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Trails Start With Us.

Laws, Rules & Regulations, Courtesies

What you need to know to travel safely on a rail trail.

Many rail trails that crisscross Pennsylvania (and beyond) are multi-use trails, meaning that the visitors may use a variety of ways to travel. The pathway may be shared by walkers, runners, cyclists, in-line skaters, and equestrians. And many multi-use trails now allow class-1, pedal-assisted E-bikes.

Traveling on multi-use trails could be challenging – perhaps even risky – for those who are not familiar with the laws, rules & regulations, and courtesies established by the trail’s owner and manager. While these may be posted on websites or along the trail, situations may arise that require us all to refresh our skills for safe, shared travel.

Laws governing the use of rail trails are set by government bodies such as municipal, county, state or federal agencies and often apply far beyond the boundaries of the trail. For example, littering and trespassing are prohibited throughout the state by Pennsylvania laws. In York County, these laws are enforced on the Heritage Rail Trail (and all county parks) by the County of York and the York County Department of Parks & Recreation, as owner and manager respectively. All visitors to county-owned lands are reminded to “Carry-in. Carry-out” and “Stay on trail. Respect private property.”

Rules & regulations for the use of rail trails are established by the owners and managers of the facility, and they may vary from trail to trail.

(Continued on page 3.)



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

FLEET FEET
1511 Mt. Rose Ave.
York, PA 17403
(717) 845-2833
www.fleetfeet.com



GUNG HO BIKES
1815 Susquehanna Trail N
York, PA 17404
(717) 852-9553
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www.thevalleytavern.com

1 Cherry St.
Seven Valleys, PA
17360
(717) 428-2611

Project Updates

Hanover Trolley Trail

On to Jacobs Mill Road!

As construction contractor W. Craig Adams lays the final trail surface for the Gitts Run Connector (top photo), Kinsley Construction has mobilized equipment to the rail corridor to begin extending the trail to Jacobs Mill Road (second photo). These two projects will extend the Hanover Trolley Trail from Gitts Run Road to Jacobs Mill Road, a distance of nearly two miles and at a cost of \$1.9 million.

Funded through the PA Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resource's Keystone Fund, York County Marcellus Shale Fund, Explore York, J William Warehime Foundation, and Powder Mill Foundation, the trail is scheduled to reach Jacobs Mill Road by the end of the year.

Municipalities support the Hanover Trolley Trail.

In mid-March, negotiations between York County Rail Trail Authority and Heidelberg Township concluded with the donation to the Authority of a 12-acre parcel along RT 116. (third photo) The Authority submitted a PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resource's grant application in early April to help fund a \$1.4 million project to construct a parking lot and boardwalk-bridge to connect to the Hanover Trolley Trail.

We applaud Hanover and Spring Grove boroughs and Penn and Jackson townships who offered labor and equipment totaling \$17,207 in 2024 to maintain the Hanover Trolley Trail. Volunteers also improved the entrance garden at the Jackson Township parking lot. (bottom photo) Such assistance is vital to the success of the Hanover Trolley Trail!

Wetlands restoration attracts college students.

As winter turned to spring, students from two area colleges visited the Oil Creek restoration site to better understand the restoration process and its effects on aquatic life.

In mid-February, engineering students from York College of PA visited the nearly completed phase 1. At the end of March, students from Dickinson College's Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring sampled aquatic life within the phase 2 section of stream. Their monitoring will continue for five years, as they study the effects of the restoration on life in and around the stream.



Planning for your future Open Space & Trails

It's true – many York countians have enjoyed the Heritage Rail Trail since its opening in 1999 and many are beginning to enjoy the Hanover Trolley Trail as sections are completed. ***But, what about the future? What lies ahead for these trails and for other recreational spaces across our county?***

York County Planning Commission (YCPC) and York County Rail Trail Authority (YCRTA) are giving serious thoughts to these questions. In March 2024, YCRTA launched a five-year strategic plan. Under the guidance of Lebanon, PA based Recreation & Parks Solutions and funded by PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, a study examined past, current, and future role(s) of YCRTA. Completed in January 2025, the plan is available at www.yorkcountyrailtrails.org. YCPC launched a study early in 2024 to revise the 2006 York County Open Space & Greenway Plan. The plan, now named York County Open Space & Trail Plan, is scheduled for completion in summer 2025. Information is available at www.ycpc.org/693/Open-Space-and-Trail-Plan.



Trails Start With Us

York County Rail Trail Authority
Strategic Plan 2025-2029

Spotlight on a Rail Trail Business: Flying Feet becomes Fleet Feet

YCRTA salutes Greg and Celine Baum, owners of Flying Feet, for their 40+ years of serving the “shoe-needs” of walkers and runners all across York County. Their many kindnesses to YCRTA will long be remembered, as we welcome Fleet Feet and owners Fred & Shelby Joslyn and family to the York area.

Open at the same Mt. Rose Ave location, Fleet Feet is committed to continuing the legacy of Flying Feet. Fred and Shelby look forward to meeting you and responding to your needs for walking and running shoes. Contact information on page 1.



Want more rail trail miles?... Become a supporting member!

SCAN ME



It's now easier than ever to become a supporting member of Friends of YCRTA. Scan the QR code, select a membership level, and make your secure, annual contribution with PayPal or a major credit card.

Renewing members are reminded that memberships to Friends of YCRTA are now all renewed at the same time, in March of each year. Not sure of your membership status? Just email us at info@yorkcountyrailtrails.org. ***Your friendship builds York County rail trails!***

Laws, Rules & Regulations, Courtesies (Continued from page 1.)

Rules & regulations are often posted on billboards or on gates at entry points such as parking lots along the trail. Websites and brochures also provide visitors with information on trail rules & regulations. An example on the Heritage Rail Trail and Hanover Trolley Trail is “Trail open daylight hours only.” Rules & regulations are enforced by the owners and managers of the trail, and exceptions may be made to those who apply for a Special Use Permit.

Courtesies are often observed by regular rail trail visitors and may also be misunderstood by those using a multi-use rail trail for the first time. For example, to safely share the pathway, visitors are asked to travel on the right and pass on the left after giving an audible signal such as “Passing on the left” or “Good morning and coming up on your left” or simply ringing a bike bell. Following courtesies, such as cyclists yield to walkers and all travelers yield to horses, ensures visitors have a safe and enjoyable trail experience.

As you plan your next rail trail adventure, whether near or far from home, become familiar with the laws, rules & regulations, and courtesies that you will be expected to follow. Then head out for some outdoor fun.

Many thanks to YCRTA Solicitor Scott Beaverson for his assistance in preparing this article and reminding us all to recreate responsibly.



**STAY ON
TRAIL**

**RESPECT
PRIVATE PROPERTY**



PO Box 335
Seven Valleys, PA 17360
www.yorkcountyrailtrails.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Many thanks to each & every donor to
YCRTA's 2025 Give Local York.
\$20,000 now goes to work building your rail trails!

Want more rail trails? 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!

3 WAYS TO JOIN

SCAN



VISIT

ON-LINE MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

Use PayPal or Credit Card at
www.yorkcountyrailtrails.org/donate

MAIL

COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW

Mail with your contribution to

YCRTA
Box 335
Seven Valleys, PA 17360

- | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------|---|----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| <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 Zip code _____

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.