

SUCCESS STORY

“Bike to Nature” Bicycling Route

SUMMARY

The Stroud Region Bike-Ped Network has initiated a 23-mile “Bike to Nature” pilot route utilizing the existing road network and varying terrain currently used by many experienced bicyclists and is designed to provide bicycling members of the traveling public with a unique view of our region. The Cherry Valley Southern Tour loops into the valley and back from the center of Downtown Stroudsburg. Several sites of interest along the way provide additional opportunities to explore and sample natural and cultural assets first hand, and help interpret unique resources. Route signs approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation provide for an easily navigable wayfinding experience. A companion brochure enhances the experience and provides a useful map of the system and may be used by other members of the traveling public.

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Numerous public and private entities with like-minded missions have supported the project including: Stroud Region Open Space & Recreation Commission, The Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Stroud Township, Stroudsburg Borough, Hamilton Township, Monroe County Planning Commission, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Pocono Medical Center, and Friends of Cherry Valley.



CHALLENGE

The lands and waters of the Cherry Valley have been widely recognized for their valuable natural resources providing a diverse mosaic of wetland and upland habitats. The valley is bounded on its south side by the Kittatinny Ridge that is part of the largest remaining deciduous forests on Earth, an essential migration flyway that concentrates up to 20,000 migrating raptors and more than 140 bird species every fall. The 2,000 mile multi-state Appalachian Trail also traverses the top of the ridge. The Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established in December 2008 for the conservation of migratory birds and federal trust species, and the habitats they depend on. The landforms in the valley provide a glimpse of a landscape shaped by the advance and retreat of three glacial epochs. The valley and nearby surrounds also sustain a unique cultural landscape in harmony with nature and its unique attributes. Connecting neighborhoods to nature can also be assisted through visits to sites that highlight and help interpret this unique landscape. Sites along the route can emphasize operations that are in sync with the valley’s unique resources while also providing regional economic, stewardship, and educational opportunities.



SOLUTION

The route will promote community-wide engagement in conservation, restoration, and use of local, natural and cultural resources within the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge boundary and nearby surrounding area. Popular use of the mapped route will also contribute to the economic and physical development of the community by promoting cycling and touring opportunities, healthy living and sustainable businesses while increasing awareness of bicyclists and encouraging a “share the road” ethic. Developed in partnership with numerous public and private entities with like-minded missions, the network will contribute to the vibrancy of the region and its economic, environmental and social health and appeal.

RESULTS

The 23-mile pilot route passes through 17 road intersections requiring 103 directional signs. The signs were approved by PADOT. Six signs are located at each intersection: an advance-turn, turn and confirmation sign in both directions of travel. In addition 7 “share the road” signs are provided at key locations along the route. Ten stops along the route highlight and interpret unique resources while also helping to support these local enterprises. They include: Downtown Historic Stroudsburg, Josie Porter Farm, Blakeslee Farm, Cherry Valley Trout Hatchery, Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Cherry Valley Vineyard, Quiet Valley Living History Farm, Hickory Valley Park, Stroud Mansion & Glen Brook, and Monroe County Historical Association. A widely distributed brochure will promote the route. The route will promote community-wide engagement in conservation, restoration, and use of local, natural and cultural resources within and near the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge boundary. Popular use of the mapped route will also contribute to the economic and physical development of the community by promoting cycling and touring opportunities, healthy living and sustainable businesses while increasing awareness of bicyclists and encouraging a “share the road” ethic. Developed in partnership with numerous public and private entities with like-minded missions, the network will contribute to the vibrancy of the region and its economic, environmental and social health and appeal.

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