

Ghost Town Trail
 Great Allegheny Valley Passage
 Cambria & Indiana County, PA

Project Description:

The Ghost Town Trail is a 36-mile trail network that runs throughout Cambria and Indiana counties. The trail was originally established in 1991 when Kovalchick Salvage Company donated 12 miles of the former Ebensburg and Blacklick Railroad to Indiana County. In 1993 the Cambria and Indiana Railroad donated an additional 4 miles that run from Rexis to White Mill Station, which is known today as the Rexis Branch. In 2005 an additional 20 miles of trail were added to the system - 12 miles in Indiana County and 8 miles in Cambria County.

Throughout its evolution, the Ghost Town Trail has been supported by approximately \$372,000 in Keystone Grant Funding. Keystone Funding was used in a number of different ways to leverage millions of dollars in support from a wide variety of private, local, state and federal agencies. Keystone funds have helped to pay for everything from

plans and specs to trail and bridge construction.

The Ghost Town Trail is designated as a National Trail by the U. S. Department of the Interior and offers a number of environmental and historical interpretive opportunities. The trail derives its name from numerous mining towns that once existed along the railroad corridors. Historical sites along the trail include the Eliza Iron Furnace, which supplied crude iron to

southwestern Pennsylvania communities in the mid 1800s. Environmental interpretation opportunities include the importance of riparian areas and examples of the impacts and reclamation associated with acid mine drainage.

Since its opening, the Ghost Town Trail has hosted in excess of 75,000 users annually offering a boost to the local economy. Municipalities along



"The Ghost Town Trail has had a significant impact on Ebensburg Borough and the surrounding area. Our residents are thrilled to have this beautiful scenic trail in their own backyard on which to hike, bike and cross country ski. The Trail serves as the centerpiece of Ebensburg's own recreation corridor linking the community swimming pool, bowling alley, hockey rink, Lake Rowena, tennis center, ball fields, playgrounds, community center and golf courses. Downtown businesses are excited about plans to link the Trail to Ebensburg's Downtown, allowing easy access for Trail users to dining, shopping and entertainment. Sidewalk projects have linked the Trail to the school complex on the opposite side of town. New projects in Ebensburg are never discussed without reference being made to the Ghost Town Trail. It serves to complement everything that the Ebensburg region has to offer."

*Daniel L. Penatzer,
 Ebensburg Borough
 Manager*



"The Ghost Town Trail has added a new dimension to the many recreational assets of the Ebensburg Community. The number of people drawn to our area has increased significantly because of this facility."

"As a frequent user of this trail, 2 to 3 times a week, I enjoy the rewards that are available. Getting exercise and spending time in the woods are opportunities that are not available everywhere. I see many others taking advantage of this jewel. It is apparent that the word is spreading, and Ebensburg will continue to lead the area in recreation and enjoy an economic boost."

Charlie Moyer, Ebensburg Borough Mayor



the trail, such as Ebensburg, have welcomed its presence and continue to beautify their communities to entice trail users into visiting their central business districts. The Ghost Town Trail is used heavily by local citizens and organizations such as the Indiana Bicycle Club. The club offers regular group outings on the trail for all skill and fitness levels.

The trail is divided into two segments. To the north, the trail follows the 20-mile former Cambria and Indiana

Railroad corridor and is known as the "CANDI Trail." It extends from Colver to Revloc in Cambria County. To the east, the 10-mile former Conrail corridor extends the Ghost Town Trail into the Borough of Ebensburg. The completion of this portion of the Ghost Town Trail permits linkage of the county seats of Indiana Borough in Indiana County and Ebensburg Borough in Cambria County. Keystone Grant funding played a major role in making this regional recreation attraction possible.

Amount of funds awarded, year and matching sources:

Keystone grant funding \$372,000+ Over 10 years