

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

In 2019, the Northampton Township Board of Supervisors, in response to increased interest in trails and bicycle facilities from many township residents, commissioned the Bucks County Planning Commission to undertake the development of a township-wide trails and bicycle plan to help guide the future development of trail and bicycle facilities in the township. This is the township's first trail and bicycle plan and serves as the guiding document for the future development of trails and bicycle facilities.

PLAN PURPOSE

The purpose of the Northampton Township Master Trail and Bicycle Plan is to guide the development of an extensive, integrated, trails and bicycle facilities network to support the needs of the community. The intent is to provide a trail and bicycle facilities network for the township that will improve mobility and quality of life for residents. This plan will serve as a tool to secure grant funding, as well as forge partnerships to move towards implementation of the plan elements.

PLAN VISION AND GOALS

Vision

The vision of the Northampton Township Trail and Bicycle Network is to strengthen the Northampton Township Community by creating a network of trails and bicycling paths where residents can safely travel to local and regional destinations via non-motorized forms of transportation. The network will promote and encourage healthy lifestyles of walking and bicycling for transportation and recreation; protect water quality and scenic and natural resources; and promote and sustain the local economy.

Goals

The goals to be achieved via the creation of a trail and bicycle network include:

1. Support a healthy lifestyle for activities such as walking, cycling, running, and cross-county skiing by providing safe routes as an alternative to motorized transportation.
2. Strengthen community social connections by providing paths and trails that support the interaction of users of all ages, abilities and interests.
3. Provide safe access to nearby and regional destinations including parks, regional trails, churches, shopping and community facilities.
4. Promote and sustain the local economy.
5. Protect water quality and scenic and natural resources.