

**Northern Extension of Heritage Rail Trail County Park  
 York County Rail Trail Authority  
 York County, PA**

**Project Description:**

It may only be about 1.5 miles long so far, but the Northern Extension of Heritage Rail Trail County Park is an important piece of pavement. Serving as a link between John Rudy County Park and Christ Memorial Field in Manchester Township, it provides an easy way for children to walk or bike between the two.

“It benefits local families. There are a lot of new homes around the John Rudy County Park so kids have a safe place to bike through the area,” said Gwen Loose, York County Rail Trail Authority Project Coordinator.

And, with the parks’ athletic fields, playgrounds and pavilions, children use the trail connecting them to residential areas heavily.

“It’s a unique project because it can stand alone and stand as part of a larger project,” said Loose, referring to the fact that the 1.5 miles does not yet connect to the rest of the Rail Trail.

Over twenty miles of the Heritage Rail Trail County Park, which lead into downtown York, had been completed by 1999. The 1.5-mile, DCNR-funded portion of the trail is Phase 1 of the northern extension. By 2013, three additional phases will complete the connection to the existing trail. Once the entirety of the Northern Extension is complete, it will add 5.5 miles total to the Heritage Rail Trail.

Ideally, the trail will aid new development in York. Allowing for functional transportation to downtown as well as longer recreational rides, it will attract visitors and residents to the area. It’ll be a safe transportation or recreation route, too. York County Department of Parks & Recreation provides maintenance, security and management to both the



**Quote:** Gwen Loose, Project Coordinator, York County Rail Trail Authority

“I think [the completed part of the Northern Extension of Heritage Rail Trail] is much different from the other 20 miles of trail. The rest is along a rail bed so it’s pretty flat but this has some hills, which makes it fun, and views of Codorus Creek.”



Heritage Rail Trail County Park and its northern extension.

Of the total \$230,000 Phase 1 project cost, \$115,000 has been covered by a DCNR

Keystone grant. Other related site improvements, benches, signage and ADA accessibility have all been incorporated into the trail’s final plans.



**Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:**

2004: \$115,000

Local Match: \$115,000