

**Kish Riverwalk/Trail
 Lewistown Borough
 Mifflin County, PA**

Project Description:

Recent improvements to Lewistown’s downtown continue to establish its quintessential small town atmosphere. In 1998, a vacant downtown department store was renovated into a multi-use building that includes office and hospital facilities. Later, in 2000, the Charter Plan for Downtown Lewistown was adopted to invigorate the town’s core through carefully considered construction. The Kish RiverWalk was part of the initiative.

The RiverWalk will one day connect Recreation Park and Victory Park. “That hasn’t quite happened yet but what we’ve seen occur is it being used as a link from neighborhoods to the downtown,” said Jim Zubler, Executive Director of Downtown Lewistown, Inc.

The completed portion of the trail is approximately a half-mile long, connecting to Main St. and continuing east. From this centrally located



Quote: Jim Zubler, Executive Director of Downtown Lewistown, Inc.
 “The project was conceived in 1976 during the country’s bicentennial by a group of people in the community who wanted to connect trails to Victory Park. It’s good to finally build upon peoples’ ideas and vision to implement these new projects.”

starting point, the trail leads toward a grocery store and other retail establishments, making its setting ideal for shopping or running errands downtown. The borough hopes that more businesses will build near the trail, providing residents with easy access to them while stimulating the town’s economy.

Acting not only as a practical transportation walkway, the ADA accessible RiverWalk is also ideal for recreational use providing overlooks

and views of the river.

One unique aspect of the trail is its incorporation of a renovated railroad bridge, which exemplifies positive reuse (as opposed to destruction and reconstruction) of an existing structure. The new design utilizes the bridge’s original railroad ties in a way that was much more cost efficient than replacing them.

Parking spaces, utilities and signs were all included in the trail’s construction, which was made possible in part with a \$110,000 Keystone grant from DCNR. The borough was a proactive participant in this process and used its own crews for the trail’s construction.



Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:

2002: \$99,000

2005: \$11,000

Local Match: \$110,000