



Thorough experience with other trail systems with have learned that trails like ours are regularly used by young and older citizens, in all seasons of the year.

CARTER COUNTY RAIL TRAIL

CARTER COUNTY RAILS TO TRAILS



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(606) 286-5533 ext. 22

Tygart Valley Trail

The completed Tygart Valley Trail will follow the course of the old East Kentucky Railway line from Lawton east through Olive Hill and continue to the northeast to the city limits. This trail will offer access to a new public spaces of unmatched beauty. heretofore inaccessible to the residents of Carter County.

This will be a whole new way of experiencing our wonderful Appalachian Mountains, cool creek glens and our abundant birds, wild flowers and emerald forests. This trail will enhance the quality of life of Carter County citizens and visitors in countless ways. Young and old alike can use the trail system that best suits their personal desire for fresh air, exercise and exploration.

Lawton, Olive Hill and other communities along the trail can all expect some degree of economic benefit from the hundreds of visitors to the trail system. The Trail will give residents of East Kentucky an excuse (and a good reason!) to come to Olive hill and other trail access points. Every year thousands of visitors pass through or make brief visits to Carter County. The Trail will give them an opportunity to experience our community in a new way, and encourage them to stop if they had not considered it before, and to stay longer if Carter County was their destination.

Short strolls or extended hiking will benefit the health and sense of well being of the users of our trail system. It will become a place where neighbors come together to renew friendships, share the trail experience and create stronger bonds of community. Trail walking is especially attractive to our seniors in that trail will be level, well-cared for and convenient. For residents of Hydreco Village it will provide easy access to the Olive Hill commercial district including the Post office, Backs, drug stores, hardware store and food vendors. As foot traffic increases, we would expect increased commercial investment in communities along the trail.

The old train depot will experience a new life as a major trail access point. At the Depot there will be plenty of parking, trail support (maps, brochures, nature guides, etc.) , as well as permanent and rotating exhibits relating to local history, arts and crafts and civic activities. Numerous special events will use the Depot as a focal or jumping-off point, including nature hikes, organized bike tours, fund raising walks, etc. Services and activities will evolve as use of the trail grows and its use stimulates new ideas.

Progress on the Trail

The old C & O Train Depot in Olive Hill has been acquired. Trail easements have been acquired east of the Cross Street Bridge. To the west, a substantial open area adjacent to the creek has been acquired and preparation of the trail to the west of the Depot will begin soon.

Easements

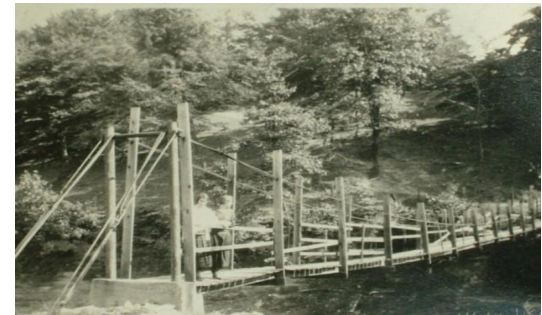
Negotiations for easements for the trail to cross several properties to the west of the depot are in progress. Because this is in fact a community trail, all members of the community will have input on the precise course and character of our trail. The property owners along the trail are important members of our community and their concerns and desires will determine to a large extent what the completed trail looks like. Those of us with extensive trail experience know what a wonderful benefit a trail like this one can have on adjacent properties. Property owners will benefit from the easy access to the trail for themselves and their family. The trail will be carefully designed and well cared for, and will complement the natural beauty of areas through which it passes. Years into the future, our trailside property owners will be recognized for their contribution to this valued community resource. In some communities, trail-side land owners have found their properties more desirable and easier to

What Will Our Trail Look Like?

We will soon have photos available of our trail as sections of it are completed. Until then, let's take a look at similar trail systems.



Here's a photo of a creek-side trail in Inez, Kentucky. Communities along our Tygart Creek are particularly blessed, Few trail systems across the country can match the beautiful water side views that we will be able to experience along the Tygart Valley Trail.



One of the ideas that were most excited about is the possibility of restoring the old Swinging Bridge that at one time spanned the Tygart Creek in the Hydreco-Woodside area of Olive Hill. We believe this would be a wonderful amenity for the Trail.