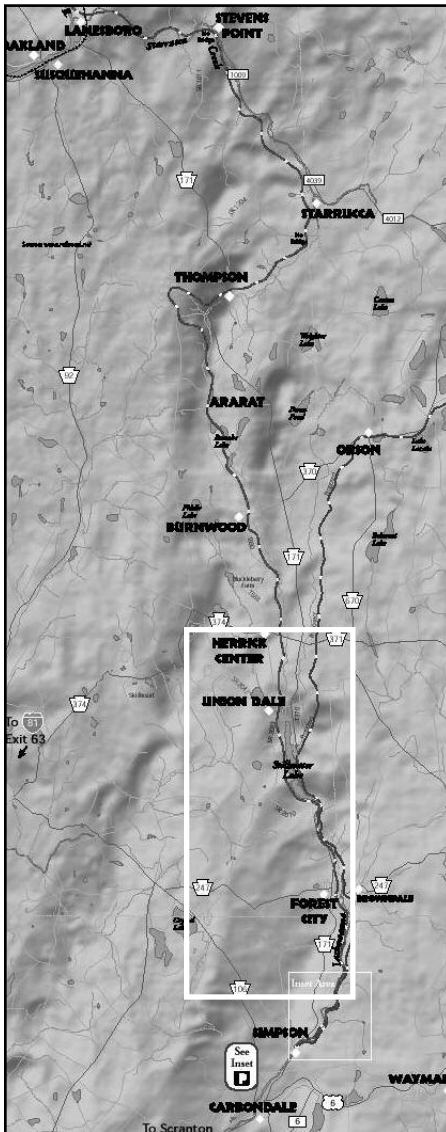


Rail-Trail News

The Rail-Trail Council of Northeast Pennsylvania is dedicated to renewing Northeast Pennsylvania's historic pathways as recreational trails for all to enjoy.

FINALLY—10 Mile Rail-Trail Goes to Bid



The real improvements will soon begin! After many years of revising trail construction plans and getting all the permits, clearances and agreements in place, the much awaited trail improvement project went to the bid stage. If all goes as planned, the project will be awarded to a successful bidder by the end of 2004, with notice to proceed by March.

The project is 80% funded by the Transportation Enhancement program of the Federal Highway Administration with the funds administered through our local District 4.0 PA DOT. The Rail-Trail Council was also fortunate to get matching funds for the construction from PA DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources).

The 10 mile D&H trail improvement project will begin at the 'cross-roads' about 2 miles south of Forest City and go north to Herrick Center, ending at the Route 374 crossing. The improvements will include extensive drainage improvements: all drainage ditches will be rehabilitated and all cross-pipes cleared of vegetation, with headwalls and endwalls rebuilt as needed. Many of the railroad culverts are original stone culverts in very good condition, just in need of cleaning. The trail surface will be graded and leveled with low spots filled. It will then be topped with a crushed stone surface rolled down in courses; a finer grade stone will be rolled on top.

Trail access gates and bollards will be installed, along with post and rail fencing. Regulatory signage and painted trail crossings are also part of the planned work.

Construction plans and bid documents are available at the rail-trail office. Bids are due December 16th and will be opened at the office at 2:30 PM. The project will be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder at that time.

The RT Council hopes to have a ribbon-cutting celebration with a variety of trail activities sometime in late May or early June.

C A L E N D A R

DECEMBER 16

RTC Christmas Dinner Party
Stonebridge Restaurant,
Union Dale. 6 PM. All
welcome, reservations
needed, four dinner choices.
Call RT office for info.

No January meeting.

FEBRUARY 24

RTC Dinner/Meeting
Ben Mar Restaurant,
Carbondale. Dinner avail-
able from menu. All
welcome! 6 PM Dinner,
7 PM Meeting

MARCH 24

RTC Dinner/Meeting
The Beacon Restaurant,
Union Dale. Dinner
available from menu.
All welcome! 6 PM Dinner,
7 PM Meeting

APRIL 28

RTC Dinner/Meeting
"Friends of the Trail
Awards." Corner Bistro,
Carbondale. Fabulous
buffet. All welcome. 6 PM

NEW MEMBERS

George Schaffer, Waymart, PA
David Haase/Esther Schwalb, Brooklyn, NY
The Candlelight Inn at Lake Lowe, Union Dale, PA
Patricia King, New Britain, PA
Fred S. Romich, Adamstown, PA
Joseph Zalewski, Waymart, PA
Norma Ebner, Plainsboro, NJ
David & Reiko Lemon, Pleasant Mount, PA
Bonnie Urzen, Jessup, PA
Fran & Ed Garrison, Susquehanna, PA
Fred Wenz, Ambler, PA
Michael Yavorosky, Hop Bottom, PA
Paul & Karen Downton, Starrucca, PA

RENEWING MEMBERS

Lothar Holbert Family, Susquehanna, PA
John M. McGlinchey, Levittown, PA
James & Anna Prawdzik, Deptford, NJ
Henry Bardel, Staten Island, NY
Oscar Stone, Thompson, PA
Joann & Frances Hadnagy, Thompson, PA
Gary Treven, Bloomsburg, PA
Fran & Deb Barrett, Chester Springs, PA
Atty. Lothar Holbert, Honesdale, PA
Delores Kownaski, Dickson City, PA
Ann Marie & Richard Utegg, Vandling, PA
Mrs. Frank Machek, Pleasant Mount, PA
Ed Chaplin & Susan Ensley, Starrucca, PA
Ralph Naylor, Dalton, PA
Robert Dietz, Forest City, PA
Carole J. Hunter, Union Dale, PA
Ethel & Bob Breuche, Union Dale, PA
Lenore Tonkin, Carbondale, PA
Daniel P. Hanlon, Pleasant Mount, PA
Wade & Gail Rendle, Nicholson, PA
Rod Brown, Waymart, PA
Norman Coyle, Lake Ariel, PA
Ted Moran, Tillson, NY
Marilyn & Richard MacDowall, Kingsley, PA
Joyce Hatala, Fleetville, PA
John, Susan, Melissa Short, Waymart, PA
Ken & Leslie Maas, Dalton, PA
Margery P. Dixon, Medford, NJ
Mike McCambridge, Thornhurst, PA
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Fragin, Clarks Summit, PA
John & Nadine Borys, Olyphant, PA
Helen & William Kashuba, Factoryville, PA
Bob Kramer, Equinunk, PA
Doug & Marge Eldridge, East Orange, NJ
David & Jo-Ann Horner, Ambler, PA
John Tighe, Prospect Park, PA
Pat & Joe Narciso, Thompson, PA
Shoppe on Willow, Thompson, PA
Frank Trainor, Susquehanna, PA
Joseph & Lorraine Healey, Laflin, PA
Mark & Jeannine Freudenberg, Freeport, NY
Mary Ellen & Howard Nusbaum, New York, NY
Barbara & Michael McMonagle, Green Lane, PA
Linda, John & Fred Jimenez, Hampton, NJ
Carl, Ann & Dan Arabia, Lincroft, NJ
John & Carol Neary, Scranton, PA



Brandt Bridge Gets Decked

A railroad bridge on the northern section of D&H Rail-Trail was recently decked with snowmobile club volunteers. The bridge, located in Brandt just south of Lanesboro was part of a new acquisition of the northernmost 6 miles of D&H that extend from Stevens Point to the New York State border. The bridge, which crosses the Starrucca Creek, was decked with rough cut oak planks laid at a 45° angle. Supports for the railing were attached prior to decking in order to provide an attachment for the railing.

The project took three consecutive Sundays by dedicated snowmobilers and their generators, tools and expertise. During the same week-ends, trail grading and flood repair work took place with backhoes and dozers. Hurricane Ivan hit hard many sections of the D&H trail, but the Lanesboro-Brandt area was the hardest hit. Repairs continue.

Snowmobilers Hope for White Winter

The Northeast Pa Sno-Trails group (NEPAST) works hard year-round to keep their trail open and improved. When they are not out riding or grooming, they can be found rebuilding bridges, cutting brush, repairing storm damage, talking to private property owners and keeping their many machines in working order. They have totally redesigned their trail map and now have a website. They continue to update their equipment, now owning two late model trail groomers. They groom the trails on a regular basis and try to keep the trails as smooth as possible for the busier weekends.

Please remember all snowmobilers on the NEPAST system must have a trail pass and be registered and insured. Trail pass applications are available on-line through the web at www.nepsnotrails.org. The Rail-Trail office also has applications and passes during the season.

ATV Patrols Resume

This Fall, trail patrols were resumed on a regular basis in order to discourage and eliminate ATV use on the rail-trails. The trail has been posted again with NO ATVs signs. Cameras were also purchased to discourage and possibly catch acts of vandalism to trail access gates and regulatory signage. With the proposed Spring construction, ATV patrols will again continue. Anyone found riding an ATV or dirt bike on the trails will be charged with trespassing.

'Natural' Riverbank Project

In an effort to reclaim the Yucca Flats area (former Hillside Coal lands), Rail-Trail has received a Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener grant to repair a portion of Lackawanna riverbank. The Forest City Yucca Flats area is plagued with stormwater runoff, combined sewer overflows, and river breakthrough along coal silt and coal refuse covered land. These problems must be addressed before any mine reclamation funds can be sought. The project begun by Trails Conservation Corporation and now continued by the RT Council, hopes to plug up the large hole in the riverbank.

The Rosgen method of stream assessment and design is being utilized in this project. Using their Rosgen training, a team from the Lackawanna County Conservation District and the DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mines, is assessing intact natural sections of the river as well as the degraded section in order to design a natural stream reconstruction design. 'Knowing what a stream ought to look like and how it ought to behave is important in assessing the impact of flooding in the region of that stream and the health of that stream's ecology and wildlife habitat.' Rosgen's methods and stream classifications have been used with much success for stream habitat preservation and erosion control.

The RT Council is aiming for an early Spring construction and will be in need of volunteers to plant native riparian shrubs, along the river. The project follows the successful DEP Growing Greener riverbank stabilization project utilizing rootwads & boulders (2002), just downstream of the proposed project.

Tom & Carol Frost, Accomac, VA
Joseph & Linda Monteforte, New Milford, PA
Mark Dorish, Simpson, PA
John & Tillie Quinn, Randolph, NJ
Stan & Sharon Hadley, Lakewood, PA
Harry & Elaine Aumack, Thompson, PA
Frank M. Lewis, Clifford, PA
Esther Friedmann, Clarks Green, PA
Ed & Kathy Ameika, Duryea, PA
Eugene Gallagher, Clarks Summit, PA
Daniel & Tracy Fenton, Hopewell, NJ
Donald & Cheron Swody, Mainesburg, PA
Dr. & Mrs. A. S. Puglisi, Huntington Valley, PA
Ken & Lyn Potts, Fort Washington, PA
Fred & Peg Rose, Clarks Summit, PA
Dolores Sembrat, Olyphant, PA
Tim & Gwen Proctor, Union Dale, PA
Glenn Newman, Richboro, PA
Suzy & John Mooney, Clarks Summit, PA
Bill & Jeanne Kropa, Falls, PA
G. David & Patricia Wagner, Moscow, PA
Frank & Judy Sokloski, Colonia, NJ
Bill & Barbara Feduchak, Blakely, PA
Schulz Brothers Farm, Poyntelle, PA
Louis Orehek, Vandling, PA
Larry Ralston, Orefield, PA
Barbara Galenas, Avoca, PA
Will Chamberlin & Kathryn Lesoine, Dalton, PA
Robert J. Marx, Union Dale, PA
Claribel Todd, Carbondale, PA
Jim & Mary McKane & Sons, Archbald, PA
Kirk & Helen Newsom, Union Dale, PA
Alan Gillick, Clarks Summit, PA
Rodger & Mary Heaton, Davidsonville, MD
Andy & Donna Nikish, Schwenksville, PA
Community Bank & Trust, Forest City, PA
Jacki Hart, Brackney, PA
Fell Township Renaissance, Inc., Simpson, PA
Mary Ann Thomas, Newtown Square, PA
Mary Lou Kelly, Waverly, PA
Will & Pat Acker, Nicholson, PA
Joan O. Peters, Kingsley, PA
Daniel Eriksen, Union Dale, PA

Membership Renewal Form

Please renew! The date on the mailing label on the reverse indicates when your membership expires.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime/Founding \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Call me to discuss a corporate donation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron/Sponsor \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Our group would like a slide presentation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club/Organization \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> I am available for trail cleanups. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Send me a new RTC brochure. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student \$10 | |

NAME _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Make checks payable to **Rail-Trail Council of Northeast PA**
P.O. Box 123, Forest City, PA 18421-0123 Phone: 570-785-7245 E mail: tccrail@epix.net

Congrats to the 'Partnership'

Local townships along the D&H Trail have banded together in order to develop a comprehensive plan that reflects the communities' plan for managing growth. The municipalities of Ararat Township, Gibson Township, Herrick Township, Thompson Township, Thompson Borough and Union Dale Borough signed an intergovernmental cooperation agreement forming the Eastern Susquehanna County Partnership (ESCP).

The plan will address housing, commercial development, jobs, transportation, community facilities, utility infrastructure, safety and protection, agricultural and rural use and preservation, health and education, recreation and conservation of natural and heritage resources, and it will provide a framework for future land use planning ordinances.

A survey was conducted to gather opinions from the residents and taxpayers in the community and was intended to augment data gathered at various public meetings. In the survey, the D&H Rail-Trail was perceived as an asset in most respects with development of recreational opportunities as a priority for the area.

The ESCP holds regularly scheduled working meetings the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Thompson Township Municipal Building on SR 1001 in Thompson, PA. Meetings are open to the public. Other public meetings will be held throughout the project, expected to be completed in the Fall of 2005. For more information contact your local municipal officials or email the ESCP at escp@nep.net. See also the website www.escp-plan.org

D&H and O&W Ornaments for Sale

Fell Township Renaissance, Inc. is offering Christmas ornaments for sale that feature an O&W locomotive, the O&W logo, and the D&H logo. The cost is \$5.00 with \$1.00 shipping. Checks should be made payable to Fell Township Renaissance and mailed to 78 Jefferson Street, Simpson, PA 18407

Waymart Trail Update

The Rail-Trail Council continues to work with Waymart concerned citizens for the re-establishment of the D&H Steamline as a recreational trail around the new federal prison in Waymart. Although plans have been developed for a 1.75 mile reconnection trail, there are now concerns from the State Correctional Institution, as the proposed trail will run adjacent to their property. Another meeting is set for a possible rerouting of the trail.

Rail-Trail Council of Northeast PA
P.O. Box 123
Forest City, PA 18421-0123
tccrail@epix.net
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 10 Forest City, PA
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