

Over the last couple of years, the Hershey's Mill Security Department has been taking steps to improve its effectiveness, especially as it pertains to gate entry and monitoring vehicular access. Below, I've listed a few of our more recent projects, in addition to examples of how they serve to better serve Hershey's Mill and its residents.

GATE REPLACEMENT

All of the entry and exit gates in Hershey's Mill were replaced with new, digitally-controlled gates.

1. New aluminum gate arms offer better visibility and durability, leading to fewer broken gate arms.
2. Gate arms contain rubber bumpers to prevent accidental vehicle damage if a car gets too close and makes contact with the gate.
3. Digital controllers allow for much improved operation and reliability.
4. The gate controller has the ability to automatically close a gate if it stays open too long as a result of a driver using their clicker when attempting to exit the community...or after already passing through the entrance. By having the gate close on a timer, it reduces the trespassing invitation provided by an unattended open gate.

UNDERGROUND GATE LOOP REPLACEMENT

All of the gate loops, located underneath of the pavement in the gate lanes, were very recently replaced with all new loops.

1. The new loops allow for greater sensitivity and accuracy in identifying when a vehicle is in the lane. When old loops wear out, they often sense non-existent objects in the lane; and this causes the gate to stay open for no reason. The new loops correct this problem.
2. In the case of exit lanes, all of the loops were extended so that the gate will open for a vehicle up to 15 feet away. This allows for fewer broken exit gates; and subsequently, there are fewer occasions where a lane will be left without the protection of a gate arm. Please remember there is no need to use a gate entry device to open an exit lane gate.

UPDATED CAMERA SYSTEM

Hershey's Mill recently received a full camera system upgrade at all of its gates.

1. The total number of cameras at all gates increased from 14 to 29; and in most cases, the number of cameras at each gate at least doubled. This allows for a much greater viewing area of the entirety of each gate area, including the gate intersections, gate walls, and the gates themselves. As a result, we were able to view the entire gate areas and eliminate previous "blind spots."
2. Picture clarity, especially when zooming in on objects, was greatly increased.
3. License plate cameras were added to all of the gate lanes. This allows for the Security Department to obtain the license plate numbers of any vehicle traveling in or out of Hershey's Mill. This is extremely helpful as it allows us to identify drivers who may have broken a gate arm, as well as provide local police with vehicle information, and possibly driver information, connected to any suspicious activity related to Hershey's Mill.

4. Please note that residents are subject to fines (minimum of \$100.00) for the repair of gates broken by them or their guests.

UPASS GATE ENTRY SYSTEM

Hershey's Mill installed a UPASS (similar to EZPass) gate entry system that allows users to use windshield tags and proximity cards as gate access devices, in addition to the current clickers and swipe cards.

1. The UPASS system works with a receiver that has a range of 8-12 feet. This increases security by allowing access to only the vehicle in front of the gate, rather than allowing drivers to use their clicker to open a gate for a car ahead of them that seems "stuck." The reality is that this car sitting in front of the gate may not be allowed into Hershey's Mill and should not gain entry.
2. The hands-free UPASS windshield tags eliminate the desire, need, or ability to program a vehicle's overhead computer with a gate code to open the gates. If a stolen or "borrowed" vehicle had a gate clicker code programmed into it, there would be no way to determine which clicker should be deactivated; and as a result, all clickers assigned to that residence would need to be deactivated.
3. UPASS devices do not allow for gates to be accidentally opened by drivers attempting to exit the community...or drivers who use their clickers after already passing through an entrance gate.

EAST GATE TURNAROUND

The East Gate just received a vehicle turn-around.

1. This ensures that drivers who mistakenly pull up to the East Gate will have a safe and convenient way to turn around and exit back onto Rt. 352.
2. Residents who pull in behind a vehicle that has no authorization to enter the East Gate, will neither have to back up onto Rt. 352 or feel obligated to open the gate for an unauthorized vehicle.
3. Please note that the East Gate remains a Gate Device Access Only entrance.