

PROJECT PROFILE

Lafayette Easton/College Hill Escarpment Trail



Location: **Easton, PA**

Owner: **Lafayette College**

Designer: **Pennoni**

Installer: **Bistate Construction**

Challenge

Lafayette College faced a complex task in improving pedestrian access from College Hill to downtown Easton. The steep, rocky terrain between these areas posed a significant obstacle. The college needed a path that could zigzag up the hill. They wanted a trail that looked natural and fit the setting, but also one that would last a long time without much upkeep. Safety was a big concern, as some parts of the path would have slopes at a 12% grade. The college also wanted something that looked like wood but was more durable.

Solution

To address these challenges, Lafayette College chose PermaTrak's precast concrete system. This system proved highly adaptable to the rough landscape, allowing the path to follow the hill's natural shape. The precast system sped up installation and reduced groundwork, saving time and effort.

Safety was a top priority, and PermaTrak's slip-resistant surface was perfect for the steep slopes. The Savannah Brown color with a wood-like texture gave the path a softer, more natural look while keeping the strength of concrete. Despite the tough terrain, the designer, Pennoni, capitalized on the design flexibility of the PermaTrak system (longer spans, hairpin turns, landing, top-mounted railing simplifying installation).

Unlike wood, the concrete won't rot, which means less maintenance work and cost in the future. The new path has also improved local connectivity, giving students and residents an easier way to get to town. By picking PermaTrak, Lafayette College found a solution that met all their needs, resulting in a pathway that will serve the community for many years to come.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

Boardwalk Length(s): 333ft, 168ft, 38ft, 77ft

Tread Width(s): 10"

Color: Savannah Brown

Texture: BeachWood

Installation Date: June 2023