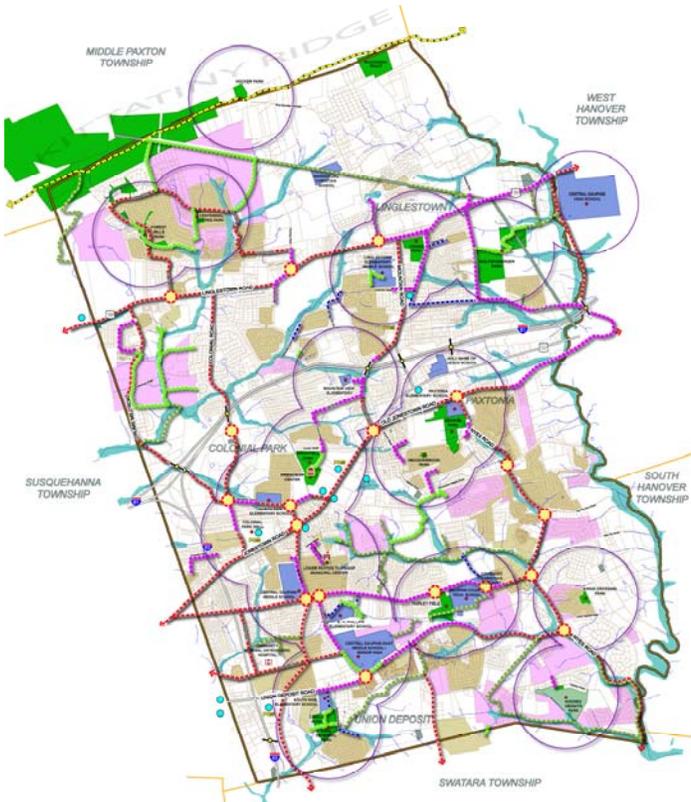


Executive Summary

The Lower Paxton Township Greenway Plan proposes both a series of bicycle and pedestrian improvements that will provide various transportation and recreation opportunities in the Township, and modifications to existing ordinances to provide additional protection to the Township's natural resources. This plan builds upon the recommendations set forth in Township's Comprehensive Plan, and will establish links between neighborhood developments and greenway destination points such as local and regional parks, schools, community & commercial destinations, and other trails beyond the township boundaries.

The Greenway Plan accomplishes the **project goals** of inventorying the existing "gray" and "green" infrastructure from this and other previously published reports into a geographic information system (GIS) database; analyzing that information to identify the opportunities and constraints for greenway development; and identifying the appropriate trail types for each of the preferred trail routes.



Public participation included three public meetings, four study committee meetings, and a number of key person interviews held over a seven-month period from November 2006 through June 2007. All meetings were well attended and the input received from Township residents at those meetings had major impacts to the plan. This input resulted in prioritizing the proposed trail routes and bicycle / pedestrian facilities to be first implemented at the "neighborhood" level in order to have the most benefit for the majority of Township residents.

The most important **benefit of a trails & greenway system** is the opportunity these facilities can provide towards bettering the community's general health and well being through regular physical activity. The opportunity for physical activity that trails & greenway related facilities provide not only fights obesity and related diseases, but also results in reduced health care costs, increased work productivity, and improved longevity for the community as a whole. Other benefits include enhanced property values and environmental education opportunities.

Executive Summary

Proposed Improvements

The Greenway Plan includes the following proposed bicycle and pedestrian improvements to be implemented primarily within new residential land developments and within existing public rights-of-way:

- Neighborhood Off-Road Trails;
- Neighborhood Bikeway and Walkway Connections;
- Township – Off Road Trails;
- Township – On-Road Cycling Routes; and,
- Intersection Improvements.

The estimated total cost for these improvements totals \$14.1 million, however it is envisioned that the majority of improvements will be funded through land development and roadway improvement projects. The remainder can be obtained at a minimal cost to the Township if properly leveraged through a number of potential funding sources outlined in the report.

General Plan Recommendations

- Adopt this Greenway Plan as an addendum to the Township Comprehensive Plan;
- Ensure that the proposed improvements within this plan are included in all new land development and roadway improvement projects;
- The Township must use its municipal funds to leverage additional grant funding from state and federal sources; and,
- Adopt a Riparian Corridor Conservation Overlay Zoning District to provide “protective” greenways that have the potential to preserve long corridors of natural land or sensitive features and serve as a placeholder for future trail plans.

Implementation Priorities

1. Construct a ‘Safe Routes to School’ demonstration project. This process is underway with the Township having submitted a DCNR Development Grant application in April 2007;
2. Complete the Neighborhood bikeway and sidewalk connections along existing roadway corridors between neighborhoods and destinations;
3. Complete the Neighborhood off-road connections;
4. Prepare Feasibility Studies / Master Plans for the Off-Road trail connections along stream corridors; and,
5. Keep an eye on the opportunities to provide connections to regional trails and/or bikeway systems beyond Township borders.