

# Trails and Connections In and Around Marple Township's Veterans Memorial Park



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(Stand-in Presenter)



# Marple Township Township Trails Master Plan

2020

The sourcebook for  
Marple Township  
possibilities!

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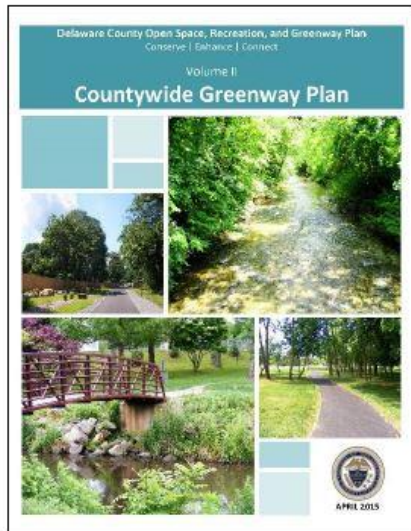


**Pennoni**

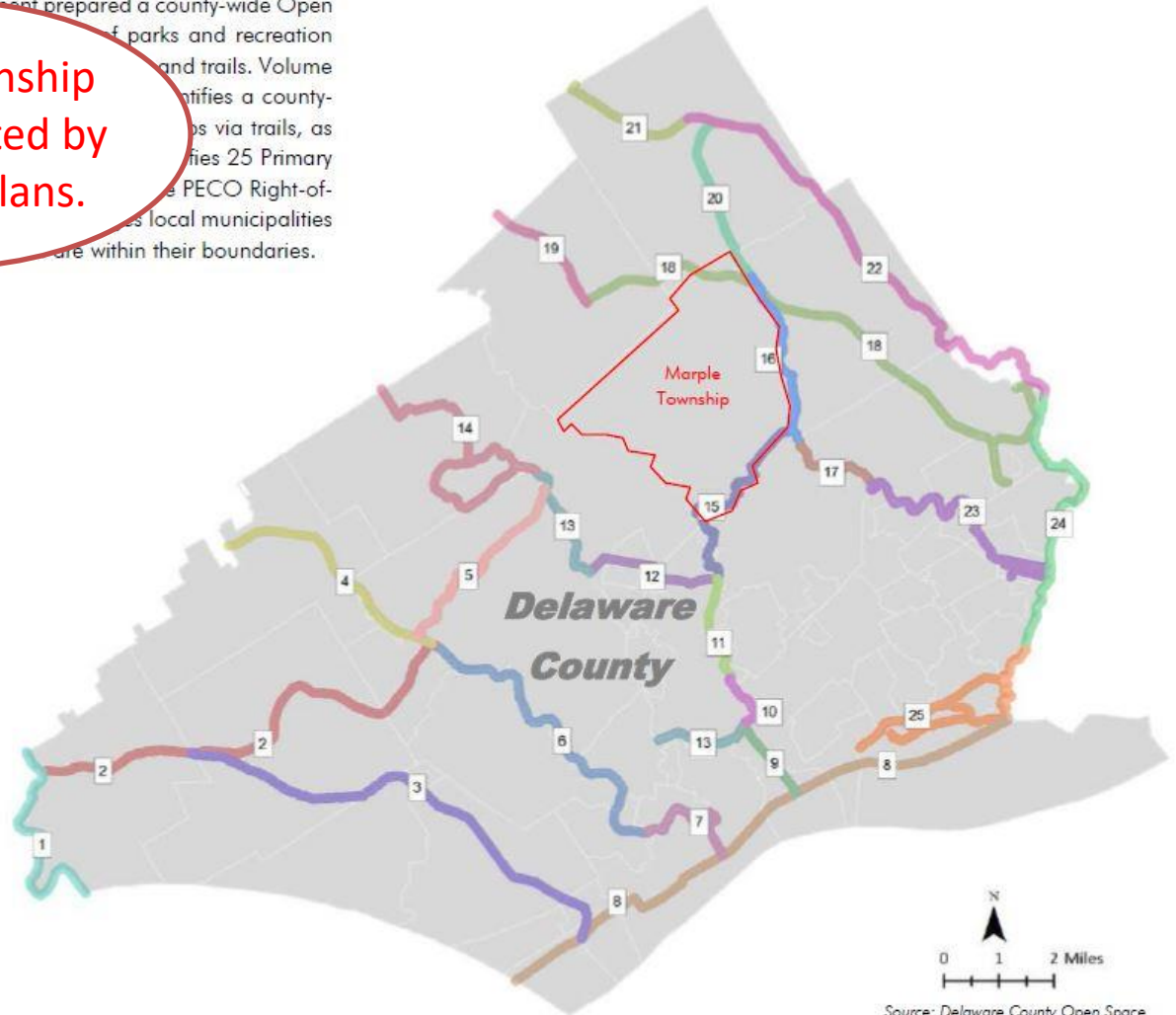
Delaware County Open Space, Recreation, and Greenway Plan (2015)  
<http://www.co.delaware.pa.us/planning/environmental/openspaceplan.html>

In 2015, the Delaware County Planning Commission prepared a county-wide Open Space, Recreation and Greenway Plan. The plan identifies a county-wide primary trail network and 25 Primary Trails within the County. The PECO Right-of-Way Trail – are located in various local municipalities to design and construct those trails that are within their boundaries.

Marple Township  
 is largely skirted by  
 major trail plans.



A 2015 plan by Delaware County identified two Marple Township locations as potential for primary trails.



Source: Delaware County Open Space, Recreation and Greenway Plan

Existing Parks and Open Space

Today the parks and open spaces in Marple Township include dozens of separate projects. The existing parks offer a range of activities, including playgrounds and informal trails such as walking.

Of local trails identified, this is the most significant.

Existing Marple Township Trails

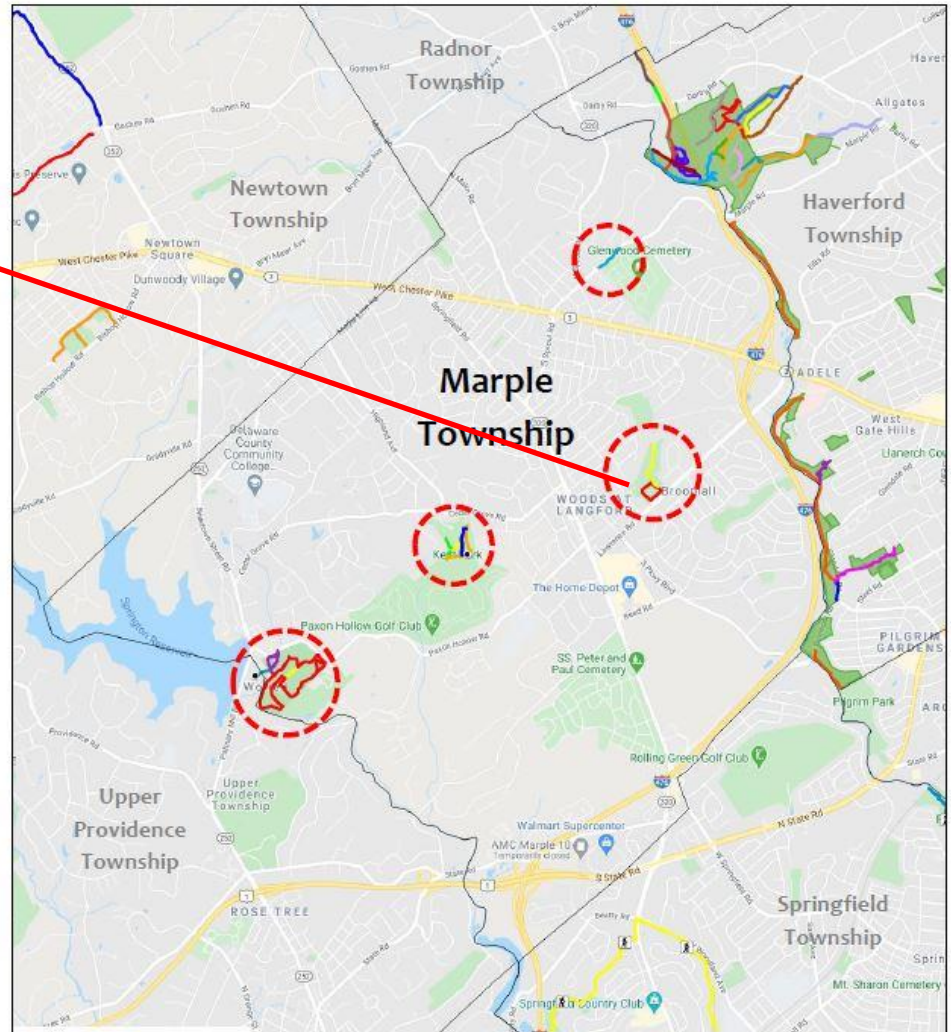
There are existing trails within Marple Township in four locations. All of these are self-contained, and not connected to a broader trail system.

**Hildacy Farms** provides more than 3 miles of unpaved hiking trails within its 55-acre property.

**Kent Park** provides paved and unpaved trails within its wooded 16-acre setting. Stepping stones allow one to cross a small stream, and dirt pathways lead through the woods and up a steep hill to neighboring ball fields.

**Veterans Park** provides a paved 0.3 mile walking path that is very popular. Informal pathways lead into the woods behind the park.

At **Glenwood Cemetery**, a short path runs along the north edge of the property alongside Marple Road.



Map courtesy of the Friends of Haverford Trails (<https://www.havtrail.com/>)



Walking trail at Veterans Memorial Park.

**Marple Township  
Veterans Memorial Park  
Lawrence Road**



### Lawrence Park Neighborhood

The Lawrence Park vicinity is a dense residential neighborhood of single-family homes, surrounding an elementary school and township park containing ball fields that are home to South Marple Little League. The park is in some ways an untapped resource. While the ball fields are well-used, the wooded ravine behind is undeveloped. Informal dirt walking trails can be found. This open space connects directly to one of the available crossings beneath I-476. As discussed above, this will allow connection to the Darby Creek trail in Haverford. In this way, the neighborhood can be connected via off-road trails to the regional trail network.

Surrounding the school and park is a concentric ring of low-volume streets, which have existing sidewalks and which can serve well to share use with bicycles. Certain streets can be marked with prioritized as bicycle-friendly, through use of signs and shared lane markings.

To the north, an improved connection can be made across Lawrence Road into the popular Veterans Park.

To the south, the neighborhood can connect to the future public open space of the Don Guanella property.



Possible connectivity to Lawrence Park neighborhood, the Darby Creek Trail in Haverford, and the new Delco Woods Park.

## Don Guanella Property

This 213-acre property, formerly owned by the Catholic Archdiocese, is one of the only significant remaining undeveloped properties in the Township, and it has important potential for public open space. Now in private hands, development proposals for the property are currently under review. By terms of Township ordinances, the developer is obligated to dedicate a portion of the property for public open space, and to provide suitable public access.

The property occupies a key geographic location, spanning the gap between the planned Darby Creek Trail to the east, and Sproul Road and Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery to the west. The congested 4-lane Sproul Road presents a barrier to cross-town pedestrian and bicycle circulation. The intersection of Sproul Road and Reed Road, at the corner of the Don Guanella, presents a sensible opportunity to establish a safe and formalized crossing to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles.

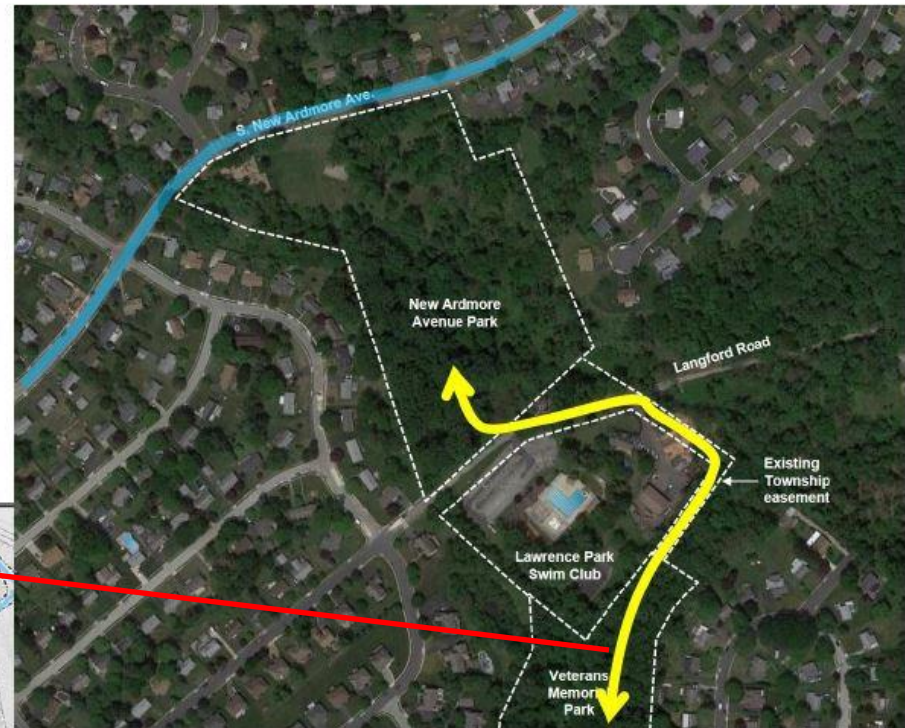
The wooded property has been beloved by local residents for decades. An informal network of worn walking paths has emerged over time, and has even been mapped by a local group. The potential development has stirred strong public emotions. The current development proposal sets aside approximately 50 acres for public open space.

*The Don Guanella property is the most significant remaining undeveloped open space in the Township.*



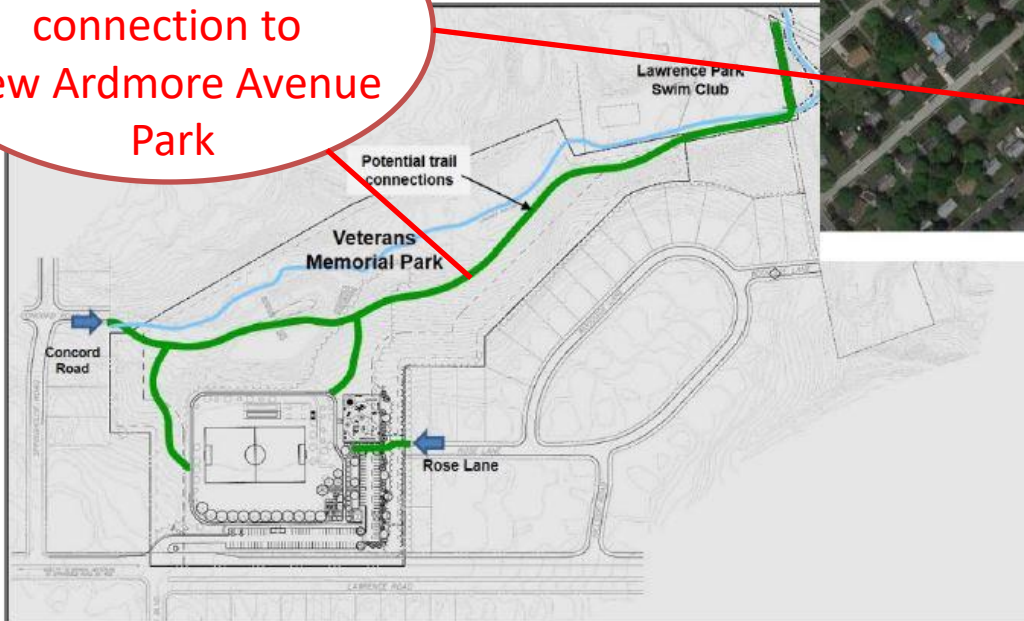
### Veterans Memorial Park and New Ardmore Avenue Park

These two parks are close in proximity and can be connected by an off-road trail through undeveloped open space. The recent Master Plan for Veterans Memorial Park calls for improved connections to neighboring streets, as well as an expanded walking trail through the Park's rear woods. From that point, a public easement around the back of the Lawrence Park Swim Club leads to the rear of New Ardmore Avenue Park. A road crossing at Langford Road would be required, and one or more small stream crossings would be required in Veterans Memorial Park.



*An existing easement can be used to create an off-road trail through wooded areas to connect two nearby public parks.*

Hidden "back door" connection to New Ardmore Avenue Park






# Marple Township New Ardmore Avenue Park





Rear of New Ardmore  
Avenue Park. A trail from  
Veterans Memorial Park would  
require a small bridge and  
brush clearing.



New Ardmore Avenue  
itself is “bike friendly” with  
two vintage roundabouts, Russell  
Elementary School at Sproul Rd. end,  
and a signalized crossing at the  
West Chester Pike end.

Marple Township, PA

Directions

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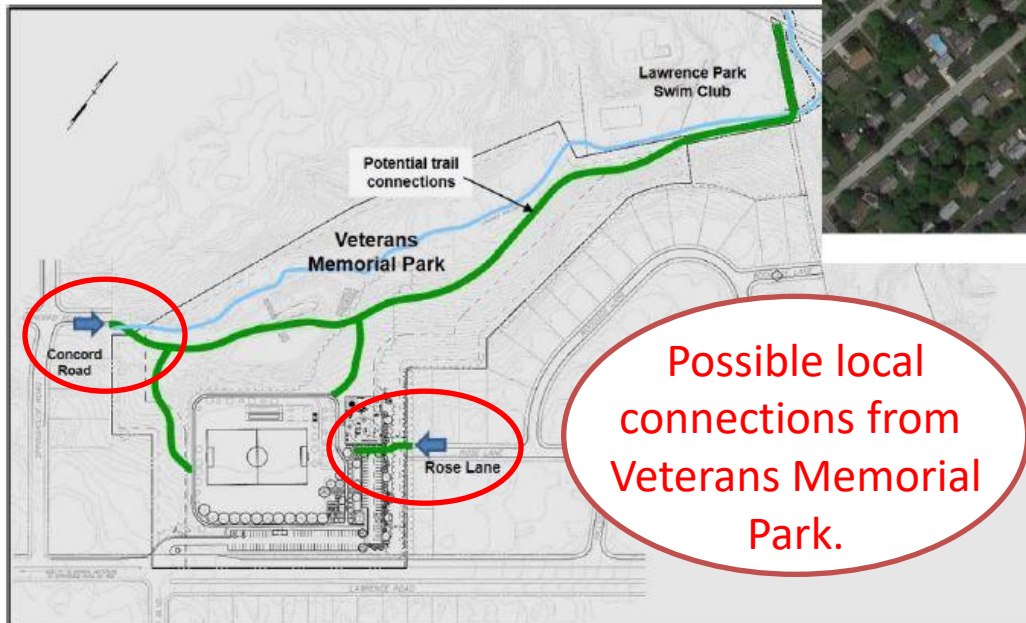
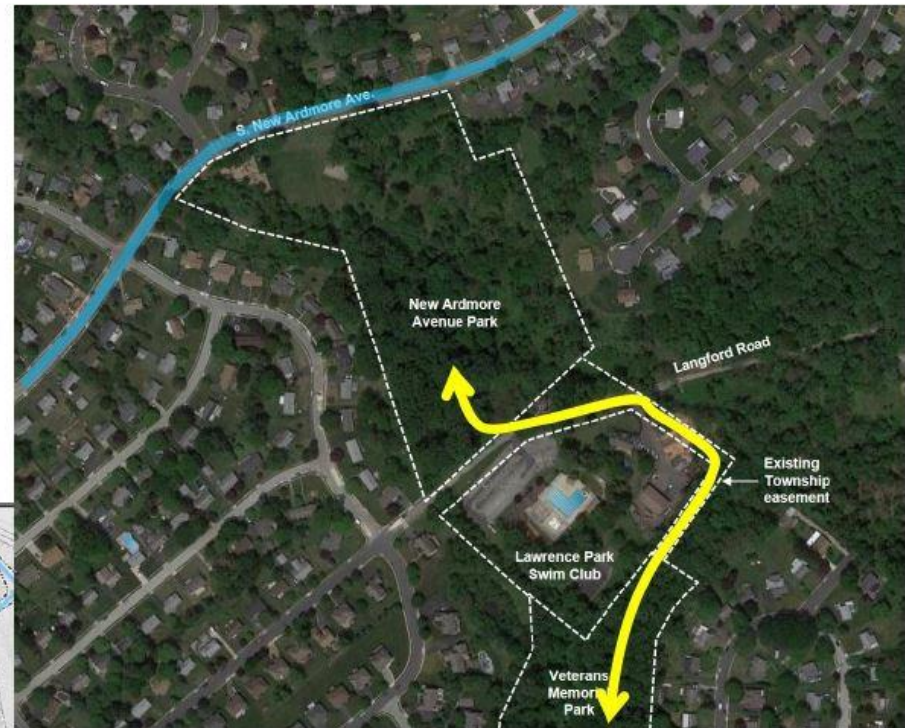
**Selected  
"bike friendly" roads  
(dotted green lines) in  
Marple show the  
possibilities.**



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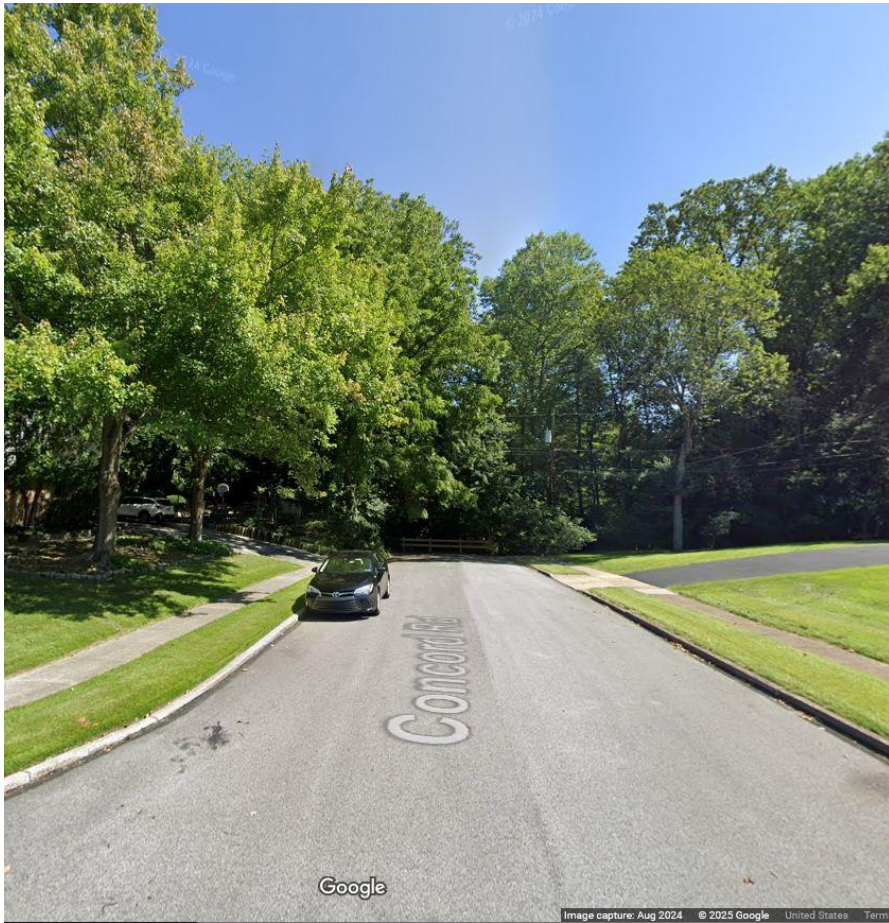


# Veterans Memorial Park

A short “missing link” to the adjacent Rose Lane neighborhood and St. Pius X Church



So close, but just out of sight...  
...and now scheduled for construction.



**Veterans Memorial Park**

**A short “missing link”  
to adjacent  
Concord Road and a  
much larger neighborhood**

Not as easy, with a small stream that would require a trail bridge, plus dealing with a slope issue up to the existing park loop, but possible...

...perhaps in the future.