



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What is the Patriots Path?

The Patriots Path trail network will extend into East Whiteland Township, Malvern Borough and Tredyffrin Township in the Great Valley area of Chester County. Paved trails, sidewalks and other pathways will link three local properties that played special roles in the American Revolutionary War:

- Battle of the Clouds Park, a municipal open space in East Whiteland;
- The Paoli Battlefield Grounds in Malvern; and
- Valley Forge National Historic Park in Tredyffrin.

Walkers, runners, bike riders and other people on the Patriots Path will experience many different recreational and historic attractions. In some places, the Patriots Path will connect with public parks and other publicly accessible open spaces. Chester County recommended the basic alignment for the Patriots Path and detailed its historic importance in a 2007 report to the Chester County Commissioners.

Where will the Patriots Path go?

A 6.3-mile section of Chester County's Chester Valley Trail will be the east-west spine of the Patriots Path, from which four north-south segments will extend:

- ***The Valley Forge Segment*** - a 1.8-mile connection to Valley Forge National Historic Park (see pages 19-32);
- ***The Cedar Hollow Segment*** - a 1.8-mile pathway along the bed of the Warner Spur, a former freight line (see pages 33-42);
- ***The Valley Creek Segment*** - a 1.0-mile extension to East Whiteland's Valley Creek Park (see pages 43-48);
- ***The Malvern Segment*** - a 1.4-mile connection to the heart of Malvern Borough (see pages 49-58)

What is in this Patriots Path Plan?

For each segment of the proposed trail, the *Patriots Path Plan* recommends:

- A detailed trail alignment
- Specifications, such as trail width and surface
- Solutions to challenging design problems
- How to construct road crossings
- Trail support facilities, such as signs, parking, restrooms, etc.
- Links to adjacent amenities

Where are the priorities?

Phase I	Valley Forge Segment (high priority)
Phase II	Malvern Segment (high priority).
Phase III	Cedar Hollow Segment (moderate priority)
Phase IV	Valley Creek Segment (moderate priority)

What will it cost?

Estimated construction costs (in 2009 dollars):

Valley Forge Segment	\$ 610,000
Malvern Segment	\$ 787,000
Cedar Hollow Segment	\$ 1,448,000
Valley Creek Segment	\$ 174,000
Total	\$ 3,019,000

Average trail maintenance costs: Approximately \$7,000 per mile per year.

What partners will be involved in the Patriots Path?

Except for the parts in Valley Forge National Historic Park, each municipality will be responsible for building and maintaining the portions of the Patriots Path within its own municipal borders. Many partners (see pages 72-73) will be needed to help secure grant funds, provide input into trail construction plans, and assist in maintaining the trail. East Whiteland, Malvern and Tredyffrin plan to continue meeting about the Patriots Path, prepare joint grant applications to help fund it, and coordinate in the future on all related trail design and construction topics.

How was this plan prepared?

The committee that oversaw preparation of the *Patriots Path Plan* included representatives from Chester County, East Whiteland Township, Malvern Borough, and Tredyffrin Township. The committee met approximately once per month to produce a draft report that was the subject of three public meetings, one hosted by each of the three municipal planning commissions. Changes were made to the draft plan based on input received from these public meetings and review conducted by the Chester County Planning Commission. After additional refinements, the final plan was adopted by the governing bodies of the three municipalities pursuant to one public hearing held in each municipality.