

# New Castle Community Wellness Initiative

## COMMUNITY WELLNESS ASSESSMENT

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The New Castle Community Wellness Initiative assessments are underway and preliminary information is coming in!

**A walkability and bikeability assessment was conducted at the end of March.** Two teams of community volunteers divided up to review and document conditions for bicyclists and walkers/joggers along the Route 9 corridor heading north out of the historic city center and from the center to the Industrial Track Greenway/Heritage Trail and back toward the city center. Some of the key findings include:

- Inconsistent and poor bike/ped facilities along Route 9, which makes bicycling/walking difficult, dangerous, and unpleasant.
- Lack of connections for bicyclists and pedestrians from outlying residential developments, such as Boothurst and Buttonwood.
- Need for wayfinding markers and signage to orient visitors and residents on bicycle and on foot.
- Limited crossing facilities at Route 273 for the Industrial Track Greenway/Heritage Trail, which will limit the full potential of two great bike/ped connections to New Castle.

Additional technical analysis is being conducted to supplement the “on-the-ground” work done by volunteers, which will focus on land use and on larger scale connections and linkages between destinations across the community.

**A survey of residents was conducted on Election Day and is ongoing through May.** The two page survey asked questions about the person’s

general health habits, knowledge, and preferences about what kind of additional support folks would like to have. If you are a resident or work in New Castle or in nearby neighborhoods and have not taken the survey, your participation would be appreciated. (You can find the survey on the City’s website on the Wellness Initiative page and can submit a completed hard copy to the City Administrative Offices or email to [atrabelsi@delawaregreenways.org](mailto:atrabelsi@delawaregreenways.org).) In addition to helping develop a baseline picture of the health habits of community members, the survey gives community members an opportunity to share thoughts on needs and opportunities for community improvements that will help enable healthier lifestyles.

For more information about the initiative or to get involved, contact Andrea Trabelsi ([atrabelsi@delawaregreenways.org](mailto:atrabelsi@delawaregreenways.org); 302-655-7275).