

Trail News

Spring/Summer 2008

YORK COUNTY RAIL TRAIL AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER



TRAILS: A New Factor in Real Estate Marketing

P. O. Box 335
Seven Valleys, PA 17360
Telephone: (717) 428-0999
Fax: (717) 428-0998
e-mail: info@yorkcountyrails.org
web site: www.yorkcountyrails.org

Carl Knoch
Chairman

Don Gogniat
Vice-Chairman

Ed Hughes
Secretary

Glenn Eyster, Jr.
Treasurer

Pamela Gay
County Representative

Henry Herrman
Heidi Hormel
Mack Johnson
Jonathan Pinkerton
Dwight Robison

Gwen Loose
Project Coordinator
Newsletter Editor

By Mack Johnson
York County Rail Trail Authority Member

Americans are a transitional group. Statistics indicate that we change our homesite every five years, whether for job transfers, job growth, retirement planning, family expansion (kids in) and contraction (kids out), or simply looking for the right accommodation, i.e. single-family home vs. condominium.

Just as we continue to change our housing, technology has changed the way in which we do our searching. Whereas in the past the homebuyer contacted a realtor, looked for front yard signs and read newspaper ads, today's real estate multiple-listings and Internet search engines offer thousands of listings.

However, one thing has not changed—first thing is still to decide what you want in a home and property. What amenities are most important to the buyer? Historically these have been good schools, convenient to popular destinations, local services, and so on. One amenity that is growing in popularity is a property's proximity to walking paths and bicycling trails.

Factors effecting this trend may include the aging of America's population, the healthcare industry's promotion of walking and biking as part of healthier lifestyles to combat adult and childhood obesity trends, and ever increasing traffic congestion on our highways making them unattractive and in many cases unsafe places to exercise.



Walking and biking trails seem to offer a popular solution.

From a real estate perspective, the proximity of where we locate to a hiking-biking trail has become a paramount factor to many buyers. I read recently of a realtor in Massachusetts who specializes in (Con't on page 3.)

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors



Gung Ho Bikes

1815 Susquehanna Trail North
York, PA 17404
(717) 852-9553
www.gunghobikes.com



11 Church St.
Seven Valleys, PA 17360
(717) 428-9575
www.serenity-station.com

"On the Rail Trail in Seven Valleys"



4370 W Market St.
(RT 30)
York, PA 17404
(717) 792-4400

www.adventure-cycling.com

Trail Talk PROJECT UPDATES

HANOVER TROLLEY TRAIL

Ready, Set, Build!

On July 7, 1977 Metropolitan Edison, owner of the York Hanover Trolley Line, and York County entered into a license agreement “in consideration of the sum of One Dollar...to enter upon and construct, operate and maintain a recreational trail for use by the general public...” And now, thirty-one years later, the Rail Trail Authority and its many partners and supporters announce the start of construction on a 1+-mile section in Spring Grove Borough and Jackson Township.

Slated for construction June-September, this phase will include a 10-foot wide, crushed stone trail with a parallel grass path for horses, and public access from a 30-space parking area near Hershey Road, Jackson Township and a 6-8 space lot near Hosierey Alley, Spring Grove.

We extend sincere appreciation to York County Board of Commissioners, Spring Grove Borough, Jackson Township and Sewer Authority, York Rail, Inc., PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, PA Department of Community and Economic Development, and the many contributors to the TRAIL LINKS Capital Campaign for helping to make the construction of this first phase of the Hanover Trolley Trail possible.



Hanover Trolley Trail RULES & REGULATIONS

Motorized vehicles prohibited.

Open daylight hours only.

“Carry In-Carry Out” policy for trash.

All pets must be leashed.

Owners are required to pick up after their pets.

Organized events involving groups of 12 or more individuals are asked to contact the Rail Trail Authority office at (717) 428-0999 during regular business hours to schedule the event.

Emergency Contact- 911

Information Contact- (717) 428-0999

Your cooperation will insure a pleasant, safe, and friendly trail experience for all. Thank you!

NORTHERN EXTENSION OF THE HERITAGE RAIL TRAIL COUNTY PARK

Phase 2 Planning Continues

Promising to be the most complex and costly section of the Northern Extension to the Heritage Rail Trail, Phase 2 will extend the trail approximately 2.5 miles from Crist Memorial Fields in Manchester Township to the intersection of RT 30 and Loucks Mill Road in Springettsbury Township.

Trail visitors will be transported over the Codorus Creek on a separate bridge and ramp system constructed in the shadow of the existing Emig Road Bridge, will enjoy a quiet stretch of the creek, and will view an impressive York City skyline just before passing under the RT 30 Bridge to arrive at a major parking area/trailhead. Planned for construction in 2009, Phase 2 will offer a great walk or bike ride!

MUNICIPAL TRAIL PROJECTS

MA AND PA COMMUNITY GREENWAY

The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded the Ma & Pa Community Greenway Steering Committee a \$40,000 grant last December to assist with a feasibility study for a proposed 12.4-mile trail along the former Ma & Pa corridor connecting Spring Garden, York, Windsor, and Chanceford Townships; Dallastown, Yoe, and Red Lion Boroughs. The committee anticipates choosing a consultant in May and proceeding with the study shortly thereafter. Additional information available at www.yorktownshiprec.com.

TRAILS: A New Factor (Continued from page 1.)

selling homes to buyers who wish to locate on or near trails. He reportedly has in excess of a dozen clients on his waiting list.

In York County, we are fortunate to have a 21-mile rail trail, the Heritage Rail Trail County Park, running from the Mason-Dixon Line to downtown York City. A recent search of the York County multiple-listing service of properties on the market or recently sold along an 11-mile stretch of the Rail Trail unearthed no fewer than 26 properties that advertised proximity to the trail as an amenity. Some of those referenced include:

- Sits next to this Rail Trail
- ...walk to the nearby Rail Trail
- ...it abuts the Heritage hike and bike trail
- ...close to Maryland, shopping, and Rail Trail
- Located just 1 block from Rail Trail
- Spacious Victorian...sits across from the Rail Trail

Such listings demonstrate that a property's proximity to a walking or biking path is becoming more and more recognized as an amenity to the house-hunter and as a selling feature for the astute real estate agent. Likewise, well-planned extensions of existing trails, such as the Heritage Rail Trail County Park, and the responsible incorporation of new trails and trail linkages into York County communities and countryside can enrich our landscapes, our lifestyles, and our properties.



About Mack Johnson:

Mack joined the Authority in May 2002. He brings to the Authority approximately 30 years of experience in management in both the public and private sectors, most recently as a realtor with Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc. He is an avid proponent of rails-to-trails. Mack resides in York City.



YOU'RE INVITED!



'Traveling' Business Meetings

Business meetings of the York County Rail Trail Authority will travel around York County April-September 2008 to meet and speak to residents about local trail projects.

All meetings begin at 7 PM. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

April 21: Heidelberg Township Bldg, 6424 York Rd (RT 116), Spring Grove

May 19: Red Lion Train Station, N Main St, Red Lion

June 16: Adams Electric Cooperative Bldg, 200 Trinity Rd (RT 616), York

July 21: Hopewell Township Bldg, 3336 Bridgeview Rd, Stewartstown

August 18: Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1031 Sprenkle Rd, Spring Grove

September 15: Goode Elementary School, 251 N Broad St, York



Information Booths

YCRTA will host information booths at the following area festivals. Stop by and say, "Hello."

June 13-15: Balloon Festival
John Rudy County Park
www.yorkcountyparks.org

June 28: Codorus Summer Blast
Codorus State Park
www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/calendar

July 26: Hanover Dutch Day
Frederick St, Hanover
www.hanoverchamber.com



P. O. Box 335
Seven Valleys, PA 17360
www.yorkcountyrails.org

Enriching York County communities and countryside
through the development of a network of public trails.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pre-Sort Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
York, PA
Permit #178

Support rail trail development. Become a member today.

FRIENDS OF YORK COUNTY TRAILS

The mission of **Friends of York County Trails** is to provide support to the York County Rail Trail Authority in its efforts to build a network of non-motorized trails throughout York County. Your contribution will go toward the design and construction of trails that provide both recreation, health & fitness, alternative transportation, and economic benefits to the residents of York County.

Benefits of membership include:

- One-year subscription to our newsletter, **Trail News**
- Advance notice of special events
- Rail-trail advocacy and community education
- Free technical services to York County public and non-profit trail groups

Individual Membership Levels:

Student	\$ 10.00
Individual	\$ 15.00
Family	\$ 25.00
Supporter	\$ 35.00
Contributor	\$ 50.00
Sponsor	\$100.00

Organizational Membership Levels:

Corporate	\$1,000.00 or more
Municipal	\$ 500.00 or more
Small Business	\$ 250.00 or more
Organizations	\$ 50.00 or more

To become a member, complete this form and return it with your membership contribution to: YCRTA, Box 335, Seven Valleys, PA 17360

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

E-mail address (if applicable) _____

Please enroll me at the \$ _____ membership level.

Make check payable to York County Rail Trail Authority. ♦ Thank you for your support!

The York County Rail Trail Authority is organized under the Pennsylvania Municipality Authorities Act of 1945. Contributions are used exclusively for the development of public trails and, as such, may be fully tax deductible pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code. Official registration and financial information may be obtained by contacting the Authority at (717)428-0999.