

FROM DORMANT RAILS TO BEAUTIFUL TRAILS



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Spring 2021 comes to a section of dormant rail line purchased in 2020 to expand the Hanover Trolley Trail.

Photograph courtesy of Tim Senft.

Enriching York County communities and countryside through the development of a network of public, multi-use trails.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



While reviewing YCRTA's work in 2021, two topics really jump out —PEOPLE and PROJECTS.

PEOPLE are the reason we build trails. In 2020, the number of people visiting York County trails increased dramatically, and this trend continued into 2021. People are also the engines that accomplish all the behind-the-scenes work necessary to build and maintain trails. We've been blessed with loyal volunteers who serve on committees, do regular trail inspections, and assist with routine maintenance. Organizations such as Hanover Cyclers and York Road Runners, and businesses such as Pixelle Specialty Solutions, provide financial support and assistance with special events. Our all-volunteer YCRTA board welcomed two new members in 2021, CJ Weigle and Melanie Playdon. We also regretfully accepted the resignation of Jeff Hines, who was a valued Authority member for ten years.

The PROJECT that hit the YCRTA radar screen in 2021 was transforming the 8.5-mile rail corridor purchased in 2020 into a multi-use trail. Building this portion of the Hanover Trolley Trail involves a series of sub-projects: designing the trail, obtaining environmental permits and other approvals necessary to do construction and last, but certainly not least, securing funding. In 2021, our projects faced the impacts of supply disruptions, labor shortages, and inflation—all resulting in a current cost of more than \$1 million to build a mile of trail! The pace for advancing these projects will be governed by our ability to secure grants and the matching funds required by most grant programs.

Just as people are the engines that accomplish all the behind-the-scenes work, funding is the engine that transforms ideas and plans into reality. We are most grateful for the many PEOPLE who supported the PROJECTS of YCRTA in 2021, and we ask for your continued support as we expand the trail system to better serve York County.

Frank Kempf, Chairman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



I remember 2021 as the year I met Cora Dzubak. Having heard about a woman who cycled two thousand twenty miles in 2020 by repeatedly traveling the same section of the Heritage Rail Trail (HRT), I was intrigued. Soon after sending word out through the HRT community, I received a phone call. Cora planned to cycle the next day (not unexpected!) and would stop at the office. We sat on a bench along the rail trail, and Cora told her story—simple and straightforward.

When the pandemic brought on early retirement, a 10-mile section of the HRT became Cora's morning routine. Cycling from Brillhart Station to Glen Rock provided interesting scenery, friendly people, and just the right amount of physical effort. With each visit, she tallied her miles and checked off one more pandemic day. When she reached 2,000 miles, her son convinced her to ride another twenty. And now, here she was beginning 2021 having accomplished a remarkable goal during a global pandemic.

Like Cora, YCRTA took small steps toward a huge goal—purchase of 8.5 miles of dormant rails. We are pleased to share our 2021 work to convert these rails to a recreational trail as part of the Hanover Trolley Trail—a journey with many steps to come.

Gwenth Loose, Executive Director

MEMBERS

Frank Kempf <i>Chairman</i>	Albert Gleichauf <i>Treasurer</i>
Mack Johnson <i>Vice-chairman</i>	Silas Chamberlin Sharon Dorn
Ed Hughes <i>Secretary</i>	Jeffrey Hines Melanie Playdon C.J. Weigle Ann Yost

MEMBERS EMERITUS

Henry Herrman	Lori Mitrick
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STANDING COMMITTEES

Planning Committee

Carl Knoch <i>Chairman</i>	Kim Hogeman Ed Hughes
Steven Baumgardner	Mack Johnson
Matt Chronister	Karen Kneupfer
Kathy Deporter	Matthew Sechrst
Beverly Hilt	Terry Steyer Denise Tushingham

Hanover Trolley Trail Operations Committee

Clay Black	Scott Miller
David Brown	Joe Montminy
Mack Johnson	Peg Moulton
Kate King	Terry Reichart
Bradley Martin	Chris Wagman Clair "CJ" Weigle

Pumpkin Walk Committee

Gwen Loose & Carl Knoch, <i>Chairs</i>	Todd Howdyshell Ed Hughes
Kathy Deporter	Mack Johnson
Meg Fullerton	Brian Malcarne
Blaine Gerver	Sgt. Bret Newcomer
Bob Gotwols	Peggy Schlichter
Dean Grote	Chris Snyder
Karen Holway	Christine Tobias Chris Wagman

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Gwenth L. Loose, CPRP <i>Executive Director</i>	Jeffrey Shue, PE C.S. Davidson, Inc. <i>Project Engineer</i>
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Scott Beaverson, Esq.
Solicitor

AFFILIATIONS

Explore York
Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
York County Board of Commissioners
York County Department of Parks & Recreation

PROJECTS REPORT

HANOVER TROLLEY TRAIL

A 2020 PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources grant award of \$300,000, with matching funds from Memorial Health Fund and the Richard Doss Estate Bequest, provided the funding for design and permitting of approximately 7.75 miles of dormant rail line. Three engineering firms submitted proposals in early 2021, C.S. Davidson, Inc. was chosen, and by year end, trail design for the section east of Spring Grove was nearing completion.

Design and permitting for the trail to the west of Spring Grove took a necessary step back as LandStudies of Lititz, PA, studied the impacts that Oil Creek was having on the rail corridor and surrounding lands, particularly in Heidelberg Township (Photograph 1). Following completion and presentation of a watershed restoration plan in August 2021, LandStudies moved immediately into design and permitting for restoration of two most impaired creek sections. Supported by a \$135,000 PA Department of Environmental Protection grant and matching funds from the Codorus Watershed Endowment, this project has the "stacked" benefits of improving water quality and aquatic habitat while reducing erosion within the watershed and increasing productivity of surrounding farmland.

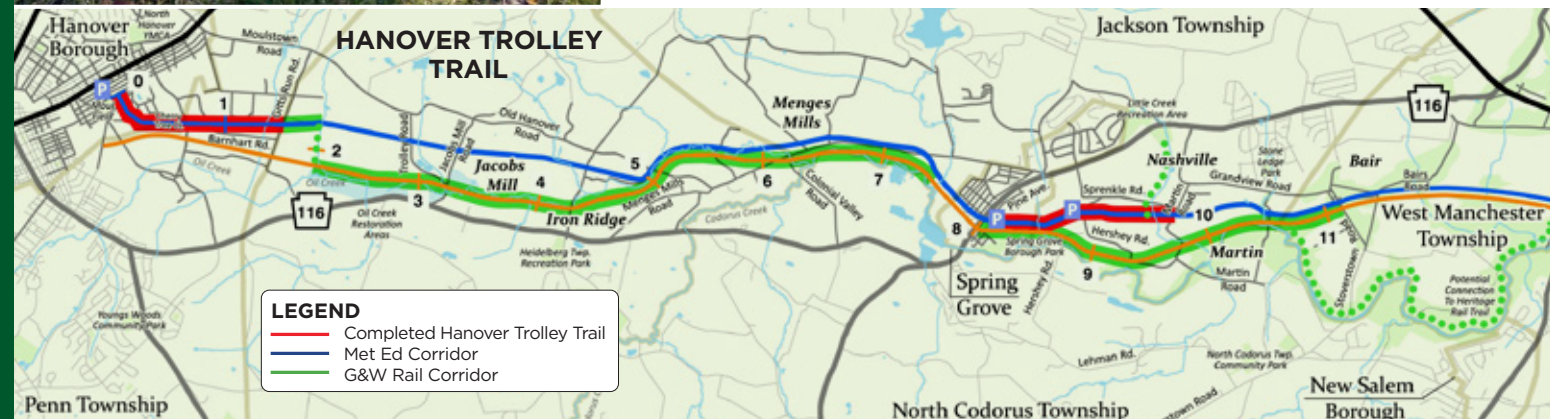
In November, Yohe Paving, Inc. of Jackson Township removed the dormant rail crossing of Colonial Valley Road, now owned by YCRTA (Photograph 2). A long-time rough crossing for farm equipment, school buses, and the traveling public, the crossing was removed as part of the Authority's project to expand the Hanover Trolley Trail through Heidelberg Township.

HERITAGE RAIL TRAIL COUNTY PARK

Throughout 2021, negotiations were unable to reopen the Heritage Rail Trail at the underpass of Blackbridge Railroad Bridge. In April, PA Department of Transportation awarded \$100,000, followed by an additional \$50,000 in September, for construction of an overhead protection canopy, as required by Norfolk Southern Railway Company. While the railway approved design drawings for the canopy in August, the project continued to wait for approval from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

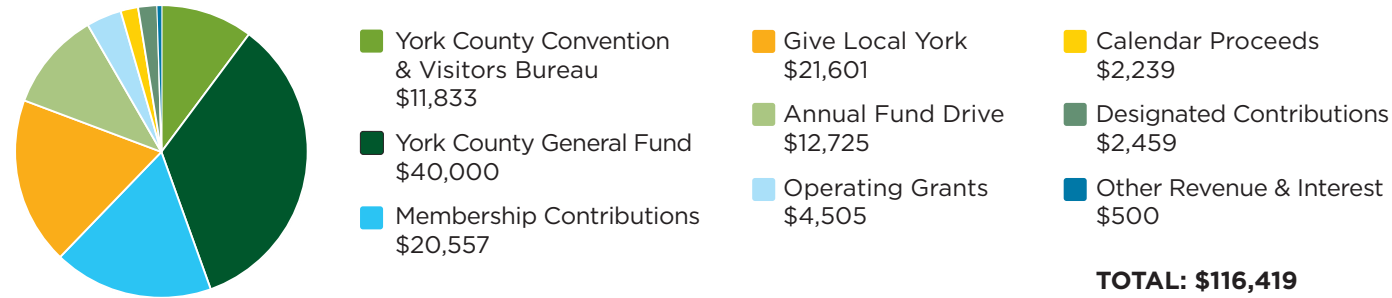
YORK COUNTY TRAIL TOWNS

In 2021, the York County Economic Alliance's Trail Towns Program expanded to include Wrightsville and Hanover, creating interest from business, nonprofit agencies, and civic leaders in both communities to engage in projects that enhance their outdoor recreational offerings and spur downtown economic opportunities. Festivalce also returned for a second year along the five communities of the Heritage Rail Trail. Cold temperatures and blue skies provided a perfect backdrop for over fifteen, themed ice sculptures to greet visitors at local businesses from York to New Freedom (Photograph 3).

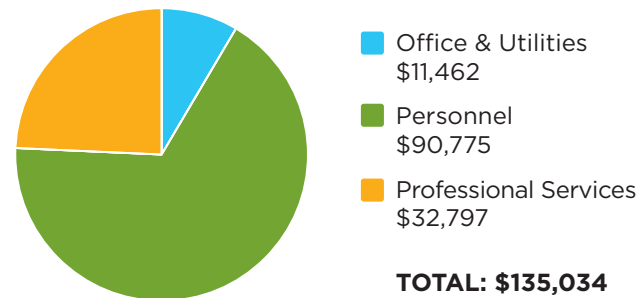


FINANCIALS

2021 OPERATING REVENUE



2021 OPERATING EXPENDITURES



PROJECT FINANCIALS	PROJECT REVENUE: \$648,366 State & Federal Grants: 36% Local Grants & Private Donations: 63% Interest: 0.2 %
	PROJECT EXPENDITURES: \$294,006 Design, permitting: 55% Construction: 5% Other Professional Services: 40%
PROJECT GRANTS:	American Rescue Plan Act, PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Department of Transportation, PA Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, Pixelle Specialty Solutions, York County Open Space & Land Preservation, York Road Runners.

RAIL TRAIL SPECIAL FRIENDS

2021 York County Rail Trail Awards ceremony was held on a beautiful fall evening October 13, 2021 in the garden at Hanover Junction Train Station. Receiving awards from left to right: Trail Organization Award to York County Economic Alliance, accepted by **Kevin Schreiber**, President (right); Government Leader Award to **Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill**, and Trail Champion to **Chris Wagman** (right).



2021 York County Rail Trail Awards

Adopt the Trolley Trail Inspectors who conduct monthly inspections and perform light maintenance on the Hanover Trolley Trail: **Dave Jones** assigned to Hanover Borough section, **Jeffrey Garvick** assigned to Penn Township section, **Terry & Don Reichard** assigned to Hershey Rd. to Hosierey Alley section, **Pete Smith** assigned to Hershey to Martin Roads section.

Agencies providing representatives to serve on committees: Planning Committee: **Downtown Inc**, **York County Economic Alliance**, Spring Grove Borough. Hanover Trolley Trail Operating Committee: **Hanover Cyclers**, **Jackson Township**, **PA Representative Kate Klunk**, **Penn Township**, **Pixelle Specialty Solutions**, **Spring Grove Area Recreation Commission**, Spring Grove Borough.

For providing technical assistance to manage YCRTA's website, create engaging videos, and other promotional content, we thank volunteer webmaster **Jarrett McAlicher**.

2021 MEMBERS + DONOR LIST

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

During 2021, we welcomed the following: **C.J. Weigle** and **Melanie Playdon** were appointed to YCRTA.

Steve Baumgardner, Lotus Environmental Consulting; **Beverly Hilt**, Spring Grove Mayor; **Matthew Sechrist**, Downtown Inc; and **Denise Tushingam**, Hanover joined the planning committee.

Clay Black, Penn Township; **Scott Miller**, Spring Grove Borough development manager; **Peg Moulton**, Heidelberg Township; joined the Hanover Trolley Trail operating committee.

THANKING THOSE WHO SERVED



During 2021, **Tom Essig** resigned from the planning committee; **Jeff Garvick** stepped down after thirteen years of service on the Hanover Trolley Trail operating committee and as an inspector for the Penn Township section; and **Jeff Hines** (photograph above) resigned his position on YCRTA after serving for ten years to begin many "trail travel" adventures with his wife and fellow trail enthusiast Patti Stirk.

IN ADDITION TO THE MANY FRIENDS OF YORK COUNTY RAIL TRAILS, WHOSE GENEROUS ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPORT THE WORK OF YORK COUNTY RAIL TRAIL AUTHORITY, WE RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING DONORS:

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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| Nathanael Gerlach | | Stephen Smith | |



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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 York County Rail Trail Authority.