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?

- Mowed grass trails
- Asphalt trails
- Dirt trails
- Boardwalk trails

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

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)
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 biennial 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

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