

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape **SUCCESS STORY**

By: Lehigh Canal Recreation Commission,
Dennis Bauschpies – Chairman,
(610) 377-1392

Weissport Trailhead Enhancements (Awarded 2012)

SUMMARY

The D&L Trail: Weissport Trailhead was improved with a new asphalt parking lot surface to eliminate standing water, potholes and drainage issues caused by a poor initial design of the trailhead. These enhancements increase the ease of use and beautify the space for the public coming to walk, run and bike along the D&L Trail.

FUNDING

Grant Award:
\$4,000.00

Match:
\$13,007.12

Total Project Cost:
\$17,007.12

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Members of LCRC

Franklin Township
Borough of Weissport
East Penn Township
Borough of Jim Thorpe
Borough of Parryville
Mahoning Township

Delaware & Lehigh National
Heritage Corridor, D&L Trail
Tenders, and D&L Trail Alliance



CHALLENGE

The Weissport Trailhead along the D&L Trail was in need of improvements to allow the community and visitors a safer, more enjoyable experience. The parking lot had large potholes and areas of standing water and cars would create ruts and kill the grass along the edges of the parking lot. Aesthetic upgrades were necessary to hide the dumpster area of a local business, fix crumbling masonry at the entranceway, plant wildflowers and grass along the railroad and canal banks, and provide signage to inform public about the no-mow natural landscaping.



SOLUTION

While the preferred surface for trails, the use of the same crushed limestone for the trailhead proved to be a bad choice. After several meetings with all concerned parties, it was agreed that the solution was to pave the trailhead. The existing surface thus became the base and the pavement was laid such that surface runoff was directed to the swales along both lengths of the parking lot.

RESULTS

The result of this project was a trailhead that has become basically maintenance free. The parking area now only needs occasional line painting while the native grasses have cut down on the runoff from the railroad bank and minimized the mowing to two times a year.

The landowner has gone from fixing potholes a few times a year to being able to focus limited municipal resources to other areas of need like the trail and canal locks.

Contact

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Photos from
before the
enhancements