Bike Path & Recreational Areas MAP

For a free full-size version of this map, please visit the Palmer Township Municipal Building during business hours. For more information, call 610-253-7191.

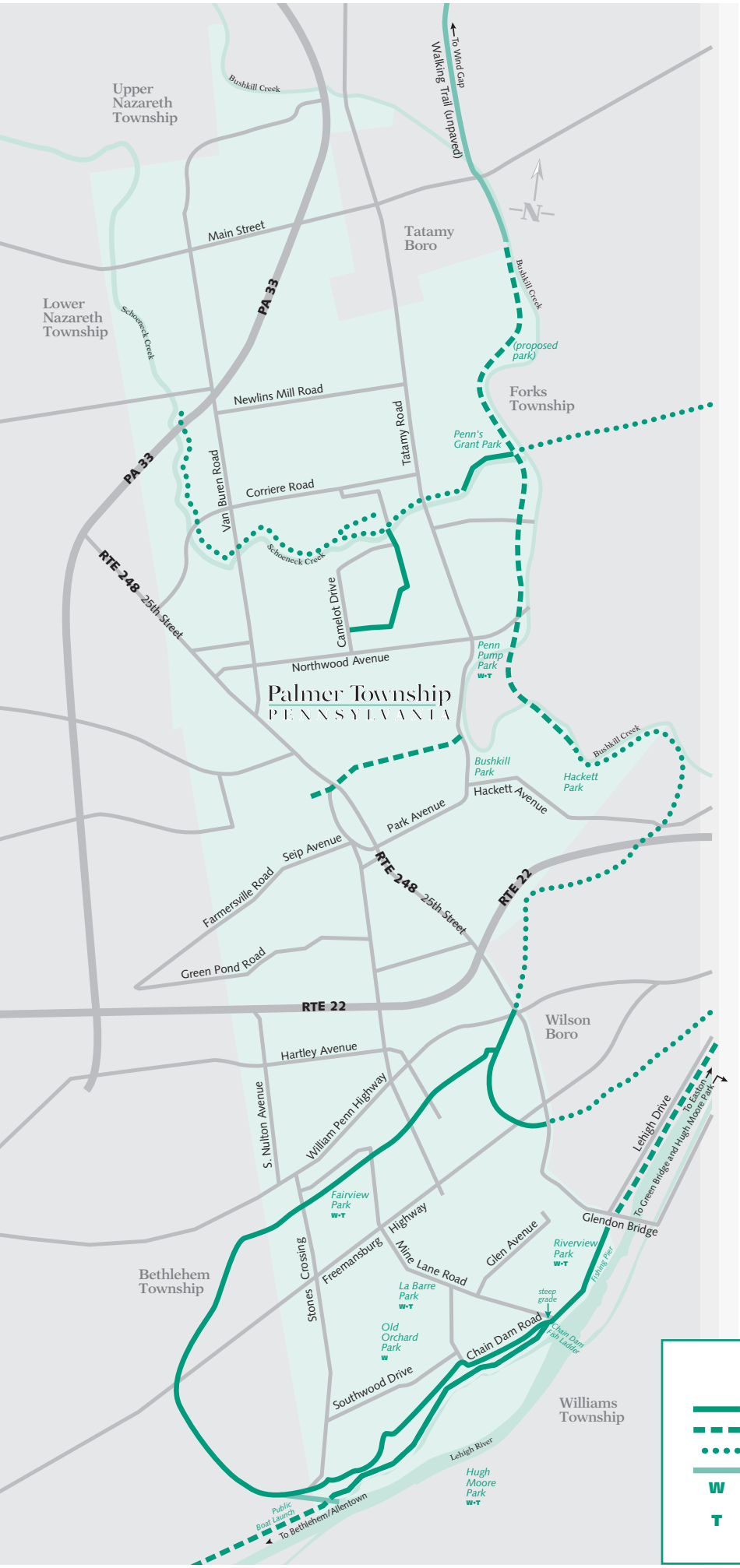
The bike path has been a part of our Township for over 20 years. It all began with a dream, a vision shared by past Palmer Recreation Committees and a Palmer supervisor named Jack Anderson. The United States Department of the Interior, in 1978, found a use for the nation's old, abandoned rail spurs; turning them into bicycle, hiking and jogging trails. The department allotted $5 million for pilot projects in 10 states. Due to the hard work of Mr. Anderson and former Bethlehem Township Manager, Hugh Williams, along with numerous county, state and federal officials, Palmer and Bethlehem Townships became the second largest recipient of funding under this program. They received $480,400.00… 90% of the total money they needed to buy the railroad "rights-of-way" and to build the 7.8 miles of what we know of as our bike trail.

Over the years this path has grown and will continue to grow through the efforts of Ted Borek, Palmer Township's former Director of Planning, and now through Ted Sales, our current Director of Public Services and Planning. Palmer received a $143,000 grant from the state, and will receive a $253,000 construction grant from the federal government, which will provide for the expansion of this path. These funds will pay for the development of a 3-mile long stretch of the path from Tatamy Borough to the old Binney & Smith plant, along the west side of the Bushkill Creek. Completion of this project is expected some time next year.

The area from Riverview Park west past the Palmer Township line into Bethlehem Township is presently being used as a supply road for the construction of the Route 33 bridge over the Lehigh River. Upon completion of this project (approximately mid-2002), the contractor will pave the existing stone rail bed thereby improving this area of the bike path and allowing for a public boat launch.

Our bike path is a wonderful feature in Palmer and one of which we are tremendously proud. The leisurely curves and mostly minimal grades make the trail practical for use by people of all ages. The eight-to-twelve-foot wide macadam beds easily accommodate cycling, rollerblading and jogging enthusiasts alike.

Palmer Township
PENNSYLVANIA



KEY

- Existing bike trail
- Under construction
- Proposed
- Unpaved walking path
- W — Water fountain *(open approx. April to October)*
- T — Toilet facilities *(availability varies)*