



Creating Opportunities Along the Nation's Trails

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Emlenton & Foxburg Business Opportunities

As of August 2015

The Trail Town Program® aims to identify trail user needs and to fill service gaps in trail communities by providing help in the form of market information, technical assistance, or financing to existing and potential businesses. This document identifies existing conditions related to trail services and what we see as opportunities. Those considering either an expansion or a new business should conduct their own market research and complete a business plan.

Existing Trail-Serving Businesses

Lodging

- Between the two towns, there is the ability to accommodate roughly 60 visitors per night.
- There is one bed & breakfast that includes an additional guest house in Emlenton.
- There is a primitive campground located in Emlenton.
- There is a campground located about 2 miles from Emlenton.
- There is one hotel in Foxburg.

Recreational

- There is a seasonal Segway and bike rental/repair shop and two seasonal water recreational outfitters in Emlenton.
- There is a Segway tour company with available bike tools, with limited hours in Foxburg.

Food & Drink

- There is a grocery store in Emlenton.
- There is one Italian restaurant including pizza and ice cream in Emlenton.
- There is one tavern in Emlenton.
- There is a candy/chocolate shop that also serves ice cream in Foxburg.
- There is a pizza/sandwich shop with breakfast options in Foxburg.
- There is a semi-formal dining restaurant with outdoor seating in Foxburg.

Retail

- There is a convenience store and pharmacy in Emlenton.
- There is an embroidery shop with clothing and souvenirs available in Emlenton.
- There is a book shop and ladies boutique housed in Emlenton's Crawford Center.
- There is a specialty wine retail shop with additional merchandise in Foxburg.

Amenities

- There is a laundromat and a bank with a 24 hour ATM in Emlenton.

Nearby Attractions

- Within Emlenton and Foxburg, there are other attractions drawing visitors beyond the trail. Some of these include the Crawford Center's Pumping Jack Museum, river boat access, an art gallery and entertainment venue, and a destination golf course and country club.

Potential Business Opportunities

Lodging

- Lodging is currently well covered in Emlenton and Foxburg, but **additional B&Bs** may be considered with additional trail and recreational traffic. B&B are often the most common visited by trail users.
- There are also opportunities for **guest/vacation houses or hostel** that could accommodate larger groups or those with a limited budget.

Recreational

- There is a need for a **year-round outfitter** that can offer winter and other recreational amenities.

Food & Drink

- There is need for a **convenience store** in Foxburg. Current businesses could look into adding quick/to-go options to their selection.
- Between Emlenton and Foxburg there are no specialty drink shops. There is need for a **coffee shop** or juice bar.
- Either town would benefit from having a **bakery** to provide quick treats to trail users.
- Trail users would likely frequent an eatery that had **outdoor seating**. Fresh and healthy menu items that include vegetarian options; packed lunches for trail-side consumption; and locally grown and raised food items would be of particular interest.
- The **farm-to-table** movement provides tremendous potential along the Erie to Pittsburgh trail. Other informal but specialized foods might be a gourmet burger, hot dog, or ice cream shop, or even a **bike-themed or trail-oriented café**.
- There also could be potential for more **ethnic food options**, like Mexican or Chinese food, and higher end options, such as white linen dining.
- Many restaurants are closed during the evening, weekends, or have limited hours. There is an **opportunity to adjust hours** to accommodate visitor traffic or be open when many other restaurants are closed.

Retail

- Many retail locations are closed or have limited hours during the weekends and evenings. There is an **opportunity to adjust hours** to accommodate visitor traffic or be open when many other shops are closed.

Amenities

- In Foxburg, there is a need for a **gas station and/or ATM**.
- In Foxburg and Emlenton there is a need for **public restrooms**, whether stand alone or within a business. Currently, there is one behind the pizza shop but is usually open for events.
- In the region there is a need for **shuttle service** for people, bike, luggage, and equipment.