

Dear Friends, Members and Trail Advocates:

The Rail-Trail Council of NEPA is finally showing on-the-ground improvements with 10 miles of resurfaced D&H Rail-Trail. Kids, parents, grandparents, couples, exercise enthusiasts, equestrians, joggers and dog walkers go by on a regular basis. Many of our trail users are coming from less than a half-hour away! They are thrilled to have a trail close to home. The Rail-Trail office phone and e-mail inquiries have more than tripled over this summer. Our brochure and maps are flying off displays everywhere. Plans are to continue improvements over the next ten miles to Thompson. A twenty-mile trail will attract outdoor enthusiasts from a further distance away to enjoy the trail and probably stay the night.

Of course we need your contributions and membership renewals now more than ever. Luckily, we have received federal and state grants for the proposed Phase II construction project, but these grants do not cover the total costs. We need to pay construction bills upfront and then receive 80% reimbursement, necessitating the need for loans and interest payments. While we operate our office on slim budget, costs of maintaining an office and administrative person remain, along with trail maintenance, newsletter and brochure printing, mailing costs, advertising and more.

We also have a long wish-list of trail amenities that are not typically included in trail construction. Just to name a few....trail signage and location maps, historical signage, picnic tables, benches, port-a-lavs, mileage markers, additional parking areas. We also need to work on construction documents for the northernmost miles of trail in the Susquehanna area. And since we own 38 total miles, we need many band-aid type improvements to the unimproved sections following the ever-increasing violent rainstorms.

We, the RT Council are one of only a few non-profits that own and operate a rail-trail. Most are operated within state park systems, municipalities or county parks and recreational authorities. We operate with volunteers and one part-time employee. Please consider an additional donation with your renewal. Remember we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit, registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations, so your donation is fully tax deductible.

Please consider renewing your membership and donating a bit more this time. Anything you give will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Conrad, Project Manager

PS: Please pass this letter on to another who may be interested in helping the trail.  
Or consider donating time to the 'Trail Tender' program!