

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape SUCCESS STORY

By: Wildlands Conservancy
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Jordan Creek Greenway Permitting (2013)

SUMMARY

The work of this project was to complete the required Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plan review and secure NPDES permits along a 1.9-mile section of the Jordan Creek Greenway in South Whitehall Township. Along with receiving permit approvals, a Phase I Archeological Survey report was completed to identify the archeological resources near the proposed Greenway. The completion of this Survey and approval of proper permits will allow for the construction of the Trail west of South Whitehall Township's Covered Bridge Park and add a significant segment into the overall proposed 12.8-mile Jordan Creek Greenway.



CHALLENGE

The development of the Jordan Creek Greenway is a major priority for Wildlands Conservancy and a number of municipal partners in Lehigh County. The County is home to many excellent park and recreational areas, but there lacks a clear connection between many of these places. The 2013 Lehigh Valley Trails Inventory identifies the top 10 major trail gaps in the Lehigh Valley, including multiple gaps within the Jordan Creek Greenway.

Over the years there has been significant progress in coordinating partners and planning the future development of the trail, but the biggest challenge faced at the moment is implementing those efforts into construction. At least 2.9 miles of trail have been built, but many miles are in various stages of development. While support for the trail has been consistent, construction projects are looked upon much more favorably if they are “shovel-ready”. Segments 48, 49, and 50 of the Greenway are of high-priority to Wildlands Conservancy and South Whitehall Township, but require costly permits and investigation before construction can be considered.

FUNDING

Grant Award:
\$20,000.00

Match:
\$26,458.00

Total Project Cost:
\$46,458.00

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

South Whitehall Township –

Future manager of this section of the Greenway, provided matching funds and guidance

Barry Isett & Associates – Prepared all designs, engineering, and permit applications, provided guidance and facilitation on the Archeological Survey



SOLUTION



The generous support of Lehigh Valley Greenways has catalyzed the proper next steps in the construction of this critical segment of the Jordan Creek Greenway. Often the cost of permit fees and administration is overlooked when dealing with large trail projects. In this case, instead of wasting many months or even years trying to raise the necessary funding to obtain and review all permit approvals; Wildlands was able to pay the fees required for all necessary permits. One major hang-up with this project was the need for a detailed Phase I Archeological Survey to investigate potential artifacts within the construction area.

Now that the permitting and Archeological Survey are complete, the final steps can be taken to construct a critical component of the Jordan Creek Greenway.

RESULTS

With support of South Whitehall Township and design and engineering from Barry Isett & Associates, all permits were approved and secured for the construction of 1.9 miles of the Jordan Creek Greenway. In line with the goals of Lehigh Valley Greenways, the development of the Jordan Creek Greenway is focused on connecting major recreation areas and open spaces, providing an urban transportation alternative, and encouraging sustainable, green Best Management Practices.

The Erosion & Sedimentation and Stormwater Management plans for this section of trail included over 1,740 cf of deciduous trees, 3900 cf of evergreen trees, and 15 rain gardens throughout the trail corridor. Over ¼ miles currently has funding in place for construction and will be completed in 2016.

The Phase I Archeological Survey identified a number of archeological remnants, but upon review of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the trail would not have any impact on historic resources.

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