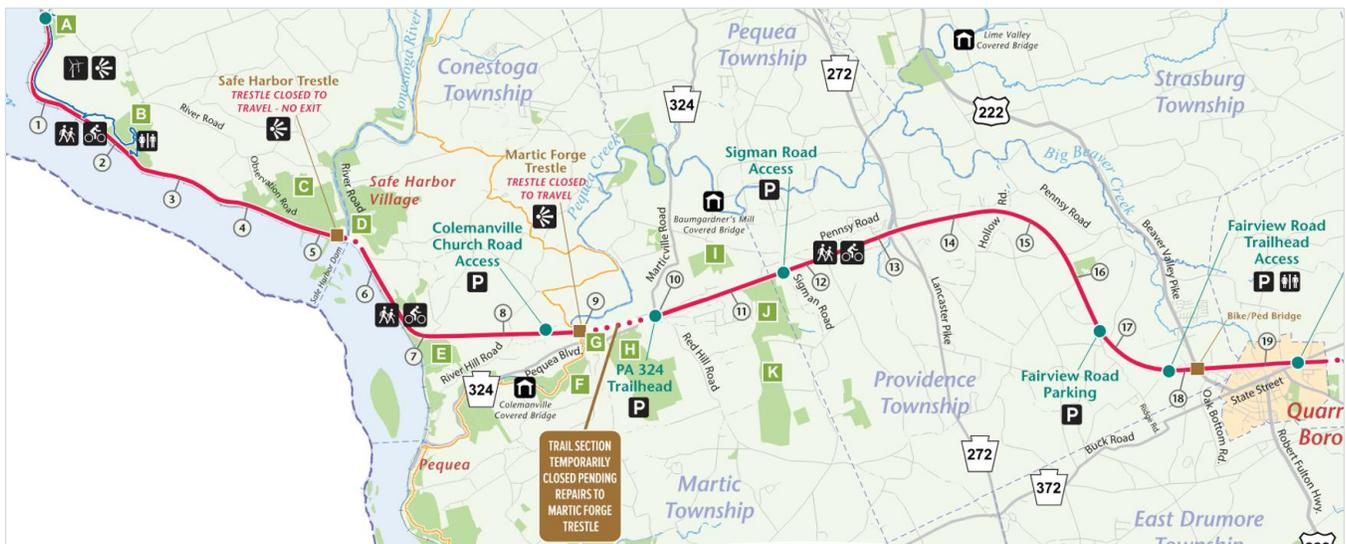


REGIONAL ENOLA LOW GRADE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

The **Enola Low Grade Trail** is a treasured recreational trail that stretches across southern Lancaster County. The trail spans eight municipalities on land owned/managed by seven local governments (full map of the trail provided at the end of this article). Martic Township proudly owns and manages the portion of the trail that runs from the eastern Conestoga Township Line to the western Providence Township line. The Martic Township Rail Trail Advisory Committee advocates for our Township's portion of the trail and works to improve coordination with neighboring townships and with broader regional trail/planning organizations.

There are multiple exciting trail improvement projects happening across the region right now: the Safe Harbor Bridge and Martic Forge Trestle Bridge reconstruction projects, the Route 324 trail crossing improvement project, and the incorporation of the trail into the newly-designated Schuylkill to Susquehanna Greenway (these projects are described in more detail, below). *Martic Township is proud to be involved in these regional trail improvement projects that will help to connect the trail and to improve safety for trail users.*



Safe Harbor & Martic Forge Trestle Bridges

The Enola Low Grade Trail travels across two major bridges in our region: the Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge and the Martic Forge Trestle Bridge. While both bridges have been closed for a few years due to their structural condition, they are now in the process of being rebuilt using state grants from DCED and DCNR.

The Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge is currently under construction. The construction work began in Fall 2020 and is estimated to be completed in Fall 2021. This trestle bridge has been designed to capitalize on the scenic overlook of the Susquehanna River, the Safe

Harbor Dam, and the Conestoga River. This attractive portion of the trail will become even more of a regional destination following the completion of the bridge.

The Martic Forge Trestle Bridge decking has been designed and construction funding is currently being procured. Most of the funding has been secured and there are ongoing efforts to close the remaining funding gap. It is expected that construction bid packages will go out early next year and that construction will start in 2021. The goal is to reopen the trestle bridge in 2022, closing the last major gap in the Enola Low Grade Trail.

Route 324 Trail Crossing Improvement

The Enola Low Grade Trail crosses State Route 324 (Marticville Road) just north of the intersection of SR 324 and SR 3019 (Red Hill Road). The intersection is a two-way stop-controlled intersection and the crossing is designated with a crosswalk and warnings signs. The eastern portion of the trail is open, whereas the western portion of the trail is closed due to the Martic Forge Trestle Bridge closure and the Martic Township Supervisors' concerns about the safety of the crossing.

In Summer 2020, the safety of the trail crossing and intersection was evaluated by traffic engineers and a team of stakeholder representatives from Martic Township, Lancaster County Planning, and DCNR. The safety evaluation confirmed that there are safety concerns for both drivers and trail users, based on the current intersection/crossing configuration, vehicle speeds, and approach sight distances. There is not sufficient sight distance for a pedestrian to safely navigate this crossing of SR 324. The Crossing Assessment report is available at the Township office.

These safety concerns will be heightened once both bridges are open, as this trail crossing location will see a significantly higher trail user demand. Based on a 2016 Lancaster County Magazine article, the Enola Low Grade Trail in Providence Township attracted an average of 2,800 visitors each weekend in the Fall. There will be more trail users crossing SR 324 and more vehicles accessing the trail parking lot.

Following the safety evaluation, the traffic engineers worked with the stakeholder team to develop and evaluate alternatives. Numerous alternatives were considered: reconfiguration of the roadway, relocation of the crossing, installation of a roundabout, construction of a pedestrian bridge, and others. The team considered impacts to safety, liability, cost, community/govt. buy-in, and trail user experience.

The team determined that the preferred alternative for this crossing is a pedestrian bridge over the intersection (similar to the pedestrian bridge over SR 222 in Quarryville). This will likely be a long-term improvement project, taking anywhere from 4 to 5 years to implement. Based on the high cost of a bridge (millions), the current funding environment, and the need to address the safety concerns before the bridge could be constructed, an interim alternative is needed.

The team selected the Multi-Way Stop as the preferred interim alternative, which involves placing stop signs on each approach to the intersection. This interim measure will improve the crossing/intersection, while allowing the pedestrian bridge fundraising, planning, design, and construction activities to proceed. After the bridge is constructed, the Multi-Way Stop can be re-evaluated, to determine its continued need based on conditions.

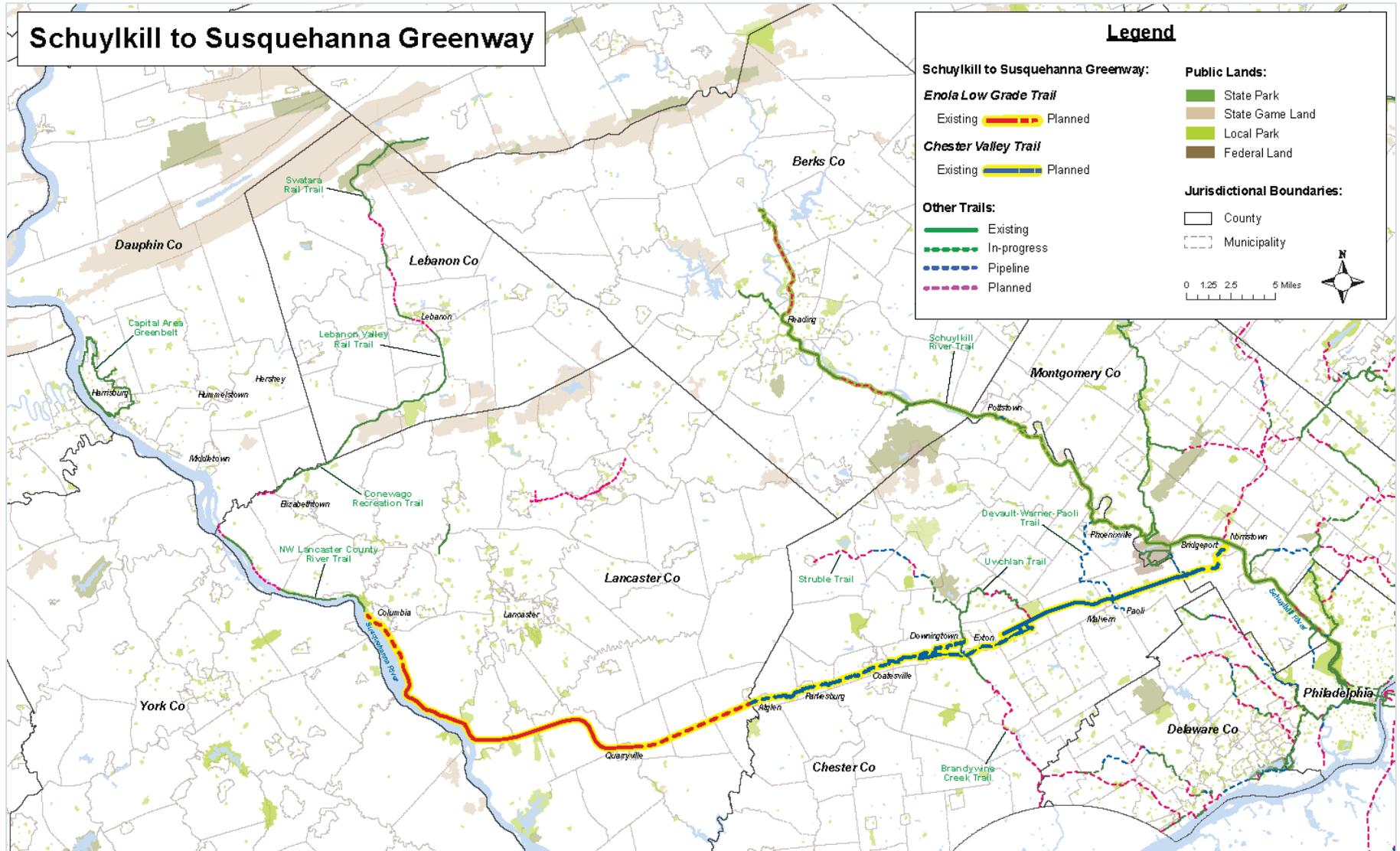
This two-part plan and conceptual Multi-Way Stop design was approved by PennDOT in November 2020.



Interim Measure: Multi-Way Stop at the Intersection of SR 324 (Marticville Road) & SR 3019 (Red Hill Road).

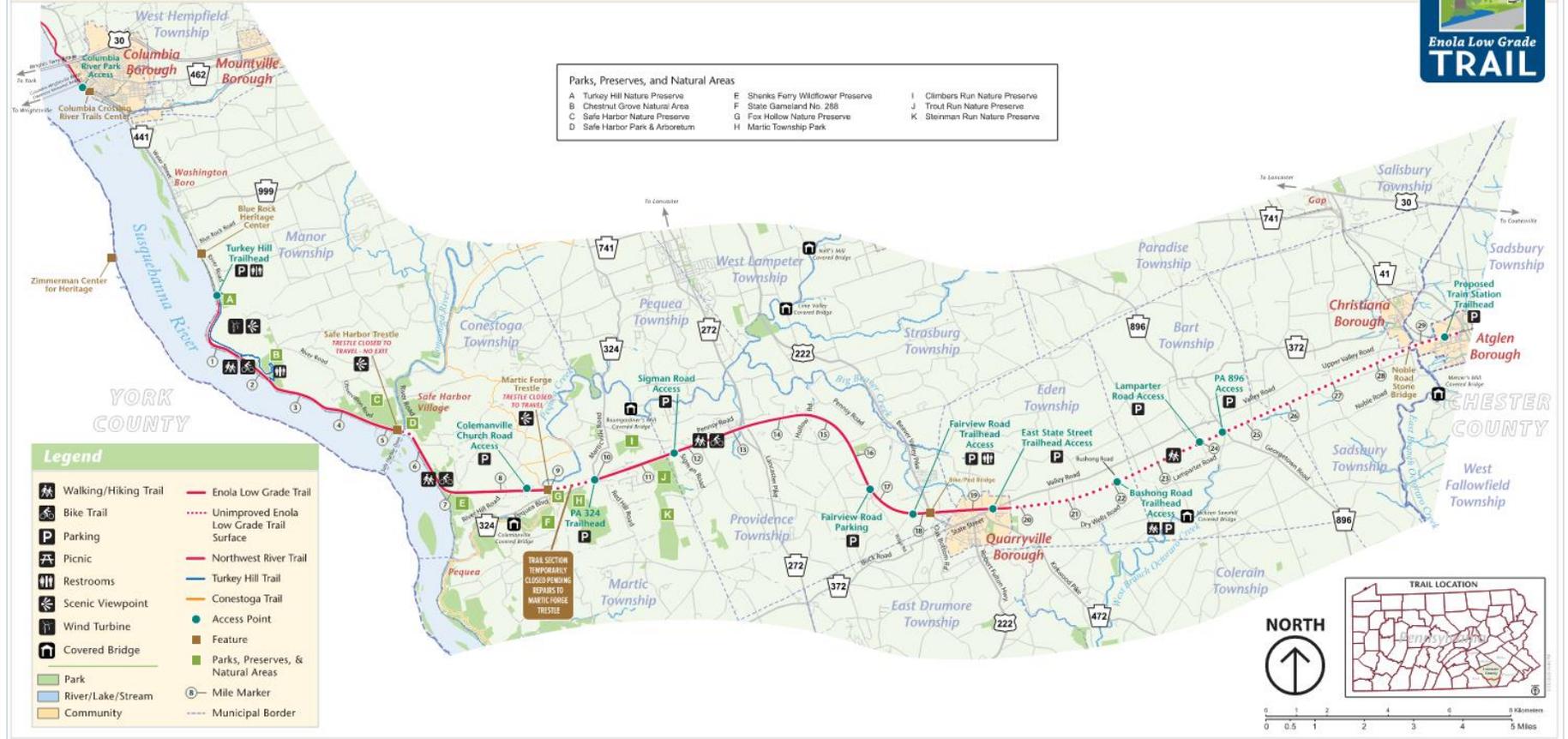
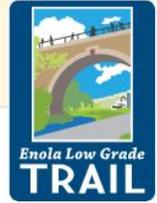
Enola Low Grade Trail as Part of a Regional Connector

Following the completion of the missing links of the Enola Low Grade Rail Trail, the trail will serve as a link for the newly designated Schuylkill to Susquehanna Greenway (serving as a connector to the greater southeastern portion of the Pennsylvania through Montgomery, Chester, and Lancaster counties). This Greenway will link various trails spanning 85 miles, as shown in the map below.



Enola Low Grade Trail

Trail Access Guide



Questions? Comments? *Want to learn how you can help support these and other trail efforts?*

Please contact the Township with any questions or comments (or drop off your hand-written comments at the Township office). The Township can also help connect you with the Martic Township Rail Trail Advisory Committee.