

# Northern Struble Trail Feasibility Study

## Chester County, Pennsylvania on the Brandywine Creek



View from the existing Struble Trail, looking towards the Shady Acres Campground.

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Chester County Planning Commission



Preserving Our Land & Water



Rail right of way through Wyebrook Farm in West Nantmeal.

## Goals

To study extending the existing Struble Trail from Upper Uwchlan Township to Honey Brook Borough along the former Pennsylvania RR New Holland Branch rail corridor (13.5 miles). The study examines connections between Marsh Creek State Park, Springton Manor County Park, and Struble Lake as well as providing equestrian use recommendations for the corridor.

## Trail Feasibility

### LEGAL FEASIBILITY

Based on title research of the former railroad corridor:

- In the Marsh Creek State Park Area the trail corridor is almost entirely owned by both Chester County and the Commonwealth of PA south and east of Marshall Road.
- In the Springton Manor County Park Area, the former rail corridor is privately owned from Marshall Road to the north end of Glenmoore Village. North of Glenmoore the corridor is owned by Chester County.
- In the Brandywine Headwaters Trail Area, Chester County owns the corridor within West Nantmeal Township. Within Honey Brook Township the corridor is fragmented between Chester County and private ownership.

### PHYSICAL FEASIBILITY

Based on topography, hydrology, and adjacent land

- In the Marsh Creek State Park Area the former rail corridor is physically feasible towards development of a multi-use trail with equestrian use.
- In the Springton Manor County Park Area the former rail corridor is physically feasible for trail development south of Park Lane. The corridor within Glenmoore Village is not feasible since it has been dissolved by adjacent land uses and private development.
- In the Brandywine Headwaters Trail Area, the corridor within West Nantmeal Township is physically feasible for trail development. The corridor in Honey Brook Township is not physically feasible as it has been dissolved by adjacent land uses.

### Public Outreach

Public participation in this 18 month study included: 5 Public Meetings; 4 Study Committee Meetings; a study notification and survey mailed to 170 adjacent landowners; over 20 key-person interviews; and, 2 official township meetings.

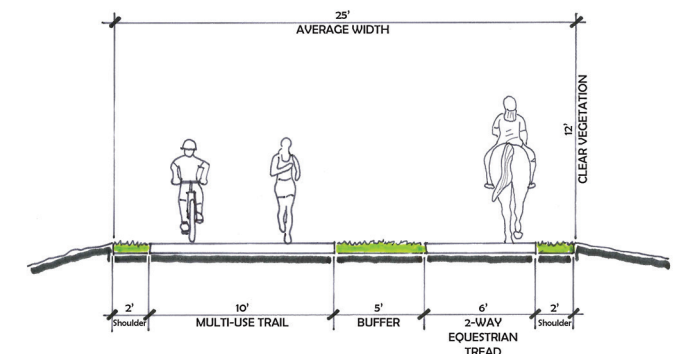
### Landowner Outreach Survey

A mailing sent to 170 adjacent private landowners in March 2015 included the following survey question:

'Please indicate your general support for the development of a multi-use trail in your community.' The survey return rate was 35% (60/170) with the following results: Yes, I think a multi-use trail would be a great addition to our community (13); No, I do not think a multi-use trail would be appropriate for our community (21); Maybe, I would like to know more (17); and, did not answer (9).

### Proposed Trail Use

The 'Multi-Use Trail with Adjacent Bridle Path' cross section proposed for the segments to be developed illustrates the typical space required to accommodate for bicyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians within a shared trail corridor. Based on existing use counts, it is anticipated that the Struble Trail will have approximately 100,000 users annually.





# Northern Struble Trail Feasibility Study: Recommendations Summary

## F Community Bike/Ped Study Honey Brook Township and Borough (3.5 miles)

- The former railroad corridor has dissolved into adjacent land uses. No feasible physical alternatives could be identified for a multi-use trail corridor.
- Chester County has limited, discontinuous ownership of this segment.
- Recommendation is to complete joint recreational, gateways, and traffic calming plan as recommended in Honey Brook's joint comp plan, in part to identify bike/ped facility locations.

## E Future Trail Extension Wyebrook Farm to Chestnut Tree Road (1.1 miles)

- This segment would support a Multi-Use Trail with Adjacent Bridle Path, but has challenging bridge and adjacent land encroachment issues.
- Chester County owns the entire segment.
- This segment should be reserved for a future trail connection to Honey Brook Township at Chestnut Tree Road.

## D Develop Multi-Use Trail Glenmoore Village to Wyebrook Farm Road (2.9 miles)

- This segment would physically accommodate a Multi-Use Trail with Adjacent Bridle Path.
- Chester County and Wallace Township own the entire segment minus 1 parcel owned by PECO
- This segment could serve as an independent recreational facility.
- Security measures are needed around the Water Resources Authority (WRA) Dry Dam flood control facility.

## C Community Bike/Ped Study Glenmoore Village; Burgess Park to Indiantown Road (1.2 miles)

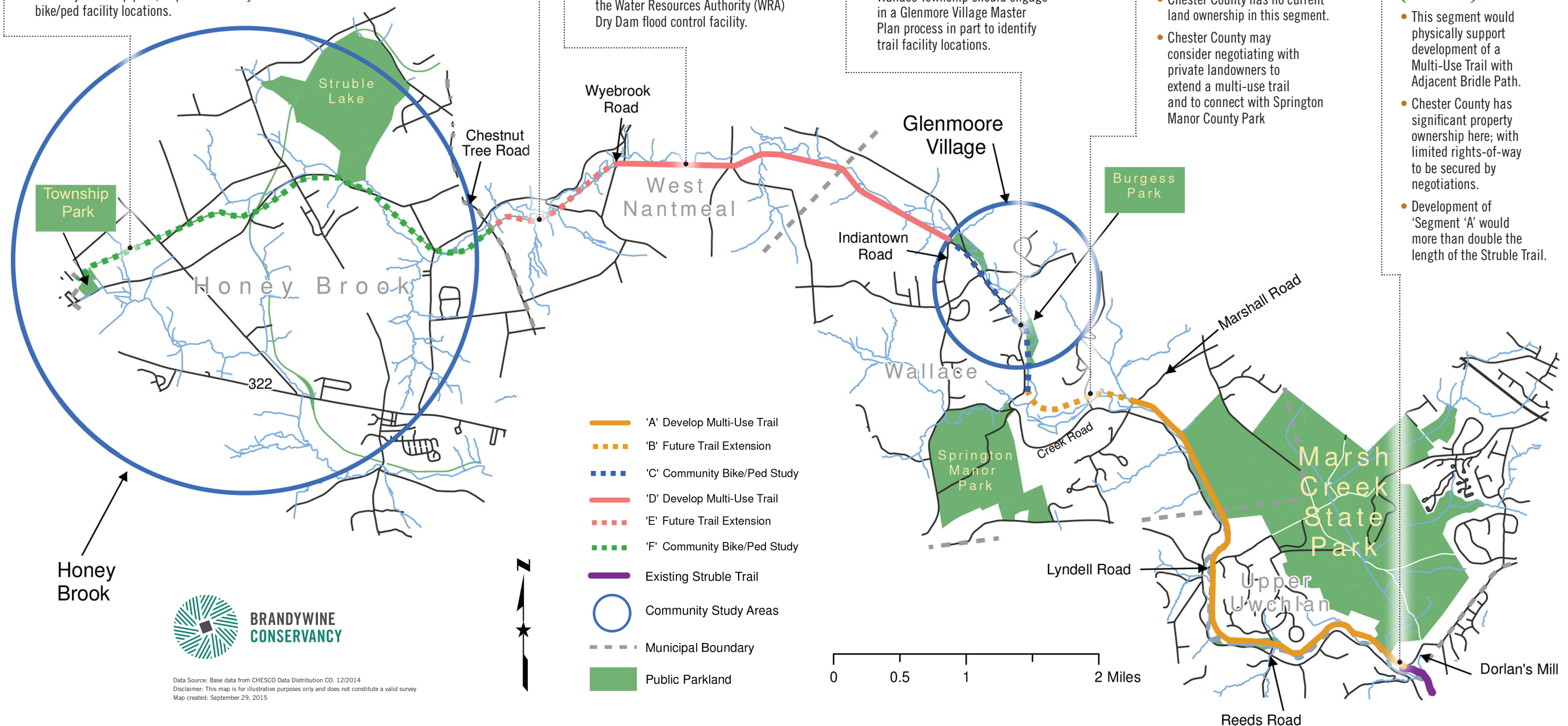
- This segment is physically feasible from Burgess Park north to Park Lane but is not physically possible north of Park Lane.
- Chester County has limited, discontinuous ownership in this segment.
- Wallace Township should engage in a Glenmoore Village Master Plan process in part to identify trail facility locations.

## B Future Trail Extension Marshall Road to Wallace's Burgess Park (1.0 miles)

- This segment would physically support development of a Multi-Use Trail with Adjacent Bridle Path
- Chester County has no current land ownership in this segment.
- Chester County may consider negotiating with private landowners to extend a multi-use trail and to connect with Springton Manor County Park

## A Develop Multi-Use Trail Dorlan's Mill Road to Marshall Road (3.7 miles)

- This segment would physically support development of a Multi-Use Trail with Adjacent Bridle Path.
- Chester County has significant property ownership here; with limited rights-of-way to be secured by negotiations.
- Development of 'Segment A' would more than double the length of the Struble Trail.



Data Source: Base data from CHESCO Data Distribution CO. 12/2014  
Disclaimer: This map is for illustrative purposes only and does not constitute a valid survey  
Map created: September 29, 2015