



## March/April 2021

### ELVERSON TRAILS

**E**lverson Borough's Active Transportation Task Force has been busy developing a vision for an interconnected bicycle and pedestrian network throughout the Borough. The goal of the plan is to understand the demand for these facilities and identify specific improvements that can make walking and biking for transportation and recreation safer and more enjoyable. Working with consultants at the Chester County Planning Commission, the Task Force has developed a draft network of sidewalks, bike lanes, trails, and other bicycle and pedestrian facilities to be built over time. Now we need your input!

A second public Open House for this project will be held on **Saturday, April 10 from 11 am – 1 pm** at the Livingood Park pavilion (Elverson Borough Hall in the case of inclement weather).

The Task Force needs your help answering the following questions:

- Does the proposed network seem complete (*see map on p 2*)?
- Would you be able to access more things by bike or on foot?
- Do you agree with the facility type (sidewalk vs. paved trail, etc.) proposed in each location?
- Which improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian network are most important/should be pursued first?

Lastly, there's still time to take the survey for the project to share your impressions about walking and biking in Elverson. The survey can be accessed online through April 18<sup>th</sup>.

[surveymonkey.com/r/ElversonTransportation](https://surveymonkey.com/r/ElversonTransportation)

We hope to see you at the **Open House on April 10<sup>th</sup>**! Any questions about the Active Transportation plan can be directed to the Task Force: [ElversonTrails@outlook.com](mailto:ElversonTrails@outlook.com)



*Hopewell Manor Trail from Park Ave to Hall Street*

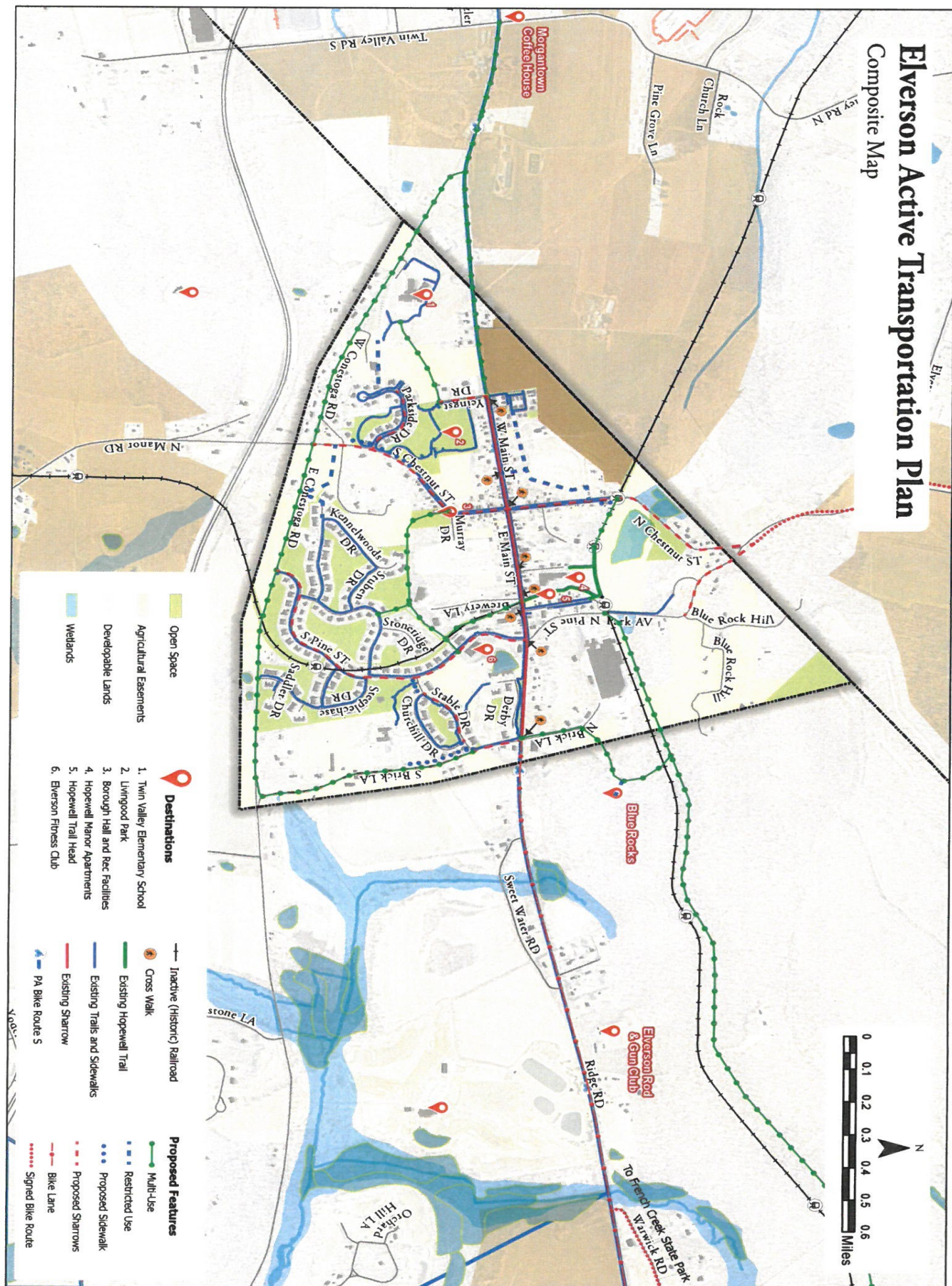


*Livingood Park pathway encircling the park.*



# Elverson Active Transportation Plan

## Composite Map





# IDEAS HAVE CONSEQUENCES

*Merle Stoltzfus*

Many times there are significant advantages of living in rural America. The conflicts of national importance continually brewing in Washington DC like immigration policy seem far removed from our Greatest Square Mile. Even the state-level debates in Harrisburg concerning carbon footprint and fracking are mostly unrelated to Elverson unless or until we are reminded by the Sunoco Pipeline. Periodically we partner with West Chester to improve our Borough as one of the County's Urban Centers. But mostly we seem distant from higher government.

In general, Elverson does not experience direct mandates from Federal, State and/or County government. But we should not consider ourselves insulated from the influences of higher government. Over the decades, higher government has influenced how we locally govern ourselves. For example, until 1959, the Borough of Elverson was responsible for public education. Then Harrisburg stepped in and established a PA State public school system creating the Twin Valley School District. The responsibility and authority of local government was significantly reduced. For Elverson, a State law significantly affected our Elverson families with much higher education taxes so we don't have the responsibility for schools. Whether that was a good idea will not be the topic of this article. The point here is that higher government decisions seemingly unrelated to rural Elverson often trickle down to have huge affects. Today, consider how the PA joint public school system has affected your taxes. Then, consider the level of influence you have to initiate and carry out changes in education.

Another effect is found in our current Stormwater Ordinance. In the 1970's the Federal Government passed the Clean Water Act (CWA). Immediately Washington began tying their financial support to states based on each state's compliance with progress toward meeting standards set by the CWA. Harrisburg began to do the same with PA counties. By 2015, Elverson was mandated to adopt a 180 page separate Stormwater Ordinance or face a \$500 per day fine from DEP. A seemingly unrelated federal CWA significantly affects each individual seeking to

disturb more than 100 square feet of land (10' by 10') costing each applicant thousands of dollars.

There is a fairly accurate gauge for us to determine the ultimate level of government control of our lives. Authority and responsibility are never far removed from each other. Consider the amount of total taxes you pay to each level of government. The authority these governments exert upon you in taxing are commensurate with the influence they eventually exercise.

Ideas at the highest level of government appear far removed and seemingly have no effect in Elverson, but they will eventually have their significant local consequences.



The recent Equality Act passed in the 117th Congress on Feb. 25th legislates ideas from a big, far-away place. Washington seems out of touch and their debates are more about Philadelphia than about Elverson. But, just like the CWA and Joint School System, Elverson will be affected. This Equality Act specifically removes any defense for religious reasons, one goal being to eliminate the terms father, mother, sister and brother. Does this affect you? This Act ignores scientific reality that each cell in the human body is either XY or XX. Additionally the law is specifically non-specific in its reach, ending the list of qualifying ideologies (LGBTQ+) with a plus sign signifying the addition of anything else anyone may want to add in the future. If passed, such Federal legislation will not take even a few years to affect our greatest square mile. The "Cancel Culture" is real.

We may seem far removed from higher levels of government. Many of our responsibilities and much of the related authority has been taken from us in our 110 years as Elverson Borough. As government is increasingly centralized, let's keep as much local control as possible and work together responsibly to keep this the Greatest Square mile. At the same time, let us be aware of outside influences and ideologies. Ideas have consequences.

## Protecting Elverson Borough Trees - Herb Hamilton

The Elverson Borough Tree Commission works to promote and protect our wonderful street trees along with our park trees. We engage with horticulturists on the local and state level to make sure that we are using the latest programs to maintain healthy trees. The two main threats to our trees are Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and Spotted Lanternfly (SLF).

Our ash trees are treated biennially for EAB. This started in 2015 and will continue until EAB is no longer a threat. This spring you will see applicators drilling into the base of ash trees so they may inject a systemic insecticide. This has proven effective, and it is the best approach to treating boring insects. If you have an ash tree on your property and would like it added for treatment, please contact me ([herbhamilton25@gmail.com](mailto:herbhamilton25@gmail.com)). We are changing our approach to treating Spotted Lanternfly (SLF). The instars feed on many more

trees than do the adults. In fact, the instars are not particular about what they eat at all. It is the adults that have the specific dietary need to complete their life cycle. Based on this information, we will target the host trees in late summer, early fall when the adults are present. From an IPM approach this makes the most sense.



For our borough residents who would like to help in the fight against Spotted Lanternfly, please consider wrapping your tree trunk this spring with sticky tape

to catch the Spotted Lanternfly instars. Products should be available at local garden centers and home improvement centers.

Happy gardening.

## Trash Reminders

- ◆ Please secure your recyclables on windy days.
- ◆ Trash on Memorial Day will be picked up the day after (which is Wednesday, June 2nd).
- ◆ Mattresses and box springs are not included as bulk items. Contact Eagle Disposal (717.355.9560) to arrange for a separate pick up day. There is an additional disposal fee for these items.

For details on trash removal in Elverson, go to our Borough website—[www.elversonboro.org](http://www.elversonboro.org)

## Jump In and Help

*Esther Prosser*

It was encouraging to meet again with the Elverson Day Committee last evening to plan for this year's annual event always scheduled for the last Saturday in June (mark it on your calendar—June 26). What will the end of June look like with COVID? Should we replace face painting with hand painting? How many kids are safe in a bouncy house at a time? What requirements for food trucks? We are planning for a full event with kid's activities, music performances and of course fireworks, understanding that we must be flexible and safe.

I'd love to see some lively competition with pickle ball at our BB courts at the Borough Hall Park this summer or fall

(if this virus is in our rear view mirrors by then). I've got to admit—I'm getting impatient.

We need our Town Watch more than ever since our Free Library at the Livingood Park was vandalized and residents living by the park have noticed cars in and out after dark with suspicions of drug traffic.

There are lots of reasons to jump in and help. The oft repeated phrases—"the more, the merrier" and "many hands make light work" ring true here. Please contact me if you want to join in the fun ([esther@stoltzfus.com](mailto:esther@stoltzfus.com)—484.269.7153).





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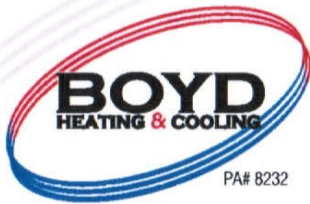
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*Send your Elverson news and stories to our editor at [brenda@stoltzfus.com](mailto:brenda@stoltzfus.com) by May 10 or call her at 610.286.5115. Newsletters can be found on [elversonboro.org](http://elversonboro.org).*



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## **Elverson Events**

**Street Sweeping**— *Friday, April 9*—Main Street (*please sweep cinders from sidewalk*)

**Trails Public Meeting** – *Saturday, April 10*—11 am to 1 pm—Livingood Park

**Election Primary** – *Tuesday, May 18*—7 am to 8 pm—Brick Lane Community Church, 52 S Brick

**Memorial Day Commemoration** – *Monday, May 31*—10:30—Elverson Cemetery

**Elverson Day** – *Saturday, June 26*—5 pm—Livingood Park

