

# LEBANON VALLEY RAIL TRAIL



will be 32.8 miles long in Lebanon County upon completion. Phases Outlined on the map to the left (click on Phases map.):



**Completed Phases 1-5, which total 15 miles in length:** Conewago Township, Lancaster County Line to Chestnut Street in the City of Lebanon. (click on Phases 1-5 map.)

**Benefits:** On a weekend as many as 1700 people use the Trail

- Gets Families Outdoors for a healthy lifestyle through recreation.
- Promotes alternatives to driving and road congestion--hike, bike, and in Swatara State Park, horseback ride.
- Provides an alternate exit from town during an emergency evacuation.
- Provides a safe pathway for pedestrians and cyclists. Also,
- Educates and brings an appreciation of our history, land and water to the public.
- Links to businesses enhancing our economy--Jigger Shop, Rite Aid (S 9th St), Jubilee Ministries, HA Boyd, Lebanon Valley Mall, Supreme.
- Connects schools, communities, and other trails--Mt. Gretna, CCHS, the LV Expo, South Hill Park, Fisher Park, City of Lebanon, Lebanon High School, Lebanon Catholic HS, future Wengert Memorial Park, #GloningerMeadowsPark, Friends of Coleman Memorial Park, Union Canal Tunnel Park, **Swatara Water Trail**, Jonestown, Friends of Memorial Lake and Swatara State Parks, future Allwein Park, Appalachian Trail Communities, and StonyValley.com.
- Allows passage for wildlife and in some instances, alternatives to road crossings.
- Evidenced by inclusion in real estate listings, increases value to properties along the Rail Trail.



**Phase 6 is 1.3 miles long: Runs from 12th Street along Chestnut Street to 22nd Street where it will cross Route 422 at the Lebanon Valley Mall.**

Pocket Parks will be connected using this route:

Across from Lebanon Catholic, **Wengert's pocket park** will be built honoring John Wengert who owned Wengert's Dairy; and then west on Chestnut to 22<sup>nd</sup> Street where just around the corner, North Cornwall Township completed **Gloninger Woods Park**. A new bridge is due to be installed across the Quittapahilla Creek heading towards Lebanon Valley Mall. The crossing is being designed. People will get to the back of the Mall, and go through the tunnel. Commissioners submitted a grant application for over \$700,000 for Phase 6.

**Phase 7 is 1.7 miles long:** 25th Street on the N side of the tunnel behind Lebanon Valley Mall on the old rail bed **along Union Canal Tunnel Park** through to Long Lane. A walkway on the west side of 25<sup>th</sup> Street north of the "Mall" tunnel needs completed where 25<sup>th</sup> Street separates North Lebanon and West Lebanon Townships. An underpass at Tunnel Hill Road is complete. Due to record precipitation, the Trail will open in the spring of 2019.



**Farms and Farmers are Valued. The goal is for the farm and Rail Trail to co-exist.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i92n5RyrUzU>

**Handouts: See Meeting handouts**

**Rail Trail Phase 7:** The Meily's, Rail Trail members, commissioners and others met during our regular meeting. The goal is for the farm and Rail Trail to co-exist. Commissioners support farms and farmers through farmland preservation and Clean and Green, which waves higher real estate taxes on productive land. The Meily farm is enrolled in both programs. All segments of the farm are accessible. Pink lines on the attached map represent existing farm lanes and crossings. Lime green lines represent potential farm lanes.

**Phase 8 is 2.8 miles long:** Long Lane to Bunker Hill. Some paths are still being negotiated.

**Phase 9 is 1.7 miles long:** Bunker Hill to S of Route 22/78  
Jonestown and Supreme Area.



**Completed N of the old iron tress Lebanon to Tremont Railroad Bridge over the Swatara Creek.** From this point north, the Rail Trail often parallels the Swatara Water Trail. To facilitate **Phase 9** N of Jonestown, commissioners signed an

agreement for an easement with the Lebanon Water Authority to pass through their property. Pending approval of funding, both the deck and Trail S of the RR bridge should see construction in 2017. \$587,076

**Phase 9B of the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail Extension project,** includes decking on the old L&T Railroad Bridge and completion of 1700' south towards Bunker Hill.



**Phase 10 is 3.0 miles long:** N of Route 22/78 to Lickdale: Also, the "Z-Truss" Ironwood Bridge will be restored and placed at the Trailhead (in red on the map).



**Completed 7.3 miles in Swatara State Park:** The Appalachian Trail crosses over the Swatara Creek. Other great features are: Union Canal Locks to explore; the rustic Armar Bordner Cabin and Aycrigg's Falls, Lebanon County's only waterfall; and a bank of prehistoric fossils that you can dig through. Hike, bike or horseback ride both sides of the Swatara Creek. Watch for paddlers on the Swatara.



**The Big Picture is a regional trail connecting counties and other trails like Stony Valley:**

[Tourism/FINAL MPO RailTrail CCAP article 11.2016.pdf](#)