



# CODORUS GREENWAY

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Submitted by the Redevelopment Authority of the County of York, Pennsylvania

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

## PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- ▶ Project Location: York, PA
- ▶ Project Type: Capital
- ▶ Project Cost: \$32.2 Million
  - Local Match: \$17.2 Million
  - RAISE Funding Request: \$15 Million
- ▶ Benefit-Cost Ratio: 2:1
- ▶ Land Use Classification: Urban Area
- ▶ Areas of Persistent Poverty: 94% of area, 91% of project costs\*
- ▶ Total Mileage: 0.92
- ▶ Estimated Completion Date: 2026
- ▶ Project Background and Website: [www.codoruscreekpa.com](http://www.codoruscreekpa.com).
  - Previous Planning Documents
  - RAISE 2022 Project Intake Form
  - Cover Letter
  - Project Narrative
  - BCA Technical Appendix
  - BCA Spreadsheet
  - Letters of Support
  - Commitment of Funds
  - Federal Wage Certification

## PROJECT, LOCATION, AND APPLICANT OVERVIEW

The Codorus Greenway will bring approximately one mile of waterfront trail and critical upgrades to flood control infrastructure, better connecting the City of York's communities and protecting its existing infrastructure. These essential improvements to the urban transportation network are focused on linking low-income and historically marginalized communities to the county's economic center. The project also creates a

safer and more inviting route from downtown York to York College, and will reconnect community members to natural and historic areas along the Codorus Creek.

## PROJECT GOALS

The Codorus Greenway project will create a safer and more equitable transportation system in the City of York, improve community connections to economic resources while boosting economic opportunities, and cultivate climate change resiliency along the Codorus Creek.

**Goal 1** Reconnect historically marginalized communities to each other and to economic opportunities

**Goal 2** Provide accessible and equitable multimodal transportation choice for those without cars to better access jobs, services, and recreation

**Goal 3** Connect to regional active transportation and trail networks, including the Heritage Rail Trail, September 11th National Memorial Trail and East Coast Greenway

**Goal 4** Boost economic growth and climate change resiliency along the Codorus Creek

## CITY OF YORK SNAPSHOT

The City of York is the only urban municipality of Pennsylvania's York County and is its county seat. Accordingly, the city serves as both the geographic and functional hub for the county, including its education and employment centers, which attract people from throughout the county and region. With the city's wide reach and central function, an equitable transportation system and engaging

\* Costs outside of the area of persistent poverty include \$2.6 million in capital construction costs towards creek reconfiguration and vegetation along the southernmost edge

urban fabric become even more important and impactful. York has a rich history and is proud to be the birthplace of the Articles of Confederation, but Yorkers today face challenges surrounding their existing built environment, poverty, and access to economic opportunities.

► **Equity:** The median household income in the City of York is just \$37,442, compared to the county’s median household income of \$66,306.<sup>1</sup> In the city’s communities along the Codorus Creek, 66% of the population is lower income, living on less than two times the federal poverty level. Among the block groups that touch the Codorus Greenway boundaries, 29% of households do not own a car.

► **The Missing Link:** Following the Codorus Creek’s South Branch, the existing 26-mile Heritage Rail Trail is part of an extensive off-road network connecting York all the way to Baltimore, Maryland, and the East Coast Greenway. On the northern edge of York City, the Northern Extension of the Heritage Rail Trail connects to the popular John C. Rudy County Park. While this trail is an invaluable asset for many in York County, several access barriers exist for York City residents on the west side of the Codorus. This limits the ability for some of the city’s poorest residents to use this important resource.

These issues demonstrate the clear need for investment while highlighting the impact

<sup>1</sup> 2019, U.S. Census - American Community Survey 5 year estimates



the Codorus Greenway can have on creating equity-focused improvements for transportation, economic opportunity, and recreation in the City of York.

## YORK COUNTY ECONOMIC ALLIANCE & RACY SNAPSHOT

The York County Economic Alliance (YCEA) has a record of success when it comes to complex projects and delivering community-focused results. **Redevelopment Authority of the County of York (RACY) is a public authority, staffed by the YCEA and is the fiscal agent for this application. The YCEA and RACY have worked jointly for decades and have as a result** have decades of experience driving York County’s economic growth by leveraging the collaboration, resources, and expertise needed to create sustainable prosperity.

The YCEA is unique in its approach to prioritize trail projects as a key development strategy. The YCEA has a proven track record in leading the planning, design, and construction phases of trail projects and other complex development projects.. Over the last ten years, the organization has also been successful in raising and distributing funding for capital projects.

YCEA is committed to supporting local workforce, woman owned businesses, and minority business enterprises through the Bloom Empowerment Center to offer enhanced technical support, attainable capital, and access to opportunity which instills York with a thriving culture of entrepreneurship and removes historic barriers to minority-owned business growth.

# PROJECT HISTORY

## PROJECT HISTORY, COMMUNITY SUPPORT, AND GOALS

### COMPLETING A LONG-AWAITED CONNECTION

The Codorus Creek has been prominently intertwined with the City of York, both physically and historically, since the city was first laid out in 1741. The concept for a greenway along the creek's banks is over a century old and was put to paper by famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted in the beginning of the twentieth century. In the past decade, the idea of the Codorus Greenway has again become a key priority for the community and officials, who understand the opportunities it will bring to the city.

- 1907** **Frederick Law Olmsted**, famed landscape architect of New York City's Central Park, published a plan for a continuous Codorus Promenade.
- 1933** The **most damaging flood on record** devastated the City of York, highlighting the need for flood mitigation measures.
- 1972** **Hurricane Agnes overflowed the Codorus's banks** in the City of York, despite the Indian Rock Dam reservoir withholding miles of inundated floodplain from emptying into the main stem of the Codorus. (This event was considered a 500-year flood when it occurred, but would only be considered a 200-year flood today.)
- 2015** **Revitalization of the Codorus Creek** once again became a community priority under the leadership of then-Mayor C. Kim Bracey.
- 2017** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announced their plans to spend **\$16 million on maintenance improvements** for the City of York channel and levee system, creating an opportunity for matching investment with state grant funding.
- 2018** Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf awarded **\$5.5 million in state grants** to initiate design and construction, allowing YCEA to hire a team of experts to explore opportunities for public access, urban recreation, and green infrastructure along the Codorus Creek.
- 2019** **Extensive public outreach** and community input events were held across York, along with dozens of stakeholder meetings.
- 2021** The Codorus Greenway Master Site Development Plan was published, with clear goals, cost estimates, and designs for the greenway. Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf awards an **additional \$10 million grant for design and construction** of the Codorus Greenway.
- 2022** **50% design plans** for the Codorus Greenway are complete.

# PROJECT LOCATION

This project is situated within the heart of the City of York, Pennsylvania. The project boundaries are within an urban area, based on the RAISE definition. York County features a variety of land uses: from very rural to the outer suburbs of Lancaster, Harrisburg, and Baltimore, Maryland.

## REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Codorus Greenway will unlock access for York’s western neighborhoods to regional trails and a key transit hub: the Heritage Rail Trail and rabbittransit transfer center. The Heritage Rail Trail connects five towns across the county and links up with the Torrey C. Brown Trail (or Northern Central Railroad trail) some 21 miles away in Maryland and the East Coast Greenway, about 20 miles farther away.

Within the city, the Codorus Greenway will enhance connectivity to the nearby rabbittransit transfer center, which serves nearly 8,000 people every day and is the primary public transit hub for the county. The recreational possibilities created by the trail and water improvements will improve York’s status as a regional destination for outdoor recreation and events.

The Codorus Greenway project will be located within the Codorus Creek watershed, which drains into the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay. The County of York adopted the Codorus Greenway project within their Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plan because of its potential for significant sediment and nutrient reduction.

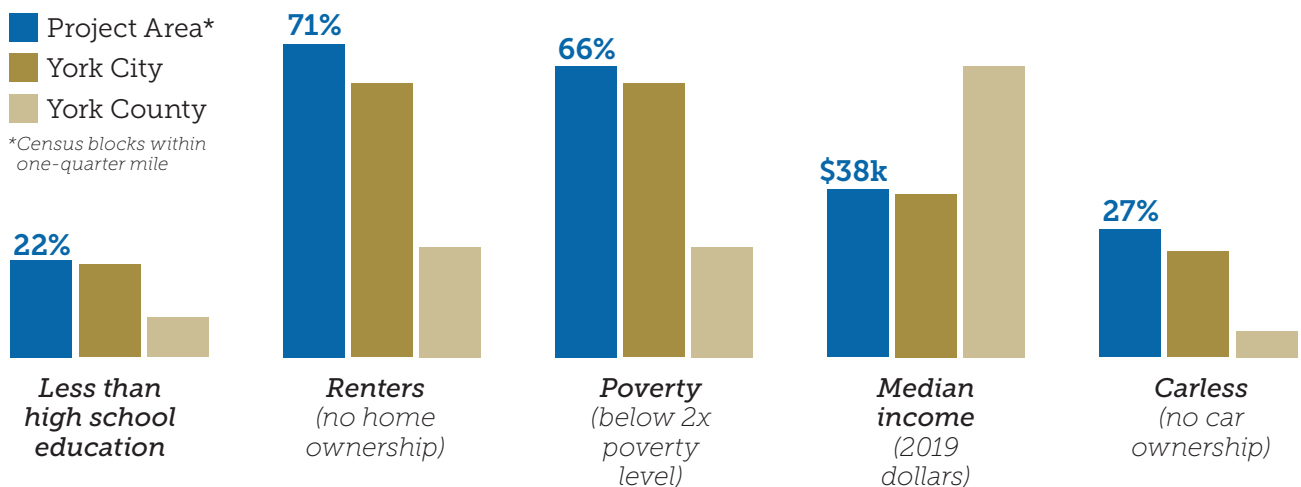
## PROJECT BOUNDARIES

The overall project boundaries for the Codorus Greenway extend for approximately 1.4 miles along the creek adjacent to downtown York, extending from Grantley Road on the south (upstream) end of the project to North George Street at the north (downstream) end of the project.

## POPULATION

The majority of the project falls within RAISE-defined areas of persistent poverty and historically disadvantaged communities. Two census tracts that intersect with the project boundaries are federally designated opportunity zones.

**Figure 1. Study Area Demographics**



### PROJECT LOCATION MAP

- Existing Bike Lane
- Existing Bike Route
- Existing Off-road Trail
- Codorus Greenway
- Area of Persistent Poverty
- Opportunity Zone
- Project Boundaries



The Project Area includes PA Census tracts 1, 11, 10, 15, 16, 105.1