

Feasibility Study for the Destination Peace Valley Trail



Submitted To:
Doylestown Township, Doylestown Borough, New Britain Township,
New Britain Borough and Chalfont Borough

Prepared by:

Baker

**Michael Baker Jr., Inc.
201 Gibraltar Road - Suite 120
Horsham, PA 19044**

January 2011

Table of Contents

A)	Introduction.....	1
	1) Study Objectives	2
	2) Project Scope	2
	3) Project Partners	3
	4) Regional Context	3
	5) Demand for a potential trail	6
	6) Profile of Potential Users and Usage Estimates:	8
	7) Compatibility with Adjacent Land Uses:.....	8
	8) Determination of Feasibility	10
B)	Inventory and Analysis	10
	1) Design Methodology.....	10
	2) Corridor Analysis.....	13
	i) <i>Trail Option #1 – Old Ironhill Road Link</i>	14
	ii) <i>Trail Option #2 - Chapman Road Link</i>	19
	3) Preliminary Cost Estimate	22
	4) Comparison of Route Alternatives	25
C)	Implementation Strategies	27
	1) Recommended Construction Phasing:.....	27
	2) Acquisition Techniques:	27
	3) Maintenance and Operation Plan.....	28
	4) Funding Options:	29
D)	Recommendations for Peace Valley Park.....	29
E)	Public Participation Process.....	30

Appendix A

Appendix B

A) Introduction

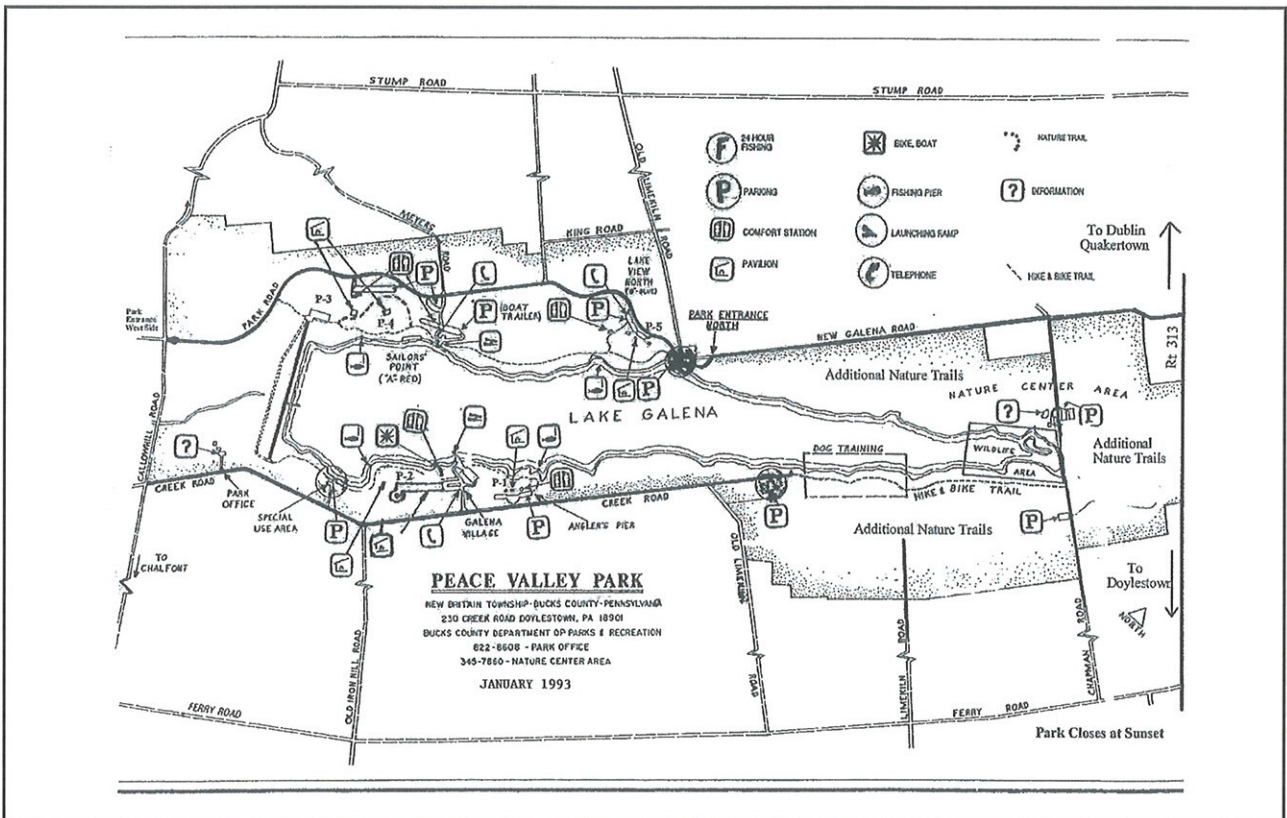
The Doylestown Community Bike and Hike committee in conjunction with New Britain Township, New Britain and Chalfont Boroughs have a goal to connect their communities to the major natural resources at Peace Valley Park through a walking and bicycling trail.

This planning study was undertaken to advance the development of the Destination Peace Valley trail which will connect the 1500 acres of bucolic, natural open space areas, Nature Center and 14 miles of nature trails at Peace Valley Park to the existing 15 mile long Doylestown Community Bike and Hike system as well as the planned Tri-municipal trail network in New Britain Township, New Britain Borough and Chalfont Borough.

The following map shows the amenities and public facilities available at Peace Valley Park:



Existing Walking/Bicycling Trail at Peace Valley Park



Map of Peace Valley Park

Two corridors were originally proposed for this study. The Trail Options proposed for the study are as follows (See Appendix A for maps of the proposed trail options):

Trail Option #1 – Old Iron Hill Link

Starting at the end of the existing shared use path on Iron Hill Road, through Pine Run Reservoir to Cover Bridge Park, crossing Pine Run Creek, to the existing shared use path on Old Iron Hill Road, crossing Ferry Road, continuing along Old Iron Hill Road, to the intersection of Creek Road and into Peace Valley Park.

Trail Option #2 - Chapman Road Link

Starting at the end of the existing shared use path on Meetinghouse Road near Sandy Ridge Road to Pine Run Road to Chapman Road, crossing Ferry Road to South Chapman Road into Peace Valley Park.

1) Study Objectives

This multi-use trail feasibility study involves the design and construction of a bicycle and pedestrian facility between the Doylestown Bike and System and Bucks County's Peace Valley Park for recreation and transportation purposes. The objectives of this study are the following:

- Determine the feasibility of constructing a trail facility in the two chosen corridors
- Develop a trail concept that takes advantage of the natural and scenic benefits of the surrounding area
- Evaluate connections to existing/proposed parks and trail facilities
- Evaluate connections to town centers, recreational areas, cultural, commercial and employment areas
- Provide recommendations for trail safety, maintenance, operations and accessibility
- Provide preliminary design and construction cost estimates for future funding
- Recommend a trail development strategy and right of way acquisition methods
- Serve as a resource to municipalities for the future grant applications and as a starting point for future preliminary engineering efforts

2) Project Scope

This multi-use trail feasibility study is being conducted through the support of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnerships Program. The technical scope of work is based on DCNR's sample scope of work for rail trail feasibility studies. It was been modified slightly to better suit this effort and project area. Scope of the study involves the area between existing SR 202 to the south, SR 152 to the west, Peace Valley Park to the north and SR 313 to the east.