

Warrior Run Community Digest

Building a Successful Future for the Warrior Run Community

The newsletter of the Warrior Run Community Corporation

Winter 2006

The Warrior Run Community is:

- Anthony Township
- Delaware Township
- Gregg Township
- Lewis Township
- Limestone Township
- McEwensville Borough
- Turbotville Borough
- Watsontown Borough

Al Reeves of Delaware Township is President of the Warrior Run Community Corporation. The nonprofit Corporation serves a variety of community needs in the public interest.

Pathways Design Presentation

7:00 p.m. — Wednesday
March 15, 2006

Warrior Run
High School Auditorium

The Digest is distributed free of charge to residents of the Warrior Run Community.

Pathways Design to be Presented

After a year of planning, the community's vision of an interconnected network of trails and natural areas extending across the school district is one step closer to becoming



Pathways connect people to the places they want to go. When downtowns are part of a network of pathways, both businesses and residents benefit.

reality. The findings of the Warrior Run Pathways Partnership Project will be revealed at a public meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 15 at 7:00 pm at the Warrior Run High School Auditorium. The project was initiated just over a year ago by the Warrior Run Community Corporation who obtained a \$20,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to conduct a feasibility study. The project, termed the Warrior Run Pathways Partnership, involved an extensive public process in which local residents helped to shape the pathways plan into an achievable vision for safe, close-to-home opportu-

nities for fitness, recreation, and a means to explore and learn about the area's natural and historic landscape.

Project History

Through the planning process residents identified the community's important places — its towns, historic sites and natural areas, the river and the school complex, as well as the natural and man-made corridors that provide opportunities to connect these places. In focus group discussions, the community recognized potential uses for pathways ranging from walking, biking and horseback riding to rural conservation, historic interpretation and environmental education. Understanding that building a network of pathways across the school district must happen incrementally, the project task force selected four priority pathways concepts that capitalize upon the diverse natural and historic features of the landscape and succeed in blending the community's recreation and conservation priorities. Community meetings provided feedback to help further refine each concept. The end product yielded sketches of the four pathways concepts accompanied by a set of actions needed to implement each while ensuring that the scenic, environmental and cultural resources that support them are preserved.

Looking to the Future

The Pathways Project is a unique model for the successful integration of

See Pathways Project on Page 3

Dealing with Future Growth

On Dec. 29, 2005 Turbotville Borough and Lewis Township formally adopted the Joint Zoning Ordinance, the culmination of a five-year effort.

It began when elected officials of the municipalities recognized that growth pressure was inevitable, and current land use ordinances were inadequate to deal with future growth demands.

As a first step, the elected officials formed a Joint Planning Commission, and explored the possibility of grants to help defray the cost of developing a new ordinance. It was decided to apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a grant to do joint zoning. They were awarded a grant of \$12,500 in matching funds to proceed with the endeavor. A professional planner was hired, and after inventorying the land in the municipalities, a comprehensive plan was drawn up, and work began on a joint zoning ordinance to meet the goals in the comprehensive plan.

After many revisions and public meetings the new ordinance was presented to public officials, who made a few changes of their own. On December 29, 2005 the finished ordinance was adopted by both municipalities.

This Comprehensive Plan, and Joint Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map are available on the Lewis Township website, www.seda-cog.org/nor-lewis. A copy may be purchased at the Lewis Township Municipal building.

Katrina Relief

Heartfelt thanks to all who donated, infant formula, pampers, hand-knit baby toys, 3,500 gallons of bottled water, plus other items. The Warrior Run community provided 35,000 pounds of supplies in two days! All was distributed at the Tammany Oaks Church of Christ in Mandeville, Louisiana by Thursday of that week. We achieve good things working together.

Lioness Club Plans Auction

Members of the Watsonstown Lioness Club are busy gathering items of interest, as well as gift certificates from local and surrounding businesses, for their Fourth Charity Auction. Once again, Michael Weaver, auctioneer, will donate his talents for the fundraiser, to be held April 27 at 5:00 p.m. at the Warrior Run Area Fire Department Social Hall in Allenwood. Doors will be open at 4:00 for preview of items for sale. The Social Hall will provide adequate space to better view donated items prior to the auction, as well as ample seating and parking.

The Lioness Organization supports many local worthwhile interests such as Watsonstown Police Welfare Fund, Drug Awareness, Watsonstown Community Pool, and Warrior Run Area Fire Department, just to name a few.

Anyone wishing to donate new items or services, or would like information on becoming a Lioness, please feel free to call Debby Bieber, Event Chairperson, 538-1956, Nancy Aunkst, Secretary, 538-2407, or Carlene Weaver, Recording Secretary, 538-2227.

Please mark your calendar. Plan to attend, and show your support for this worthwhile cause. A food stand will be provided by the club for your convenience.

Lions' Social Hall is Available

The Watsonstown Lions Club Social Hall will be opening April 15, and is now accepting rental dates. The Hall is located approximately six miles west of the Watsonstown River Bridge. If you have a family reunion, birthday party, wedding reception, or other gathering scheduled, this is a spacious, clean, private outdoor area, well suited for many occasions. The hall usually closes for the season in late October, depending on the weather. Call Ralph Heater at 538-1559 for available dates and rental information.

Corporation programs and projects are developed and carried out with community input provided through four standing committees.

Get involved! Contact any of the following committees for more details:

Finance and Program Development, Community and Human Services, and Warrior Run Digest:

Gerald Otterbein
570-546-5649
jerryL101@aol.com

Heritage, Environment, and Planning:

Douglas Ertel
570-538-5711
mshire@alltel.net

Pathways Project:

Lyle Horn
570-538-3836

Pathways Partners:

Central Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce
PA Dep't of Conservation and Natural Resources
PPL Electric Utilities
Turbotville Lions
Warrior Run Community Corporation
Warrior Run School District
Warrior Run Woman's Club
Watsonstown Area Business Association
Watsonstown Guild
Watsonstown Lions

Residents who have endorsed the Pathways Project:

Delaware Township

Betty Ann Poole
Richard Nornhold
Ruth Thomas

Gregg Township

Dianne Peeling

Lewis Township

Thomas and Donna Yoder
Andrea L. Brouse
Greg Brouse
Mary Knopp
Walter Fairman

Limestone Township

David Strouse

McEwensville

Roger and Fay Haas

Watsonstown

Barbara Pick
Dale Chomas
Reverend Douglas Eberly

Pathways Project *continued from Page 1*

trail and conservation objectives undertaken at the school district scale. Beginning with community partnerships, working to a shared, multi-municipal vision for the use and purpose of pathways and arriving at a plan of action, the Warrior Run community has demonstrated that community values can be translated into something tangible and meaningful for generations to come. With its proven record for achieving results, the Warrior Run Community Corporation provides the leadership to guide the process forward, engaging the community in the development and implementation of pathways. The Pathways plan offers a vision and systematic approach to implement pathways. With a roadmap now in place, the completion of this planning process marks a critical point where choices must be made to create lasting changes that benefit residents today while protecting the area's character and quality of life into the future.

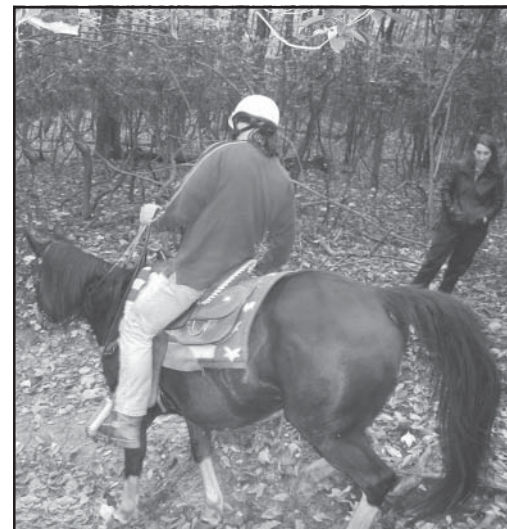
Pathways Profile: Prioritized Trail Concepts

Through the planning process, the Warrior Run task force identified four concepts to establish a framework for the future extension of pathways across the school district: the West Branch River Trail, the Warrior Run Trail, the Muncy Hills Trail, and the Preferred Bike Routes of Warrior Run. Situated in different areas, each concept presents multiple opportunities for conservation, education, recreation and community partnership building.

The West Branch River Trail: A Gateway to the River & Its History

The West Branch River Trail, composed of the Watsonstown-Dewart Canal Walk and the West Shore Trail, creates linkages between the natural and historic assets of the West Branch Susquehanna River and the river communities of Watsonstown, Dewart, Allenwood and White Deer. In Watsonstown, the tow path of the historic Pennsylvania Canal today exists as an in-town walking trail

extending from the newly reopened Watsonstown Memorial Bridge north to 10th Street. The canal was a key factor in the development of Pennsylvania in the middle 1800's. Modifications to the existing trail include a connection to nearby Watsonstown Memorial Park as well as an extended alignment that follows the tow path north to Dewart, providing opportunities to interpret the area's canal history as well as the



A walk in the woods. A 5-mile hike. A leisurely ride on a bike. Pathways offer a range of recreation opportunities.

related manufacturing and industrial heritage of these important river towns.

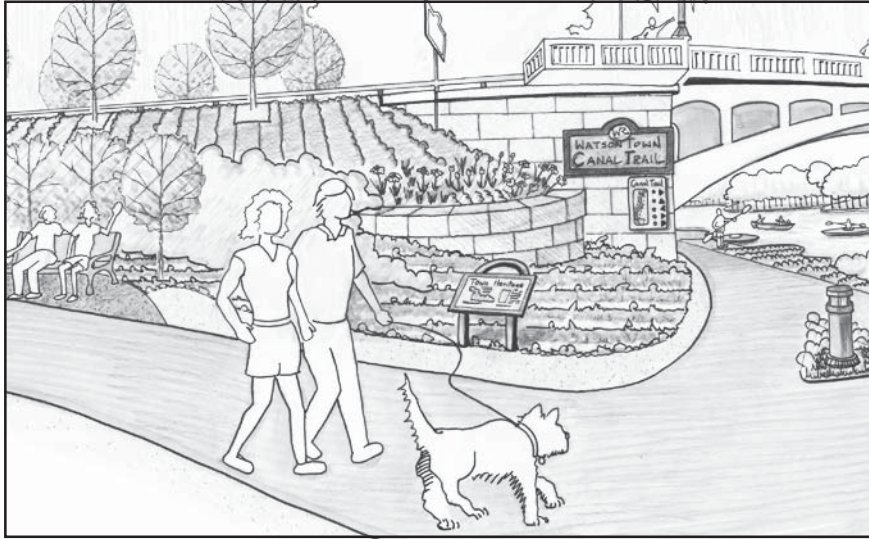
Across the river, the West Shore Trail connects the communities of Allenwood and White Deer, completing a loop with the Watsonstown Canal Trail. Future extensions extend northward to the site of the Great Stream Commons residential and industrial complex, and westward connecting to more rugged trail networks in the Bald Eagle State Forest. The trail's proximity to the river, to White Deer Hole Creek and to vast acres of open space on state forest lands generates numerous opportunities for birding, wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing.

Warrior Run Trail: Active Living, Active Learning

The Warrior Run Trail concept builds upon the position of the Warrior

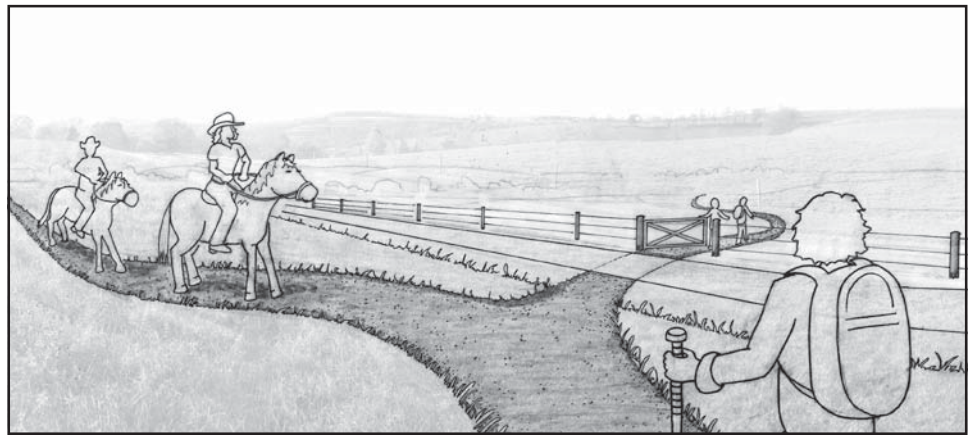
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Warrior Run Pathways Design Concepts



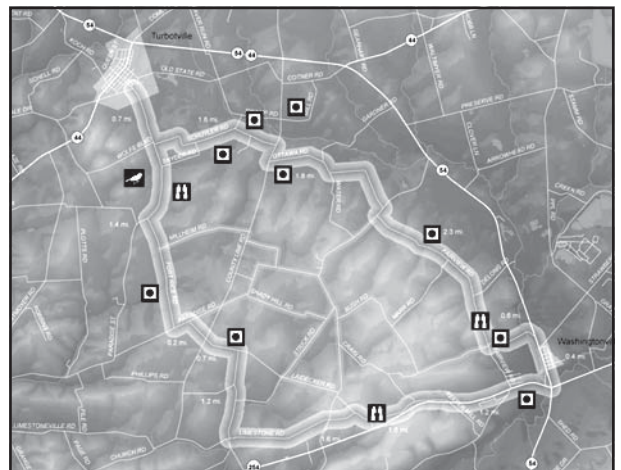
*West Branch Trail at Watson town (left)
Pathways can strengthen downtown
Watson town's connection to the river and to
the region's canal history.*

*Muncy Hills Shared Use Trail (right)
Pathways can provide cyclists, hikers,
and horseback riders access to the
scenic views from the Muncy Hills.*



*Warrior Run Trail (left)
Students and residents in the school district will have
the opportunity for hands-on conservation experiences
using pathways as classrooms and for outdoor
recreation.*

*Preferred Bike Routes of Warrior Run (right)
Encompassing our entire region, preferred pathways allow
residents and visitors to enjoy and learn about the Warrior
Run region, while touring along scenic, rural back roads.*



Funds for the Warrior Run Community Corporation and publication of the Warrior Run Community Digest come from the generous contributions of community residents and the following community supporters:

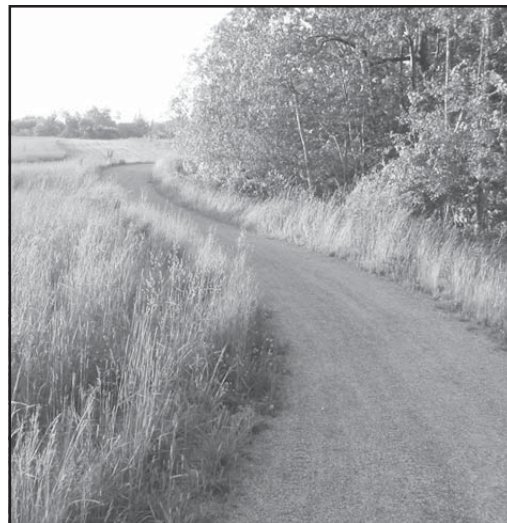
Allen's True Value Hardware
Alltel Corporation
CATV
Commuter Cable TV
Delaware Township
Gregg Township
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PPL Electric Utilities
Sam's Club
Sun Bank
Turbotville Civic Club
Turbotville National Bank
Warrior Run-Fort Freeland Heritage Society
Warrior Run Women's Club
Watsonstown Borough
Watsonstown Guild
Watsonstown Lioness Club

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Run School complex as a social and geographic focal point of the community. The school's proximity to the historic Hower-Slote house, the Warrior Run Church, soccer fields, Warrior Run Creek, and a nearby wetland area present numerous opportunities for educational and recreational benefits. Extensions from the school's small network of walking and cross country trails to the nearby communities of McEwensville and Turbotville would give residents easy access to walking trails of varying lengths. A key quality of the trail's design would be to integrate seamlessly with the surrounding landscape to preserve farmland and rural character, and to nurture understanding of Warrior Run's environment and rich history.

Muncy Hills Trail: A Bird's Eye View of Home

Stretching eastward from the banks of the West Branch, the Muncy Hills are perhaps the best vantage point for



Good trails follow the landscape, and are integrated with the surrounding area. They offer recreation opportunities, and can be an impetus to conserve farmland.

taking in Warrior Run's scenic valley. While these views are a blessing, they also create the potential for development pressure from those seeking to locate their homes with favorable views of the valley below. The Muncy Hills Trail capitalizes upon the scenic vistas afforded by the elevation of the

Muncy Hills, as well as the seclusion of its folded hillsides and tracts of forest land. Beyond a recreational amenity, the Muncy Hills Trail conserves the scenic qualities of the Hills' landscape. Keeping the relatively undeveloped character of the Muncy Hills is important to maintaining the remote quality enjoyed by those who live and recreate there. The Muncy Hills Trail links acres of open space found in natural areas like Montour Preserve and Lewis Township's state gamelands. Through voluntary conservation easements protecting the character of privately owned forests, fields, and farmland, the qualities of the Muncy Hills can be enjoyed today, and preserved for the future.

Preferred Bike Routes of Warrior Run: Walk It, Run It, Ride It

Roadways create both opportunities and challenges for pathways development. High traffic roads like Route 54 and the Susquehanna Trail are not conducive to serving as pathways until significant retrofitting can make the experience of walking and biking adjacent to traffic a safer and more palatable experience. The area's lesser traveled rural back roads, on the other hand, offer enjoyable routes that are well suited for pedestrians, runners and cyclists. The extensive network of rural routes running throughout the Warrior Run area presents tremendous and achievable potential to better connect residents to the scenery and history that lies outside their front door. In addition to identifying opportunities for a leisurely weekend or after work ride, these preferred routes may be tailored to follow a thread of local history or to interpret a series of environmental features. Numerous examples from around the country indicate that packaging a riding or walking experience increases the chance of its being used for a recreational purpose. The act of composing these routes is itself a means to both explain and garner additional support for the Pathways project.

You are invited to a

Warrior Run Community
Corporation Board of
Directors — 2005

Al Reeves, President

Gerald Otterbein,
Vice President

Mary Knopp, Secretary

Bill Bryan

Norman Easley

Doug Ertel

Bob Hormell

Lyle Horn

Ronald Knopp

Sandy Jo Ott

Lamar Rathmell

Ashley Reasner

Pathways Design Presentation

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Warrior Run High School Auditorium

7:00 p.m. — Open House

7:30 p.m. — Presentation

Since January 2005, the Warrior Run Community Corporation, with the help of SEDA-COG, has been working with Warrior Run residents to develop a vision for a regional network of trails that link our communities to each other, and to a wide range of recreation and educational opportunities.

**Join us for a discussion of these ideas,
and find out how you can get involved
with turning Pathways vision into reality!**

Warrior Run Community Corporation

4800 Susquehanna Trail

Turbotville, PA 17772

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