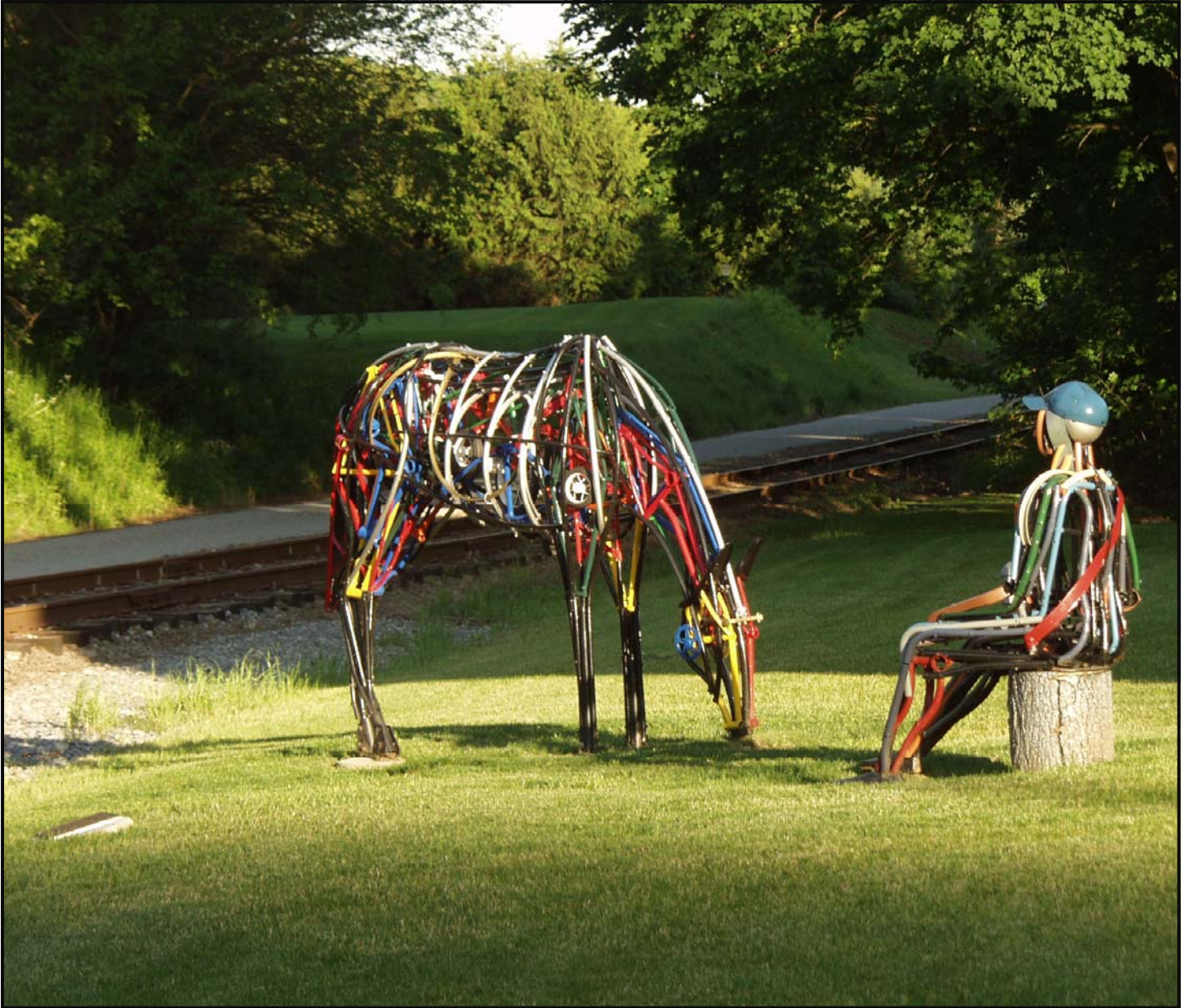


York County Rail Trail Authority CASE STUDY

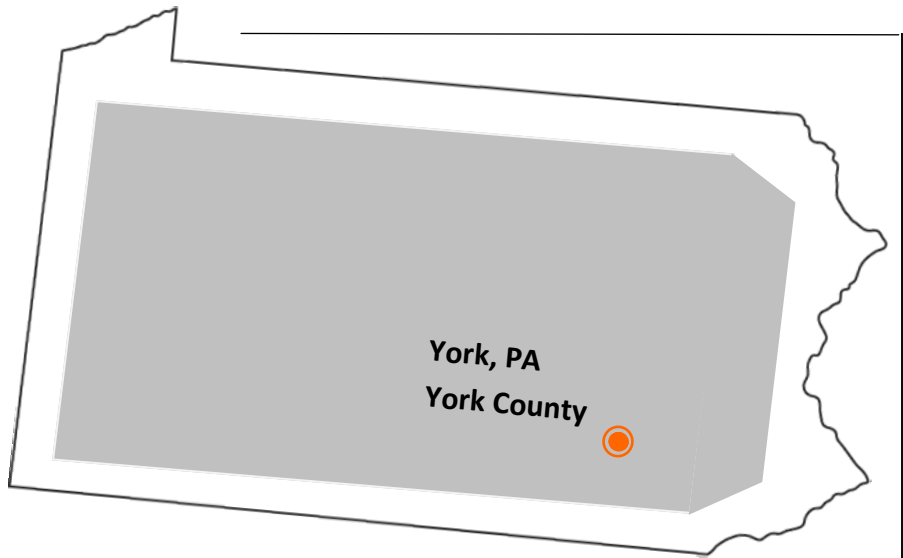
York Fosters Trail Appreciation with Sculpture



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Background:

York County Rail Trail Authority was formed in 1990 by the York County Board of Commissioners to manage the project to convert the County's newly acquired 18.5 miles of the Northern Central Railway into a rail with trails. Once an historic two-track freight and passenger rail line became a one-track rail line with an adjacent 10-foot walking/bicycling/horse riding path when the Heritage Rail Trail County park was opened in August 1999.



Rationale:

When the Rail Trail Authority completed development of the Heritage Rail Trail, a grand opening was planned to coincide with the celebration of York County's 250th anniversary. Rail Trail Authority members presented a proposal to the York County Board of Commissioners to honor the Authority and its chairman by commissioning an artist to make an outdoor sculpture for installation along the Heritage Rail Trail.

Process:

A committee meet monthly for approximately 5 months to solicit proposals from local artists, select an artist, establish a budget for the project, and work with the artist to guide the completion and installation of the sculpture.

Resources Required:

York County Board of Commissioners established a \$20,000 fund for the project, committee members volunteered their time & expertise, York County Parks transported the sculpture and provided the materials and labor for its installation.

Facilitating Factors:

Committee members had a common vision of what the sculpture would represent and how it would be interpreted and appreciated by visitors to the Heritage Rail Trail. York County Board of Commissioners fully supported the project as a way to express their (and public) appreciation for the many years of hard work contributed by members of the Rail Trail Authority to complete the Heritage Rail Trail.

Challenges Overcome:

Making sure the sculpture was designed and built to withstand the outdoor elements and occasional misuse by the public and would not become a maintenance issue for the County Parks. Selecting the best location – not interfering with adjacent landowners, not remote to encourage vandalism, and offering sufficient area for visitors to stop, rest, and enjoy the art piece.

Results Observed:

The public loves it! And only minor damage/wear has occurred over time. It has held up very well.

Lessons Learned:

Take time to form a committee with a common vision; involve local artists; establish an ample budget in order to get a first-class product; personally visit other examples of the artist's work before contracting with the artist; sign a contract; make art fun and meaningful.

Additional Information:

Consult your local artists' guilds/organizations; visit other trail projects and speak to trail managers about their experiences with outdoor art.

