

Darby-Paoli Trail

making nature more accessible



Trail Planning

Delaware County, PA

At Natural Lands, we recognize that being caretakers of land is about more than mowing turf, pulling vines, and attracting butterflies; it's also about connecting people to nature.

Radnor Township has made great strides toward this people-nature connection by planning a new trail system. The Township engaged Natural Lands to design the Darby-Paoli Trail, which will connect three existing parks—The Willows, Skunk Hollow, and Saw Mill Park—through a combination of multi-use and pedestrian paths that will wind along more than three miles of the township's most scenic vistas. Natural Lands' planners also provided recommendations for related streamside buffer plantings, roadway greening, stormwater management BMPs, and intersection improvements.

In addition to designing the trail, we helped Radnor Township acquire the land critical to their park plans. In 2013, Natural Lands obtained \$1,000,000 in grant funding to help the Township purchase and preserve the 66 acres of land on which this trail rests—once part of the fabled Ardrossan Farm.

"This protection of this land and planning for its future have been top priorities for Radnor for decades, and Natural Lands has helped us succeed through every step of the process," said Elaine Schaefer, Radnor Township Board of Commissioners member. "Residents can now look forward to enjoying it on a hike rather than seeing it with houses on it."

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

services:

- conducting a trail feasibility, developing a trail plan
- developing land management and restoration plans
- identifying funding opportunities and writing grant applications

client: Radnor Township

key partners: Radnor Township, Radnor Conservancy

