

2023



Safe Routes to Parks Action Plan Bellefonte, Pennsylvania



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About this Plan

The following action plan provides a roadmap for future work to increase park access and improve walkability in the Borough of Bellefonte. Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation has led the development of this work through participating in the Safe Routes to Parks Activating Communities 2023 cohort. Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation will continue to play a supportive role in advancing these community-identified goals, working closely with local government, key partners, and community members towards shared ownership and implementation of this work plan.

Background and why now

In 2023, Bellefonte was one of four Pennsylvania communities selected by national nonprofit Safe Routes Partnership to participate in the Safe Routes to Parks Activating Communities Program. This opportunity jumpstarted a community planning process to identify goals for improving biking and walking to local parks and greenspaces in Downtown Bellefonte. This initiative has been led by the local non-profit organization Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation in partnership with the Borough of Bellefonte and community partners.

In the summer of 2022, WalkWorks, a program of the Pennsylvania Department of Health visited Bellefonte and presented “Returning to Active Transportation Basics” for personal, economic, and environmental health. The data from this presentation has informed the Move.Connect.Commute Active Transportation programming for Bellefonte. This burgeoning initiative has catalyzed partnerships with community organizations, residents, and local businesses to work together to improve walkability as a way to boost the economic vitality of Downtown Bellefonte and leverage the town’s unique character and rich heritage.

How this plan was developed

Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation has played a primary role in this planning process, initiating meetings with neighbors, community groups, local businesses, and decision-makers. In July 2023, these stakeholders convened during a series of in-person planning and engagement meetings. During the workshop, community members began to shape their vision for park access, define preliminary goals based on the available data, and identify the next steps for action. Since the workshops, community members have taken initial steps toward realizing their goals and sustaining this initiative.

This plan includes five sections:

- The **Engage** section includes a description of who was involved in the primary support team and the community engagement process to-date.
- The **Assess** section includes a description of current conditions related to park access with a focus on Talleyrand and Masullo Parks. This section also includes existing policies, plans, programs, infrastructure, assets, and challenges that were identified.
- The **Plan** outlines community-identified Safe Routes to Parks’ goals and why they are priorities.
- The **Implementation** section includes action-focused tables to specify how the community is actively reaching its goals. Included is a description of early improvement action(s) that have helped build momentum for future work.
- The **Sustain** section contains plans for how the community plans to keep this work moving forward after the Safe Routes to Parks Activating Communities program’s conclusion in September 2023.



Engage: Involving Community

Bellefonte Community Description

The Bellefonte Borough is a municipality of approximately 6,200 residents located in Central Pennsylvania. Founded in 1795, Bellefonte is one of the most preserved historic districts in the country. The town has a storied history of innovation, with one of the earliest electrification of buildings and a long history of prominent iron and lumber industry; one of the first female architects, who was responsible for creating numerous prominent buildings of architectural significance, and has been the birthplace of numerous political figures. Bellefonte currently serves as the county seat of Centre County and has been home to seven United States governors. Its founders strategically located Bellefonte to take advantage of a natural source of drinking water and a natural source of water velocity for the operation of early machinery. This heritage is reflected in its name which translates to “beautiful fountain.” Its location remains strategically located, but for a somewhat different reason, as it is very close to more populated locations and highly traveled interstate highways. Bellefonte is located in Centre County, ten miles east of Penn State University, State College Borough, and the “Centre Region” - home to thousands of residents, thousands of students, and thousands of visitors focused primarily on Big Ten athletic events.

Bellefonte is near the base of the Pennsylvania Wilds, a region with over two million acres of outdoor recreation opportunities. Its surrounding areas have long been an attraction for outdoor recreation activities such as camping, hunting, fly fishing, and kayaking. Outdoor recreation is a key feature of local economic development goals. An outdoor tourism revitalization strategy can attract new residents, such as remote workers who enjoy outdoor amenities and families, and retirees who want accessible outdoor opportunities. Outdoor tourism can also fuel new manufacturing opportunities for outdoor gear production. In addition, visitor tourism money is spent on lodging, restaurants, shopping, and other services, leading to new business opportunities for downtown Bellefonte’s business owners. Creating connectivity to major assets in the community and allowing for access for everyone while increasing foot traffic in the downtown area would benefit community members, business owners, and visitors alike. Bellefonte also has many local parks that serve the everyday recreation needs of residents including Talleyrand, Krauss, Masullo, and Governor’s parks.

Community Demographics

Bellefonte is a small, rural community with an increasingly aging population and a healthy mix of younger families. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the borough has 6,105 people, 2,868 households, and 1,402 families. The borough is 91.4 percent White, 4.8 percent were two or more races, 2.8 percent Hispanic or Latino, 2.3 percent Black or African American, and 0.6 percent Asian. The population distribution by age is as follows: 17.7 percent under the age of 18, 9.1 percent from 10 to 19, 13.8 percent from 20 to 29, 15.9 percent from 30-39, 10.9 percent from 40-49, 19.8 percent from 50 to 64, and 20 percent who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 41.8 years old. The median income for a household in the borough is \$52,173, and the per capita income for the borough is \$32,409. About 3.6 percent of families and 9.2 percent of the population are living below the poverty line, including four percent of those under age 18 and 7.8 percent of those age 65 or over.



Safe Routes to Parks Partners and Stakeholders

A list of individuals, organizations, and agencies who are important stakeholders because of their roles in the city and adjacent agencies can be found in the table below (Table 1 Safe Routes to Parks Partners). These individuals were invited to participate in the in-person Safe Routes to Parks workshop. Workshop attendance is indicated on the table. While not everyone on this list could attend the events, they have been engaged by the core Safe Routes to Parks steering committee in outreach and follow-up meetings.

Table 1: Safe Routes to Parks Partners

Safe Routes Steering Committee	Name	Title	Organization	7/17, 3pm, Talleyrand	7/18, 5pm, Gamble Mill	7/18, 1pm, High St.
	Adrienne Eichenlaub	Communications Strategist	Mount Nittany Health		X	
	Albert Carlson	Traffic Control Specialist	PennDOT			X
	Amber Concepcion	County Commissioner, Vice President	Centre County Board of Commissioners			X
	Amy Klechner	President	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	X		
	Andrea Murrell	Committee Co-Chair	Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association (BHCA) - Talleyrand Park Committee	X		
	Andy Richards		Bellefonte Historic Railroad (BHRS)			
	Ann Sager		Bellefonte Garden Club	X		
	Anne Messner	Senior Transportation Planner, Active Transportation Director	Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization		X	X
	Asher Clissold	Community Health Organizer	PA Department of Health			
	Barbara Dann	Councilwoman	Bellefonte Borough Council			
	Bill Pantle		Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce			
	Brandon Wagner	Manager	Bellefonte Business - Big Spring Spirits			
	Brandy Reiter	Staff Representative	Office of Senator Cris Dush	X		X
X	Brian Bonner	Owner	Bellefonte Business - Belle Mercantile			
	Brian Sedgwick	Grounds and Facilities Coordinator	Penn State - Outreach - Shaver's Creek Environmental Center		X	
	Bryan Emory				X	
	Buddy Johnson	Bellefonte Mayor	Bellefonte Borough Staff			

Table 1: Safe Routes to Parks Partners (continued)

Safe Routes Steering Committee	Name	Title	Organization	7/17, 3pm, Talleyrand	7/18, 5pm, Gamble Mill	7/18, 1pm, High St.
	Candace Covey		Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce			
	Candy Dannaker					
	Carla Cipro		Bellefonte Business - Federalist Studios			
	Cecil Houser				X	
	Ciara Semack	Owner	Bellefonte Business - Blonde Bistro Brew Works			
	Cindy Kunes	Staff Representative	Office of Congressman GT Thompson		X	X
	Cindy Lingle			X		
	Claudia Albertin	Architect	Bellefonte Business - Albertin Vernon Architecture, LLC		X	X
	Conor Patrick Kelley	Student	Penn State - College of Agricultural Sciences - Community, Environment and Development			
	Cris Dush	State Senator, Bellefonte (District 34)	PA State Senate			
	Cristy Schmidt	Applied Research Educator	Penn State - College of Agricultural Sciences - Community, Environment and Development			X
	Dan Durachko	President	Bellefonte Historic Railroad (BHRS)	X		
	Daniel Haxall				X	
X	Danielle Stemple		Mount Nittany Health			
	Dave Provan		Historic Bellefonte Inc (HBI)		X	
	Dave Smeal	Staff Representative	Office of Representative Kerry Benninghoff			X
	Deb Nardone	Executive Director	Nonprofit - Clearwater Conservancy			
	Deborah Cleeton	Councilwoman	Bellefonte Borough Council		X	
	DJ Roche	Owner	Bellefonte Business - Bellefonte Bold Magazine		X	
	Don Holderman	Assistant Borough Manager	Bellefonte Borough Staff			
	Donald Townsend				X	

Table 1: Safe Routes to Parks Partners (continued)

Safe Routes Steering Committee	Name	Title	Organization	7/17, 3pm, Talleyrand	7/18, 5pm, Gamble Mill	7/18, 1pm, High St.
	Doug Johnson	President	Bellefonte Borough Council			
	Ed Olson		Talleyrand Park Stage Committee			
	Edward Stoddard	Communications Director	Happy Valley Adventure Bureau		X	
	Elizabeth Lose		Centre County Planning and Community Development Office		X	
	Evelyn Chianelli		DCED			
	Fritz Smith		Happy Valley Adventure Bureau			
	Gary Landon	President	Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce			
X	Gina Thompson	HARB Zoning and Planning Administrator	Bellefonte Borough Staff	X	X	
X	Glenn Vernon	Architect	Bellefonte Business - Albertin Vernon Architecture, LLC		X	X
	Greg Scott	President	CBICC			
	Gregory Wendt	Vice President	Bank - JSSB		X	
	Heather Lingle Cowher	Owner	Bellefonte Business - My Café Buzz	X		
	Holly Wilson	Chamber Member	Talleyrand Park Stage Committee			
	Hugh Mose	Retired CEO CATA, transportation expert	CATA			
	Jack Schuster		Milesburg/Bellefonte Greenway			
	James (Jim) Saylor	Principal Transportation Planner	Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization			
	Jamie SanFilippo	President	Bellefonte Business - Trout Unlimited Spring Creek Chapter			
	Janie Provan		Provan Enterprises		X	
	Jason Brower		Bellefonte Police			
	Jason Detar	Area 3 Fisheries Manager, North Central Region, Bellefonte	PA Fish and Boat Commission		X	
X	Jennilyn Schuster					
	Jim Dunne					
	Joanna Sedgwick	Councilwoman	Bellefonte Borough Council			

Table 1: Safe Routes to Parks Partners (continued)

Safe Routes Steering Committee	Name	Title	Organization	7/17, 3pm, Talleyrand	7/18, 5pm, Gamble Mill	7/18, 1pm, High St.
	Joanne Tosti-Vasey	Councilwoman	Bellefonte Borough Council			
	Joe Leahy	Manager	Bellefonte Business - Titan Energy Park (Navitus, Inc.)			
	Joe Lundberg		State College Area Cycling Club			
	John Houser	Landscape Architect	PennTerra Engineering		X	
	John Peterson	Business Consultant	Penn State - Small Business Association		X	
	Jon Virgilio		Bellefonte Business - Gamble Mill			X
	Jonathan Eburne					
	Joseph Griffin	President	Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association (BHCA)		X	
	Josiah Jones		Happy Valley Adventure Bureau			
	Julie Brooks	Public Works	Bellefonte Borough Staff	X		
	Justin Lehman	Public Health Program Administrator	PA Department of Health			
	Justine Lindemann		Penn State - College of Agricultural Sciences - Community, Environment and Development			
	Karen Wing	Manager, Internal Communications and Public Relations	Mount Nittany Health		X	
X	Kathryn Spielvogel					
	Kathy Brasier		Penn State - College of Agricultural Sciences - Community, Environment and Development			
	Kathy Breidenbaugh					
X	Katy Colby	Program Manager	Penn State - Outreach - Conferences and Institutes		X	X
	Kay Kustanbauter		Tallyrand Park Stage Committee			
	Ken Martin		Bellefonte Business - American Philatelic Society (APS)			
	Kent Bernier	Vice President	Bellefonte Borough Council			

Table 1: Safe Routes to Parks Partners (continued)

Safe Routes Steering Committee	Name	Title	Organization	7/17, 3pm, Talleyrand	7/18, 5pm, Gamble Mill	7/18, 1pm, High St.
	Kerri Kubalak		Mount Nittany Health			
	Kerry Benninghoff	State Representative, Bellefonte	PA State House of Representatives			X
	Kevin Lloyd	Owner	Bellefonte Business - Big Spring Spirits			
	Krista Davis	Chief Officer, Risk Management	Centre County Planning and Community Development Office			
	Larry Lingle	Supervisor	Benner Township	X	X	
	Lesley Kistner		Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce			
	Leslie Temple		Bank - Fulton Bank			
X	Linda Marshall		Centre County Planning and Community Development Office			
	Lingle ?		Bellefonte Business - My Cafe Buzz			
	Lori Fisher		Nonprofit - Bellefonte Art Museum (BAM)			
	Madra Clay	Regional Director	DCED		X	
	Mariah Ballock	Assistant	Bellefonte Business - Axemann Brewery			
	Mark Gagnon	Penn State - College of Agricultural Sciences - Community, Environment and Development				
	Mark Higgins	County Commissioner, Chair	Centre County Board of Commissioners			
	Mark Stitzer		Masullo Park Neighbors	X		
	Matt Maris					
	Matt Wise					
	Matthew Hill		Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce			
	Melissa Hombosky	Co-owner	Bellefonte Business - 3Twenty9 Business			
	Michael Fedisson	Principal	Bellefonte Area School District - Bellefonte High School			
	Michael Fry	HR Director	Mount Nittany Health			

Table 1: Safe Routes to Parks Partners (continued)

Safe Routes Steering Committee	Name	Title	Organization	7/17, 3pm, Talleyrand	7/18, 5pm, Gamble Mill	7/18, 1pm, High St.
	Mike Desmond		Talleyrand Park Stage Committee			
	Mike Scott		Bank - Arize Federal Credit Union		X	
	Mitch Cowher		Bellefonte Business - My Cafe Buzz			
	Molly Krunkel	Executive Director	Nonprofit - Centre Foundation			
X	Nancy Perkins		Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	X	X	X
	Nathan Reigner	Director of Outdoor Recreation	DCNR			
	Nicole Schuster				X	
	Nicole Simpson		Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce			
	Nicole Summers		Nonprofit - Bellefonte Food Bank			
	Pam Adams		Centre Region Council of Governments			
	Paul Takac					
	Phil Breidenbaugh		Historic Bellefonte Inc (HBI)			
	Rachel Reznick	Local Government Policy Specialist	DCED			X
	Ralph Stewart	Borough Manager	Bellefonte Borough Staff			
	Randy Brachbill	Councilman	Bellefonte Borough Council			
	Ray Stolinias		Centre County Planning and Community Development Office			
	Renea Nash-Nichols	Penn State, Communications Department, Public Relations + Spring Creek Picnics Business	Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association (BHCA) - Talleyrand Park Committee			
	Rick Jacobs		Talleyrand Park Stage Committee		X	X
	Rita Purnell	Councilwoman	Bellefonte Borough Council			
	Rob Brawley	President	Nittany Mountain Bike Association (NMBA)			
	Rod Beard					
	Rod Stahl	Owner	Bellefonte Business - Axemann Brewery			

Table 1: Safe Routes to Parks Partners (continued)

Safe Routes Steering Committee	Name	Title	Organization	7/17, 3pm, Talleyrand	7/18, 5pm, Gamble Mill	7/18, 1pm, High St.
	Romayne Naylor		Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association (BHCA)			
	Sally Houser		Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce		X	
	Samantha Pearson	Healthy Communities Program Manager	Nonprofit - Pennsylvania Downtown Center		X	
	Scott Sheeder	Vice President	Nittany Mountain Bike Association (NMBA)			
	Sharon Royer	Secretary / Treasurer	Benner Township		X	
	Shawn Thompson		YMCA - Bellefonte			
	Shawn Weaver	Police Chief	Bellefonte Police			
	Shawna McKean	Councilwoman	Bellefonte Borough Council			
	Sherri Letterman		Bellefonte Business - Bonfatto's Italian Market			
	Stephanie Moon	Community Engagement	Geisinger			
X	Stephanie Peters	Executive Director	Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce		X	
	Stephen Dershem	County Commissioner	Centre County Board of Commissioners			
	Sue Hannigan					
	Susan Munnell		Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce			
	Tami Schuster	Owner	Bellefonte Business - Our Fair Lady Bed and Breakfast		X	
	Tammie Burnaford	Interim Superintendent	Bellefonte Area School District			
	Ted Alter		Penn State - College of Agricultural Sciences - Community, Environment and Development			
	Tere Young			X	X	
	Thom Bathgate		Talleyrand Park Stage Committee			
	Tiffani ?		Masullo Park Neighbors			
	Tiffany Baker	Administrative Assistant	Centre Region Council of Governments			

Table 1: Safe Routes to Parks Partners (continued)

Safe Routes Steering Committee	Name	Title	Organization	7/17, 3pm, Talleyrand	7/18, 5pm, Gamble Mill	7/18, 1pm, High St.
	Tim Bruggerman	Vice President	Bellefonte Business - Trout Unlimited Spring Creek Chapter			
	Tim Kellsey	Department Chair	Penn State - College of Agricultural Sciences - Community, Environment and Development			X
	Tom Wilson		Talleyrand Park Stage Committee	X	X	
	Tom Young				X	
	Trish Meek	Statewide Bike Pedestrian Coordinator	PennDOT			X
	Troy Weston	Co-owner	Bellefonte Business - 3Twenty9 Business			
	Tsunami Sharmba	Staff Engineer Intern	ARM Group			X
	Walter Schneider	Agency Director	Centre Region Council of Governments			
	Wes Fahringer	Regional Recreation and Parks Advisor	DCNR			X
	Zach Barton					
	Zach Schuster	Owner	Bellefonte Business - Schuster's Landscaping, LLC		X	

Safe Routes to Parks Two-Day Workshop

As part of the Safe Routes to Parks Activating Communities program, Safe Routes Partnership facilitated an in-person action plan workshop with the Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation and community partners. Three workshop sessions were held over the course of a two-day, in-person site visit. Multiple sessions were convened to allow for a broad representation of community members, residents, and government agency staff. Table 2 below is a brief description of each session, who was invited to engage, the number of participants, and the broad themes expressed by community members.

Table 2: Workshop Sessions Summary

Session	Participants	Number of Participants	Session Purpose	Overarching Community Theme
<p>Community Roundtable Conversation: Park Access in Bellefonte</p> <p>July 17th, 2023 3-5 pm at Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce, Talleyrand Park</p>	Residents, local businesses, the local parks committee, and other community organizations invested in the parks	16	Engage with local neighbors and relevant groups who use and access Talleyrand and Masullo Parks to understand how people currently use those parks, how they access them, and what challenges and needs they have for safety and comfort both on the route to and within the parks. (Specific areas to discuss: Talleyrand and Masullo; South Potter Street and Willowbank)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-traffic streets are dangerous. These include the intersection at High and Water Street Desire for safe walking connections that include South Potter Street, Downtown to Axemann Brewery, and improved connectivity to Masullo Park Leverage the park assets of natural beauty and waterways Increase access for people of all abilities (wheelchairs, people with limited mobility, etc.) Use Safe Route to Parks as a way to celebrate a sense of place and history Increase transportation options and more people walking and biking
<p>Bellefonte Safe Routes to Parks: Charting the Path for Action</p> <p>July 18th, 2023 1-3 pm at 107 E. High Street, 2nd Floor</p>	Agency staff at local, regional, and state levels; regional stakeholders and state representatives	17	<p>Identify steps to implement priority goals and actions, including conversations like timelines, logistics, partner roles, and resources. The conversation focused on three priority goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve connection between Talleyrand and Masullo Parks Improve pedestrian safety and access to Talleyrand Park via High Street Increase regional connectivity via greenways and trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enthusiasm around coalition-building Identified incremental steps and project phasing for each goal area Identified specific partners and grant resources via state agencies and federal transportation grants
<p>Evening Public Engagement Session: Our Shared Vision of Safe Routes to Parks</p> <p>July 18, 2023 5-7 pm at the Gamble Mill</p>	Community at-large	40	Introduce everyone to the initiative and ground everyone with a shared purpose. Participants feel informed and understand how they contribute to shaping a vision for their local Safe Routes to Parks initiative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of parks for people of all ages and abilities. Parks are places for family, celebrating milestones, beauty, and play. The importance of activating parks with activities, events Important features for routes connect parks like lighting, bridge connectivity, trees

Community Themes and Values

Over the course of the workshops, participants were invited to share their vision for park access in Bellefonte. Full notes from the meeting sessions documenting ideas and input from residents can be found in Appendix A.

During the Community Conversation session on the first day, residents were invited to create a “Dream Map.” This interactive exercise guided the group to understand the desires and needs of residents who use Masullo and Talleyrand Parks. Using pre-printed base maps of the area, participants were encouraged to use drawings, symbols, words, or magazine cut-outs, and think about the following question: “Imagine if you and your family could safely and comfortably walk or bike to your nearby park – Masullo and/or Talleyrand. Getting to the park felt safe and even pleasant. Tap into your five senses, what would that route getting to the park be like? What would the park offer?” This exercise provoked a dialogue of challenges, assets, and desires for future park use and connections.

During the evening workshop session on the second day, participants were invited to share their memories and aspirations about their experiences using parks and getting to parks using a model-building exercise called “Place-It.” Participants were prompted to create two models: to build a model of a memorable experience they had in a park and to build their ideal walking or rolling route to park. After each build, participants shared their model, describing their memory or aspiration. Based on these individual perspectives, the group identified common themes and values that threaded their stories together.



Figure 1: Workshop Day One - Residents create Dream Maps, an activity that encourages creative thinking and community dialogue



Figure 2 Workshop Day One - An example of one of the Dream Maps created by a resident, highlighting connection between Masullo and Talleyrand Parks



These conversations over the course of the workshops culminated into several overarching themes and values including:

- Bellefonte parks are places of natural beauty and highlight our greatest asset, water. Making sure that people can get to them safely means they can enjoy all our parks offer including fishing, boating, and swimming.
- Working together to increase access to parks so people of all ages and abilities can enjoy our local parks to create memories, spend time with family, and have fun!
- A desire to safely connect to parks, no matter where you live in the community, and improve safety at high-traffic intersections.
- Continue to build on the legacy of Bellefonte and its historical attributes by integrating these beautiful green, public spaces into the fabric of the community.
- Having the option to safely walk and bike to connect to parks, nearby communities, and many of the locally owned businesses that are part of the character of this community and region of Central Pennsylvania



Figure 3: Workshop Day Two - Community members build models of their parks, sharing memories and ideas for the future.



Figure 4: Workshop Day Two - While sharing stories of past and future, it becomes clear the importance of parks.

Assess: The State of Park Access in Our Community

This section includes a description of current conditions related to park access in Bellefonte. This section includes existing policies, plans, programs, infrastructure, assets, and challenges identified via community engagement activities and available data.

Summary of Existing Infrastructure

The focus of this action plan is on connectivity to two local parks in Bellefonte – Talleyrand and Masullo Parks. They are not the only residential parks in the borough, but because of their proximity to downtown, improved walking and biking route connections would offer improved safety and connectivity among other key community destinations. These two parks also offer distinct recreational and social opportunities for residents and visitors. Spring Creek flows through both parks, attracting a diversity of wildlife and also serving as a recreation spot for boating and fishing. There are also both active and inactive rail lines that run adjacent to these parks. The Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society is an important partner in preservation and educational initiatives related the railway history.

Talleyrand and Masullo parks are touted as gems, community cornerstones, and public gathering spots. The Borough of Bellefonte dedicates an extensive summary of each park on their town’s website. Below are snippets of those summaries that lend insight to the cultural, recreational, and historical sites these are.

Talleyrand Park: “Charming. Beautiful. Unique. All words used to describe Talleyrand Park, the centerpiece of Bellefonte’s park system. Talleyrand is one of the most visited parks in the region and covers 3.5 acres. Founded in 1974, the all-volunteer Talleyrand Park Committee continues to this day to improve and maintain the park, collaborating with the Borough of Bellefonte and the Bellefonte Garden Club, while focusing on reflecting the character of Bellefonte’s Victorian Heritage and cultural richness.”

Figure 6 Day one site visit photo of the entrance of Masullo Park and cul-de-sac of Reynold’s Avenue. The park is popular for dog walking. There is a basketball court and ADA-accessible dock for boating and fishing. Spring Creek is just behind the lower treeline.



Figure 5: Day One site visit photo of parking lot entrance on the south end of Talleyrand Park includes entrance sign, bike rack and bench. In the foreground is a walking loop commonly used by Centre County Government employees.



Masullo Park: “Surrounded on three sides by Spring Creek and Logan Branch, Masullo Park is a two-acre neighborhood park at the foot of Reynolds Avenue. Notable for its large open space and waterfront access, this park has picnic tables and a basketball court. Originally designated as Bellefonte’s dog park, Masullo Park is now a great park for picnics, lawn games and outdoor recreation.

Spring Creek is widely recognized as a Class A fishing stream and Masullo Park grants fishing access for anglers both in-stream and on the stream bank. Masullo Park is the designated point for ADA-accessible and family fishing.”



Figure 7: Map of Masullo and Talleyrand Parks including key connectors - High Street, South Potter Street, South Water Street, and Axemann Road

During the Safe Routes to Parks workshops, community members reinforced the assets that these parks are to the community, and also the real challenges that exist to accessing both of them by bicycle and on foot. South Potter Road, High Street, Water Street, Willowbank Street, and Axemann Road are some of the key connecting routes to these parks, and improving them would further enhance access to these parks to increase their usability, and also support connections to other community destinations. For instance, Titan Energy Park, a manufacturing, industrial, and office space that also houses Axemann Brewery, a popular brewpub among locals is less than one-mile southeast of Masullo Park; and Centre County Government whose employees are encouraged to take walking breaks at the parks, their offices are located less than a half mile from both parks. However, despite the relative proximity of these sites, walking and biking to these parks prove challenging with the only routes having a high volume of car traffic at high speeds with inadequate or non-existent pedestrian and bicyclist facilities. Figure 7 is an area map that includes the parks and key routes, and Table 3 below outlines these key routes that connect to the parks, additional destinations, and a brief description of current conditions. Figures 8 – 13 are photos of these key routes to provide a visual of the current conditions.

Table 3: Key Existing Routes Connecting to Masullo and Talleyrand Parks

Routes	Key Destinations	Description of Current Conditions
South Potter Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talleyrand to Masullo parks • Neighborhoods south of the parks • Local businesses including Good Intent Cider and Big Spring Spirits 	<p>Because there are no sidewalks or right of way, it is informally a shared-use road, with pedestrian, bicycle, and car traffic mixing on a regular basis on this narrower unmarked roadway. This street is under the jurisdiction of the local borough and the posted speed is 25mph. Limited sightlines due to buildings located right along the roadway and the curvature of the road increase the feeling of risk and danger for someone walking on the roadways. Adjacent to South Potter Road is an inactive rail line.</p>
High Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown Courthouses and business to Talleyrand Park • Local businesses including Bonfatto's Italian Market and My Café Buzz 	<p>This is the most direct connection to/from downtown. This section is two-way with complete sidewalks and on-street parking. There is not adequate lighting at night. The intersection of Water and Highstreet sees a high volume of traffic and the wide intersection makes it feel particularly dangerous crossing as a pedestrian. There is a railroad crossing at High Street and Potter Street, but residents report that trains cross through infrequently. This intersection was the location of a crash where a person on a bicycle was killed.</p>
Water Street (PA-150) and Willowbank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major intersection at High Street • Centre County Government Offices • American Philatelic Society and Big Spring • Match Factory Place • Neighborhoods on either side of Willowbank 	<p>Water Street runs along Talleyrand Park and converts into Willowbank further south. It is a two-lane roadway that is a commuter route to neighboring townships. The section adjacent to the park has sidewalks only along the park side. There are residences and businesses that sit along the roadway across the park. The sidewalk that does exist is a standard four-foot sidewalk with no additional buffer. A person walking feels rather exposed alongside a highly trafficked corridor. The posted speed limit at this section in front of the park is 25 mph and the average daily traffic is 15,000 vehicles daily. Where Water Street converts to Willowbank, sidewalks appear on both sides of the roadway. There is a single-marked crosswalk at the intersection of Willowbank and Phoenix that gets used frequently by Centre County government employees.</p>
Axemann Road (PA-144)	Titan Energy Park and Axemann Brewery	<p>This is a two-lane roadway with no bicycle or pedestrian facility. A live rail line runs parallel to the roadway, and residents anecdotally have shared that it is not uncommon to see people walk along the rail line to access Titan Energy Park.</p>





Figure 8: Crossing the intersection of High Street and Water Street was identified by residents as a challenge to access the parks to/from downtown (Google Street View).



Figure 11: Water Street along Talleyrand Park. Connected sidewalks are only along one side of the roadway. The roadway had collapsed and was currently under construction. Pedestrians were being rerouted through the park.



Figure 9 (top): South Potter Street with newly installed signs signal to drivers that pedestrians are present.
Figure 10 (bottom): Former railbed along South Potter is an opportunity and could be converted as a multi-use path that connects Talleyrand and Masullo parks.



Figure 12 (top right): Willowbank Street and the Phoenix Avenue crosswalk. The crosswalk has been repainted to make it higher visibility and an in-pavement sign instructs drivers to yield to pedestrians.
Figure 13 (bottom right): Axemann Road lack of bicycle and pedestrian facilities (Google map street view)



Community-Identified Challenges and Assets

Traffic Volumes for Vehicles, Pedestrians, and Cyclists

The most evident challenge to Safe Routes to Parks in Bellefonte is that the routes that are the most heavily walked and biked and that connect people to Masullo and Talleyrand Parks are also the same roads with the most vehicular traffic. The Strava Heat map in Figure 14 shows the most common routes people are using to bike and walk indicated by the heavily weighted yellow highlights. This data indicates that:

- Roopsburg Road into South Potter Street is the most heavily used route for biking and walking
- Willowbank Street and South Water Street is heavily utilized
- Centre County Government office workers walk to the park and the walking loop at Talleyrand is well-utilized
- People are walking to and from Titan Energy Park despite the lack of separate facilities
- High Street over Water Street is heavily used to connect to/from downtown

These routes also serve as commuter routes into Bellefonte and see the highest traffic volume as indicated by Figure 15 which illustrate the average daily traffic counts. The annual average daily traffic shows robust movement in and out of Bellefonte. To put these numbers below in perspective, there are approximately 6,200 residents who live in Bellefonte. In most cases, the high traffic volume provides a challenging scenario to safety for people walking and biking when roadways lack separate facilities or traffic calming to ensure slower vehicular speeds.



Figure 14: Strava Heat Map routes that are emboldened by yellow are most common routes for biking and walking.

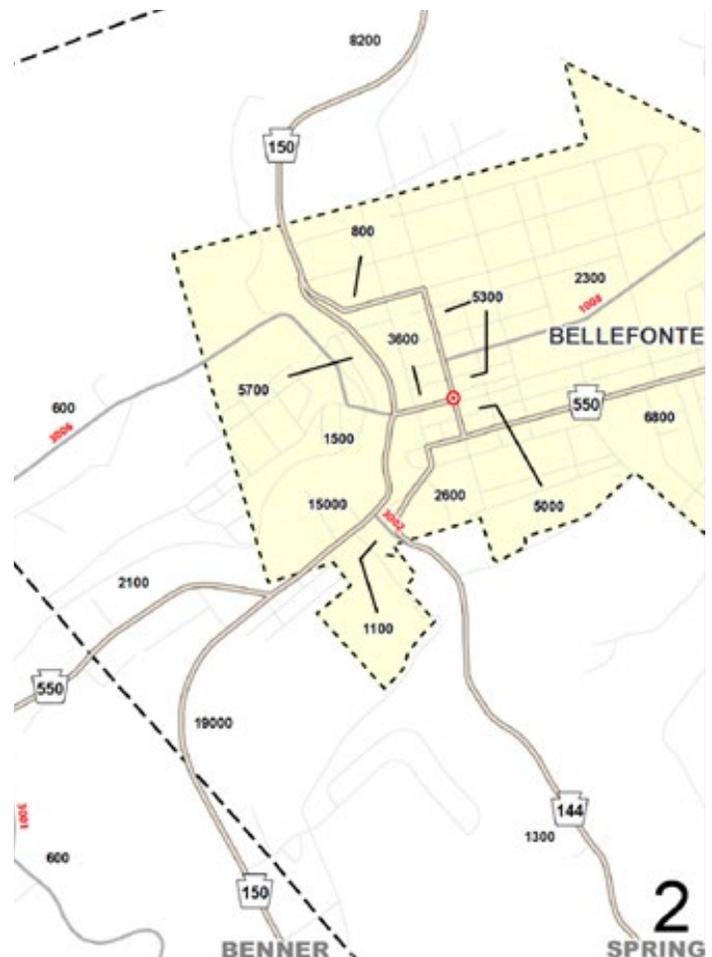


Figure 15: Annual Average Daily Traffic Map



The average daily traffic counts are as follows:

- Water Street (PA 150) connecting south from Benner Pike (Benner Township) - 19,000
- Water Street (PA 150) connecting north from Milesburg - 8,200
- South Water Street in-town - 15,000
- High Street coming from Water Street - 3,600
- High St by Talleyrand Park - 5,700

Safety and Crash Data

Streets with a higher frequency of overall crashes are more dangerous, especially for people walking. Data from Pennsylvania's Department of Transportation's Crash Information Tool indicates Water Street (PA 150), which turns into Willowbank Street as a corridor with a higher frequency of crashes relative to other routes in Bellefonte. The intersections of Water Street and High Street, Willowbank and Reynolds Avenue, and Willowbank and Phoenix Avenue have multiple crashes documented over the most recent nine-year period that data is available, 2013-2022.

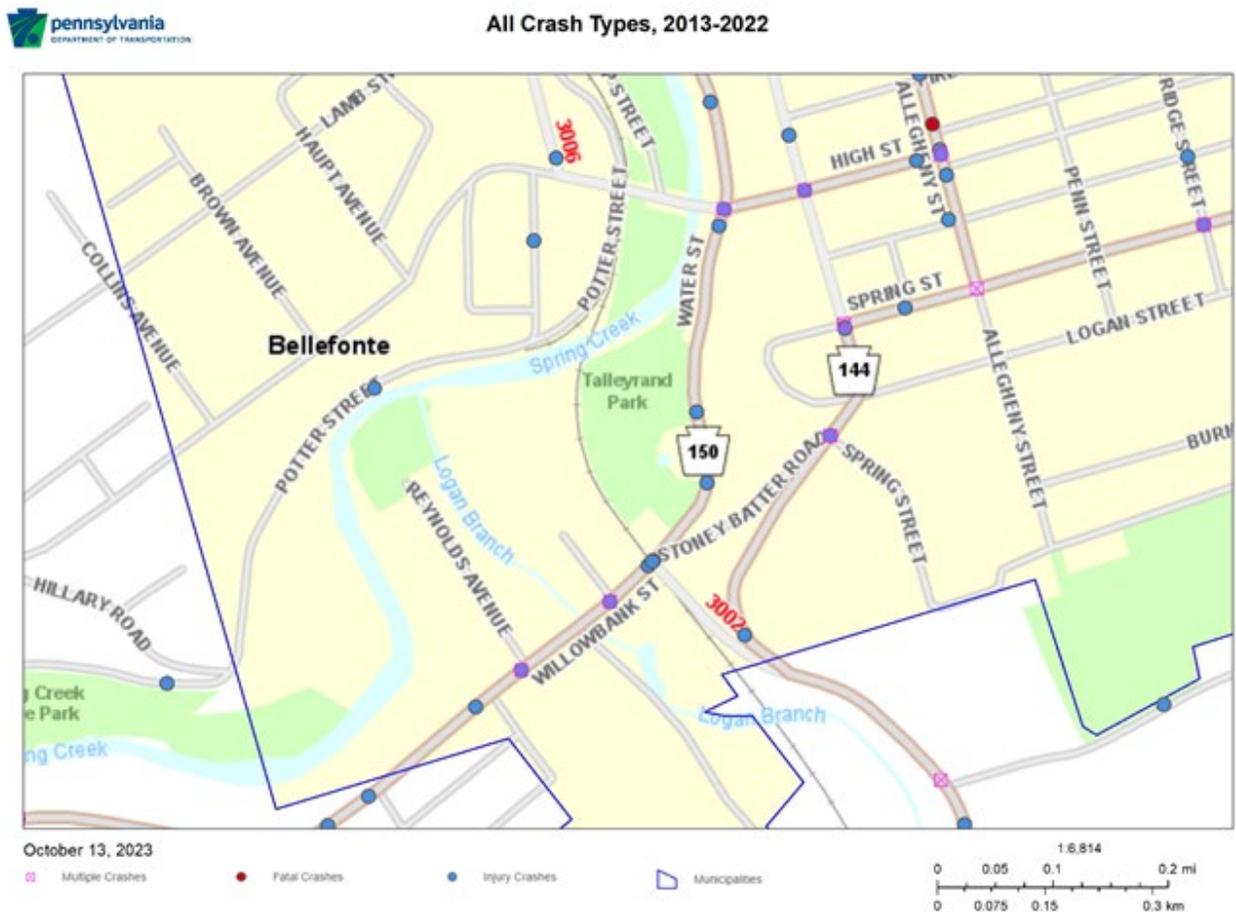


Figure 16: Data includes all crashes over the last nine years involving vehicles only as well as crashes involving non-motorists. Multiple crashes are indicated at Reynolds Ave. and Willowbank St., Phoenix Avenue and Willowbank St., and Water St. and High St.



Table 4: State of Park Access Summary Table

On the first day of the workshop, residents were asked to help brainstorm the strengths, challenges, opportunities, and barriers to accessing their favorite local parks, Talleyrand and Masullo. This data has been organized in the table below. Strengths and challenges are the current circumstances that community members are experiencing when trying to access parks and greenspaces. Opportunities are openings to address challenges and build on strengths. Barriers are the obstacles that could hinder future work.

NOW	FUTURE
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community involvement • We can have people come together to work with others. Today's engagement = proof • Community willingness to make change improve the community • Build on water as identity/ character of engineer • Strength -talent for gardening, landscaping • Strong community volunteerism • Interest in community revitalization • Existing business wishing to have access (Good Intent, Big Springs, etc.) • Water is our identity. Utilize it • Water and parks • Rail infrastructure • Reuse the rails lines • Pathway along the rail 	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community involvement • Education, history and play • Incorporate rail events into other community events • Younger, more diverse organizations • Intergenerational opportunities • Many ages, good for communities • Central outdoors / environmental organizations • Big Spring cover project • Stage at Talleyrand (2x) • Reality of "creep" from State College • Local bike organizations (Centre Bikes, Rothrock Regulators, Nittany Mtn Biking Assoc, SC Cycling Club, Happy Valley Women's Cycling • Involve high school students - tech, art, music - PSU • E-bikes • Feasibility trail studies • Milesburg greenway • Trails connection to State College
<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing management of these projects (a caution) • Ongoing maintenance costs? Who? The borough? • Money, time/organization to connect groups • Engage more diverse individuals • Outdated infrastructure (not multi-modal, disrepair) • Poor lighting • Busy roads • Land ownership • Regulatory challenges • Money • Volunteer manpower and coordination/ communication • Turf wars • Is there railroad right of way areas approved for paths? • Resistance to change • Cost - grant funding • Money • Traffic water crossings • High-traffic roadways • Vehicle speed • State roads and borough roads, need PennDOT approval, agencies -DEP 	<p>Barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High volume of traffic • Train tracks - biking and walking • Borough budget - lack of money • DEP /PDOT - \$\$ - fishboat, railroad • Resources - time and money • Can we promote a vision allowing for revisions? People hate to give up on their visions. • Erosion • Water and fish boat (3x) • Nay-sayers that may have influence community or power • Money • Cost of bridges and tunnels



Summary of Existing Plans, Programs, and Policies

- [Bellefonte to Milesburg Trail Feasibility Study \(2019\)](#): This is a feasibility study and pre-construction analysis for a shared-use path that would connect Bellefonte and Milesburg Boroughs. The trail alignment would parallel Spring Creek and connect Krauss and Talleyrand Parks.
- [Bellefonte Central Rail Trail Feasibility Study \(2008\)](#): This study outlines a 14-mile corridor connecting State College and Bellefonte, following the former Bellefonte Central Rail Corridor. The trail alignment would run along the former rail line a connect to Masullo and Talleyrand Parks. This would provide a crucial connection to State College.
- [Transportation Improvement Plan \(2023-2026\)](#): Highway 150/ Water Street upgrades are currently under evaluation, but would potentially impact the Phoenix Avenue crossing commonly used to cross Water Street

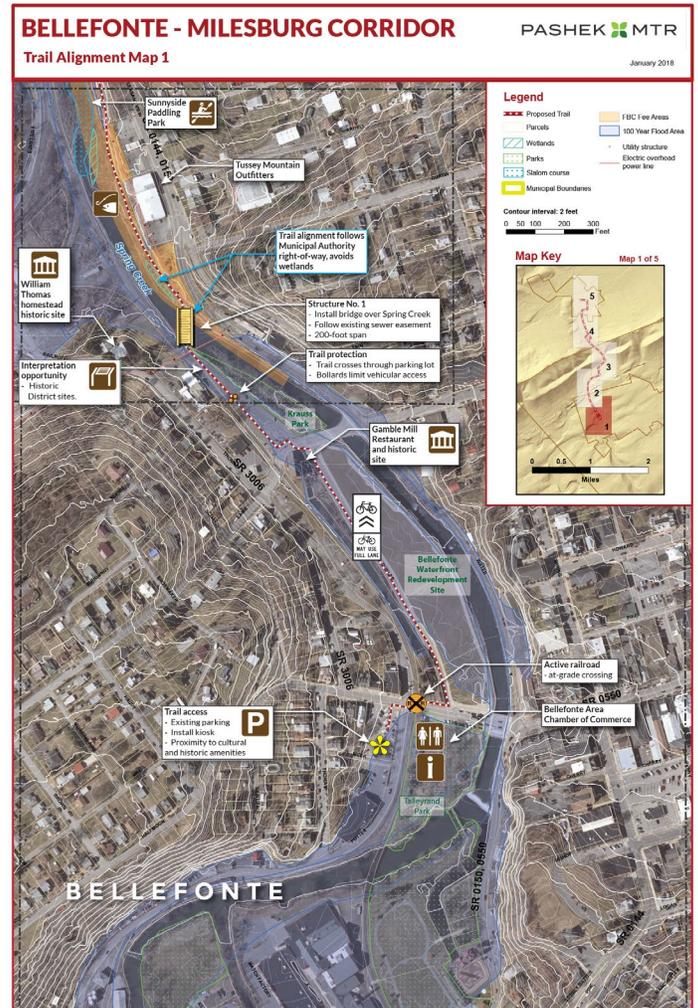


Figure 17: From the Bellefonte to Milesburg Trail Feasibility Study featuring an alignment that would connect Talleyrand Park north to Milesburg



Figure 18: From the Bellefonte Central Rail Trail Study, Masullo Park (labeled as Reynolds Park) and Talleyrand park connected by a shared-path.



Plan: Goals for Improving Safe Routes to Parks

The following goals were identified based on engagement and assessment activities completed to-date.

Goal 1: Improve the connection between Talleyrand and Masullo Parks with off-street paths

This goal would involve repurposing the former railroad track and adding bridge connections over Spring Creek to directly connect neighborhoods to Masullo and Talleyrand parks. There are several reasons why this goal rose to the top. It is a long-term solution to address the safety concerns for people walking and biking along South Potter Street, providing a totally car-free connection. It would ostensibly connect to the future Bellefonte Central Rail project, enhancing connectivity for biking and walking beyond these two parks and the borough. Lastly, it would be an opportunity to celebrate the history of the railroad in Bellefonte, and a multi-use path could host educational signage and markers as homage to the former rail line.

Goal 2: Address pedestrian safety on South Potter Street corridor (from High Street to Masullo Park)

The development of an off-street path that would run adjacent to South Potter is a longer-term solution that would address pedestrian safety and access. In the interim, however, measures like additional signage, traffic calming, and even limiting through traffic are shorter-term solutions that could help make this street feel safer for people walking and biking and connect more easily to their local parks.

Goal 3: Improve pedestrian safety and access to Talleyrand Park via High Street intersections at Potter Street and Water Street

Improving access via High Street would include addressing crossings at intersections, especially the busiest intersection at Water Street. This goal would reduce the crossing distance at these intersections, add lighting, and improve ADA accessibility.

Goal 4: Increase access to (and improvements within) Masullo Park from the neighborhoods via Water Street from Willowbank and Reynolds Avenue

This goal encompasses a number of different actions, including incorporating improved signage and possibly other improvements that the residents would want to see in Masullo Park. It would also look to improve the existing crosswalk at Phoenix Avenue and better connect residents who live on the east side of Willowbank.



Goal 5: Celebrate a sense of place and improve connections across Bellefonte

Through resident engagement, it is clear that these parks are central to experiencing Bellefonte and the town's history. This goal encompasses ongoing projects like the plans to build a stage at Talleyrand Park and the Big Spring cover project. It also includes designing and erecting wayfinding signs and historical markers in the project area.

Goal 6: Increase regional connectivity via greenways and trails

Residents are excited at the prospect of improving local park connections as part of a bigger goal to connect to future greenways and trails in Centre County. Looking to examples of other small towns in rural Pennsylvania that have implemented multi-use paths in their community as part of a larger network to draw in more visitors, boost economic development and retail sales. This goal includes connecting an off-street path to Krauss Park, a smaller greenspace park north of Talleyrand up into Milesburg Township. To the south, the connection would leverage the existing plans for a trail that would connect Talleyrand Park to the Arboretum in State College.



Implement: Creating Safe Routes to Parks

Safe Routes to Parks Implementation Table

During the second day of the Safe Routes to Parks workshop, participants identified both feasible action steps that can be completed in the interim, as well as longer-term goals to work towards. These have been incorporated in the implementation table (Table 5) below. The breaks down each community-identified goal into specific action steps with a clear timeframe, a specific lead party responsible for implementation, and ideas for measuring success.

Timeframe is defined as follows:

- Short: 0-6 months
- Medium: 6-12 months
- Long: 1-2 years



Figure 19: Day Two of the Workshop, Stakeholders participate in an action plan session to discuss actions, resources, roles, and timelines to implement community-identified goals.



Figure 20: Day Two of the Workshop, Stakeholders included agency staff, elected officials, and community partners.

Table 5: Safe Routes to Parks Implementation Table

Goal #1: Improve the connection between Talleyrand and Masullo Parks with off-street paths					
Action	Time Frame	Lead Role	Supporting Roles	Costs (Money, Time, and Resources)	How Will We Measure Success?
1.1 Repurpose the former railroad track from adjacent to Talleyrand and Masullo Parks	Long	Nittany Valley Joint Authority in partnership with Bellefonte Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer support from YMCA, libraries, schools, and scout troops for trail maintenance Penn State University Landscape Architecture students (spechols@gmail.com) Pennsylvania Environmental Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Securing the corridor from SEDA-COG, including \$18,000 for the metal tracks Planning support and collaboration with PSU Landscape Architecture students Cost of a feasibility study Construction costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breaking ground in 2026 on rails to trails project that would serve as a biking and walking gateway in Downtown Bellefonte, connecting to future trails to Milesburg and State College Community support and partner engagement to make the project a reality
1.2 Add bridge connections over the waterway to connect neighborhoods to parks and identify possible project phasing (example: Logan Branch Bridge and Spring Creek bridge)	Long	Nittany Valley Joint Authority in partnership with Bellefonte Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Penn State University Landscape Architecture students (spechols@gmail.com) Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of a feasibility study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating connections and access to neighborhoods that currently lack access to parks Continue to leverage and celebrate waterways as community assets with infrastructure that allows residents and visitors to enjoy them fully
1.3 Develop a partner list to engage in corridor connections	Short	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators Monthly and/or partner meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust partner engagement throughout the planning and implementation process
1.4 Identify funding opportunities (phased stages: feasibility, planning, design, construction, maintenance)	Short	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> America 250 – state representatives Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure grant funds for different phases of the project: feasibility, design, construction, and maintenance)

Table 5: Safe Routes to Parks Implementation Table

Goal #2: Address pedestrian safety on South Potter Street corridor (from High Street to Masullo Park)					
Action	Time Frame	Lead Role	Supporting Roles	Costs (Money, Time, and Resources)	How Will We Measure Success?
2.1 Identify specific issues from walk audits	Short	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Borough Police Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear list of safety concerns (ie. Car speed, lighting, lack of designated walkway, visibility etc.)
2.2 Work with Borough departments to identify possible solutions to increase pedestrian visibility and alert drivers	Medium	Bellefonte Borough Planning and Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of signage and other possible traffic-calming treatments/solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved connection that increases safety and comfort for people walking Improved walking connection to parks as well as local businesses
2.3 Identify specific partners including local businesses to engage	Short	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued engagement
2.4 Host a community open street event on South Potter to engage residents	Short	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Borough Local Businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged residents and community
2.5 Explore the feasibility and interest in piloting a shared street along South Potter Road	Short	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Borough Local Businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators Cost of signage and other possible traffic-calming treatments/solutions Promotion and education Evaluation – surveys and bike/ped counts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged residents and community Increase use and safety for people walking and biking More foot traffic to local businesses

Table 5: Safe Routes to Parks Implementation Table

Goal #3: Improve pedestrian safety and access to Talleyrand Park via High Street intersections at Potter Street and Water Street					
Action	Time Frame	Lead Role	Supporting Roles	Costs (Money, Time, and Resources)	How Will We Measure Success?
3.1 Participate in the state's Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment	Short	Bellefonte Borough Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre Region MPO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety and access concerns in Bellefonte are integrated into the state-wide assessment
3.2 Install lighting along High Street bridge	Medium	Bellefonte Borough Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation Pennsylvania Department of Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources to develop and identify lighting needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-lit walking path
3.3 Identifying specific needs to improve ADA accessibility	Medium	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Borough Planning and Public Works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs of specific accessibility features such as curb ramps, anti-skid surfaces, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance ADA access so everyone can enjoy the parks whether you are in a wheelchair or pushing a stroller
3.4 Improve the pedestrian crossing and experience at High and Water Streets	Long	Bellefonte Borough and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study to improve signals, add curb extensions to reduce crossing length Costs of additional signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making improvements to the intersection to reduce car speeds, reduce confusion, and make it safer for people crossing. Securing funding to make needed intersection improvements and secure money from US DOT Safe Streets for All grant for planning Increased perceptions of safety
3.5 Apply anti-skid surfaces along bridges within Talleyrand Park	Long	Bellefonte Borough Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependent on treatment; requires consultation from a contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access for people with limited mobility, wheelchairs, and strollers
3.6 Work with Spring Township and Titan Energy Park owners to create a safe walking path to Talleyrand	Long	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Borough Planning and Public Works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased engagement and partnership to work together on future projects

Table 5: Safe Routes to Parks Implementation Table

Goal #3: Improve pedestrian safety and access to Talleyrand Park via High Street intersections at Potter Street and Water Street					
Action	Time Frame	Lead Role	Supporting Roles	Costs (Money, Time, and Resources)	How Will We Measure Success?
3.7 Develop a list of partner opportunities such as garden clubs, scouts, and other civic organizations for the purpose of beautifying the parks and the corridor connection	Short	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased engagement and partnership to work together on future projects
3.8 Apply for funding opportunities to implement the project	Long	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Borough Planning and Public Works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding secured for intersection improvements, lighting and ADA upgrades
3.9 Develop a plan for park and corridor maintenance	Long	Bellefonte Borough Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing maintenance Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a plan for ongoing maintenance which could include periodic assessments supported by volunteers and community groups

Table 5: Safe Routes to Parks Implementation Table

Goal #4: Increase access to (and improvements within) Masullo Park from the neighborhoods via Water Street from Willowbank and Reynolds Avenue					
Action	Time Frame	Lead Role	Supporting Roles	Costs (Money, Time, and Resources)	How Will We Measure Success?
4.1 Identify and list specific issues at Water/ Willowbank streets	Long	Bellefonte Borough Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Borough Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear list of safety concerns (ie. Car speed, lighting, lack of designated walkway, visibility etc.)
4.2 Incorporate signage, planters and other improvements at Masullo Park	Medium to Long	Bellefonte Borough Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators Costs of identified improvements – signage, planters, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activated park space that meets the needs of many community residents
4.3 Improve crossing at Phoenix Ave and Willowbank	Long	Bellefonte Borough Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation Pennsylvania Department of Transportation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs of additional signage, crossing upgrades, and traffic calming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved safety at this crosswalk
4.4 Develop a list of partner opportunities such as garden clubs, scouts, and other civic organizations for the purpose of beautifying the parks and the corridor connection	Short	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased engagement and partnership to work together on future projects
4.5 Apply for funding opportunities to implement the project	Long	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Borough Planning and Public Works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding secured for in-park improvements as well as route improvements
4.6 Develop a plan for park and corridor maintenance	Long	Bellefonte Borough Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing maintenance Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a plan for ongoing maintenance which could include periodic assessments supported by volunteers and community groups Easy to maintain landscaping (all seasons)

Table 5: Safe Routes to Parks Implementation Table

Goal #5: Celebrate a sense of place and improve connections across Bellefonte					
Action	Time Frame	Lead Role	Supporting Roles	Costs (Money, Time, and Resources)	How Will We Measure Success?
5.1 Design and erect wayfinding signs and historical markers in the project area	Medium	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of sign engineering and implementation plan Cost of prototyping and installation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having markers and other features so people can appreciate and enjoy the routes/parks Wayfinding signage to indicate distances, to where and routes for biking and walking
5.2 New stage at Talleyrand Park	Long	Talleyrand Park Stage Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activated park spaces and venue area for entertainment
5.3 Complete the Big Spring cover project	Long	Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs for planning and design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attractive water feature that's more fully integrated into Talleyrand Park as a focal feature that uplifts community identity - water
5.4 Develop a list of partner opportunities such as garden clubs, scouts and other civic organizations for the purpose of beautifying the parks and the corridor connection	Short	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued engagement and community ownership
5.5 Apply for funding opportunities to implement the project	Long	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Borough Planning and Public Works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding secured for in-park improvements as well as route improvements
5.6 Develop a plan for park and corridor maintenance	Long	Bellefonte Borough Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing maintenance Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed a plan for ongoing maintenance which could include periodic assessments supported by volunteers and community groups

Table 5: Safe Routes to Parks Implementation Table

Goal #6: Increase regional connectivity via greenways and trails					
Action	Time Frame	Lead Role	Supporting Roles	Costs (Money, Time, and Resources)	How Will We Measure Success?
6.1 Work with the private property owners and Milesburg Township to implement the Greenway that connects Krauss Park to Milesburg	Long	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Borough Centre County MPO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators Cost of outreach and educational materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged residents who are excited about increased biking and walking options Ongoing communication so community members stay informed
6.2 Work with the multiple municipalities and Centre Region Planning to implement the Rail Trail that connects Talleyrand Park to The Arboretum in State College	Long	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Borough Centre County MPO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged residents and community leaders who are excited about increased biking and walking options
6.3 Program open streets events as a way to engage multiple municipalities and businesses	Medium to Long	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators Event costs including permitting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged residents and community leaders who are excited about increased biking and walking options
6.4 Share examples of successful projects in peer communities include economic development	Medium	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce Pennsylvania Environmental Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged residents and community leaders who are excited about increased biking and walking options
6.5 Identify partners for all phases of the project	Medium	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pennsylvania Environmental Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged residents and community leaders who are excited about increased biking and walking options
6.6 Establish a study group to advise on planning and technical components	Medium	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pennsylvania Environmental Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer or paid coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified incremental phases

Safe Routes to Parks Early Actions

Table 5: Implementing Early Actions Table

Early Action: Stop.Look.Imagine - South Potter Open Street Event	
Describe the action. What do you plan to do?	Hosted a community open street event on South Potter to engage residents on connectivity to Talleyrand and Masullo parks by reimagining the street as a place for biking and walking.
What group or agency is responsible or has the most influence over the outcome?	The event is largely community driven and the local businesses that are along South Potter as well as the residents who live along the corridor are some of the most important stakeholders.
What groups or agencies should be aware or a part of the outcome?	Borough staff and council members
How will you engage residents during planning, implementation, and after the change has been made?	Residents and businesses were invited to be part of the planning and also the event during the workshops in July. Resident input will also be collected during the event to understand desires and needs for connectivity.
What is the timeline?	The event was held on Sunday, August 27, 2023, 1-4pm. Permitting and approvals were secured in July.
How will you measure the impact of this change on people of color, low-income communities, and other marginalized populations?	Safe Routes to Parks has been promoted with the nearby neighborhoods most impacted via door-to-door outreach and promotion.
How will this generate momentum to further implement this plan/Safe Routes to Parks efforts? What steps should you take to ensure that it does?	Further engage residents in a vision of Safe Routes to Parks, improvements to South Potter, and a potential multi-use path adjacent to the street.



Stop.Look.Imagine Event Photos



Photo credit: Jen Illig Photography



Sustain: Keep the Work Going

This plan is a useful tool, but it's only the beginning of the Safe Routes to Parks efforts. This section contains ideas for ensuring that work continues. Table 7 identifies actions that can advance Safe Routes to Parks work.

Some key sustainability actions include:

- **Get involved with the [Centre County Active Transportation Plan](#) process anticipated to begin in Fall 2023.** Continue to work closely with Anne Messner who is the Senior Transportation Planner and Active Transportation Director at Centre Region Metropolitan Planning Organization who has offered support for the Safe Routes to Parks initiative. The regional transportation plan could incorporate the community-identified goals in this plan and further elevate them for funding opportunities.
- **Receive technical assistance from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) for developing the off-street path connecting Masullo and Talleyrand Parks.** The core Safe Routes to Parks team in Bellefonte had an initial meeting with Brett Hollern who is based in State College and is the Director of Trails and Outdoor Recreation for PEC. Their group has been focused on the development of trails in Central Pennsylvania and is currently funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Recreation to provide technical assistance to communities in this part of the state for trail development. They have offered to provide technical assistance to Bellefonte, serving as a consultant or advisory role. This could include connecting Bellefonte to resources to conduct a feasibility study for developing an off-street path along South Potter and bridge connections across Spring Creek.
- **Continue engagement with community members through additional early actions.** There has been a swell of community interest and enthusiasm for Safe Routes to Parks and continuing a steady drumbeat of progress on the early actions will help to keep people engaged for the longer-term goals. Early actions identified in this plan include designing and erecting wayfinding signs, installing planters and signage at Masullo Park, as well as engaging with local businesses for creative solutions on South Potter Streets like weekend closures. Progress on these shorter-term actions ensures community members stay engaged, involved, and excited about future possibilities.
- **Identify key roles for stakeholders to delegate actions in this plan.** This initiative has been primarily volunteer-led and with an ambitious work plan, it is crucial to develop a coalition of stakeholders that can help to ensure forward progress and avoid burn-out.



Table 7: Sustaining Safe Routes to Parks Table

Sustaining Activities				
How will you sustain your efforts and expand to additional parks?	What actions will you take to keep this moving forward?	Who has influence over or is key in moving the sustaining activity forward?	What partners can support you in moving this sustaining activity forward?	What help do you need to move this sustaining activity forward (e.g., resources, technical assistance)?
Policy change (creating new or updating existing policies)	Participate in the state-wide Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment	PennDOT	Centre County MPO	Safe Routes Partnership can provide further information on VRU Assessments and eligible uses of Highway Safety Improvement funds to address safety
Funding needs (apply for grants, appropriate or reallocate budget funds)	Identify grant funds for early actions like wayfinding signage, feasibility study for off-street paths, and Masullo in-park improvements	Core Safe Routes to Parks team	Bellefonte Historic Preservation Foundation	Identifying appropriate resources
Partnerships (Formal or informal agreements with partner groups to identify roles and responsibilities to move work forward; participate in, or assist with activities and initiatives of your partner coalition; partner training/skill development)	Follow-up with Pennsylvania Environmental Council for their offer for technical assistance	Core Safe Routes to Parks team	Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Ongoing support from PEC to help advise on trail connection
Community Champions	Continue to engage with Anne Messner, Centre County MPO	Core Safe Routes to Parks team		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and volunteer time to continue to engage. • Identify ways for the community to be involved and provide input on the upcoming county's Active Transportation planning effort
Evaluation (continue to measure the impact before a change to the environment is implemented and after)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesize community feedback from the open street event. • Share this input to decision-makers and stakeholders in a presentation and/or follow-up communication. 	Core Safe Routes to Parks team		Volunteer time to synthesize and share out input collected from the event

Appendix A - Workshop Notes

Day 1 - Community Roundtable Conversation: Park Access in Bellefonte

Dream Mapping Themes:

High-traffic streets are dangerous

- Scared of High Street Intersection
 - › Car-free connection to Talleyrand
- Avoid Water Street and improve sidewalk
 - Safe crossing for people

Creating safe connections

- Fast and direct connections to points of interest including downtown
- South Potter Street to Masullo Park connects
- Increase regional connections - state college, fisherman's paradise,
- Increased safe connections from Downtown to Axemann's (and avoid current roads and routes that are dangerous for pedestrians)
- Improve crossing to enhance safety
- Connect to Massullo Park

Leverage and celebrate natural beauty

- Relationships and connection to each other and nature (here and regionally)
- Best water
 - › Water features
 - › Enjoying the water
 - › Water fountains (for drinking)
 - › Connecting across water (to avoid cars)
- Art and beautiful things
- Sense of Place, beauty, nature
- Easy to maintain landscaping (all seasons)

Increasing access to people of all abilities can enjoy parks

- Places to rest
- ADA access to Massullo Park
- Enhance ADA access so everyone can enjoy the parks whether you are in a wheelchair or pushing a stroller
- Have fun
- Family - safe for kids and elders
- Fun!!

Celebrating a sense of place

- Having markers and other features so people can appreciate and enjoy the routes/parks
- Wayfinding signage to indicate distances, to where and routes for biking and walking
- Respect history and build on it

More people biking and walking

- Increase transportation options - bike share, baskets to carry groceries
- Increase biking and walking and reduce car traffic
- Increase awareness that roads are shared



Place-It (Model-Building & Community Sharing Activity) Themes:

- Family
- Milestones -babies, engaged, love
- Relaxation
- Reflections
- Barriers – poles, wading in the creek
- Fun, Play, Connection
- Beauty
- Escape from the everyday
- Balance
- Simple pleasures
- Start/end/entry
- Bridge Connection
- Swan Boats use the water
- Water
- Trees
- Level and easy access
- Beauty -flowers, Talley Turtle
- Activities
- Multi-use
- Events
- Lighting



Goal 1: Improve the connection between Talleyrand and Masullo Parks:

ACTION STEPS -

- Secure corridor from SEDA-COG
- Engage Stuart and PSU Landscape Architecture Students to do a Master Plan (spechols@gmail.com)
- Feasibility Study
- Identify possible phasing – Logan Branch Bridge first then Spring Creek Bridge and fund accordingly
- Explore traffic-calming ideas
- Zoning and Land Use
- DCED Municipal Assistance Program
- Creekside as a front and more H2O engagement
- Think of this as a gateway, not the backdoor

FUNDING -

- DCNR Trail Grants
- PA DOT Transportation Alternative Set-Asides
- Multi-modal transportation (DCED)
- Crowd-Sourcing Funds
- American 250 funds – representatives Paul Fendrek and Stoddard

ROLES -

- Engage library, schools, YMCA, scout troops, community organizations for help with funding trail adoption
- Lead organization – Nitany Valley Joint Authority in partnership with Bellefonte Borough
- Bellefonte Borough – maintain and administer
- Volunteer support
- Private – Public Partnership

TIMELINE -

- 2023 Visioning and Acquisition
- 2024 Feasibility
- 2025 Fundraising and Master Planning
- 2026-2028 Construction



Goal 2: Improve pedestrian safety and access to Talleyrand Park:

ACTION STEPS -

- Assess Water and High Street for signal timing, including the pedestrian countdown
 - › Confusing intersection
 - › How much signal redesign is needed? Municipal-owned signal even with upgrades.
 - › Figure out better directional and signage for drivers
 - › Assess feasibility of bump outs/curb extension
 - › Reduce crosswalk length or median
 - › Brainstorm use of design options to shorten crossing at Water Street
 - › Traffic calming – curb extensions on High/water street on state roads – look to PA specific case studies
 - › Identify maintenance facilities
 - › Assess peer places like Indiana
 - › Development economic development argument for the borough
- South Potter Street
 - › Assess for realignment

FUNDING -

- Develop a comprehensive safety action plan through the Safe Streets for All
- Highway Safety Improvement Plan funds
- Multimodal CFA or PennDOT TASA
- Community Development Block Grant
- Local share account funds for design
- DCED Key Stone Community Public improvement grant

ROLES -

- Albert Carlos – PennDOT District Planner – for more questions
- Jim Roman – PennDOT District signal permitting

TIMELINE -

- IILA/BIL only has four more years of funding

OUTCOMES -

- Change in sense of safety (qualitative)
- Lower speed and fewer red-light running
- Safe, accessible, inviting sidewalks bike routes, shorter crossings, better visibility



Goal 3: Increase regional connectivity via greenways and trails:

ACTION STEPS -

- Show examples
- Identify partners
- Identify existing regular trail project
- Build Community support
- Reach out to land owners through active outdoor enthusiasts
- Address concerns about rails
- Communication keeps the conversation going
- Education about benefits allaying fears about risks to trail traffic

FUNDING -

- PA DCNR/DCED Greenways funds
- DCNR funds various plans @ 50% match
 - › Pull in DCED to help with match
- America 250 project –
 - › Bipartisan initiative
 - › Projects for visitation, historical locales, connect and celebration, possibly design construction – Paul Takac representative Takak, representative for Milesbugr and Snowshoe Benner, Ed Stoddard Happy Valley
- Grants – Greenways and Trails
 - › DCNR Trails Program
 - › DCED Greenways Grant
 - › DCED Multimodal Grant
 - › Walk Works Grant
 - › Community Conservation Programs
 - › USDA Rural Business Development Grant –
- Can be used for hiring an outdoor tourism economic development and planning for feasibility studies
 - › American Rescue Act, Tourism Grant Funding
 - › National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Program
 - › Appalachian Regional Commission
- Can be used towards outdoor tourism and parks

ROLES -

- Establish point person/PR champion
- ID key partners for all phases of the project
- Establish a study committee
- Get Chamber involved

TIMELINE -

- Move forward with events here in short term then additional communities next spring and forward

OUTCOMES -

- Approach incrementally – get first mile built and build coalition

