miles of trails?

- ▶ 68 of the 73 municipalities have some type of trail alignment.
- ▶ Existing trails: 450.4 miles
 - Asphalt / sidewalk: 183 miles
 - Gravel / cinders / mulch / boardwalk: 85.2 miles
 - Grass: 70 miles
 - Dirt: 112.2 miles
- ▶ Design / construction trails: 80.1 miles
 - Asphalt / sidewalk: 49.3 miles
 - Gravel / cinders / mulch / boardwalk: 17.8 miles
 - Grass: 5.7 miles
 - Dirt: 7.3 miles
- ▶ Feasibility Study Trails: 44.9 miles
- ▶ Proposed trails: 650.1 miles
- ▶ Existing surfaced trails: 268.3 miles



Results: County-wide Trail Map



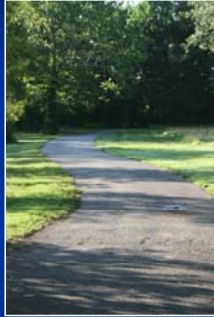
Results: Usage



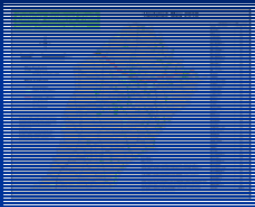
- ▶ Reporting data to municipalities and County departments
 - Provide up-to-date GIS mapping files for municipal and consultant use
 - Inventory trail alignments updated on a biannual basis
 - Assist in multi-municipal trail plans, trail planning studies, and various corridor plans

Results: Challenges

- ▶ Outdated trail data and documentation
- ▶ Trail definition varies from municipality to municipality
- ▶ Private versus public access trails
- ▶ Identification of the owner and maintainer of the trail
- ▶ Determination of the trail alignment's funding
- ▶ Concentration of trails in eastern and central portions of the County



Signs of Success



- ▶ Trail data requests (30+ requests)
- ▶ Trail mapping requests (20+ requests)
- ▶ Existing Surfaced Trails map
 - Number of downloads: 1,414 from January 2010–July 2010
- ▶ Newspaper articles
 - County commissioner quotes
- ▶ Receiving municipal updates on trail alignments
- ▶ Providing "better" County-municipal coordination

Map source:
http://www.chesco.org/webapps/planning/map_gallery_maps/p_County-wide_Trail_Map_Surfaced.pdf

Contact Information



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