

Lebanon Valley Rail-Trail

Trail Location: Conewago Trail at Lancaster County line through Colebrook to Mt Gretna (Rt 72)

Trail Length: 9 miles

Counties: Lebanon

Activities:

Walking, Horseback Riding, Biking, Cross Country Skiing, Mountain Biking

Trail Surface(s):

Cinder

Trail Description:

From the Trail Website (www.lvrailtrail.com): Total proposed trail length is 15 miles stretching from the Lancaster/Lebanon County line to the City of Lebanon (the existing Conewago Trail extends another five miles to Elizabethtown).

Lebanon County will own the trail property and volunteers from Lebanon Valley Rails-to-Trails, Inc. (a non-profit support organization) will maintain the trail with volunteers.

Only non-motorized uses will be permitted on the trail including hiking, biking, running, skiing and horseback riding. The trail will be open only during daylight hours. (Snowmobiles will be allowed on a section of the trail adjacent to the State Game Lands where snowmobiles are permitted.)

The trail will be surfaced with crushed limestone screenings on top of a stone base. This surface is suitable for biking and hiking. A parallel path will be provided for equestrians.

For the latest information on this trail, please see the Trail Website.

Parking & Trail Access:

To access the Lebanon Valley Rail-Trail in Colebrook take the Pennsylvania Turnpike to the Mt. Gretna interchange (Exit 20). Then follow Rt. 72 north to Rt. 117 and take Rt. 117 north about five miles to the Colebrook trailhead. Parking is available at the intersection of Rt. 117 and Colebrook Road.

- The Lebanon Valley rail-trail will provide a much-needed, close-to-home recreational resource suitable for a wide variety of uses which appeal to a broad cross-section of our community. The trail will be used by all age groups and abilities.
- The trail is located in close proximity to the following points of interest: Lebanon and Cedar Crest High Schools, the Lebanon Expo Center and Fairgrounds, Cornwall Furnace, Governor Dick Recreation Area, and the State Game Lands.
- A part of Lebanon County's industrial heritage will be preserved through railroad historical interpretation.
- The trail represents a greenway through a rapidly developing section of the county.
- The trail will provide wildlife habitat for small animals and birds.
- The trail has the potential to link with other projects such as the Union Canal Greenway and Swatara State Park.

Rules of the Trail

- Unauthorized motorized vehicles prohibited
- Obey all traffic signs

- Bicycles must yield to pedestrians
- Everyone must yield to horses
- Stay to the right of the trail except when passing
- Give a clear warning before passing other trail users
- Horses are asked to use the woodchip side of the trail
- Discharging firearms from or across the trail is strictly prohibited
- Smoking, alcoholic beverages, and illegal drugs are not permitted on the trail right of way
- Avoid disturbing natural features
- Please respect the landowners along the trail
- The trail is closed to all users from dusk to dawn
- Camping on the trail right of way or at trailheads is prohibited. No open Campfires!
- Keep pets on a leash
- No littering

Historical Facts

Created from the former Cornwall-Lebanon Railroad built by Robert H. Coleman in the 1880's, the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail follows a route rich with social and economic history.

In the old days, special passenger trains carried visitors to the popular summer resort community of Mt. Gretna.

During the 1800's and early 1900's, the railroad also provided transport to the Pennsylvania National Guard training encampment near Mt. Gretna. Eventually passenger service ceased, and the Pennsylvania Railroad acquired the line.

Freight service to the main line in Lancaster County continued until Hurricane Agnes washed out sections of the track in 1972

In 1999 Lebanon Valley Rails-to-Trails acquired the corridor to develop a multi-use trail

Overview

- Total proposed trail length is 15 miles stretching from the Lancaster/Lebanon County line to the City of Lebanon. (Existing Conewago Trail extends another 5 miles to Elizabethtown)
- The rail-trail project is being funded by a combination of public grants and private donations. The goal for private donations is \$350,000.
- Lebanon County will own the trail property and volunteers from Lebanon Valley Rails-to-Trails, Inc. (a non-profit support organization) will maintain the trail with volunteers.
- The trail will be surfaced with crushed limestone screenings on top of a stone base this surface is suitable for biking and hiking. A parallel path will be provided for equestrians.

Trail Construction Update

Phase 2

Colebrook to the Lebanon/Lancaster County line

Distance: 4 Miles

and

Cornwall to Zinns Mill Rd

Distance: 1.5 Miles

Phase 3

Route 72 to Cornwall - (including the iron trestle in Cornwall)

Distance: 1 mile

Status: Preliminary design - Construction planned for spring 2003

Funding source: DCNR

Phase 4

Zinns Mill Rd. to the city of Lebanon (@the Daily News)

Distance: 2 miles

Status: Applied for Aquisition grant - Negotiations with Railroad in progress

Funding Source: DCNR

A public service of <http://www.pa-conservation.org> and <http://www.bigdamfish.net>