

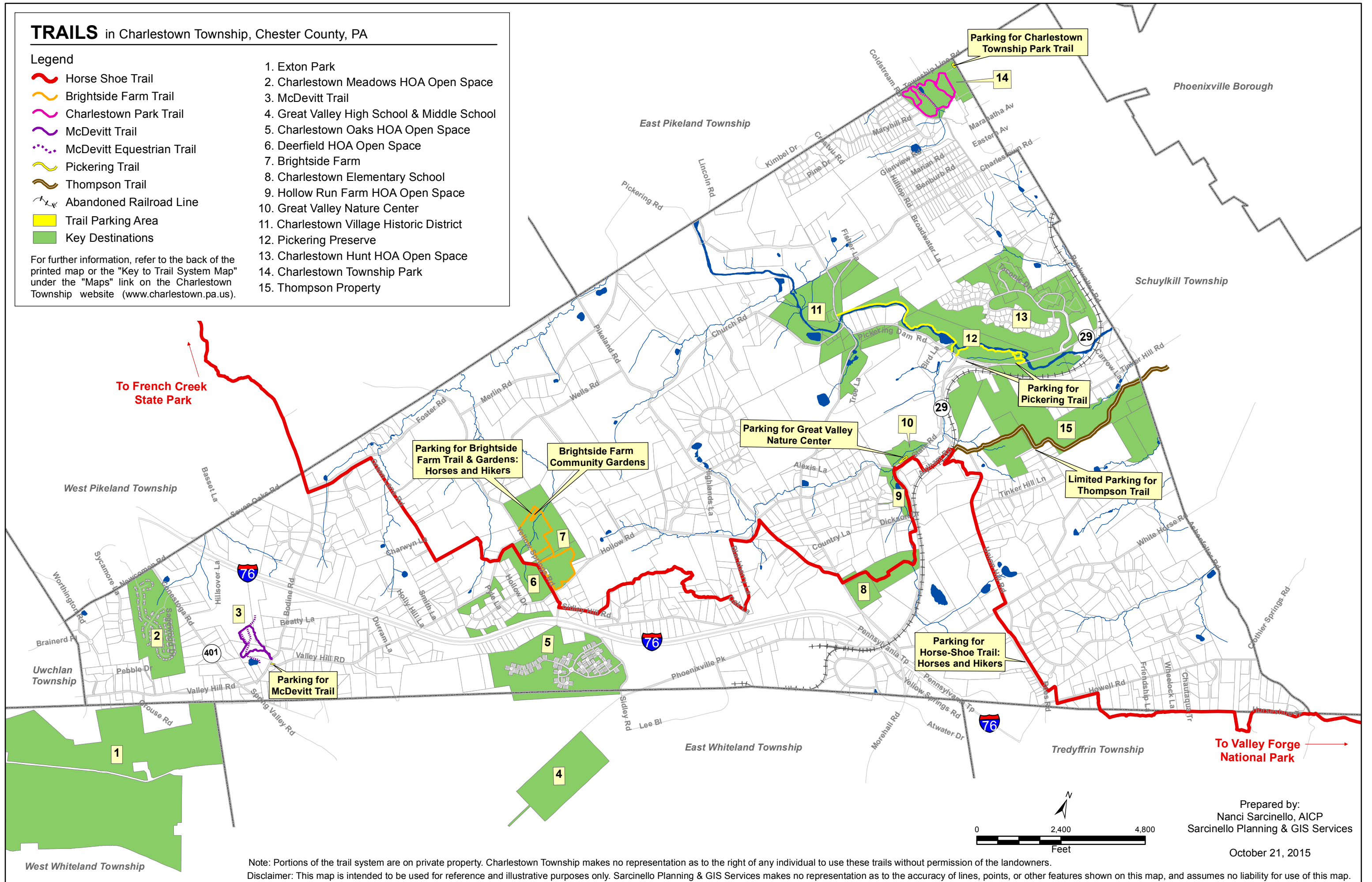
# TRAILS in Charlestown Township, Chester County, PA

## Legend

-  Horse Shoe Trail
-  Brightside Farm Trail
-  Charlestown Park Trail
-  McDevitt Trail
-  McDevitt Equestrian Trail
-  Pickering Trail
-  Thompson Trail
-  Abandoned Railroad Line
-  Trail Parking Area
-  Key Destinations

1. Exton Park
2. Charlestown Meadows HOA Open Space
3. McDevitt Trail
4. Great Valley High School & Middle School
5. Charlestown Oaks HOA Open Space
6. Deerfield HOA Open Space
7. Brightside Farm
8. Charlestown Elementary School
9. Hollow Run Farm HOA Open Space
10. Great Valley Nature Center
11. Charlestown Village Historic District
12. Pickering Preserve
13. Charlestown Hunt HOA Open Space
14. Charlestown Township Park
15. Thompson Property

For further information, refer to the back of the printed map or the "Key to Trail System Map" under the "Maps" link on the Charlestown Township website ([www.charlestown.pa.us](http://www.charlestown.pa.us)).



Note: Portions of the trail system are on private property. Charlestown Township makes no representation as to the right of any individual to use these trails without permission of the landowners.

Disclaimer: This map is intended to be used for reference and illustrative purposes only. Sarcinello Planning & GIS Services makes no representation as to the accuracy of lines, points, or other features shown on this map, and assumes no liability for use of this map.

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## TRAILS IN CHARLESTOWN

Charlestown is fortunate to host 7 beautiful trails, with more in the planning and dreaming stages – (For more dreaming and maintenance of what we have, we need your help! Contact [suestaas@verizon.net](mailto:suestaas@verizon.net) to get on our email list).

**The Horse-Shoe Trail** is sponsored and maintained by the Horse-Shoe Trail Club ([www.hstrail.org](http://www.hstrail.org)) for use by hikers and horses. Founded in 1935, it is open from Valley Forge to its connection with the Appalachian Trail northeast of Harrisburg. Much of the trail is hosted by private landowners, through whose generosity those of us who hike or ride have the opportunity to enjoy some beautiful Pennsylvania country.

Several miles of the trail traverse Charlestown (red line on the map). The trail is well marked with yellow blazes and the occasional signpost.

### Access Points with parking can be found:

- On Rees Road near the power lines. Look for the Parking Signs. Cross Rees Road from the parking lot to access the trail.
- At the Great Valley Nature Center at the corner of Hollow Road and Route 29. Park in their lot on Hollow Road, detour up the hill to enjoy the Raptor Center behind the barn, and the small animal/reptile exhibit in the barn.
- Cross Hollow Road and walk towards the small bridge to the right; turn left just before the bridge to access the trail, marked by a Horse-Shoe Trail signpost. Or turn left towards Route 29, cross 29 and follow the HST blazes up and around the hill to connect with the **Thompson Trail** (see below).
- At the Charlestown Elementary School on Charlestown Road.
  - o Park toward the rear of the main parking lot. Look for trail blazes to the left of the drive, and behind the large play equipment.
  - o Or, cross Charlestown Road (carefully), go right and look for blazes on the left.
- At Brightside Farm on Yellow Springs Road.
  - o Parallel park along the drive, and look for the Brightside trail signs to the right of the driveway. To turn around and exit, trailers drive to the Y in the drive, pull into the right leg of the Y and back into the left leg to complete the turn.
  - o To access the Horse-Shoe Trail, cross Yellow Springs Road and proceed along Valley Hill Road. Look for the Yellow Blazes on the left.

**Township Trails are marked with different colored lines on this map (see key).**

**The Brightside Trail. Moderate 1.5 miles:** (# 6 Orange line on map) Take time one day to walk the Brightside Trail, which circles the farmed hayfields – along the edges of the fields. The Brightside Farm driveway is on the right of Yellow Spring Road just north of Valley Hill Road. Parallel parking for Horse Trailers is on the left of the Farm's drive, diagonal parking for cars is on the right side of the drive. To turn around and exit, trailers drive to the Y in the drive, pull into the right leg of the Y and back into the left leg to complete the turn.

The small stone house on Yellow Springs Road, near Hollow Road, is the Wisner-Rapp House an 18th century house and saddle shop on the National Register of Historic Places. It is owned and maintained by the Charlestown Historical Society.

**The Thompson Trail:** The township's newest trail, circles the fields of the Thompson Family's farm between Union Hill, Tinker Hill Lane and Tinker Hill Road. This gorgeous trail is wonderful for hikers and horses. The Trail's blazes are white. It connects with the Horse Shoe Trail at Union Hill Road, just up the Hill from the Markley House.

- **Park** at the end of Tinker Hill Lane in the cul de sac. Or park at the Great Valley Nature Center, and follow the Horse Shoe Trail blazes to the left along Hollow Road, across Rte 29 and up Aldham Road. The HST will turn right off of Aldham.
- **At the Old RR Tracks** where the HST turns right again, follow the signs and white blaze to the left onto the Thompson Trail.
- **Horses should continue down the powerline to cross Union Hill. Turn right and follow the shoulder up the hill and turn left onto the trail beside the stone wall.**
- **Hikers should follow the blazes and cross Union Hill via the steps.**

**Charlestown Park Trail:** This is a paved loop trail in Charlestown Park located at corner of Coldstream and Township Line Road. Parking is off the Drive that enters the park from Township Line Road. Coldstream Road, right on Township Line Road, first right turn into Park.

**The Pickering Trail** parallels the Pickering Creek between Charlestown Road and Route 29. (Brown line on map). This is a beautiful hiking trail, and a favorite spot for fly fisherfolk. The stream is stocked with trout. **There are two public access points:**

- Park along Pickering Dam Road below Route 29. There is room for two or three cars on the stream side. Look for the trail entrance, and follow the trail across the bridge and turn left.
- Park on the shoulder of Charlestown Road across from the Charlestown Mill (historic, 19th century mill now owned and preserved by Charlestown Township), Follow the signs to the trail.
- Residents of Charlestown Hunt can access the Pickering Trail from their own perimeter trail. Just follow the trail that goes down the hill toward the creek!

**The Pickering Ice Dam Trail** a new Eagle Scout project, is on the Pickering Dam Road side of the Pickering creek, and loops between Pickering Dam Road and the Ice Dam beside Route 29.

- Access is from Pickering Dam Road, same parking area as the Pickering Trail or pull off Route 29 and park near the Ice Dam. Follow the white blazes.

**McDevitt Trail:** Parking for the McDevitt Trail is at the old Longwood School at the corner of Valley Hill and Bodine Roads. Follow the signs to your right from the School right on Bodine Road, down the hill 50 yards on the left of Bodine Road.

**Charlestown's trails depend on your stewardship. We ask you to respect landowners' privacy, and to care for our beautiful trails. It seems insulting to ask, but PLEASE: Do not leave trash!! Better yet, take a plastic bag and pick up any trash you find. AND TAKE THE BAG HOME TO YOUR TRASH CAN.**

**Open the free Myzyp app on your cellphone; and locate each of our trail online! Use the symbol '&' plus the trail name, such a &Pickeringtrail or &Charletownpark.**

**Thank you for taking care of our neighborhood and enjoy our trails.**

Questions? Please become involved in preserving our trails; and in building more – especially lanes for bicycles!

- Sue Staas, Charlestown Trail Committee Chair, [suestaas@verizon.net](mailto:suestaas@verizon.net). (610) 933-9766