



Greater Hazelton Rails to Trails

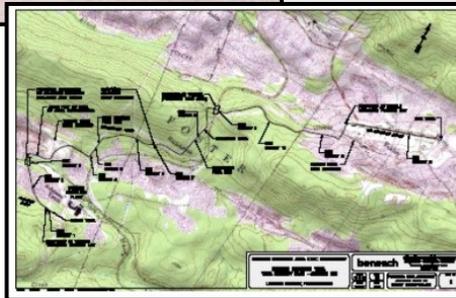
Luzerne County, PA

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roject Description:

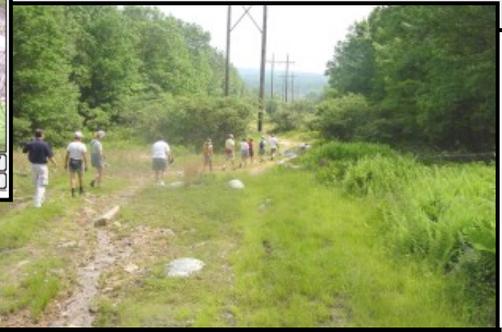
A \$37,000 DCNR Keystone Grant was awarded for preparation of a Master Site Development Plan for the Greater Hazelton Rail Trail. When completed the trail will connect the City of Hazleton with the 180 mile D&L trail. The original plan for the trail was a direct result of a study conducted by internationally respected pollster John Zogby. The community was surveyed through the "Top of the Mountain" public meeting that resulted in a number of recommendations on how to improve the Greater Hazelton Area. This plan was completed in the fall of 1997 and as a result of this visioning process the idea for the Greater Hazelton Rails to Trails was developed.

This project has garnered considerable support in the community and is viewed as key in promoting a healthy lifestyle as well as enhancing family oriented recreational opportunities in the Hazleton Community.



"The Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails is a tremendous asset to the Greater Hazleton Area community and areas outside of the immediate Hazleton Area. What was once an abandoned old rail bed for half a century, used for illegal dumping and other activities, is now a hub of activity. The Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails not only restored the environment, but actually enhanced it by planting native season grasses, conserving natural native plants, and by making people aware of the environment through interpretive signage. The four miles of trails is being used by numerous users including families, dedicated bikers and hikers, school groups, and people who are intent on maintaining a healthy living style to loose weight and improve their health. The trail has been extremely beneficial to the Greater Hazleton by not only providing a healthy benefit but also contributing to the economic well-being of the area since most users after walking, hiking or biking the trail, spend time visiting local restaurants, hotels, shops and more. As the trail continues to link the Eckley Miners Village and the Delaware Lehigh National Heritage Corridor to the Greater Hazleton Area, it will further restore and enhance the economic outlook of our area. Partnerships such as this can only lead to good things happening for our area and the land we share with nature."

Donna Palermo, President Hazelton Chamber of Commerce



Amount of funds awarded, year and matching sources:

2004: \$37,000 Keystone Rail Trail funding
 Matching funds from Luzerne County Office of Community Development-\$37,000