

The Conococheague Trailway



The Conococheague Trailway is envisioned as an 18 mile long multi-use trail connecting the Chambersburg Rail-Trail with the Appalachian Trail at Caledonia State Park.

The spine of the trail will follow the banks of Conococheague Creek for most of its length. Branching connections will serve intermediate destinations.

Key places to be served by the trail include:

- Wilson College in Chambersburg
- Northwood Park
- Greene Township Park at Scotland
- Scotland Community Park
- Winebrenner Theological Seminary (Scotland School campus)
- Norlo Park in Guilford Township
- Fayetteville Athletic Association
- Chambersburg Saddle Club
- Caledonia State Park

The multi-use trail will be 10 to 12 feet wide, consisting of both hard surfaced and crushed stone segments. Immediately alongside, where space permits, a parallel

soft-surface trail will accommodate equestrians and those runners who prefer not to run on hard pavement.

The trail as envisioned will enhance the quality of life for residents not only by providing for recreation – and facilitating an appreciation of the beauty of the agricultural landscape and natural environment – but also by stimulating economic revitalization of the traditional main streets in the study area’s historic towns and villages.

For some trips, the trail and its branches will make walking and bicycling as attractive as driving, thus providing people with a more healthy and sociable life.

Project Background

The concept of a multi-use trail in Greene Township that would link Chambersburg, Greene Township and Norlo Park in Guilford Township with Caledonia State Park and the Appalachian Trail has been discussed for some time. The existence of a township sewer interceptor along the length of Conococheague Creek is recognized as one possible route for such a trail, along with some sections of utility easements and abandoned railroad grades. Public support was also voiced for the development of a water trail on Conococheague Creek.

In 2011 Greene Township officials applied for and were awarded a South Mountain Partnership mini-grant from Appalachian Trail Conservancy to fund the study. The proposed trail is seen as an important branch of the Appalachian Trail. Work on the study commenced in early 2012 and was complete in February 2013.

A key component of the Conococheague Trailway feasibility study has been the fostering of a dialog between local government entities, private land holders, business owners and elected officials about the benefits of the trail and its potential beneficial economic impact on the township. Participation by these groups has been facilitated by the formation of a local study committee, public meetings and key person/agency interviews.

This trail as described in this study will appeal to a broad spectrum of users: both local residents and visitors to the area. Its 18 mile length will make it a significant destination not just for local residents, but for visitors as well. It is intended that the highest benefit of the new walking and bicycling connections will be the reestablishment of healthy, non-motorized links between towns, parks, residential and business communities, cultural, natural and historic resources. The trail is further envisioned as a strategic element of the future growth and development of the region's potential for increased markets in heritage and environmental tourism, and economic development.

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