Summary

With the assistance of the Lehigh Valley Greenways Mini-Grant, Upper Nazareth Township was able to successfully complete its first ever Official Map! On June 20, 2018, the Upper Nazareth Township Board of Supervisors formally adopted Ordinance #176: The Upper Nazareth Township Official Map. Creation of the Official Map was completed primarily by the Upper Nazareth Township Planning Commission with help from Township staff, the Township Engineer, and the Township Solicitor.

Challenge

Upper Nazareth Township decided to embark on its first ever Official Map in order to better position the Township for the future. The Board of Supervisors recognized that there was a need to provide additional open space and recreation areas for Township residents but lacked any formal plans to do so. Additionally, the Township is surrounded by communities with extensive trail networks, several of which terminated at the border with Upper Nazareth. The Board of Supervisors desires to provide trails not only for Township residents, but also to connect with our neighbors as part of a more comprehensive Northampton County and greater Lehigh Valley trail network. The Official Map allowed the Township to formally put this vision on paper while also providing a legal mechanism to protect lands identified for trails and open space.
SOLUTION

The adopted Official Map complies with the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and depicts an extensive network of trails that will, once completed, connect residents from one end of the Township to the other while also tying in to existing trails in our neighboring municipalities.

RESULTS

The result of this project is a comprehensive Official Map that was created through a collaborative process involving the Township Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, staff, and input from Township residents and neighboring municipalities. The Township received nothing but positive feedback from its neighbors and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission for endeavoring to plan for the future and to provide recreation and connectivity for its residents:

The Bushkill Township Board of Supervisors “commends Upper Nazareth Township for its planning efforts” and “supports the Future Open Space areas designated on the map.”

“The LVPC commends the Township for their collaboration with the Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape on this project and for inviting neighboring municipalities to review and comment on the official map proposed pedestrian/bicycle network.”

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