

Pilot Project

A sound strategy for building support and momentum for trail projects is the development of a pilot trail segment. The initial development of the Red Lion Mile preceded this study and provides a great start for the MA & PA Community Greenway. The pilot project extends the Red Lion Mile to connect the three Boroughs of Red Lion, Yoe and Dallastown and portions of York Township. The pilot trail extends 3.3 miles with two legs and will link the three primary population centers of the study area and includes several points of interest. Trailhead opportunities exist at each end of the pilot segments and physical constraints can be readily addressed.



Investment in the Boroughs



Environmental Education Opportunities



Opportunity for Historic Interpretation

Next Steps

The findings of the feasibility study present both opportunities and challenges. While the physical corridor can be readily converted to a recreation trail, the right-of-way no longer exists under a single ownership. There is support in the community for trail development and real excitement about community benefits as well as concerns regarding privacy and private property rights. These and other challenges will need to be addressed as the seven communities move forward with the next steps toward creating the MA & PA Community Greenway.

The following actions are recommended to begin the implementation of the MA & PA Community Greenway.

- Reconstitute the MA & PA Greenway Committee. Create a mission for the organization along with roles, responsibilities, and an annual work program.
- Work on the pilot project. Define a detailed action plan for implementation.
- Determine who will own, monitor, and manage the easements for the MA & PA Community Greenway.
- Work with the York County Rail Trail Authority to make the best use of the services they can provide to assist with the implementation of the trail.
- Begin to work with willing property owners on securing easements for the trail.
- Work with adjacent property owners to resolve encroachments and issues and opportunities of mutual interest.
- Apply for grants to fund master planning and trail development.
- Identify trail management and operational issues procedures and policies that should be worked out before trail segments are available for public use.
- Consider applying for a Peer Study grant under PADCNR to work on an agreement among the seven municipalities for working together.
- Promote the trail. Plan events and activities on the trail corridor.
- Develop a master plan for trail segments. Master plans will translate the findings and recommendations of this feasibility study into plans for detailed improvements and trail layout.
- Complete surveys, wetland delineations, design and engineering plans, land development plans, as required. Apply for environmental, roadway, and other permits necessary to develop the trail.

Community Benefits

While the benefit of trails and greenways are primarily viewed as recreational and environmental, the big picture is more encompassing. Trails and greenways can provide greater benefits to communities including improving public health through wellness and fitness opportunities, stimulating local economies and revitalizing communities through trail related businesses, providing alternative transportation options, preserving local history, and engendering community pride. When seen as a whole, the far-reaching benefits of trails and greenways are compelling.

Typically trails can be developed through modest investment, when compared to construction of other community facilities and are the least expensive recreation facility to maintain.

Trail enthusiasts encompass the full spectrum of a community, from young children to seniors and persons with disabilities. Trail activities are primarily self-directed, allowing individuals, families, community groups to fit them into their busy schedules. Trails often host special events, bringing a community together to celebrate.

The MA & PA Community Greenway