

The Accessibility of Trails in Chester County

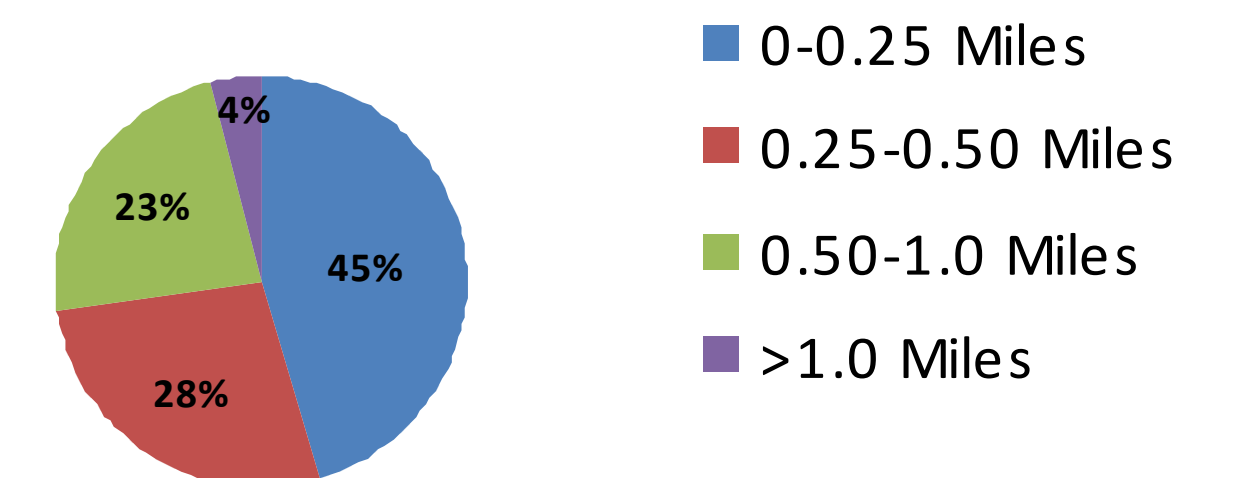
Introduction

The purpose of this study was to analyze the accessibility of the trails found within Chester County. Finding the effectiveness of the trails in meeting the needs of the public was the goal for this project.

Findings

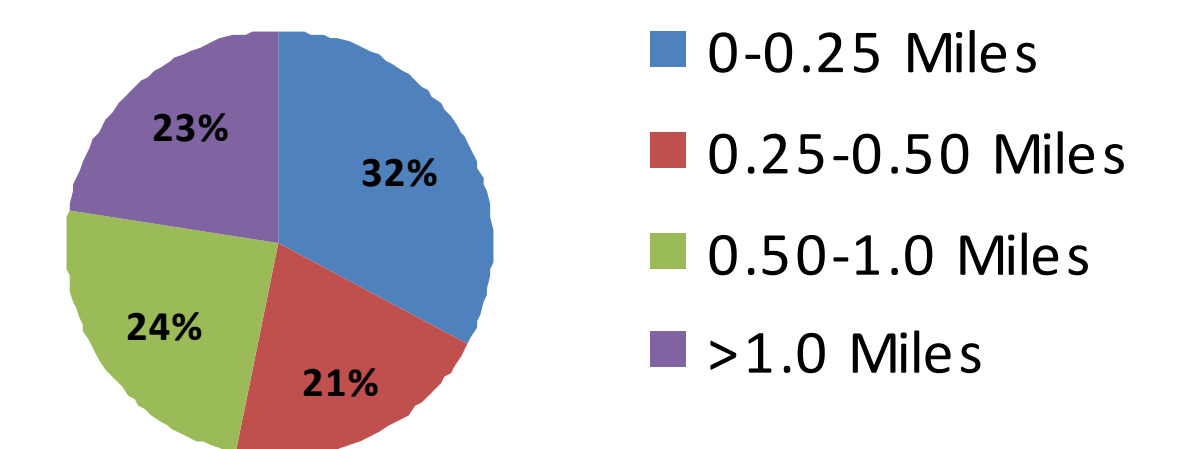
While the trails of Chester County are adequately accessible to residential zones, with 73% of them being within half of a mile, they are less accessible to other facilities. Only 53% of trails are within half of a mile of business or commercial zones, and only 32% are within half of a mile of schools. It was found that 38% of trails were within 0.25 miles of both commercial and residential zones, while 5.3% of trails were within 0.25 miles of schools, commercial and residential zones.

Distance from Trails to Residential Zones



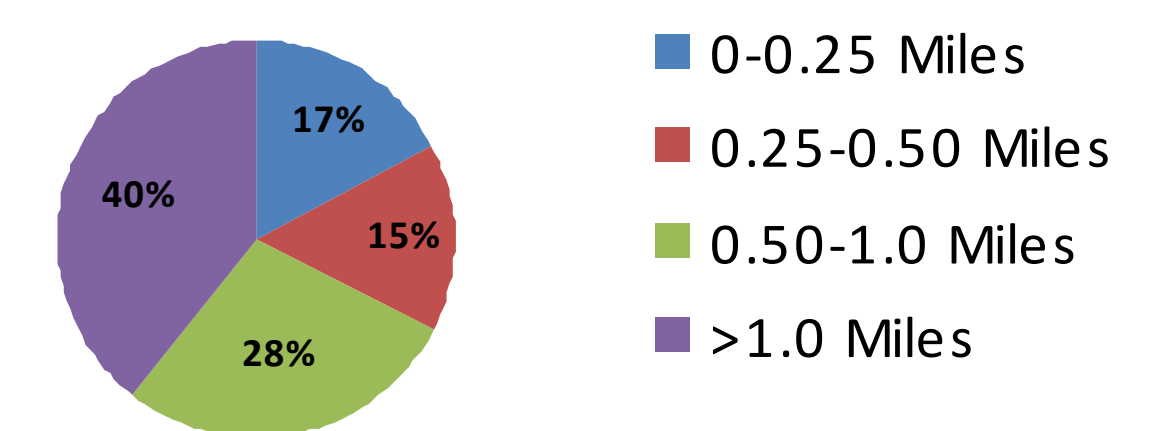
73% of trails are within 0.5 miles of residential zones

Distance from Trails to Commercial Zones



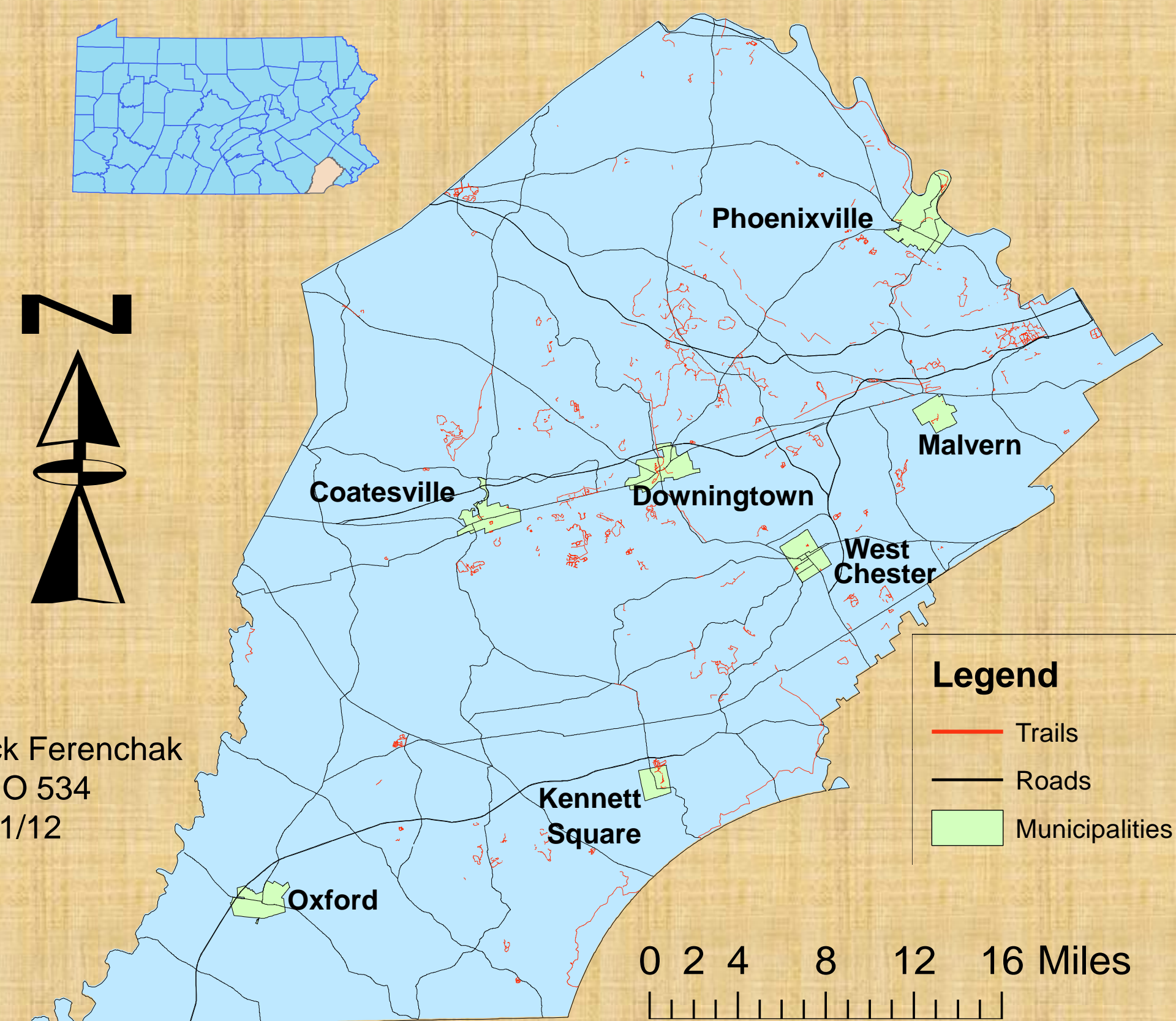
53% of trails are within 0.5 miles of commercial zones

Distance from Trails to Schools



Only 32% of trails are within 0.5 miles of schools

The Trails of Chester County



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Methods

I performed attribute analysis by joining data layers, selecting by attribute, and working with the attribute statistics. I performed spatial analysis by using 'Feature to Point', creating buffers, finding intersects, and selecting by location.

Recommendations

This usage of trails is most likely aimed towards recreational purposes. In order to stimulate more utilitarian transportation such as traveling to shopping or commuting to work, it is recommended that the trails of Chester County be located in close proximity not only to residential neighborhoods, but other areas as well. By increasing the accessibility and therefore convenience of trails to schools, businesses and jobs will lead to a greater usage of the trails.



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