The Chester Valley Trail is located on the old roadbed of the Chester Valley Railroad, a branch of the Reading Railroad. Completed in 1853, the railroad hauled out limestone and lime from booming Great Valley quarries and hauled in coal to fuel lime kilns. Before trucks proliferated in the 1920s, the railroad carried livestock, dairy and produce from thriving local farms to ready markets in Philadelphia. Passenger service ended in 1935 and freight service at the end of the century. In its heyday, the Chester Valley Railroad delivered the mail, united families, conveyed merchandise, carried the news, and provided a modest means of transport for the frugal and the well-to-do. As a rails-to-trails conversion, the railroad is still serving the public today.
The following rules apply to all Chester County Parks and Trails:

1. Trail hours of operation: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
2. Trail use is restricted to pedestrians and cyclists.
3. Defacing or damaging trail property including buildings, markers, or monuments and/or disturbing or removing wildlife or vegetation is prohibited.
4. Fires are not permitted.
5. Hunting and trapping are not permitted.
6. Fishing permitted only in designated waterways, lakes and ponds. PA Fish and Boat Commission laws apply.
7. No camping is permitted on or along trail corridor.
8. Motorized vehicles of any type are not permitted on trail or within the corridor. All vehicles are prohibited from unauthorized areas. Motorized vehicles must be licensed and are restricted to public roadways. No person shall park outside of designated areas on park in such a way as to block any fire lane, fire trail, maintenance road, or trail.
9. Trespassing onto county property not open to the public, or into any construction area, building, etc. is prohibited.
10. Soliciting or peddling on county property is prohibited, except under special conditions established by this department.
11. Hindering, impersonating or resisting county employees is not permitted.
12. Possession of, or being under the influence of, any illegal drug, alcoholic beverage or controlled substance is prohibited.
13. Disorderly conduct such as intoxication, indecent language, excessive noise or indecent actions, is not permitted.
14. Possession and/or discharge of fireworks is prohibited.
15. All trash must be placed in receptacles provided.
16. Pets are permitted and must be restrained on a leash not exceeding six (6) feet in length. Pets must have a current license and be properly vaccinated.
17. Park and trail users must abide by all signs.