



Municipal Planning Tools For Trail Development

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Jim serves as Group Manager in the Civil/Municipal Engineering Service Area and offers more than 24 years of experience in the civil/municipal engineering field in both the public regulatory sector and the private sector. His project management and administration experience includes recreation planning; comprehensive plan preparation; subdivision and land development, subdivision and land development plan preparation and review; erosion and sedimentation control plan preparation and review; construction observation; and more. He has a degree in forest technology and serves at many different levels in several professional associations, including the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society and the Cumberland Valley Rails-to-Trails Council.

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RETTEWSM

Trail Planning

- Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) is Authority for Municipalities to Plan for Trails
 - Article III, Comprehensive Plan
 - 301.a.3 – May include a “plan for the movement of people . . . which may include . . . pedestrian and bikeway systems . . . and other similar facilities or uses.”
 - Article IV, Official Map
 - 401.a.3 – May include provisions for “pedestrian ways and easements.”
 - Article V, Subdivision and Land Development
 - 503.2.i – May contain portions for ensuring that “the layout or arrangement of the subdivision or land development shall conform to the comprehensive plan and to any regulations or maps adopted in furtherance thereof.”
 - 503.2.iv – May also include “reservations . . . of any area designed for use as public grounds shall be suitable size and location for their designated uses.”
 - 503.3 – And may also include “provisions governing the standards by which . . . walkways . . . and other improvements shall be installed as a condition precedent to final approval of plats . . .”

Comprehensive Plan

- Policy Statement
 - Needs to show general consistency with county plan
 - Needs to reflect the priority of the trail planning in the municipality
 - Includes maps identifying trail routes including:
 - Existing and proposed trail routes and corridors
 - Bicycle routes
 - Trail heads
 - Destinations
 - Provides the foundation and recommendations for other land use decisions and ordinances

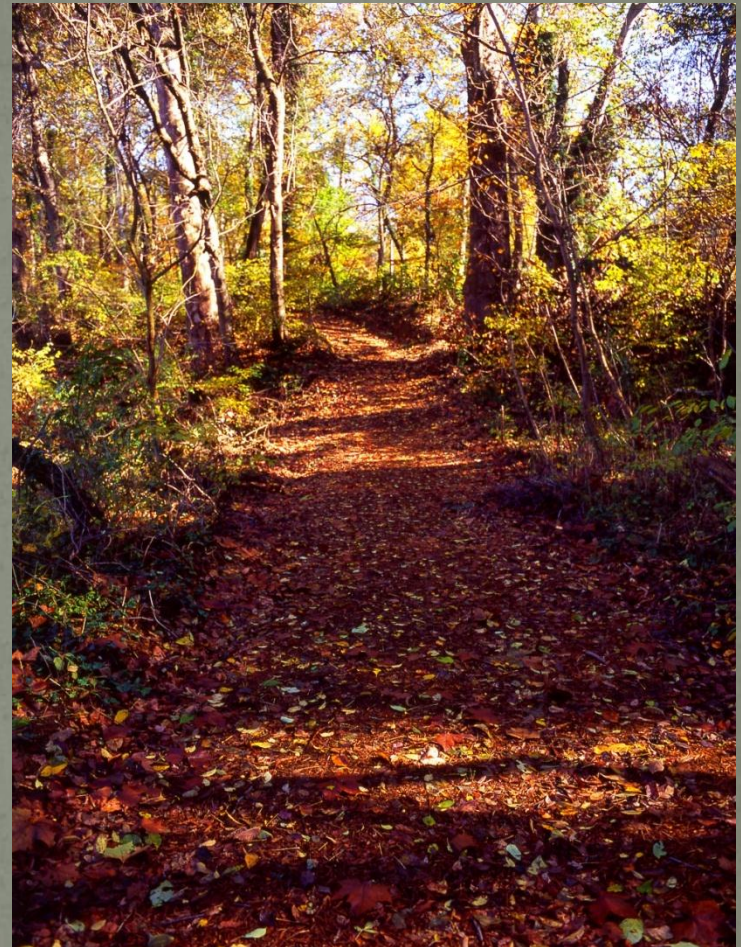
Official Map

- Needs to “... show appropriate elements or portions of elements of the comprehensive plan . . .”
- Potentially includes:
 - Existing and proposed trail routes and corridors
 - Bicycle routes
 - Trail heads
 - Destinations



Zoning Ordinance

- Needs to “. . . be generally consistent with the . . . comprehensive plan . . .”
- Includes reference to trail system in community development objectives
- Defines terms
- Includes trail routes and corridors as a “use” within appropriate zones
- Provides use and location design standards



Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance

- Includes statement within “Purposes” that references a coordinated system or network of trails
- States how ordinance will implement the policies of the comprehensive plan, the official map, and adopted recreation and trail plans
- Defines terms
- Provides construction design standards
- Addresses ownership and management
- Includes public dedication and fee-in-lieu of
 - Must have “formally adopted recreation plan”