

Executive Summary – February 14, 2006

The Cresheim Trail

Where will the Cresheim Trail go?

The trail connects communities in Philadelphia and Montgomery County to the wonderful parklands and the Green Ribbon Trail along the banks of Wissahickon Creek. Starting at Valley Green in Fairmount Park, the trail follows Cresheim Creek, and the abandoned railroad grade through Philadelphia, Cheltenham and Springfield Townships. The trail would connect to the village center of Flourtown and finally Fort Washington State Park. A possible alignment is shown on the attached map.

Whom and What Will the Trail Connect?

- Mt. Airy and Chestnut Hill in the City of Philadelphia and Cheltenham and Springfield Township in Montgomery County
- Recreational facilities including the Wissahickon Section of Fairmount Park, Fort Washington State Park, and Springfield's Mermaid Park
- Educational and Research Institutions including: Arcadia University, Springfield High School, the New Covenant Campus, and the Agricultural Research Institute.
- Commercial Centers including the Chestnut Hill and Mount Airy Business Districts, and Flourtown.
- Historic areas including the Chestnut Hill Historic District, Historic Germantown Avenue, Historic Bethlehem Pike, Fairmount Park and Fort Washington State Park.

Community and Governmental Support

The idea of a trail linking the Wissahickon with neighborhoods to its east and north enjoys the support of local officials and community leaders. A Friends of the Cresheim Trail has been formed to support the project. The Cresheim Rail-Trail is already included on Montgomery County's Plan for Trails. The Chestnut Hill Rotary Club, and Friends of the Wissahickon are key supporters of this vision. Outreach to stakeholders in the three jurisdictions is critical to the project's success, and is now under way.

Contact Information:

If you are aware of related efforts in developing part of the Cresheim Trail, or wish to become involved, please contact:

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Timetable:

Work is now underway on a state/locally funded Trail Feasibility Study.
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Along the Proposed Cresheim Trail

Leaving Flourtown, the trail would follow the railbed of the old Reading RR's Plymouth Branch.



Between Springfield High School and Willow Grove Avenue, the Trail would follow a PECO power line right of way adjacent to Route 309



In Philadelphia, the Trail would utilize the railbed of the former PRR Fort Washington Branch, and would connect to Germantown Avenue at Cresheim Valley Drive