

Section 1: Short title. This Ordinance is titled the “Adams Township Trail Ordinance” (“Trail Ordinance”).

Section 2: Purpose. The purpose of the Trail Ordinance is to define a multilevel system of trails and connectivity throughout Adams Township as well as construction and material specifications for said trails. The standards contained in this section are to preserve, enhance, and promote the use and retention of common open space and recreation areas in subdivisions and land developments within the Township. The intent is to help preserve the Township's rural character and to promote common open space for both passive and active recreation opportunities. The Township seeks to ensure that adequate provision of trails and the promotion of health and safety are considered in the development and use of property and that development and use of property are done in accordance with the Township's Comprehensive Plan.

Section 3: Definitions. The following terms shall have the meanings as stated after them

“First Order Trail” – A trail that connects parcels, properties, or developments together.

“Impermeable Surface” – A surface or aggregate that does not allow fluid to pass through.

“Improvements” – Items along trails that are **not** roads, water, watercourses, private ways and buildings, amenities, structures, boating access and launch ramps, bridges, fishing piers, boat docks, ramps, paths, paved or unpaved trails, hunting blinds and machinery or equipment when attached to the realty. The term shall also **not** include areas providing access to, or parking for, lands and waters, including, but not limited to, access ramps, trails or piers for use by recreational users with disabilities.

“Maintenance” – Activities that make a trail passable, including but not limited to snow removal, cutting, clearing, and repair of surfaces and/or structures used along the trail.

“Motor Vehicle” – A vehicle which is self-propelled except an electric personal assistive mobility device or a vehicle which is propelled solely by human power.

“Permeable Surface” – A surface or aggregate that allows fluid to pass through.

“Plan” – Any development submitted for approval under the provision of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) containing 20 acres or more

“Second Order Trail” – A trail that is surfaced that is entirely contained within one property or development.

“Third Order Trail” – A trail that is not surfaced that is entirely contained within one property or development.

“Trail” – a thoroughfare or track across land or snow, used for recreational purposes, specifically pedestrian activities, including wheelchair use where terrain permits.

- Section 4: Trail System. In order to promote walking connectivity across the Township, all Major Subdivisions Plans and Land Development Plans consisting of 20 acres or more submitted for approval must contain a system of First Order, Second Order, and Third Order trails.
- Section 5: The applicant shall provide for connection of trails to adjacent site(s). Easements for continuous pedestrian circulation utilizing sidewalks and trails shall be required. Where subdivision or land developments abut neighboring Township's, the applicant shall provide easements for trail connections. Trails shall link internal common open space areas and peripheral open space areas, as well as nearby neighborhoods, parks, and trails (existing and proposed). The trails will be open to the public and will create a continuous pedestrian pathway connecting either end of the property. The trail network shall be connected to existing or proposed regional pedestrian networks whenever possible.
- Section 6: A map consisting of a proposed outline of trails must be included with any Plan submitted for consideration that is subject to Section 4 above.
- Section 7: First Order trails must be impermeable surfaces of the types and specifications contained in Appendix "A".
- Section 8: Second order trails must be permeable surfaces or impermeable surfaces of the types and specifications contained in Appendix "A".
- Section 9: Third order trails must be cut trails or pathed trails or permeable surfaces of the types and specifications contained in Appendix "A".
- Section 10: The Township hereby adopts an official map of proposed First Order Trail corridors, attached as Exhibit "B" to this Ordinance. All trail plans must follow said map, showing First Order trails within the areas marked as such.
- Section 11: First Order Trails must be adjacent to road frontage where possible and, when possible, fully follow all road frontage from where the road enters the property to where the road exits the property. First order trails must also connect to a road at the edge of a property, plan or development, where there is no adjacent connecting trail.
- Section 12: Second Order Trails must connect to a First Order Trail. Second Order Trails must connect to any adjacent properties with Second Order Trails at property borders, where possible.

- Section 13: Third Order trails are only to be developed within a contiguous development or Plan.
- Section 14: Third Order trails cannot connect to Third Order trails outside of the development or plan.
- Section 15: Construction and material specifications for all trails are attached as Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof. All trails built under this section must conform to these specifications.
- Section 16: No motor vehicles shall be permitted on trails, except for maintenance vehicles and wheelchairs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- Section 17: No unpowered vehicles, including but not limited to bicycles, tricycles, or other pedal vehicles, shall be permitted on trails owned by the Township, except for maintenance vehicles and wheelchairs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- Section 18: Trails must meet the specifications of the Outdoor Developed Areas Accessibility Guidelines, 36 CFR Part 1191, attached as Exhibit "C".
- Section 19: The maximum speed limit on all trails within the Township is seven (7) miles per hour.
- Section 20: No improvements, as defined above, may be made to or adjacent to second order trails and third order trails.
- Section 21: Every trail plan submitted for approval must contain documents outlining the ownership of the trail, the maintenance responsibilities of the trail, and other supporting documentation, all of which shall be reviewed and approved by the Township Solicitor. Unless otherwise provided, the maintenance and repair of trails, including the maintenance of landscaping adjacent to such trail, is the responsibility of the property owner on which the trail is located or fronted. Maintenance by an association (homeowners' or property owners') must be agreed upon at the time of plan approval and included as a requirement in the association documents, covenants and restrictions
- Section 22: The Township Engineer shall review and approve all trail plans and construction specifications.
- Section 23: The Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors shall review and approve all trail plans as part of the Subdivision or Land Development Process.

Section 24: No subdivision or land development subject to this Ordinance may be approved without a trail plan. Exceptions to any provision relating to trails in this section must be made via written request to the Board of Supervisors and provide a detailed narrative as to why the exception should be granted. Exceptions are only granted by the Board of Supervisors with advice and recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Revision 2: 12/30/2020 SMG

Revision 3: 2/17/2021 SMG/Committee

Revision 4: 3/2/2021 Cleanup pass 1

Revision 5: 3/23/2021 Cleanup for planning

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