

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape SUCCESS STORY

By: Bethlehem Township, PA
www.bethlehemtownship.org
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Bethlehem Township Trailheads (Awarded 2016)

SUMMARY

For many years, the D&L Trail running through Bethlehem Township along the Lehigh River has been one of the community's "best kept secrets" The tree covered path adjacent to the river has long been a haven for those seeking rest and respite from other bustling parts of the community. Then, within the past several years, the trail and river were discovered en masse, reports note that the stretch of trail is one of the most popular in the system. Township Officials were determined to give the community's "4th Corridor" the reception it deserved by providing proper signage, fencing and other amenities to serve its many users.



CHALLENGE

The trailheads for the D&L Trail at Farmersville Road and the locally renowned "Nagy's Landing" have long been a well-used open space asset in Bethlehem Township. However, over the years dumping, defacement and disrepair hindered bringing so many of the community's resident to their riverside and the associated trail network. Township Leadership and Planners began to debate the best course of action to ease some of the area's problems and support the growing base of users at the wonder regional amenity. Bikers, dog-walkers, joggers, nature-lovers and more have come to use the area as a getaway from the hustle and bustle of the Greater Lehigh Valley; Bethlehem Township wanted to reciprocate with providing the best "welcome mat" and entries possible to the D&L Trail and Lehigh River.

FUNDING

Grant Award:
\$7,500.00

Match:
\$14,833.32

Total Project Cost:
\$22,333.32

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

This project was made possible by the support of the citizens of Bethlehem Township, trail users and the leadership and commitment of the Bethlehem Township Board of Commissioners, Bethlehem Township Recreation Commission and the Bethlehem Township Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee.



SOLUTION

By installing post and rail fencing, the township has been able to curb the chronic dumping problem in the area. Vehicles no longer have the ability to back up into the woods and litter in the area. The Bethlehem Township Police Department has installed cameras to ensure no future dumping or vandalism in the area. The installed signage provides the proper notoriety and recognition of the Township's valuable asset in the D&L Trail Corridor and the Lehigh River and will serve as wayfinding for those looking to access trailheads. The installed amenities such as benches, new garbage receptacles, etc. provide users with an entrance trailhead network whether they are coming to bike, jog, walk their dogs or simply enjoy the riverside views.

RESULTS

The most recognizable results to-date have been the complete cessation of dumping in the area. The post and rail fencing has deterred would-be litterbugs since its installation. The fencing also provides for orderly parking and vehicle movement in the area increasing safety and protecting natural areas around the old canal. Lastly, since project inception, word-of-mouth and internet posting, photos and more have given the area strong notoriety to be one of Bethlehem Township's prime recreational zones for residents and visitors alike.

Contact



www.LVgreenways.org

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