WELCOME

Chester County Trails Master Plan

Public Meeting #1

March 14, 2023

CHESTER COUNTY Planning COMMISSION

What area do you live in?

- ❑ Coatesville Area
- ❑ Coventry Area
- ❑ Downingtown/Exton Area
- ❑ Kennett Area
- ❑ Oxford Area
- ❑ Paoli/Malvern Area
- ❑ Phoenixville Area
- ❑ West Chester Area
- ❑ Other area in Chester County
- ❑ Outside Chester County

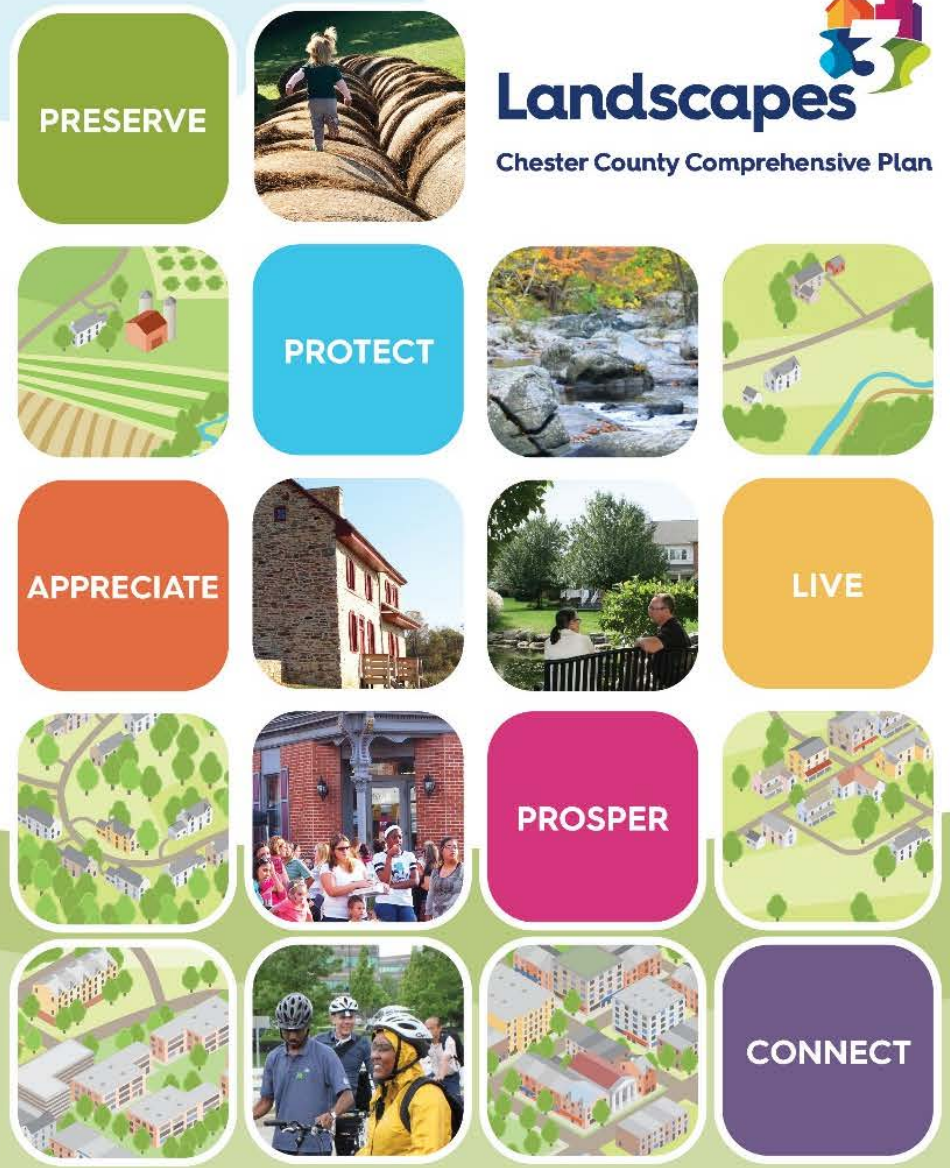
What’s your favorite trail in Chester County?

- ❑ Chester Valley Trail
- ❑ East Branch Brandywine Trail
- ❑ Horse-Shoe Trail
- ❑ Schuylkill River Trail
- ❑ Struble Trail
- ❑ Uwchlan Trail
- ❑ A state, county, or local park trail
- ❑ A preserve or conservancy trail
- ❑ Other

Landscapes

Chester County Comprehensive Plan

Adopted December 2018



The Vision

In 2045…

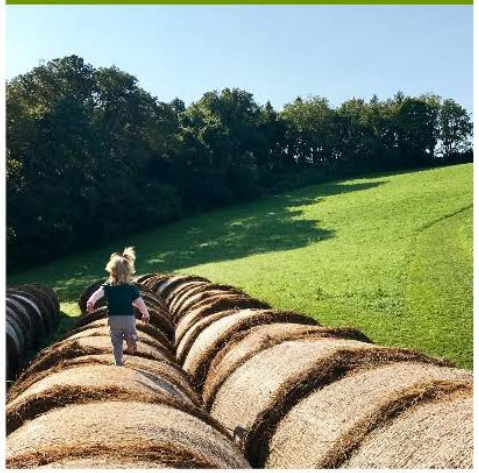
Chester County abounds with healthy natural areas, robust farms, cherished historic sites, diverse housing, thriving businesses, quality education, accessible transportation, and vibrant communities for all.

Landscapes

Landscapes

GOALS

How We
PRESERVE



How We
PROTECT

How We
APPRECIATE

How We
LIVE

How We
PROSPER

How We
CONNECT

How We

CONNECT

Goal

Advance efficient, reliable, and innovative transportation, utility, and communications infrastructure systems that responsibly serve thriving and growing communities.

6 Objectives

OBJECTIVE C

Provide universally accessible sidewalks, trails, and public transit connections to create a continuous active transportation network, and develop multi-use trails to interconnect all communities

Active Transportation

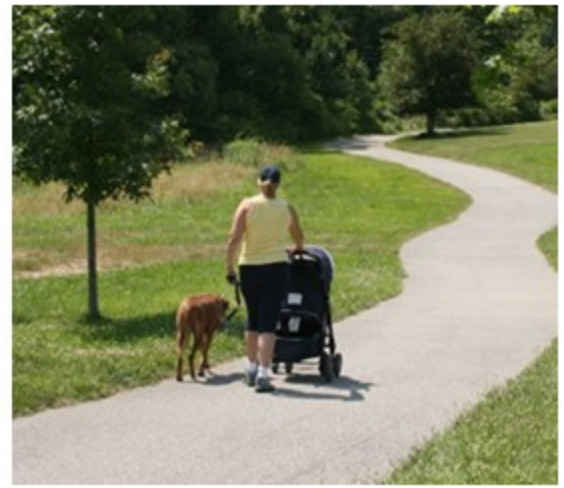
Active Transportation Benefits

Transportation

Recreation

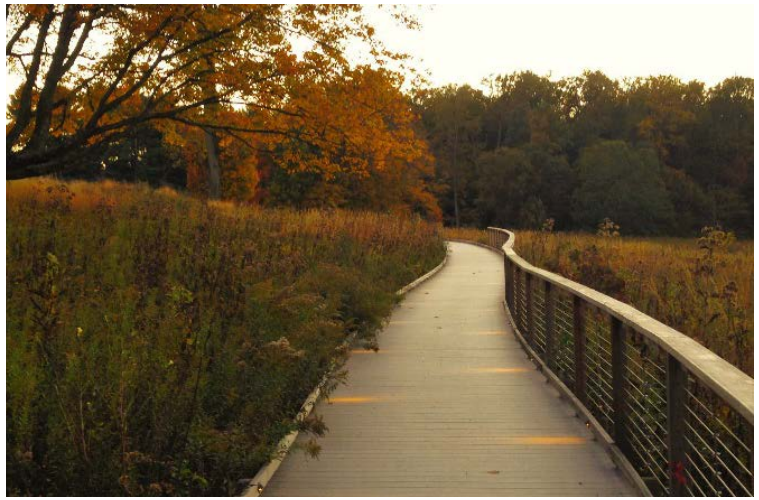
Health + Wellness

Economic



Trail

A linear, off-road facility with a permanent alignment that is open to the general public and is designed, constructed, and maintained for use of a variety of non-motorized forms of travel



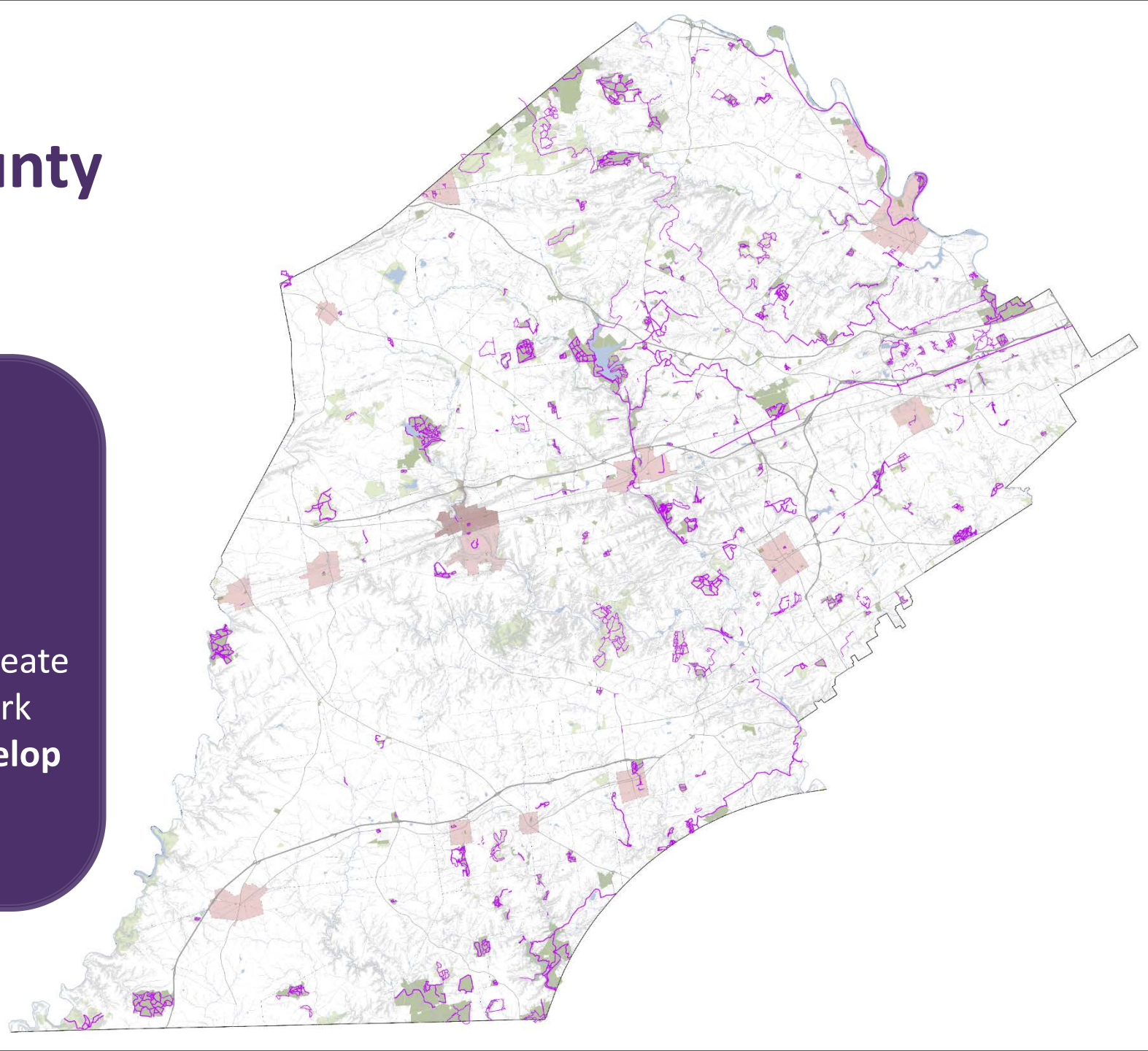
Trails in Chester County

Landscapes 3

How We **CONNECT**

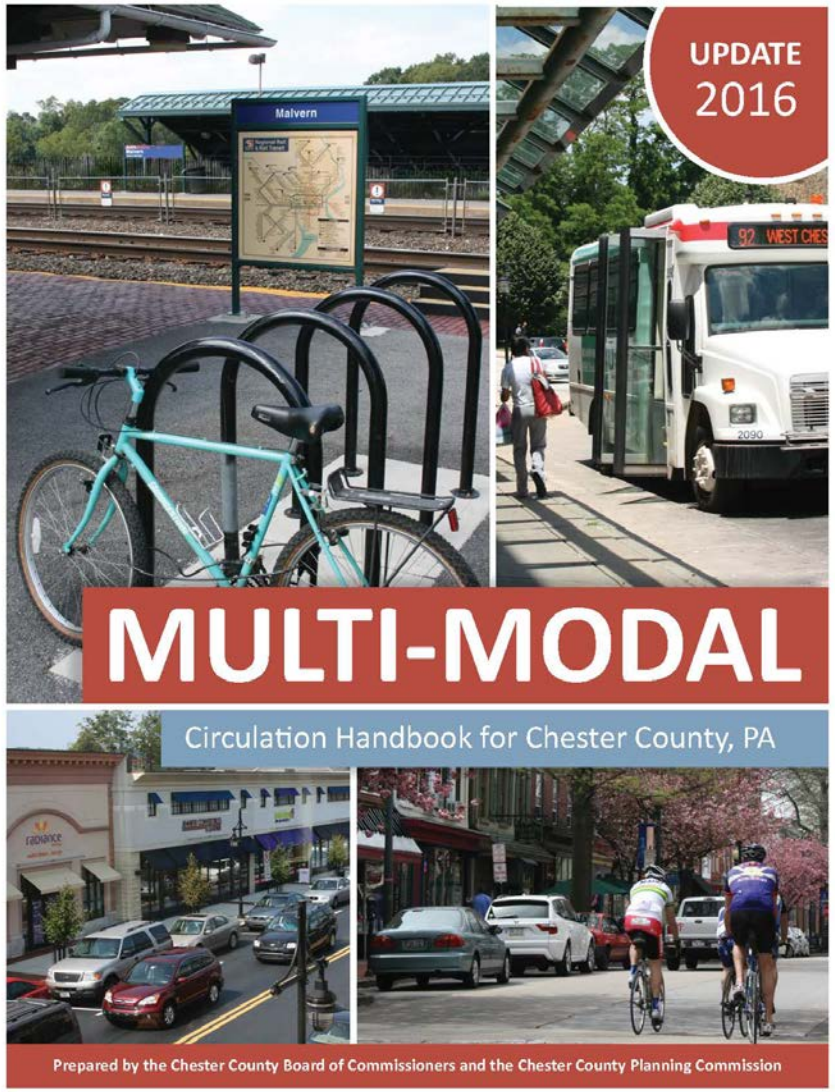
OBJECTIVE C

Provide universally accessible sidewalks, trails, and public transit connections to create a continuous active transportation network within designated growth areas, and **develop multi-use trails to interconnect all communities**.



Multi-use (Shared-use) Trail

A facility that is physically separated from the roadway and typically accommodates bi-directional travel by both bicyclists and pedestrians. They typically have an improved surface (asphalt, concrete, compacted aggregate, etc.) and have a recommended width of 10 feet, although a minimum of 8 feet may be used where space is constrained or when located in environmentally sensitive areas.



Multi-use (Shared-use) Trail

User Type	Pedestrians, Bicyclists, Other non-motorized users
Width	10’+ preferred, 8’ minimum
Grade	<5% longitudinal, <2% cross-slope
Surface	Improved, accessible (Asphalt, Concrete, Compacted Aggregate)
Access	Public

Trail Design Standard

	Multi-use
User Type Pedestrians, Bicyclists, Other Non-motorized Users	Y
Width Min. 8’+	Y
Grade <5% longitudinal, <2% cross-slope	Y
Surface Improved, ADA-compliant	Y
Access Public	Y

Trail Design Standard

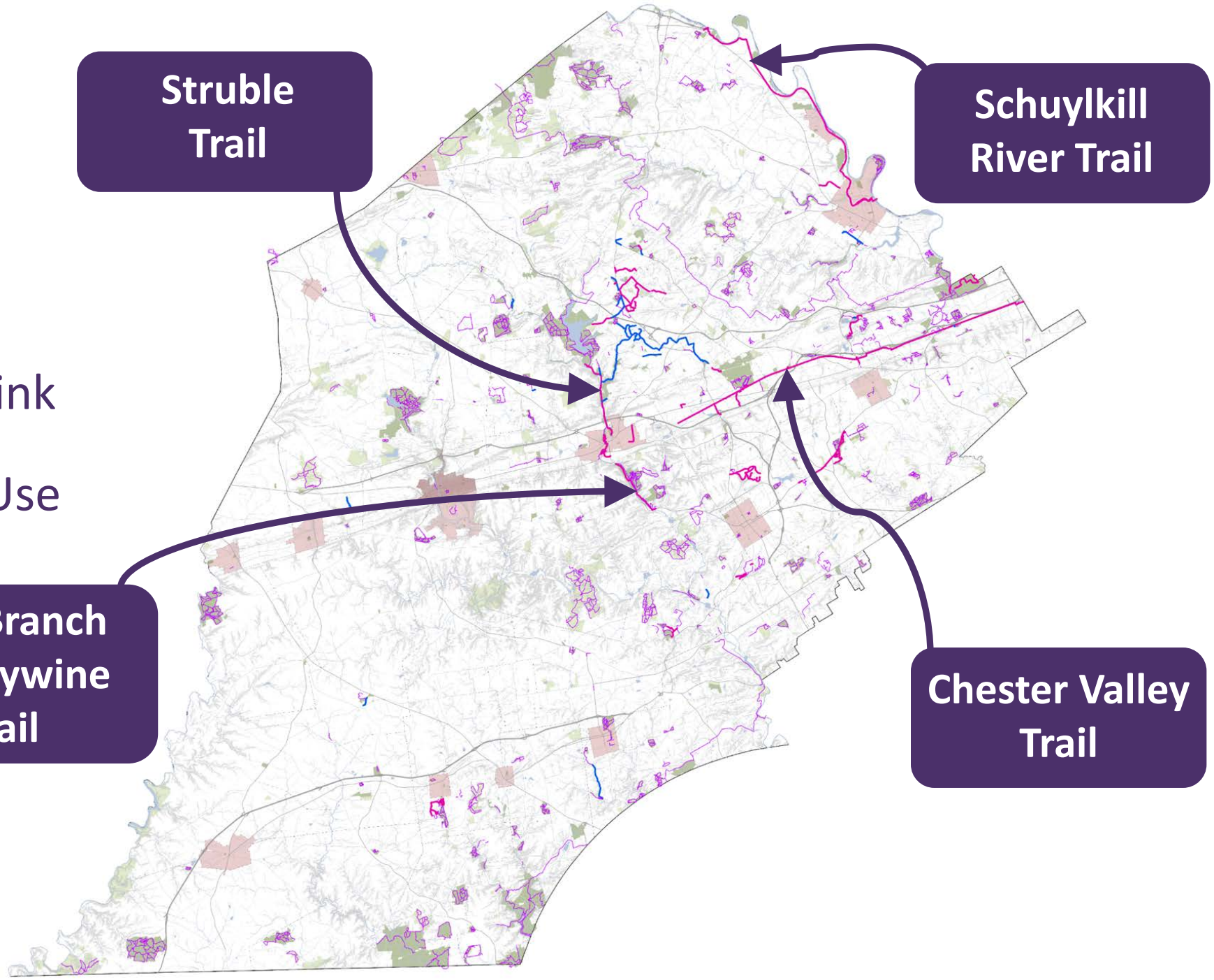
	Multi-use	Restricted Use
User Type Pedestrians, Bicyclists, Other Non-motorized Users	Y	Y or N
Width Min. 8'+	Y	Y or N
Grade <5% longitudinal, <2% cross-slope	Y	Y or N
Surface Improved, ADA-compliant	Y	Y or N
Access Public	Y	Y or N

Trail Design Standard

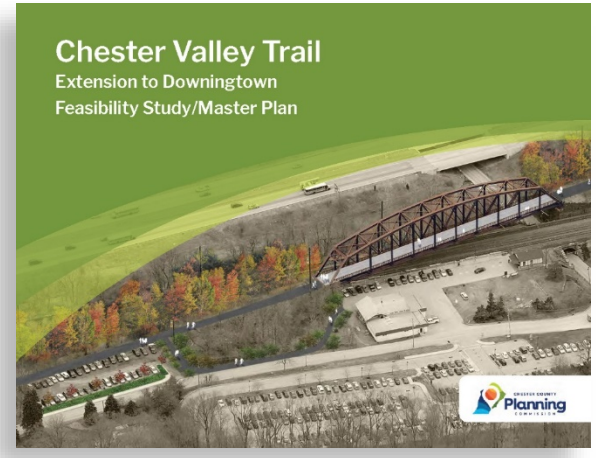
	Multi-use	Restricted Use	Multi-use Link
User Type Pedestrians, Bicyclists, Other Non-motorized Users	Y	Y or N	Y
Width Min. 8'+	Y	Y or N	≥ 6' but < 8'
Grade <5% longitudinal, <2% cross-slope	Y	Y or N	Y
Surface Improved, ADA-compliant	Y	Y or N	Y
Access Public	Y	Y or N	Y

Existing Trails

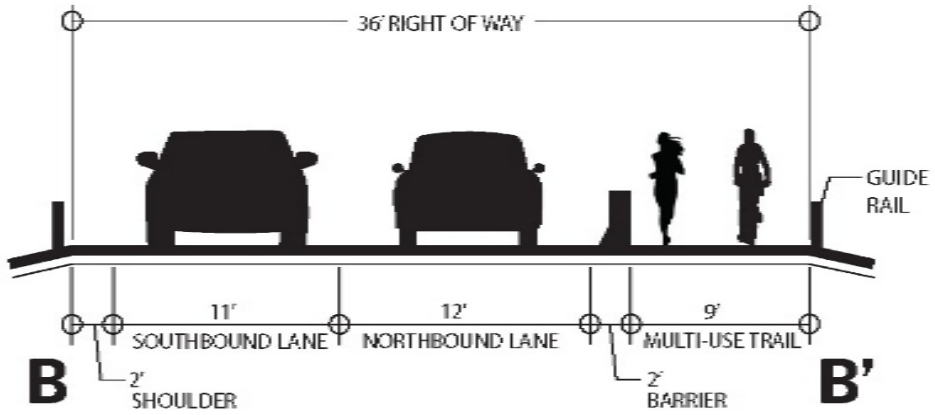
- Multi-use
- Multi-use Link
- Restricted Use

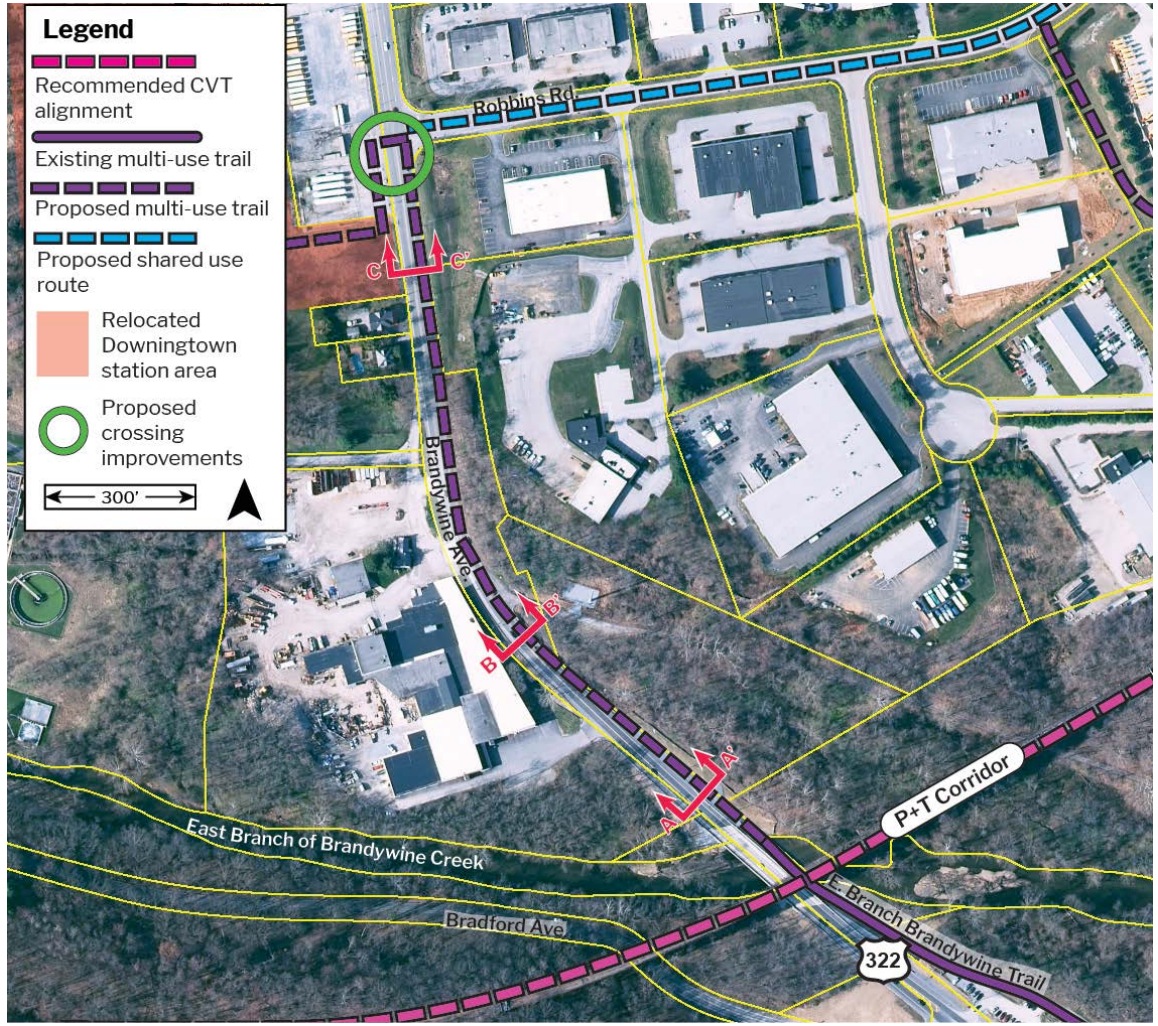


What is a Trails Master Plan?



Proposed





Work Scope / Purpose

18 Months

8 Steering Committee Meetings

3 Public Meetings

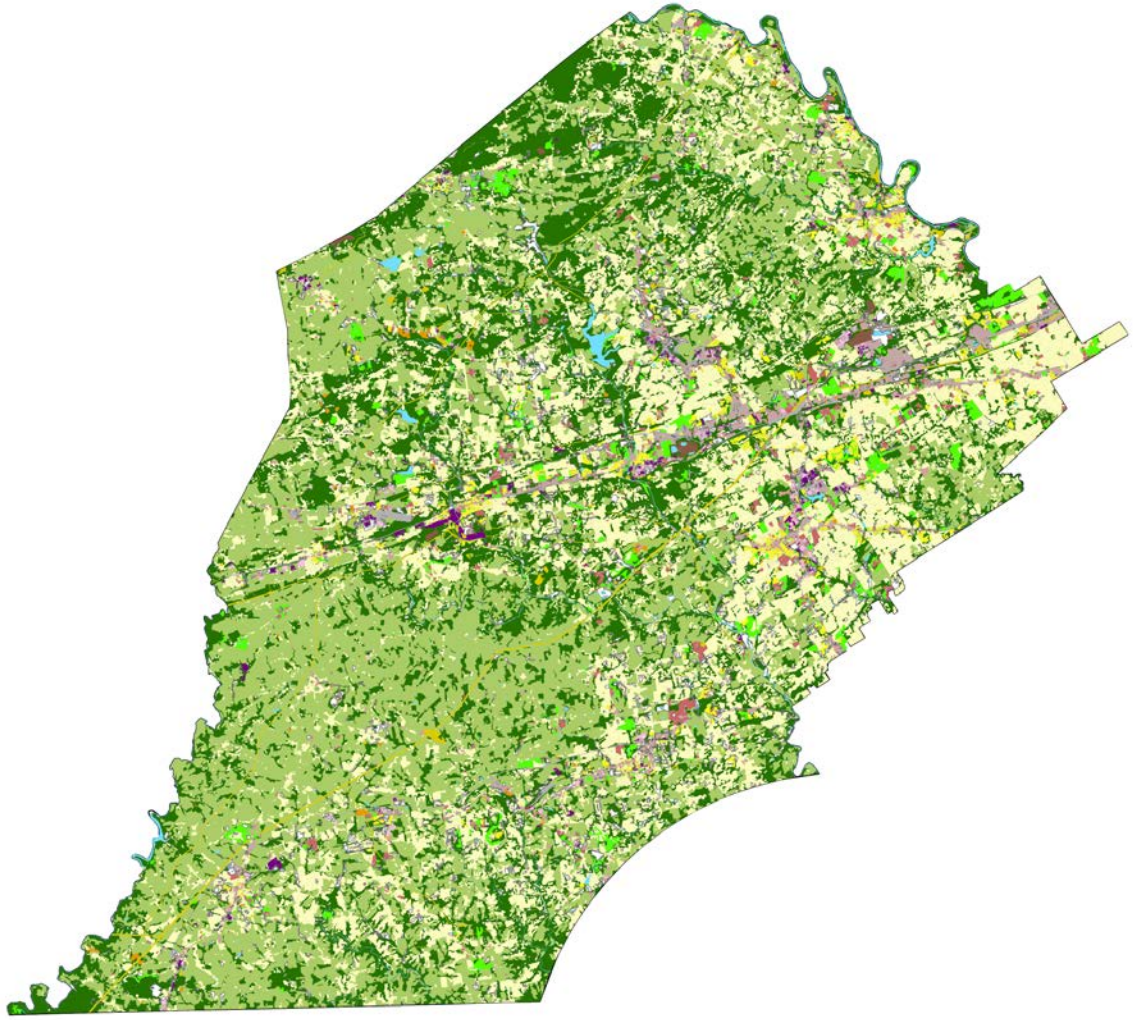
Public Survey

Interviews

- Vision Development
- Physical Inventory and Assessment
- Trail Network Analysis + Alternatives Evaluation
- Trail Master Plan
- Legal and Financial Feasibility
- Recommendations: Trail Operation, Maintenance, Security, and Design Standards
- Public Participation
- Narrative Report Production / Final Products

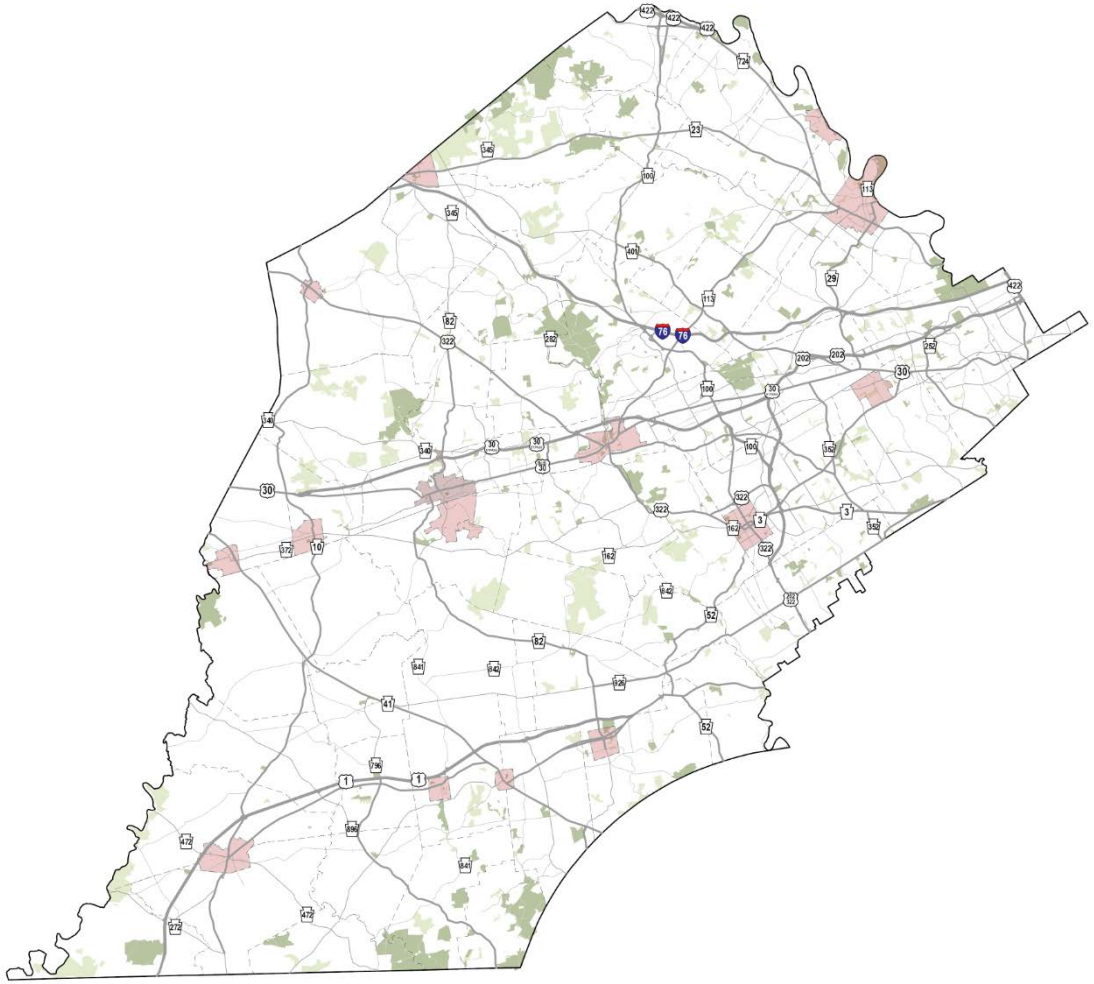
Existing Conditions

Topography & Hydrology

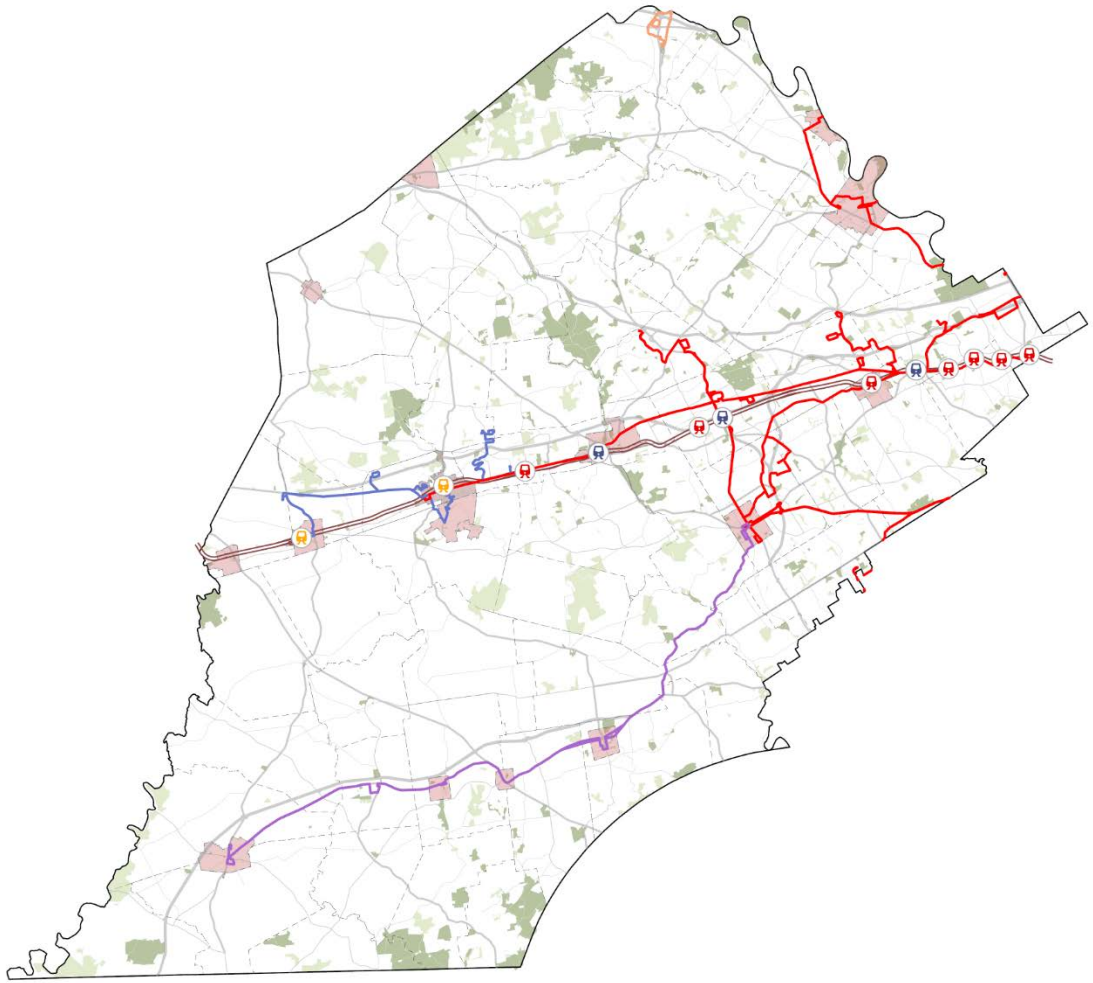


Land Use

Existing Conditions

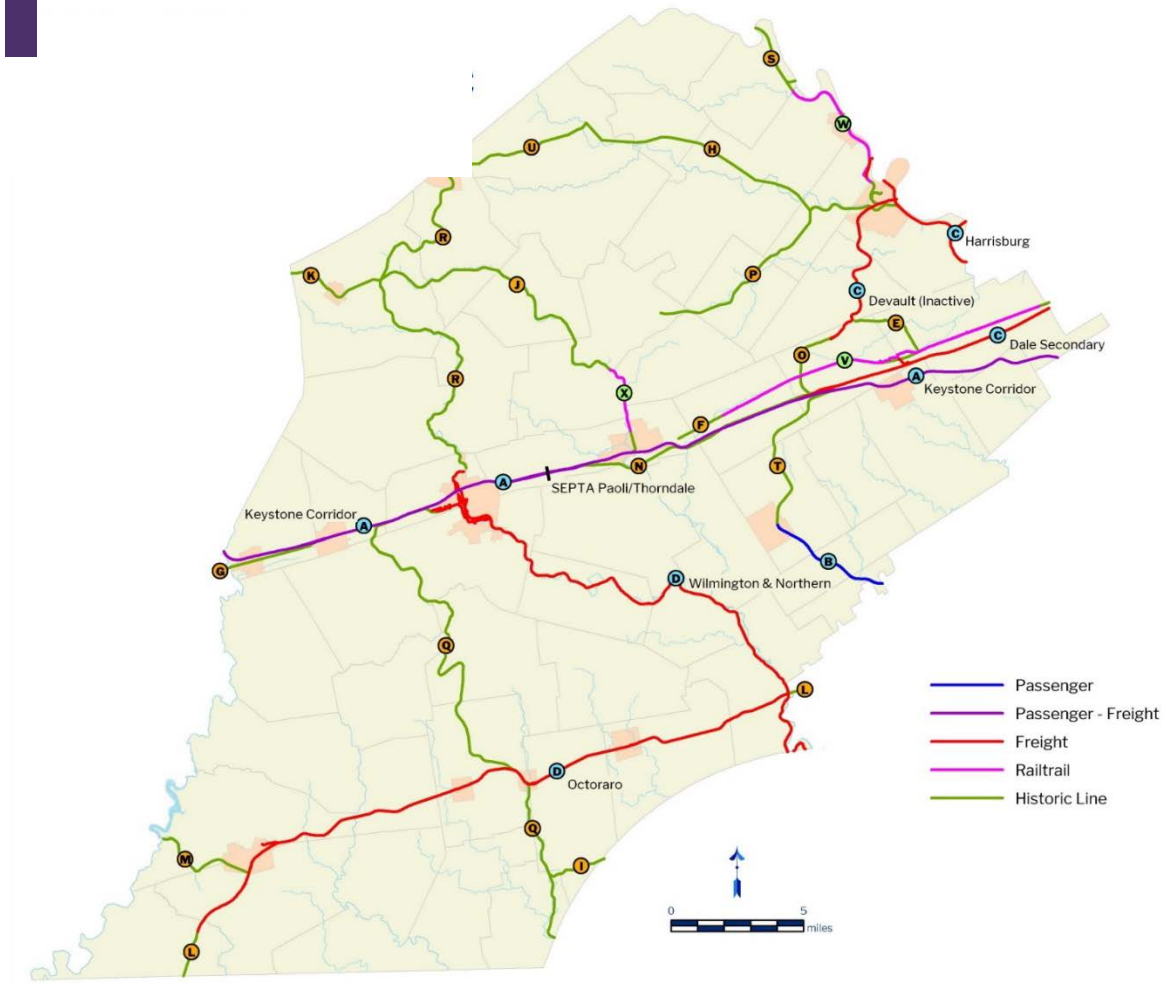


Road Network

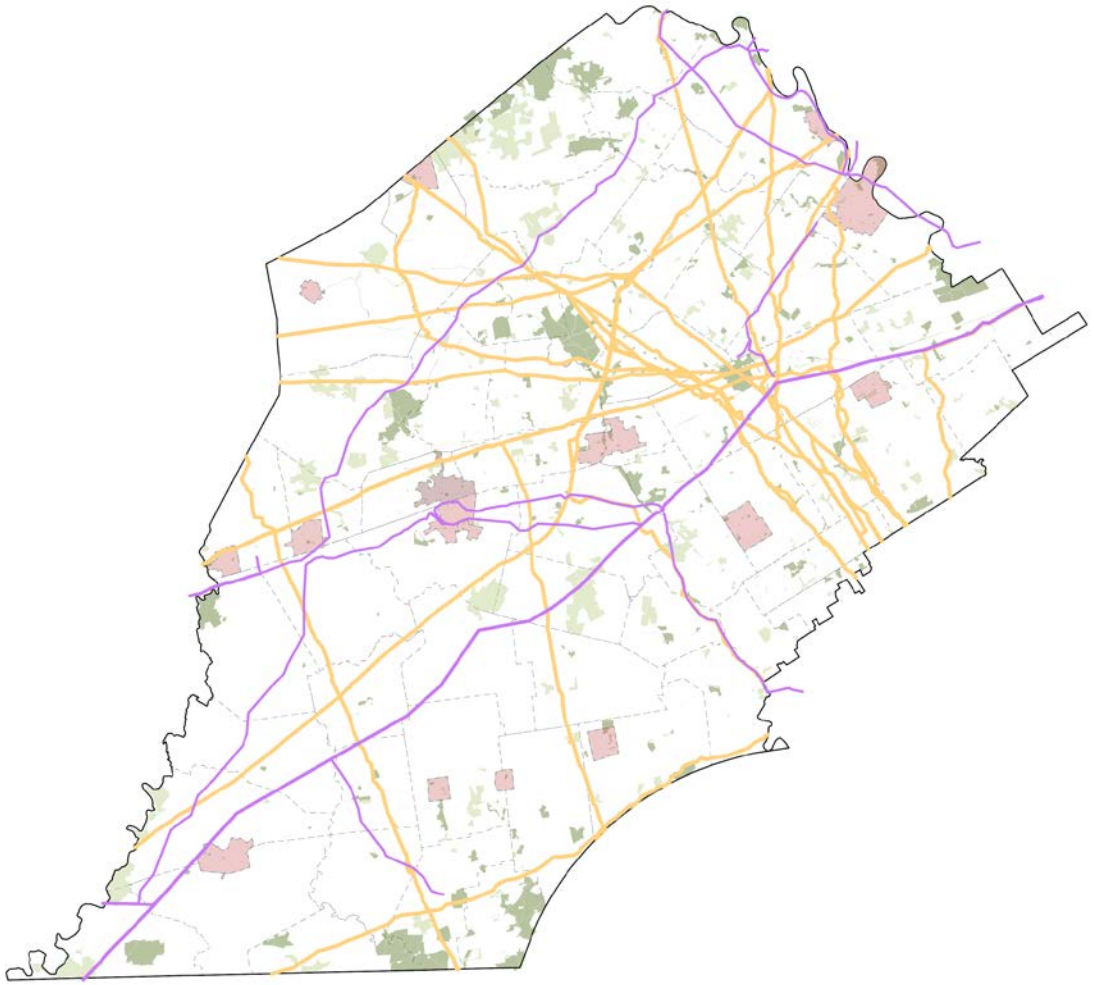


Public Transportation

Existing Conditions



Current & Historic Rail Corridors

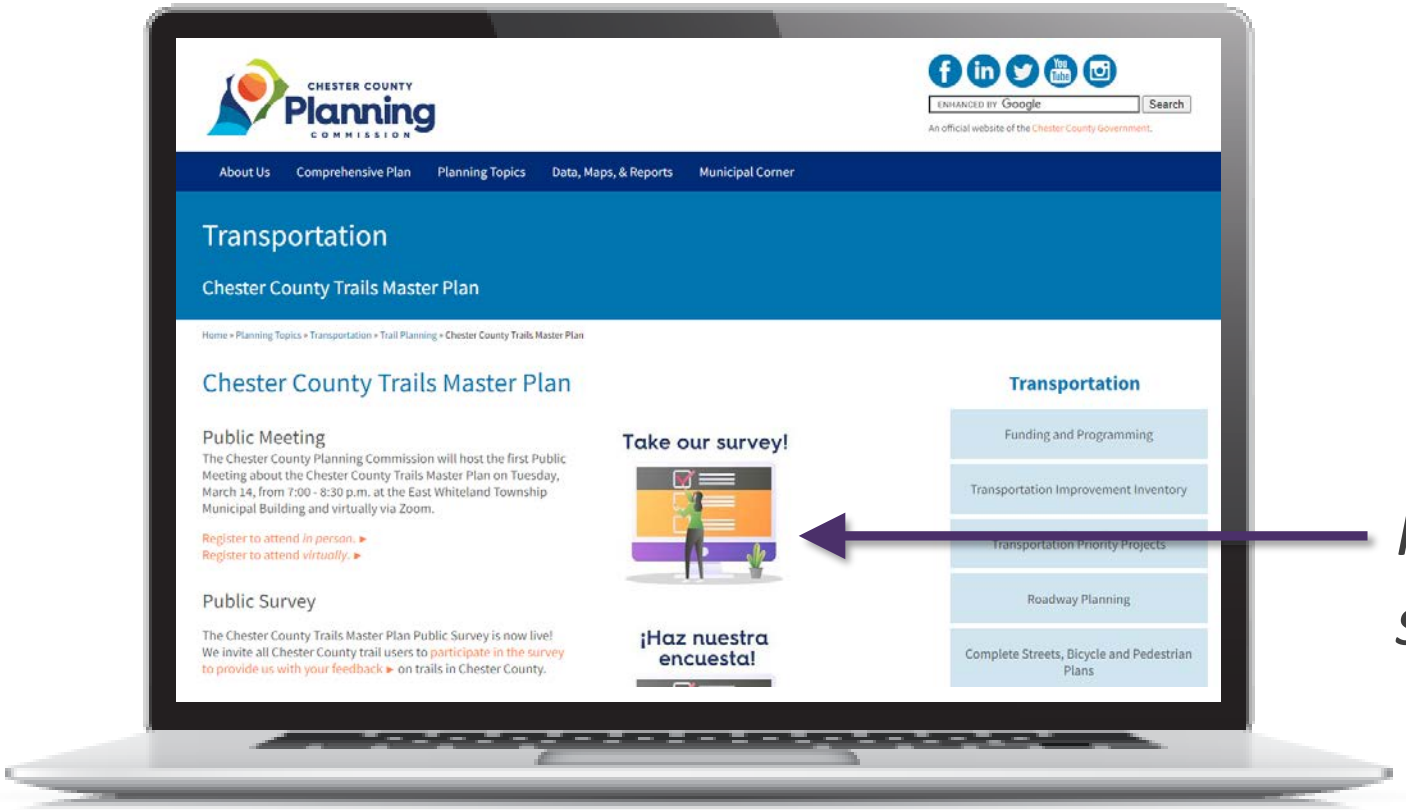


Utility Corridors

Steering Committee Representation

- Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
- Chester County Facilities Department
- Chester County Parks & Preservation
- Chester County Health Department
- Brandywine Conservancy
- Brandywine Red Clay Alliance
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
- East Bradford Township
- East Coventry Township
- East Whiteland Township
- Friends of the Chester Valley Trail
- Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association (GVFTMA)
- Horse-shoe Trail Conservancy
- Kennett Trails Alliance
- Natural Lands
- PennDOT District 6-0
- Penn Township
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR)
- Phoenixville Borough
- Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee (PARRC)
- Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative
- Schuylkill River Greenways
- Transportation Management Association of Chester County (TMACC)
- West Whiteland Township

Website



Find the survey online!

www.chescoplanning.org/transportation/TrailsMasterPlan.cfm

Open House

Station 1:
Develop the Vision

Station 2:
Go for the Goal

Station 3:
Survey

also online!

Online:
Crowdsource Map

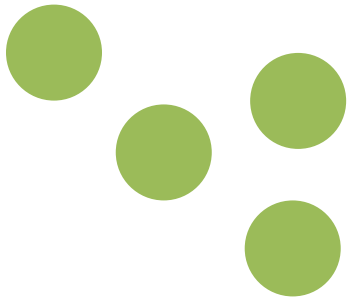
Station 1: Develop the Vision Mad Lib

Prompt:

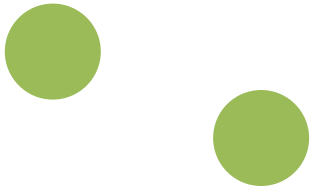
It was a beautiful (season) day, my favorite season to be outside on a trail in Chester County. I decided to go to (name of your favorite trail in Chester County) to (favorite trail activity). This is my favorite trail because (reason why trail is your favorite). I (typical method of transportation) and ran into my friend (name) who was out for a walk. We started talking about trails and what we'd like to see in the future for Chester County's multi-use trail network. In (#) years, I'd like to see Chester County's multi-use trail network (describe your future vision of Chester County's multi-use trails) because (reason why your future vision is important).

Station 2: Go for the Goal

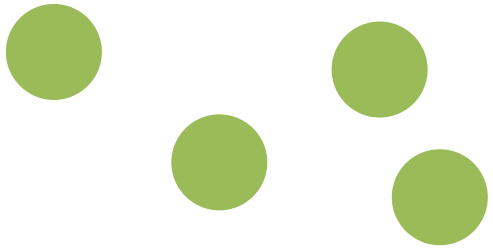
Connectivity



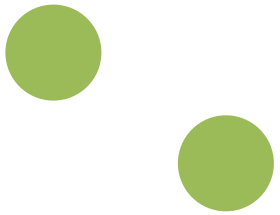
Continuity



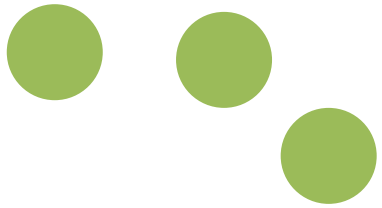
Accessibility + Equity



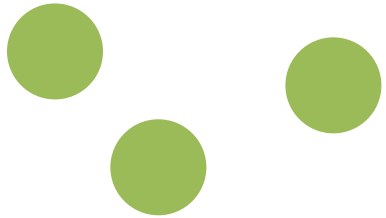
Economic



Resource Protection + Appreciation



Safety + Security



User Experience

Other

Use this space to write in other goals

Station 3: Survey

Trail Usage

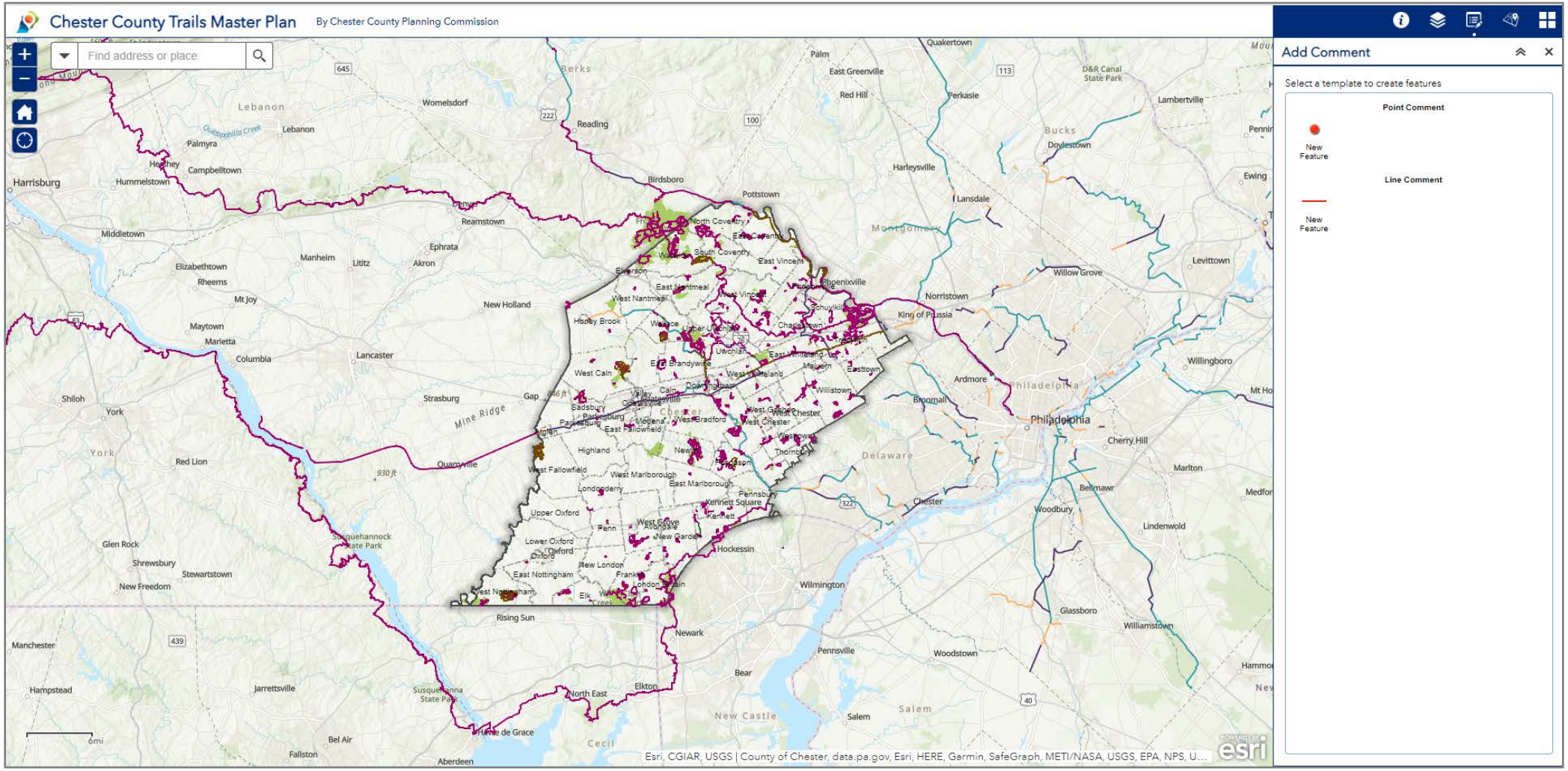
1. How often do you use trails in Chester County?
   - ◯ Daily
   - ◯ Weekly
   - ◯ A few times a month
   - ◯ A few times a year
   - ◯ Rarely
   - ◯ Never
2. Generally, when do you use trails in Chester County?
   - ◯ Weekdays
   - ◯ Weekends / Holidays
   - ◯ Both
   - ◯ I don't use trails in Chester County
3. Generally, how much time do you spend using trails during a typical visit?
   - ◯ Less than 30 minutes
   - ◯ 30 minutes to 1 hour
   - ◯ 1 hour to 2 hours
   - ◯ Over 2 hours
   - ◯ I don't use trails in Chester County

also online!

(English)

(en español)

Online: Crowdsource Map



Thank you!

Chester County Trails Master Plan

Public Meeting #1

March 14, 2023

Stephen Buck, RLA
Trails Planner

sebuck@chesco.org

Learn more:

www.chescoplanning.org/transportation/TrailsMasterPlan.cfm

Survey
(English)

Encuesta
(en español)

Thank you!

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