



# TRAIL NEWS

York County Rail Trail Authority Newsletter

2024 Spring Summer

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

## Who builds York County rail trails?

*YCRTA unveiled*

by Frank Kempf, YCRTA Chairman

*More and more visitors from near and far are enjoying the rail trails in York County—the 27-mile Heritage Rail Trail and the ever-expanding Hanover Trolley Trail. Did you ever wonder who built these rail trails? How were they created? Here's the long-kept secret.*

York County rail trails come into existence through a huge volunteer effort led by York County Rail Trail Authority (YCRTA). York County Board of Commissioners formed the Authority in 1990, primarily to recruit a talented group of citizens to guide the conversion of a newly acquired section of the Northern Central Railway into a rail trail. The Authority set to work, and by August 1999 the Heritage Rail Trail (HRT) opened to the public.

Other notable successes include building the Heritage Rail Trail's northern extension to John Rudy County Park; restoring New Freedom and Hanover Junction Train Stations, Howard Tunnel, and numerous historic Northern Central Railway bridges. The Authority's work continues today with the development of the Hanover Trolley Trail (HTT).

YCRTA directs all stages of trail development from planning and land acquisitions to design, environmental permitting, and construction. Rail trails are not easy or cheap to build. It currently costs nearly \$1M to build one mile of new rail trail. Since 2021, YCRTA has brought over \$9M in grant money into York County to serve the recreational needs of our citizens and visitors.

The funds to develop York County rail trails come from a variety of sources, primarily grant money from state and federal agencies as well as generous contributions from local foundations and individuals.

(Continued on page 3.)



**VISIT THESE TRAIL-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES & THANK THEM FOR SUPPORTING YORK COUNTY RAIL TRAILS!**

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*Outfitting the area's best athletes since 1975!*  
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**Kessler's Bicycle Center**  
 129 Baltimore St.  
 Hanover, PA 17331  
 (717) 632-9157  
[www.kesslersbicycles.com](http://www.kesslersbicycles.com)

# Project Updates

## Hanover Trolley Trail

### New trail section officially opens near Spring Grove.

Mild winter weather has allowed trail construction to move quickly along a section of the dormant rail corridor from the railroad underpass in Spring Grove to Sunnyside Road in Jackson Township. As a result, the Hanover Trolley Trail has grown by another 2.1 miles!

Once a dormant rail corridor (top photo), Kinsley Construction Inc. has worked over the past ten months to install drainage systems (second photo) and the trail's subsurface (third photo). "Trail Mix" surface, railings, retaining walls, and gates now complete the project (bottom photo).

Funded through state grants from the PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resource's Keystone Fund and the Department of Community & Economic Development's Local Share Account with matching local funds from Memorial Health Fund and Explore York, this 2.1-mile section of trail will open to the public on April 26. A public ceremony will begin at 11:30 AM on the rail trail in Spring Grove near the railroad underpass.

Many thanks to the Spring Grove community for their assistance to make the opening celebration possible, particularly to Spring Grove Borough, Spring Grove Regional Parks & Recreation, and Friendship Hose Company #1.

## Oil Creek Restoration

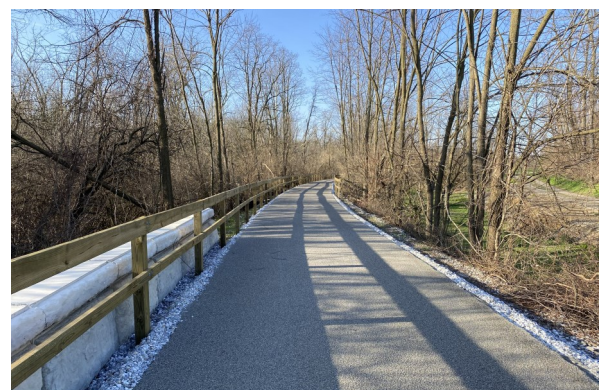
### Focus shifts to Heidelberg Township.

York County Rail Trail Authority will now face a new challenge – restoring sections of Oil Creek and building additional miles of trail along the rail corridor. Because the creek channel has moved, deepened, and filled with sediment over the years, restoration of creek sections that parallel the rail corridor is necessary to protect the future trail.

The Authority awarded a contract to Aquatic Resource Restoration Corp. to complete the first of three phases of restoration. Work began in mid-April and will continue through the fall.

Funding of this \$1.2 M phase of creek work is made possible through

grants from PA Department of Environmental Protection, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, PA Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, York County Conservation District, and York County Planning Commission.



## **YOUR SUPPORT** *is vital to this trail work!*

### **DONATE** Give Local York May 2-3, 2024.

Visit [www.GiveLocalYork.org](http://www.GiveLocalYork.org) and search for York County Rail Trail Authority. Your donation supports the work of the York County Rail Trail Authority to build new miles of rail trails in our county.

### **JOIN** Friends of YCRTA with an annual donation.

Becoming a member of **Friends of York County Rail Trail Authority** is the best way to offer year-round support of the trail-building work of the Authority. Membership levels range from just \$10 for students to \$1,000 for corporations. See back page for information on how to join.

### **PURCHASE** a Hanover Trolley Trail ball cap.

Order your rail trail merchandise at [www.yorkcountyrails.org](http://www.yorkcountyrails.org). Purchasing and wearing the new Hanover Trolley Trail ball cap is a great way to show your support of that project!

### **VOLUNTEER** your time and skills.

Volunteer opportunities include serving on a committee or offering a special skill such as gardening, digital graphic design, website design & maintenance, and bulk mailings. Information at (717) 428-0999 or [info@yorkcountyrails.org](mailto:info@yorkcountyrails.org).



## **HEY SCOUTS!** *We have a service project for you.*

If you are searching for a Gold Award or Eagle Scout project, this historic railroad sign, located just beyond Main Street in Spring Grove, is in need of some special attention. With some sand-blasting, fresh white paint, and repositioning, this railroad whistle post will proudly represent the York, Hanover and Frederick Railroad that provided passenger service in the late 1890s. Its sister milepost sign is also in need of some love and attention.

Contact the York County Rail Trail Authority at (717) 428-0999 or [info@YorkCountyTrails.org](mailto:info@YorkCountyTrails.org) for more information.



## *Are you considering the purchase of an* **E-BIKE?**

PeopleForBikes offers a 2-minute video for riders of all ages and abilities to increase their knowledge and confidence to purchase and use an e-bike. Visit [www.ebikesmart.org](http://www.ebikesmart.org). For regulations on the use of e-bikes on the Heritage Rail Trail, contact York County Parks at (717) 840-7440 or [parcs@yorkcountypa.gov](mailto:parcs@yorkcountypa.gov).

### **Who builds York County rail trails?** (Continued from page 1.)

Today, the Authority consists of a team of ten volunteers and two part-time staff people, with offices in Hanover Junction Train Station. Volunteers also serve on various committees including the planning committee, the HTT operating committee, the HTT development committee, and the ambassador committee. Friends of the YCRTA offers annual memberships to the public that support the work of the Authority.

YCRTA has two primary goals within the next 10 years: 1) to complete the Hanover Trolley Trail, and 2) to connect the Hanover Trolley Trail to the Heritage Rail Trail. The resulting trail system would then rival the trail systems in the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas—boosting York County’s outdoor recreational economy, attracting a strong workforce, and serving the recreational needs of our residents.





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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**GIVE LOCAL YORK**  
*A special time to support the building of new miles of rail trails  
that you love and enjoy!*  
**May 2-3 2024**  
Visit [www.GiveLocalYork.org](http://www.GiveLocalYork.org).

# JOIN the JOY!

## BECOME A FRIEND OF YCRTA

Your annual membership contribution supports the work of the York County Rail Trail Authority (YCRTA) to build new miles of rail trail across York County, PA, and provides these benefits:

- **Trail News**, our semi-annual newsletter, delivered to your inbox or mailbox.
- Notice of special events marking new miles of rail trail.
- Knowledge of your donation at work each time you visit a York County rail trail!

INDICATE:  NEW MEMBER or  RENEWING MEMBER

### Membership Levels (Check one)

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$ 10.00    | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$ 50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$ 100.00   | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipality \$ 500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$ 25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$ 100.00  | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Business \$ 250.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation \$1000.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$ 30.00     |   |   |   |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, and Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL COMPLETED FORM** with your membership contribution to: YCRTA, Box 335, Seven Valleys, PA 17360.

**ON-LINE MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS** may be made using PayPal or Credit Card at [www.yorkcountyrails.org/donate](http://www.yorkcountyrails.org/donate)

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.