

PENNSYLVANIA TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Bridge over CSX R.R. Tracks, Schuylkill River Trail, Philadelphia

February 2013

Year 2012 Annual Report



This Annual Report documents a variety of accomplishments of Pennsylvania trail groups in the year 2012 as described by the Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee and its partners. It showcases successes and illustrates progress toward developing a statewide land and water trail network, one that promotes recreation, transportation and healthy lifestyles.

Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

In 1992, the Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Advisory Board (PARTAB) was created to comply with federal legislation governing recreational trails funding. The legislation requires states to have an advisory committee that represents both motorized and nonmotorized trail users and provides guidance in the administration of the recreational trails program.

In 2009 the Commonwealth released its 2009-2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) which called for the creation of a statewide trails committee to help implement a land and water trail network for recreation, transportation and healthy lifestyles.

In 2012, after a year of planning and deliberations with trail stakeholders throughout the state, the PARTAB was expanded to assist the Commonwealth in carrying out the goals and recommendations of the SCORP while continuing to meet the requirements of the federal Recreational Trails Program.

A major responsibility of the Committee is to present an annual report to the Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The annual report details major trail accomplishments that occurred during the year.



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Vanyla Tierney, DCNR

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Northwestern Region

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Southeastern Region

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Statewide

ExplorePAtrails.com Mobile Website • Keystone Trails Association—Trail Care Events • Pennsylvania Water Trails Economic Impact Study • Sensible, Courteous, Off-Road Enthusiasts (SCORE) • Trails to Watch in 2013

2012 SUMMARY STATISTICS

New trail miles added	74 miles
DCNR trail grant projects completed	88 projects
DCNR and local expenditures on completed trail grant projects	\$58 million
Counties with DCNR trail grant projects completed	30 counties
Volunteer hours reported	More than 4,000 hours
Unique visitors to ExplorePAtrails.com	50,832 visitors

INTRODUCTION

Simply put, trails, both large and small, make up the backbone of Pennsylvania's "green infrastructure." These trails bring health and economic benefits, invigorated communities, improved quality of life, and generally make the state a better place to live, work and play for citizens, visitors and future generations.

In 2012, trails were built, restored, celebrated, and reimagined by hundreds of volunteers, stakeholders and user groups who share the grand vision of a seamless, statewide network of trails and work tirelessly to make this vision a reality. Countless hours of dedicated work by trail crews, planners, funding agencies, local project sponsors, trail users and volunteers were logged during 2012. Under DCNR's Community Conservation Partnership Program 88 trail projects, representing more than \$58 million in state and local grant funds were completed.

A STATEWIDE NETWORK OF TRAILS

In 2012, teams of trail builders across Pennsylvania added more than 74 new miles of trail, gaining on an ambitious goal set forth in the state's 2001 *Greenways Action Plan* to connect every community to a trail. Some of these notable accomplishments are described in the following pages.



Airport Link Trail

Project Location: Allegheny County

Description: The "airport link," a 6-mile spur off the Montour Trail near mile-marker eight, has expanded the trail for recreational users and created an important connection for commuters.

The idea for a link between the Montour Trail and Pittsburgh International Airport was first brought up in 2000. The trail now serves shoppers at the airport mall, employees, travelers and hotel guests with a place to recreate, and it offers employees a safe and convenient option for commuting.

The Allegheny Trail Alliance, which promotes the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) between Washington, D.C. and Pittsburgh, sees Pittsburgh as a crucial hub for a trails network that is expanding in all directions. The Montour Trail connects to the GAP, offering users an alternate route that bypasses a number of on-road sections through Pittsburgh.

"This new connection to the Montour Trail is a huge step toward making Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania accessible for bicycle touring," says Mary Shaw, a long-distance cyclist and rail-trail guidebook author.

Sponsor: Allegheny Trail Alliance

Submitted by: Jake Lynch, Allegheny Trail Alliance

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Roy Weil and Mary Shaw install signs for a new airport connector trail.



Montour Trail

Project Location: Allegheny County, South Park Township, Montour Trail mileposts 38.2 to 39.0

Description: This project consisted of constructing a trail between Triphammer Road and Piney Fork Road. A new ramp was completed between Triphammer Road and an existing bridge across Piney Fork Creek at the western end of the project area. Another ramp was excavated from the trail right-of-way to Piney Fork Road at the eastern end of the project area. This trail replaces an existing on-road detour over narrow hilly roads.

Volunteers graded 0.6 mile of trail, widened narrow areas using rock and 440 cubic yards of donated soil, and laid 1,240 tons of donated asphalt millings to create a stable base over 3,100 feet of trail.

Contractor Mingo Creek Construction completed a ramp from Triphammer Road to the Piney Fork Bridge. They built 12-foot high wing walls to contain the ramp at the bridge. The contractor then excavated a 500-foot ramp at a 4% grade from the trail to Piney Fork Road, removing over 4,000 cubic yards of rock and soil. Both segments were paved with asphalt. In 2013, the trail will be surfaced with crushed limestone; fences, gates and bollards will be installed.



Asphalt paving of Triphammer Ramp on the Montour Trail

Sponsor: Montour Trail Council

Submitted by: David Oyler, Montour Trail Council

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Kiski River Trail

Project Location: Armstrong County, Apollo Borough and Kiskiminetas Township

Description: The Roaring Run Watershed Association extended its trail, formerly called the Roaring Run Trail, 0.8 miles northward into Apollo Borough. This new addition joined two trails, now collectively called the Kiski River Trail. Part of the Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenway, the Kiski River Trail creates a link from Apollo to the [Roaring Run Recreation Area](#) which features a 1.5-mile spur trail called the Rock Furnace Trail and several other adjoining hiking and mountain biking trails.

Trail amenities include new kiosks with maps and other information based on designs in the Kiski Valley Greenway, Trails, and Downtown Connectivity Study. The kiosks orient trail users to community businesses, services, and points of interest.

Sponsor: Roaring Run Watershed Association

Submitted by: Laura Hawkins, Allegheny Ridge Corporation



Kiski River Trail in Apollo



Overview map of Kiski River Trail system

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Redbank Valley Trail - Armstrong Trail

Project Location: Armstrong, Clarion, and Jefferson counties

Description: The Allegheny Valley Land Trust (AVLT) along with volunteer assistance from the Redbank Valley Trails Association (RVTA) and the Armstrong Rails to Trails Association (ARTA) has railbanked 98 miles of inactive railroad corridors for interim trail use until the corridor is needed for the railroad. The original 52-mile Armstrong Trail acquisition was litigated for 16 years before the court finally ruled that the Allegheny Valley Land Trust had properly railbanked the corridor and was the owner of the right-of-way. In the process, nine miles of the railbanked corridor have been reactivated for railroad use by the Kiski Junction Railroad.

This action opened up 89 miles of rail trail to be improved and maintained by RVTA, ARTA, and AVLT. One of the goals of the project was to develop sustainable trail improvements and maintenance so that the trails can continue to expand as important assets in the region.

Volunteers improved drainage, implemented vegetative controls, and most importantly, RVTA and ARTA combined to install over 25 miles of limestone trail surface material on the Armstrong and Redbank Valley Trails in 2012.

The project has had a great impact on municipalities, counties, local organizations, businesses, and the public. All partnered to assist in creating the trail network. Businesses are starting or relocating close to the trails. Organizations such as youth groups, YMCAs, Rotary Clubs, and HEALTHY Armstrong are holding events on the trails. Volunteers continuously make improvements to the trails.

Sponsor: Allegheny Valley Land Trust, Redbank Valley Trails Association, and the Armstrong Rails to Trails Association

Submitted by: Ron Steffey, Allegheny Valley Land Trust



AmeriCorps Team members make improvements along the Armstrong Trail.

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Six-To-Ten Trail

Project Location: Blair County, Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site

Description: The National Park Service (NPS) formally opened its 10-mile-long Six-To-Ten Trail on June 11, 2012. The NPS, DCNR and the Allegheny Ridge Corporation all collaborated to make the combined hiking and multi-use trail a reality.

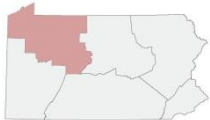
The Six-To-Ten Trail opened a significant segment of the Main Line Canal Greenway to the public while connecting to a Pennsylvania State Game Commission designated route, adding to the opportunities for off-road bicycling and horseback riding along the Allegheny Front.

Sponsor: Allegheny Ridge Corporation

Submitted by: Jane Sheffield, Allegheny Ridge Corporation



A hiking section of the Six-to-Ten Trail



Clarion Highlands Trail

Project Location: Clarion County, east of Van and west of Clarion Borough

Description: The Allegheny Valley Trails Association (AVTA) continued to expand the regional trail system in northwestern Pennsylvania by opening and improving two miles of the Clarion Highlands Trail (CHT). The CHT extends the Sandy Creek Trail in Venango County into Clarion County. In addition, this trail connects with State Game Lands #45. AVTA has cleared, leveled, and improved drainage along the trail.

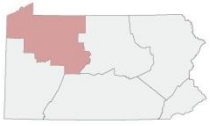
Sponsor: Allegheny Valley Trails Association

Submitted by: Debra Frawley, Council on Greenways and Trails



Grading equipment used to improve the Clarion Highlands Trail corridor

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Franklin Connector Trail

Project Location: Venango County, Cranberry Township and City of Franklin.

Description: The City of Franklin made improvements to 0.4 miles of its Riverfront Park walking paths, making a multi-use trail that connects the Allegheny River Trail trailhead on one side of the river to the downtown business district on the other side. Access to the bridge was improved and connecting paths were built in the city park. Work included widening the walkway and installing signage. A welcome garden is planned for 2013.

This project provided a more visible route from the trail to the town and safe access for trail users.

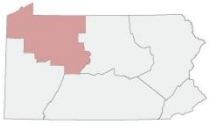
Sponsor: City of Franklin

Submitted by: Debra Frawley, Council on Greenways and Trails



New and improved multi-use path through Riverfront Park in Franklin

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McClintock Trail

Project Location: Venango County, Oil City and Cornplanter Township.

Description: The southern terminus of McClintock Trail is located on North Seneca Street in Oil City at the “White Bridge” on the edge of the downtown business district. The trail meanders north to the historic McClintock Well #1 on Waitz Road in Cornplanter Township where it joins the northern segment of McClintock Trail (a share-the-road segment of trail) that was completed in 2009.

Significant progress was made on the McClintock Trail project in 2012. The Oil Region Alliance entered into a license agreement with the railroad to construct 1.7 miles of the McClintock Trail within the railroad right-of-way.



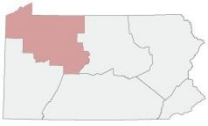
McClintock Trail groundbreaking ceremony

The McClintock Trail links trail users to historic sites and closes an important gap in the Erie-To-Pittsburgh Trail system. It connects the Justus Trail, which spans from the west side to the north end of Oil City, to the northern segment of McClintock Trail and Oil Creek State Park.

Sponsor: Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism

Submitted by: Kim Harris, Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism

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Queen City Trail Extension

Project Location: Crawford County, City of Titusville, Oil Creek Township, and Hydetown Borough.

Description: The Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism assisted Crawford County in negotiating the acquisition of the right-of-way for the southern segment of the Queen City Trail from South Martin Street to Perry Street, the location of the historic Perry Street Station which houses the northern National Oil Heritage Region Area visitor center.

A key link of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, the Queen City Trail is surfaced with smooth asphalt, excellent for walking and bicycling and consistent with other similarly high quality trails in the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

Crawford County received DCNR funding for the acquisition of 0.3 miles of right-of-way. PennDOT provided funding for construction.

Community support for the project is strong and growing. A Trail Town study is underway in Titusville to develop a plan for trail user amenities and communications with businesses in town.

Sponsor: Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism

Submitted by: Kim Harris, Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism



Queen City Trail planning team reviews the alignment of the trail extension.

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Blairsville Riverfront Trail

Project Location: Indiana County, Blairsville Borough

Description: The Blairsville Riverfront Trail represents the culmination of years of planning, preparation, advocacy, and interagency cooperation.

The 1.7-mile trail loops through 320 wooded acres along the Conemaugh River, connecting Blairsville to the scenic Kiski-Conemaugh Water Trail. The trail links users to downtown businesses, historic sites, the Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenway and the Trans Allegheny Trails network.



Blairsville Riverfront Trail, Blairsville Borough, Indiana County

Efforts are underway to connect this new trail to the 15-mile West Penn Trail and the 47-mile Hoodlebug and Ghost Town Trail system.

The impact on the community has been dramatic. Local citizens use the trail for its scenic walking and biking. Volunteer trail stewards have organized several community revitalization efforts. The community has become more engaged and civic-minded, helping fulfill the vision of being better connected to the river and attaining its resource-based economic benefits.

Blairsville Community Development Authority and Blairsville Borough managed the project. Indiana Parks and Trails provided leadership, technical assistance, and trail maintenance.

Sponsor: Blairsville Community Development Authority and Blairsville Borough.

Submitted by: Laura Hawkins, Allegheny Ridge Corporation—Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Mainline Canal Greenway

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Bloody Skillet All-Terrain Vehicle Connector Trail

Project Location: Centre and Clinton counties, Sproul State Forest, Orviston, Pa.

Description: This project connected the Bloody Skillet All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) area in the Sproul State Forest to Snow Shoe Township roads and the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails Association (SSRTA) multi-use trail system. In 2012, 6.6 miles of trail were completed. The trail now utilizes state forest lands and township roads that are open to ATVs, connecting approximately 44 miles of trails.

The section of trail on State Forest Land descends into the Beech Creek Valley where a bridge was constructed to carry it across an existing abandoned railroad crossing. The trail then crosses Two-Rock Run and continues up the other side of the Beech Creek Valley towards the Bloody Skillet ATV Riding area.

The trail is near Orviston, Pa. which at one time had a brick factory that used clay from the present-day Bloody Skillet ATV riding area. An ATV trail head is located on land that was formerly part of the old brick factory.

Sponsor: DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Sproul State Forest

Submitted by: Robert S. Fitterling, DCNR Bureau of Forestry



New bridge on Bloody Skillet ATV Connector Trail

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Jersey Shore Pine Creek Trail Connector

Project Location: Lycoming County, Jersey Shore, Pine Creek Rail Trail.

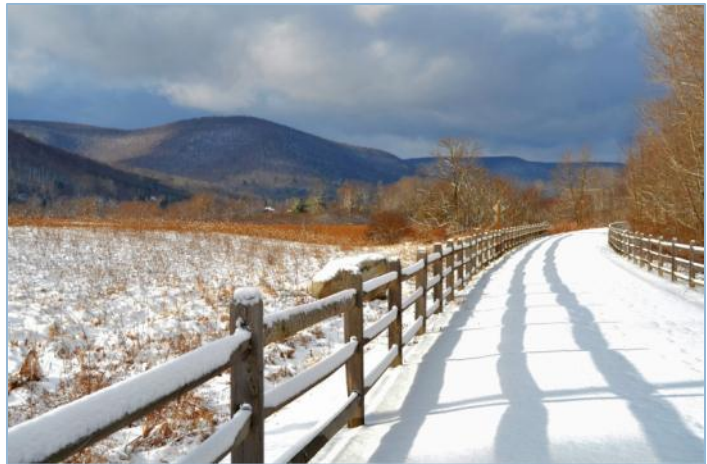
Description: This project added 1.5 miles to the Pine Creek Rail Trail, extending it to approximately 64 miles in length. The connector trail reaches from the edge of the borough into the downtown area, connecting the DCNR trailhead on the outskirts of town to the Susquehanna River and downtown businesses. Built in partnership with PennDOT and the Lycoming Community Foundation, the trail is maintained by Jersey Shore Borough. The project had important support from the SEDA COG Joint Rail Authority and Lycoming County.

This project was the result of a trail feasibility study completed in 2011.

Local residents are using the trail to get to town for shopping and for extending their bicycle or pedestrian travel. The trail extension fills an important gap and helps achieve the goal of connecting trails with residents and neighborhoods.

Sponsors: DCNR, PennDOT, Lycoming County, Lycoming Community Foundation, Jersey Shore Borough, SEDA COG

Submitted by: Wes Fahringer, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation



The Pine Creek Rail Trail is now connected to Jersey Shore, Pa. and the Susquehanna River.

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Hanover Trolley Trail

Project Location: York County, Jackson Township, Hershey Road to Martin Road.

Description: This project included engineering and construction of 0.8 miles of trail with associated drainage system, fencing, and signage. In addition, improvements were made to a 43-space parking area, including asphalt paving, line markings, construction, and native plantings on a berm separating the parking area from an active rail line. The new trail section connects to a section built in 2008 and provides a direct connection to Spring Grove Borough, the Spring Grove Area Recreation Center, and Windy Hill Senior Center.

The project is attracting large numbers of users from Spring Grove Borough. Seniors from the Windy Hill Senior Center can easily access the trail, and an active group of “Trolley Trotters” walk the trail every Wednesday morning. Families pushing baby strollers and dog walkers are a common sight on the trail. Spring Grove Area Recreation Commission held its annual 5 km race entirely on the trail for the first time in 2012 and avoided using borough streets.

Sponsors: York County Rail Trail Authority

Submitted by: Gwen Loose, York County Rail Trail Authority

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A family enjoys a late afternoon winter walk on the newest section of the Hanover Trolley Trail.



Hidden Creek Path

Project Location: Cumberland County, Silver Spring Township, Hidden Creek Park, Mechanicsburg

Description: This project involved construction of a soft landscaped pathway along the Conodoguinet Creek. It extended an existing trail an additional 0.25 miles along a scenic reach of the creek.

This work, carried out by the Silver Spring Township Parks and Recreation Department, serves a new residential neighborhood adjacent to the park. The increased access to the creek has created new opportunities for families and youth to experience nature in a safe and attractive environment. A connection is planned that would allow residents of the neighborhood to walk to shopping areas.

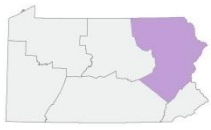
Sponsor: Silver Spring Township Parks and Recreation

Submitted by: Jeff Williams, Silver Spring Township Parks and Recreation

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Hidden Creek Path follows Conodoguinet Creek.



D&L Trail

Project Locations: Luzerne County and Carbon County

Description: The 9.7 miles of the Black Diamond section of the Delaware and Lehigh (D&L) Trail along with the new Black Diamond Trailhead near White Haven in Luzerne County is the D&L's largest trail project to date. This is the first section of D&L Trail that is not adjacent to the Lehigh or Delaware Rivers. Built on the old Lehigh Valley Railroad bed, it meanders through the woods, passing wildlife, lakes, ponds and overlooks into the Wyoming Valley.

In addition, the completion of a 2.5-mile section of trail from the Lehigh Trailhead to East Penn Township was led by the Borough of Lehigh. Access to the Pennsylvania Turnpike bridge project allowed Walsh Construction, the Turnpike contractor, to complete this section of the trail. This kind of creative and collaborative approach may be the key to completing the remaining sections of trail as well as future upgrades and ongoing maintenance.

Projects planned for the next two to three years include the Freemansburg Towpath, pedestrian crossings and tunnels in Bucks County, and several miles of trail between Allentown and Northampton all of which are gaps identified in the Pennsylvania Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Sponsors: Carbon County, DCNR, PennDOT, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

Submitted by: H. Scott Everett, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor



Groundbreaking on the Black Diamond section of the D & L Trail

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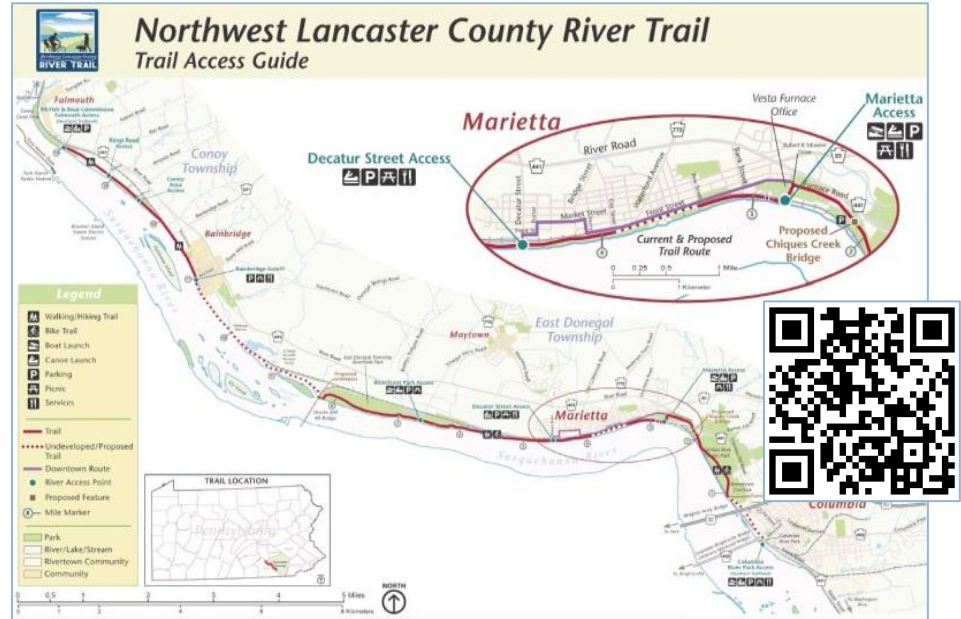


Northwest Lancaster County River Trail

Project Location: Lancaster County, Conoy and East Donegal Townships, parallel to Route 441 and the Susquehanna River.

Description: Building on several previous years' efforts, approximately 1.5 miles of trail were completed between East Donegal's Riverfront Park and Shock's Mill Bridge in Conoy Township in 2012.

Signage was added and a Quick Response (QR) code was created. When scanned with a smartphone the QR code will take the user directly to the trail website. There they can learn about the trail or explore other recreation and cultural activities up and down the corridor.



Map and QR code

Lancaster County planning,
Susquehanna Gateway

Heritage Area, and Lancaster County Solid Waste Authority cooperatively designed, developed and installed mile markers and other destination signage along the trail. In addition, a trail brochure was produced.

When complete, the Northwest Lancaster County River Trail will be a 14-mile multi-use paved trail with an average width of 10 feet. Several bridges need to be completed, including a 330-foot elevated concrete walkway in the Susquehanna River. The walkway is necessary to connect the trail around the Norfolk Southern Shock's Mill Bridge in southern Conoy Township. Each municipality is responsible for their respective section.

Sponsors: Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, Conoy and East Donegal Townships, PennDOT, DCNR, Lancaster County

Submitted by: Lori Yeich, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, and David Wilhelm, Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority

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Lykens Valley Rail Trail

Project Location: Dauphin County

Description: In 2012, Dauphin County developed 4 miles of the new Lykens Valley Rail Trail in Lykens Borough and Wiconisco.

In addition, the county is nearing completion of a section of the trail further to the east through Pennsylvania State Game Lands to the Schuylkill County line. This segment is approximately 3.6 miles and extends from Mountain Street in Wiconisco Township to Race Street in Williams Township.

Sponsors: Dauphin County

Submitted by: Lori Yeich, DCNR



Lykens Valley Rail Trail

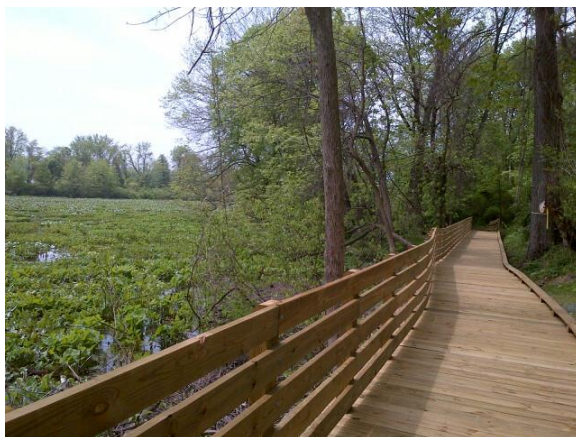


Highspire Reservoir Park Trail

Project Location: Dauphin County, Highspire Borough

Description: This project took a long-abused wetland and, with minimal alterations to the land, introduced a one-mile trail of packed surfaces and boardwalks to raise awareness of the wetland, encourage its preservation, connect low- and middle-income residents to the community, and encourage exercise.

Highspire Reservoir Park has become a mecca for residents - many of whom live along its borders. Adjoining property owners have constructed private paths to access the walkway. A group of walkers has become the “eyes and ears” on the trail, reporting issues to authorities. Garbage is no long dumped into the wetlands.



Sponsors: Dauphin County Parks and Recreation, Highspire Borough

Submitted by: Carl Dickson, Dauphin County Parks and Recreation

Highspire Reservoir Park Trail and adjacent wetlands

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Mason Dixon Greenway South

Project Location: Chester County, London Britain Township

Description: The Mason Dixon Greenway South project is part of long-range plan for White Clay Creek Preserve in Pennsylvania and Delaware. A new parking lot was developed with interpretive gardens and an informational kiosk. A new, 0.3-mile non-motorized paved trail meanders through meadows to a creek area. There is a trail for people in wheelchairs through a wooded area with picnic benches and scenic overlooks. In addition, 0.9 miles of grassed pathways are maintained for passive recreation.

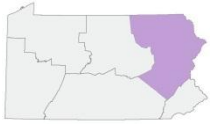
Sponsors: Chester County, London Britain Township

Submitted by: Carolyn Wallis, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation



London Britain Township's new Mason Dixon Greenway South

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Countryside Conservancy Trolley Trail

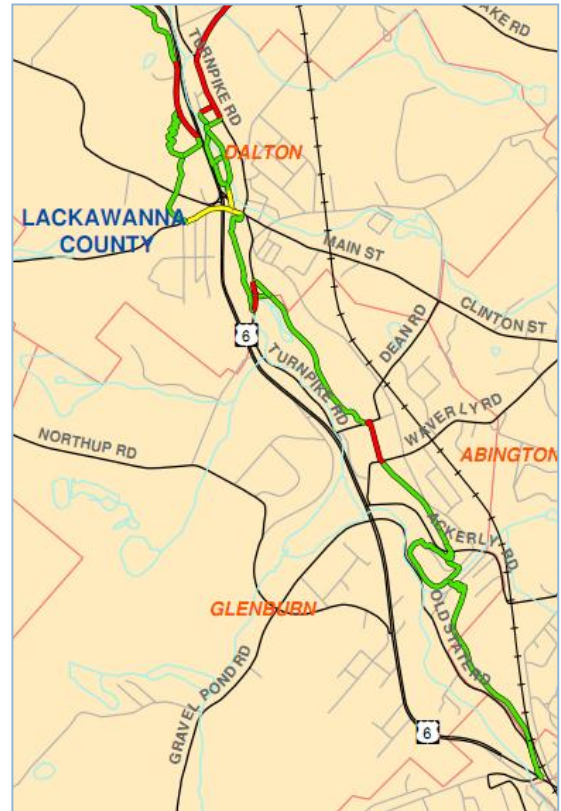
Project Location: Lackawanna County, Glenburn Township

Description: The Countryside Conservancy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting lands and waters in and near the Tunkhannock Creek Watershed, is working to turn a 14-mile section of the Northern Electric Street Railway interurban trolley line between Scranton, Lake Winola and Montrose into a non-motorized recreational trail.

After more than a decade of planning, ground was broken for a 3-mile walking and biking path from Clark Summit to Dalton. The Trolley Trail is being constructed in phases and will eventually connect to Lake Winola in Wyoming County.

Dozens of supporters have turned out to celebrate the project. People who are helping to create the new trail say it will mean a lot to people, young and old throughout the area.

"That they can walk places again, that they don't have to be out on the highways, that they can reconnect with neighborhoods and that they can get exercise," local resident Cheryl Ellsworth said.

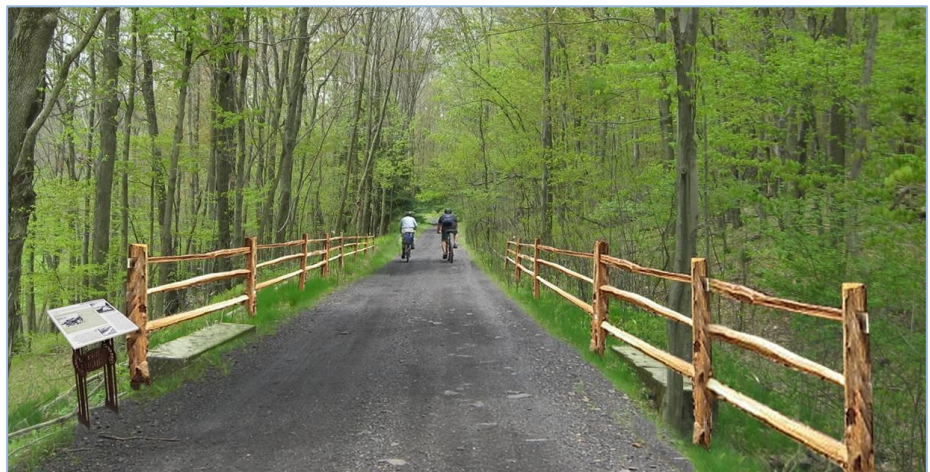


Countryside Conservancy Trolley Trail map

Sponsor: Countryside Conservancy

Submitted by: Eric Deabill,
pahomepage.com

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Rendering of the Countryside Conservancy Trolley Trail



Schuylkill River Trail – Port Richmond

Project Location: Philadelphia, Port Richmond

Description: State and local officials broke ground in 2012 on a new segment of the Delaware River Greenway, a multi-use trail threading through Philadelphia and linking its residents and visitors to the rebounding Delaware River.

“The Port Richmond Trail will offer pedestrians, bicyclists and others safer, more aesthetically pleasing travel and access to the river,” DCNR Deputy Secretary John Giordano said, speaking at the groundbreaking at Pulaski Park along the trail. “DCNR is proud to unite with its partners behind the goal of connecting communities to the nearby Delaware River.”

DCNR consistently has invested in trailhead development and park renovations along the Delaware, including \$200,000 for design of the Port Richmond Trail. This project, featuring new paving and landscaping, stretches more than 1.5 miles.

Sponsors: DCNR, Delaware River City Corporation, East Coast Greenway, City of Philadelphia, William Penn Foundation and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

Submitted by: Carolyn Wallis, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation



Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz speaking at the Port Richmond ground breaking

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Bartram's Mile

Project Location: Philadelphia, 53rd Street & Bartram's Drive

Description: This 0.3 mile trail was completed in 2012. It connects Bartram's Garden facilities to the Schuylkill River and is the first phase of the Bartram's Mile that will be completed over the next few years. The trail will eventually connect Greys Ferry to 56th Street and Lindbergh Boulevard.

This trail was funded by a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant received by the City of Philadelphia with the assistance of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia.



Bartram's Mile (phase 1) with a view of Center City Philadelphia in the distance

Sponsors: City of Philadelphia

Submitted by: Andy Hamilton, East Coast Greenway Alliance

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Cynwyd Heritage Trail

Project Location: Montgomery County, Lower Merion Township

Description: The Cynwyd Heritage Trail transformed an abandoned rail line into a 2.5-mile contemporary linear park that connects the community with its heritage and other natural and recreational amenities. Constructed along the former SEPTA Cynwyd regional rail line, the trail provides connections to neighborhoods, commercial areas, parks, and institutional properties.

The trail is the first phase of a plan aimed to connect the growing regional trail system. A key design feature is that the trail is both a paved main trail and a secondary gravel trail. Environmental

sustainability was an important design consideration. Stormwater is captured and directed into swales and rain gardens.



The Cynwyd Heritage Trail is popular with walkers and bicyclists.

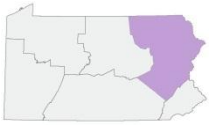
The abandoned Barmouth Station was redeveloped into an attractive trailhead, and the historic Cynwyd Station was preserved. The creation and continued development of the trail has been an extraordinary collaborative effort and is the result of years of planning by the township and many public and private stakeholders. Key to the trail completion was the creation of The Friends of the Cynwyd Trail, a volunteer group that assists the township in advocating and maintaining the trail. The township secured funding for this project from various sources and partnered with numerous organizations, businesses, and community groups.

Thousands of hours of volunteer labor have contributed to the trail's success. This popular trail provides a new public open space, connects the community to its cultural heritage, and is an important future link in the regional trail system.

Sponsors: Lower Merion Township

Submitted by: Christopher Leswing, Lower Merion Township

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Jordan Creek Greenway

Project Location: Lehigh County, Whitehall Township

Description: A joint effort between the County of Lehigh, Township of Whitehall and Wildlands Conservancy resulted in the first 1.27 miles of the 53.3-mile trail system known as the Jordan Creek Greenway. The combination paved and stoned trail is located within the Jordan Creek Parkway, a Lehigh County owned park, and will eventually connect the City of Allentown to the Trexler Nature Preserve and Leaser Lake.

Ten municipalities, the County of Lehigh, Wildlands Conservancy and private landowners continued their collaboration to develop this trail system. The trail will traverse through urban centers, suburban development, and rural farmland and woodlands, mainly along Jordan Creek.



Walkers on the Gallagher Road section of the Jordan Creek Greenway

Sponsors: Lehigh County, Township of Whitehall, and Wildlands Conservancy.

Submitted by: Scott J. Cope, Wildlands Conservancy

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HEALTHY, SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE TRAILS

Pennsylvania trail partners organized and carried out many needed trail maintenance and improvement projects in 2012. The following section describes several of these trail rehabilitation projects conducted over the past year.



Mid State Trail

Project Location: Bedford County, Southampton and Colerain townships, 20 miles southwest of Everett.

Description: The Mid State Trail Association, a volunteer stewardship organization for Pennsylvania's longest footpath, worked with staff of Buchanan State Forest and the Keystone Trails Association's volunteer Trail Crew to complete the relocation of Mid State Trail (MST) south and north of the former fire tower site on Martin Hill. The south side relocation moved the MST's western route, also known as the Great Eastern Trail, off a road and away from power lines in the Martin Hill Wild Area. The north side relocation moved the path off a 45% grade, the steepest incline of the entire MST in Pennsylvania.



The Mid State Trail Relocation at Martin Hill

The relocation moved the MST route, over its highest point, from a monotonous road walk and exceptionally steep power line/fire break route onto a gentler slope. The scenic, single-track path passes two springs, a majestic stand of white pines, deep thickets of laurel and rock oak (evidence of past fires in one of the driest parts of Pennsylvania), all at nearly the highest elevation in Pennsylvania's Ridge and Valley physiographic province. These improvements were consistent with trail design practices commonly used for the Great Eastern Trail, a footpath network from Alabama to New York State.

Sponsor: Mid State Trail Association

Submitted by: Peter Fleszar, Mid State Trail Association

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Appalachian Trail

Project Location: Cumberland County, Middlesex Township.

Description: Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club (CVATC) and its partners completed the renovation of a bridge and boardwalk north of the Scott Farm in Middlesex Twp., Cumberland County, Pa. The bridge is located on the [Appalachian Trail](#) between Bernheisel Bridge Road and Sherwood Drive.

Originally constructed in 2007, the bridge had sustained repeated flood damage. Renovations included raising a walkway to the level of the main bridge, extending the walkway to the north and south, and making repairs to the bridge decking and railings.

The bridge was tested by Hurricane Sandy about a week after the renovations were completed. Floodwaters rose to just a few inches below the renovated bridge. Most of the old bridge would have been submerged and probably damaged.

CVATC credits the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Mid-Atlantic Trail Crew and Club volunteers for their excellent work in carrying out the project. The Mid-Atlantic office of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy provided funding for the materials. For additional information, visit CVATC's website www.cvatclub.org

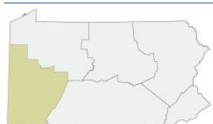


Appalachian Trail boardwalk under construction

Sponsors: Cumberland Valley Appalachian Trail Club, Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Submitted by: Jim Foster, CVATC

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Trail Assistance Mini-Grant Program

Project Location: Fayette and Allegheny counties

Description: The mini-grant program managed by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) was begun as a way to assist trail organizations or municipalities who need to make small repairs and improvements to their trail outside of the regular DCNR grant schedule and well below the higher dollar amounts usually requested on the major grants. The Trail Mini-Grant Program is driven by existing RTC projects, primarily the Greenway Sojourn but also other regional trail networks that are being developed in the state.

In 2012, the following trail mini-grants were awarded, all within the area of the 2012 Greenway Sojourn route:

Great Allegheny Passage: The Yough River Trail Council (YRTC) resurfacing approximately two miles of the limestone tread between mile-markers 85.5 and 87.5 of the Great Allegheny Passage with match money provided by the YRTC.



Indian Creek Hike & Bike Trail Section 7 bridge improvement

Steel Valley Trail: The Steel Valley Trail Council installed 110 new rebounding traffic delineators along a bike lane section of the Great Allegheny Passage in Munhall, Pa. to protect users from vehicular traffic.

Sheepskin Trail: The Dunbar Historical Society in partnership with the Fayette County Career and Technical Institute built two sheltered picnic tables and installed them at the Dunbar trailhead of the Sheepskin Trail. In-kind labor was used to provide the required match.

Indian Creek Hike & Bike Trail: A new deck and railing was built for the Section 7 Bridge of the Indian Creek Valley Hike and Bike Trail with volunteer labor and cash match provided by the Mountain Watershed Association.

Indian Creek Hike & Bike Trail: An engineering firm was hired to provide a required evaluation of the structural capacity for the existing abutments and piers of the Dumbauld Bridge in Springfield Township. A cash match was provided by the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette.

Three Rivers Heritage Trail: Two separate mini-grants were awarded to Friends of the Riverfront for the design and installation of six new map signs and two interpretive panels along the trail. Match funds were provided by Richard King Mellon Foundation and Colcom Foundation.

Sponsor: Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Submitted by: Pat Tomes, RTC

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Keystone Trails Association—Reeds Gap Spur Trail

Project Location: Mifflin and Centre counties, between Reeds Gaps State Park and Poe Paddy State Park

Description: In the southwest corner of Bald Eagle State Forest east of Milroy, the 13-mile Reeds Gap Spur Trail begins in Reeds Gap State Park. It continues northeast along the ridge of Thick Mountain, then drops over the north side of the mountain and passes through the Bear Gap Picnic area. The trail continues up and over Strong Mountain and White Mountain where it skirts the western edge of the White Mountain Wild Area, ending in Poe Paddy State Park.

The trail, which is partly hiking only and partly multi-use, had not been maintained for several years and was essentially abandoned. In 2011 the Keystone Trails Association (KTA) Trail Care Program contacted Bald Eagle State Forest and worked with the DCNR Bureau of Forestry to reopen and blaze the trail. KTA scheduled trail care weekend activities in the fall of 2012 intended for clearing fallen and overgrown brush and repainting blazes. KTA Trail Care is a volunteer program which has worked to build and maintain hiking trails throughout Pennsylvania for over three decades.



Keystone Trails Association Trail Care volunteer

Due to the efforts of KTA volunteers, the Reeds Gap Spur trail is now entirely open and blazed for use connecting two of central Pennsylvania's outstanding state parks.

Sponsors: Keystone Trails Association, DCNR Bureau of Forestry

Submitted by: Edward Lawrence, KTA

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Keystone Trails Association—Trail Care Events

Project Locations: Statewide

Description: One of the most important and rewarding aspects of involvement with KTA is volunteering to help maintain Pennsylvania's extensive system of hiking trails. Each year, on designated weekends between March and November, dedicated trail care volunteers gather, and, equipped with blaze paint, limb loppers, pulaskis and brush cutters, clear and upgrade hiking trail corridors and pathways. Many participants choose to camp on Friday and Saturday evenings and work on Saturdays and Sundays.

In 2012 nineteen Keystone Trail Association trail care events were held with 156 total participants who contributed 3,464 volunteer hours of labor.

Long distance hiking trails that have benefited from KTA's Trail Care program include the Mid State Trail, the Horse Shoe Trail, the Thunder Swamp Trail, the North Country Trail, the Donut Hole Trail, the Chuck Keiper Trail, the Allegheny Front Trail, the Standing Stone Trail, the Tuscarora Trail and the Bear Run Nature Preserve trail system.

State forests and state parks that were enhanced by KTA's Trail Care in 2012 include Bald Eagle, Buchanan, Delaware, Loyalsock, Moshannon, Rothrock, Sprout, Tiadaghton, Tioga, and Tuscarora State Forests and Colonel Denning, Cowans Gap, French Creek; Gifford Pinchot, Greenwood Furnace, Moraine, McConnells Mill, Nockamixon and Penn Roosevelt State Parks.



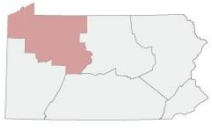
Trail Care volunteers logged 3,464 hours in 2012.

In other more extensive trail care activities, volunteers chose one or more of five trail crew opportunities in June, spending a full week doing trail work. The trail care program is for all ages and abilities, with no prior experience or special skills necessary, and participants are welcome to sign up for the days and times their schedules allow. Most trail care events have camping or cabin facilities available.

Sponsors: Keystone Trails Association, DCNR Bureaus of State Parks and Forestry

Submitted by: Curt Ashenfelter, Keystone Trails Association

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Upper Shenango River Water Trail

Project Location: Mercer and Crawford counties, Jamestown and Greenville, Pa.

Description: The goal of the project was to designate the upper reaches of the Shenango River as an official Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Water Trail. One of the conditions of this designation was the removal of deadfall, debris, and downed trees for 23 river miles.

Prior to this effort, safe paddling of the river was either impossible or severely limited. After the work was completed, paddlers could enjoy its entire length without any obstructions or portages. Three “floats” were organized to introduce the improved water trail to the community; 420 people participated. Others now use the river regularly during the paddling season. A naturalist from Pymatuning State Park led tours on the river, and high school science classes are helping measure changes in water quality and quantity.

Sponsors: Shenango River Watchers, Lions Clubs of Greenville and Jamestown, Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission

Submitted by: Hugh Clark, Shenango River Watchers



Shenango River Water Trail clean-up and restoration

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Laurel Highlands Bicycle Trail Building and Maintenance

Project Location: Cambria, Blair, Bedford, Indiana, Somerset, Westmoreland counties; Highland Park, Johnstown, Blue Knob Resort, Blue Knob State Park, Shawnee State Park, Yellow Creek State Park, and Forbes State Forest

Description: The Laurel Highlands On and Off Road Bicycling Association (LHORBA) is responsible for the building and maintenance of over a dozen trail areas. At Shawnee State Park, club members, REI employees and local residents worked with the state park regional manager to test erosion on existing trails and develop a test trail that could withstand use during severe rain and snow conditions.

At Blue Knob Resort, members compiled 62 hours of volunteer time to clean up after hurricane Sandy and carry out general maintenance on roughly 14 miles of biking, hiking, and cross country ski trails throughout the year. Member volunteers contributed 115 hours at Blue Knob State Park, removing downed trees and other debris from storms in 2012. Highland Park received LHORBA sponsored trail maintenance on over 13 miles of trails with armoring of several wet areas, cutting of tree falls, bench cutting improvements on several trails, and placing much needed signage throughout the park.

At Yellow Creek State Park, LHORBA volunteers worked over 200 hours throughout the summer, constructing a new one-mile beginner bike trail. LHORBA is also working with officials to establish on and off road connections with the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville, Pa.

LHORBA's trail building and maintenance activities have had a significant impact on nearby communities. At Shawnee State Park, club volunteers worked to preserve wide trails for snowmobiles and single track trails for bicyclists, hikers and cross country skiers.



LHORBA members work to improve mountain biking trails.

Blue Knob Resort and Blue Knob State Park now have trails that are regularly enjoyed by visitors. LHORBA members volunteered their time to assist in the park's Beginner Mountain Bike Program. At Highland Park the community utilizes numerous trails for biking, hiking, and nature discovery walks. Yellow Creek State Park trail building efforts and maintenance provides the mountain biking community an opportunity to hold monthly races, beginner programs for both men and women, hiking, and orienteering.

Sponsor: Laurel Highlands On and Off Road Bicycling Association

Submitted by: Cathy A. Vore, Laurel Highlands On and Off Road Bicycling Association

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Lower Trail – Mount Etna Bridge

Project Locations: Blair County, Catharine Township

Description: After more than two decades of use, the decks on the bridges carrying the Lower Trail over the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River were badly deteriorated. Funding from DCNR and PennDOT's federal Transportation Enhancements program made it possible to re-deck the 240-foot bridge with an innovative fiberglass-resin material developed by a local firm for the military. The total cost of the project was \$103,300.

Re-decking of the Mt. Etna Bridge on the Lower Trail eliminated safety hazards caused by deteriorating boards and loose nails and eliminated the need for future routine maintenance.

The Lower Trail is a central link along the Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenway.

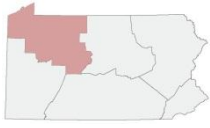
Sponsors: Rails to Trails of Central Pennsylvania, Inc., DCNR

Submitted by: Ethan Imhoff, Rails to Trails of Central Pennsylvania, Inc.



Mount Etna Bridge re-decked with fiberglass-resin planks

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Anders Run Natural Area Trail Improvements

Project Location: Warren County, Brokenstraw Township

Description: During the summer of 2012, in a cooperative inter-agency effort, the Allegheny National Forest offered the services of their Student Conservation Crew (SCC) to the Cornplanter Forest District to complete trail re-routing and improvement work at the Anders Run Natural Area. New segments of the trail were cut along hillsides, using switchbacks to ease the grade and mitigate the trail's original steep design. The SCC also placed gravel on portions of the trail needing additional stability and re-marked the trail system according to the Bureau of Forestry's updated marking guidelines.

The newly improved trail system has received numerous positive reviews on the forest district's trail registry. The trail system is now easier to use and environmentally sustainable.

Sponsor: DCNR Bureau of Forestry,
Cornplanter State Forest

Submitted by: Scott E. Rimpa,
DCNR Bureau of Forestry

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Anders Run Natural Area Trail Improvements



Armstrong Trail - Great American Clean-up

Project Location: Clarion County, Brady Township, Phillipston.

Description: The Armstrong Rails to Trails Association (ARTA) sponsored a day long clean-up of two illegal dumpsites along the Armstrong Trail. The activity took place in the town of Phillipston around mile 66 on May 5, 2012. More than 20 volunteers turned out to fill a roll-off dumpster provided by Waste Management. Several volunteers brought their personal trucks and bulldozers to aid in the effort. In addition to the dumpsite clean-up, litter pick-up was conducted south along the trail to the Brady tunnel at mile 64.9.

Every year, the ARTA participates in the Great American Clean-up and other environmental programs. The trail corridor is owned by the Allegheny Valley Land Trust (AVLT). The ARTA provides volunteer labor to carry out tasks essential to improving and promoting the trail. This project not only enhanced the aesthetics of the trail by removing unsightly trash that had built up over decades but it also brought a great sense of pride to those who participated. This project sets the stage for a larger effort to improve the trail between Rimer and Phillipston.

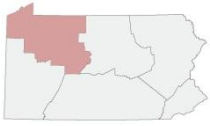
Sponsor: Armstrong Rails to Trails Association

Submitted by: Toni Henry, Armstrong Rails to Trails Association



Volunteers work to maintain the Armstrong Trail.

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Samuel Justus and Allegheny River Trails

Project Location: Venango County, Oil City, Franklin, Cranberry Township

Description: The Samuel Justus Trail (SJT) and the Allegheny River Trail (ART) are the oldest, completed sections of the Erie-to-Pittsburgh Trail. These local trails were showing signs of deterioration. The Allegheny Valley Trails Association, in partnership with Cranberry Township which owns and operates the SJT, rehabilitated 7 miles of trail surface. A request was made to PennDOT District 1-0 for advice. The pavement experts agreed that the useful life of the surface was nearing its end, but there was still a good base. They recommended a topcoat and assisted with planning documents. With local and state grant funding, a new surface was constructed. Allegheny Valley Trails Association (AVTA) plans to continue the process in 2013 for a total of 10 miles of new surface.

These sections of trail will have a lifespan of 10 to 20 years. Trail users have commented on the high quality of the trails, and these sections of trail are often used for community events and fundraisers.

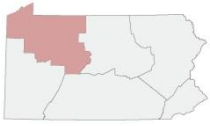
Sponsor: Allegheny Valley Trails Association

Submitted by: Debra Frawley,
Council on Greenways and Trails

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Bicyclists on repaved sections of the Allegheny River Trail



Railroad Bridge Pedestrian Walkway over Oil Creek

Project Location: Venango County, Oil City, between Relief Street and Seneca Street

Description: The city reconnected the trail between the north and south sides of town over Oil Creek. The structural integrity of the walkway on the railroad bridge that crosses Oil Creek had deteriorated and was no longer safe. Repairs were completed and the bridge was opened for use in fall 2012.

This crossing is part of the Erie-to-Pittsburgh Trail and connects the two downtown business districts to the trail. This project prompted the new Main Street Committee to consider requirements for Trail Town designation.

Sponsor: Allegheny Valley Trails Association

Submitted by: Debra Frawley, Council on Greenways and Trails



State and local officials inspect the bridge over Oil Creek.



Snow Shoe Rails to Trails Resurfacing

Project Location: Centre County, Snow Shoe Township, Clarence Road to Gillentown Trailhead

Description: The Snow Shoe Rails to Trails Association (SSRTA) used a DCNR grant to apply a driving surface aggregate to 4 miles of the trail. SSRTA preforms regular maintenance along the trail, especially in eroding areas caused by heavy usage and rainfall.

Non-motorized usage of the trail was enhanced for walking, jogging, bicycling and horseback riding. The aggregate reduced the amount dust and provided a desirable hard packed surface. A local restaurant along the trail has become favorite destination for trail users.

Sponsor: Snow Shoe Rails to Trails Association

Submitted by: Trilby Mayes, Snow Shoe Rails to Trails Association

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Coventry Woods Trail

Project Location: Chester County, North Coventry. The trail is located near St. Peter's Historic Village off Route 23 approximately 8 miles west of Route 100. It is also near French Creek State Park and St. Peter's Road.

Description: As illustrated in the map below, with the trails shown in dotted lines, North Coventry Township has developed approximately 10 miles of hiking trails in and around Coventry Woods Park. The township is currently working on a bridge that is needed to cross Pigeon Creek near Cherry Hill Lane for the Coventry Woods Trail. Boy Scouts implemented a self-guided tour on the Pigeon Creek Trail, highlighting significant environmental and historical points of interest on the trail. In addition, there are plans for directional signage, trail blazing, maintenance, and new trail development. Organization: Scouts of America, North Coventry Parks and Recreation, Natural Lands Trust.



North Coventry Township Hiking Trails

The hiking trails are used regularly by the community for increased exercise, enjoyment of nature, and stress management. When completed, the trails will connect with the [Schuylkill River Trail](#) and [French Creek State Park Trails](#), filling trail gap #15 identified in the Pennsylvania Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Sponsors: Great Valley District, Boy Scouts of America, North Coventry Parks and Recreation, Natural Lands Trust (map credit).

Submitted by: Phil McGrath, Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee, Great Valley District, Boy Scouts of America

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North Coventry's natural wonder



Schuylkill River Trail – Schuylkill River Parks Connector Bridge

Project Location: Philadelphia

Description: Construction was completed in 2012 on a pedestrian bridge that spans the railroad from Schuylkill Banks to Schuylkill River Park. The project included intensive community involvement in the design process. The bridge is a 95-foot long truncated arch truss structure with a 12-foot wide pathway. There are 10-foot wide ADA accessible ramps on the approaches with a total of 3 overlooks. Architectural lighting and enhancements were included in the project.

This project resolves the safety concerns of the City and CSX with respect to providing convenient access to the Schuylkill Banks. The Schuylkill River Parks Connector Bridge received federal

stimulus funding through the Transportation Improvements Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program and a Transportation Enhancement Grant from PennDOT. The connector bridge was completed and opened to the public in October of 2012.

Design of this pedestrian bridge was funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts and the City of Philadelphia, and performed by HNTB Corporation with landscaping designed by Menke and Menke Landscape Architects.

Sponsor: City of Philadelphia

Submitted by: Carolyn Wallis, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation



Connector Bridge over CSX railroad tracks in Philadelphia

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PROMOTING PENNSYLVANIA'S TRAILS

The following section describes activities that drew public attention to Pennsylvania's trails in 2012, appealing to people of all ages and abilities, demonstrating the economic and health benefits of trails, and building local support and capacity.



2012 Greenway Sojourn

Project Location: Washington, D.C. to Pittsburgh

Description: Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's 2012 Greenway Sojourn, June 17-24, returned to two of the most famous long-distance trails—the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) and the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historic Park (C&O Canal towpath).

On this memorable adventure, Sojourners pedaled 335 miles from Washington, D.C., to Pittsburgh, Pa. Beginning in historical Georgetown in our nation's capital, riders followed the C&O Canal towpath through the Potomac River Valley, the pastoral scenery broken only by the lock houses and aqueducts along the route,



Seventeen participants seventy years and older participated in the 2012 Greenway Sojourn.



remarkably well-preserved artifacts of America's transportation history. 240 riders from 30 states completed the 2012 Greenway Sojourn from D.C. to Pittsburgh.

Sponsor: Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Submitted by: Pat Tomes, RTC

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Pennsylvania Water Trails Economic Impact Study

Project Location: Statewide

Description: On behalf of the Pennsylvania Water Trails Partnership, the Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LB & FC) contracted with a consultant to conduct a case study of the economic impact of Pennsylvania's water trails on the state economy. This was a recommendation of the 2009-2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Four of the state's 21 water trails were selected for the study: the Schuylkill, Susquehanna—North Branch, Juniata, and Three Rivers. This study is part of an ongoing effort to promote, maintain, and expand the large network of designated water trails across the state.



Paddlers on the Three Rivers Water Trail

The study was conducted for six weeks from the end of July to September 2012. The results are weighted according to the visitation numbers during the sampling timeframe. The condensed sampling period was taken into consideration in the analysis.

The goals of the study were to:

- Increase knowledge of the economic impact of the Commonwealth's 21 water trails on the state economy.
- Estimate and gain a better understanding of the direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts of expenditures by water trail visitors.

The report provides information to project managers who are implementing water trail projects. Following are some of the highlights:

- Based on the weighted survey results, there were approximately 3,530 visitors to Pennsylvania's four surveyed water trails during the six-week sampling period. Roughly 38 percent of all visitors to the four water trails during the sampling period were first-time visitors.
- The total economic output generated by all visitors to the four surveyed water trails over a six-week period was \$731,000. This is the standard measure for determining the overall economic impact of a recreational resource.
- The total Gross State Product (GSP) generated by all visitors during the six-week period was \$593,000.
- The total employment generated from the weighted impact of the water trail visitors over the six-week period was estimated to be 11 full-time, year-round jobs.

Sponsor: Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Submitted by: Hannah E. Hardy, Pennsylvania Environmental Council

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Kiski-Conemaugh Water Trail E-Interpretation Project

Project Location: Somerset, Cambria, Westmoreland, Indiana, and Armstrong counties, along the 88 miles of the Kiski-Conemaugh Rivers

Description: Allegheny Ridge Corporation carried out the Kiski-Conemaugh Water Trail E-interpretation Project in 2012, as part of its Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenway initiative. The project complements the printed Kiski-Conemaugh Water Trail Map and Guide, using e-marketing and interpretation via mobile devices, social networking and web-based information. The project was funded by the Westmoreland County Tourism Grant Program and through the Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative, through the Lincoln Highway Heritage Corridor of the Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program, under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Outcomes included a smartphone app/mobile website; quick response (QR) codes to access the app and other partner web sites; traditional interpretive panels in river towns; interactive web-based maps; an e-marketing/social media strategy to stimulate target audience traffic to the app, web maps and Facebook page, and to enhance the interrelatedness of communities along the river corridor.

Technology has made it possible to connect aspects of resource-based community development in exciting and direct ways. The app/mobile website enhances the experience of water trail users by highlighting natural features, recreation destinations, heritage sites, points of interest, and businesses and services in river/trail towns.



Paddlers float the Kiski-Conemaugh Rivers Water Trail.

Historic photos of communities along the river were collected and are included in the app. Environmental messages run across the bottom of the screen to remind users of the importance of stewardship and local conservation partnerships. The interactive web maps were designed to assist in trip planning for local residents and visitors. The products developed through this project provided communities along the Kiski-Conemaugh Rivers with marketing and interpretive tools for outdoor recreation enthusiasts and heritage travelers.

Sponsor: Allegheny Ridge Corporation - Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenway

Submitted by: Laura Hawkins, Allegheny Ridge Corporation

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Great Allegheny Passage

Project Location: Allegheny County

Description: Groundbreaking took place on one of the last remaining mile-long gaps in the Great Allegheny Passage, a 141-mile bicycle trail from Pittsburgh to Cumberland, Md.

When completed in 2013, the Great Allegheny Passage will offer an uninterrupted path to Maryland where the trail links up with the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Towpath.

Sandwiched between railroad tracks and Sandcastle Park, this final link culminates years of negotiations, led by Linda McKenna Boxx, president of the Allegheny Trail Alliance.

Former Pittsburgh mayor and bicycling enthusiast Tom Murphy credited tenacity and vision. “Some people just saw an abandoned railroad line, maybe a symbol of the decline of the industrial base. And others saw a huge opportunity,” Murphy says.

Sponsor: Allegheny Trail Alliance

Submitted by: Hannah E. Hardy,
Pennsylvania Environmental Council



Great Allegheny Passage Groundbreaking: (L-R County Councilwoman Danko, Mayor Dindak, County Executive Fitzgerald, Mayor Bodnar, Former Mayor Tom Murphy, Mayor Esper, Council Councilman Macey)

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Mon Valley Bike Tour

Project Location: Allegheny County, Homestead, Munhall, Duquesne, McKeesport.

Description: Rivers of Steel offered a family-friendly bike tour, appropriate for all abilities, covering the industrial heritage of the Mon Valley. Guides explained the history and stories of steel towns along the trail in Homestead, Duquesne, McKeesport, and beyond. Participants learned about immigration to these early steel towns, changes through the 1930s-1950s, the decline of the mills, and present conditions. The tour departed from the Pump House at the Waterfront and covered approximately 12 miles, a 2 - 2.5-hour ride. The Mon Bike Tour attracted locals and visitors to the Mon Valley to learn more about the past and present industrial heritage along the Monongahela River. The Tour began and ended at the 1892 Battle of Homestead site at the Pump House Trail Head on the Great Allegheny Passage.

Sponsor: Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation

Submitted by: Jeff Leber, Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation



A tour guide explains safety procedures on the Mon Valley Bike Tour.

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Trans Allegheny Trails Promotion

Project Location: Huntingdon, Blair, Cambria, Indiana, Armstrong and Westmoreland counties, Altoona to Apollo.

Description: A Trail Operators Group was formed after the 2011 Rails to Trails Conservancy Greenway Bike Sojourn to promote synergy among the trails that were featured in the event. Participating trails include Bell's Gap Trail, Lower Trail, 6 to 10 Trail, Path of the Flood Trail, Staple Bend Tunnel Trail, Jim Mayer Riverwalk, Ghost Town Trail, Hoodlebug Trail, Blairsville Riverfront Trail, West Penn Trail, Westmoreland Heritage Trail, Roaring Run Trail/Kiski River Trail.

The Trail Operators Group developed a plan of action for promoting the trails as a regional trail system, though the trails are not all physically connected yet. In addition to many miles of flatter rail-trails, several trails offer hilly sections to traverse the beautiful central Pennsylvania landscapes. In less than a year, the Trail Operators Group has developed a new name - Trans Allegheny Trails - a logo, and secured grants to develop a website that describes the unique, diverse trail system and provides directions between trails, www.transalleghenytrails.com.

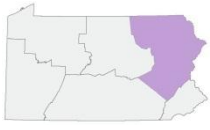
Sponsor: Allegheny Ridge Corporation - Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenway

Submitted by: Laura Hawkins, Allegheny Ridge Corporation



The Trans Allegheny Trails system includes mountain biking trails and rail trails.

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Eastern Pennsylvania Greenways and Trails Summit

Project Location: Center Valley, Pa. The Summit encompassed fourteen counties in eastern Pa.

Description: The Eastern Pennsylvania Greenways & Trails Summit was a two-day regional trails summit that attracted more than 150 trail professionals, trail advocates, trail users, and municipal officials to Desales University in Center Valley, Pa. The summit was organized by the Delaware and Lehigh Trail Alliance, along with a planning committee from fourteen counties across eastern Pennsylvania. The summit featured a keynote address by the Rails to Trails Conservancy's Board Chair Charles Marshall, fifteen breakout sessions on a variety of trail development, management, and promotion topics, and three mobile workshops that highlighted

regional trail projects.



The summit fostered a sense of community amongst members of eastern Pennsylvania's trails advocates and highlighted the extensive trail network that is emerging across the region.

Eastern Pennsylvania Greenways and Trails Summit

Sponsor: D&L Trail Alliance

Submitted by: Silas Chamberlain, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

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Sensible, Courteous, Off-Road Enthusiasts (SCORE)

Project Location: Statewide

Description: The Pennsylvania Off-Highway Vehicle Association (PaOHV) worked to create a traveling classroom and training curriculum that set the stage for the future of ATV safety training in Pennsylvania.

Thanks, in part, to funding received from a DCNR grant, PaOHV expanded its Rules of the Trail program which is a continuation of the nationally recognized Sensible, Courteous, Off-Road Enthusiasts (SCORE) rider training program. The PaOHV worked in coordination with the Pennsylvania Trails Foundation to create the Rules of the Trail program which uses state of the art technology to train motorized users and non-users with the ATV simulator (see picture). The ATV simulator allows participants to experience proper safety techniques necessary to operate an ATV while learning about trail sustainability, environmental stewardship and trail etiquette.



Student uses the ATV simulator. Source: Chris McNeil

The new safety training curriculum is part of a presentation given to attendees of the Rules of the Trail safety training program. PaOHV volunteers anticipate using the ATV simulator and the Rules of the Trail traveling classroom extensively during 2013 and beyond.

Sponsor: Pennsylvania Off-Highway Vehicle Association (PaOHV)

Submitted by: Eric Bruggeman, PaOHV

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Lower Trail Video



Lower Trail video helps promote the trail.

Project Location: Blair and Huntingdon counties

Description: Rails to Trails of Central Pennsylvania, with funding from Explore Altoona, the local destination marketing organization, developed a three minute video of the Lower Trail to be posted on the Explore Altoona, ExploePATrails.com YouTube channel and the Lower Trail web sites.

The [video](#) provides a visual description of the Lower Trail and the outdoor activities enjoyed there. Its presence on various web sites expands the exposure of the Lower Trail and will attract additional visitors to the Huntingdon/Blair County area.

Sponsor: Rails to Trails of Central Pa., Inc.

Submitted by: Ethan Imhoff, Rails to Trails of Central Pa., Inc.



Hollidaysburg YMCA Day Camp Adventure

Project Location: Blair County, Williamsburg

Description: The Allegheny Ridge Corporation, through its Main Line Canal Greenway initiative joined with the Hollidaysburg YMCA and Rails to Trails of Central Pa. to provide a day of cycling on the Lower Trail. Local bike shops and the Blair County Bicycle Club joined in making the experience available to youngsters attending the Y's Summer Day Camp program.

A dozen children and their counselors took part in the late summer ride. All agreed it was a great experience and introduced the campers to a nearby outdoor recreation resource. The sponsors of the event, including the YMCA, are planning to repeat it in 2013.



YMCA summer day campers on the Lower Trail

Sponsor: Allegheny Ridge Corporation

Submitted by: Jane Sheffield, Allegheny Ridge Corporation

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Mainline Canal Greenway GeoTrail

Project Location: Allegheny, Westmoreland, Armstrong, Indiana, Cambria, Blair, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, and Dauphin counties

Description: The Allegheny Ridge Corporation maintains the Main Line Canal GeoTrail, a series of 31 geocaches stretching across 320 miles of the Main Line Canal Greenway. The GeoTrail encourages technology-savvy enthusiasts to experience the outdoors while increasing awareness of the Greenway and focusing on its heritage.

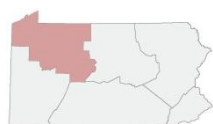
Over a thousand geocachers participated in the GeoTrail during 2012, leaving feedback on-line in log books included with each cache.

Sponsor: Allegheny Ridge Corporation

Submitted by: Jane Sheffield, Allegheny Ridge Corporation



Geocacher locates a Main Line Canal GeoTrail cache.



Kinzua Valley Trail Cache Quest

Project Location: McKean County, Lafayette Township, Westline



Kinzua Valley Trail Cache Quest brochure

Description: The Kinzua Valley Trail Club created the Kinzua Cache Quest in an effort to highlight the trail's natural beauty and diversity. The Kinzua Cache Quest involves having participants find four caches hidden along the trail and record a secret code contained in each cache. The participants then send the codes to the trail club and are rewarded with a "geocoin." The program gives participants an incentive to explore the entire length of the trail and gives them a connection to the trail and the trail organization. You can find more information at <http://kinzuavalleytrail.org/geocache>.

Sponsor: Kinzua Valley Trail Club

Submitted by: Joe Lanich, Kinzua Valley Trail Club

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Juniata River Water Trail Interpretive Panel

Project Location: Perry County, Duncannon

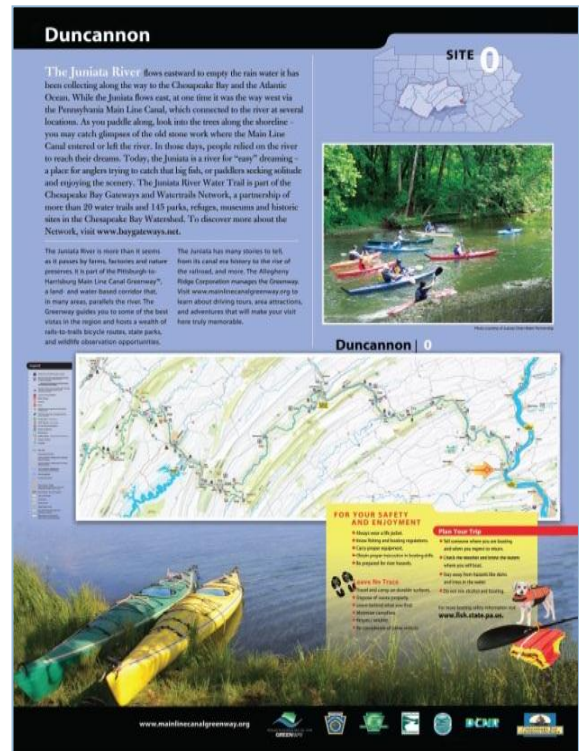
Description: The Allegheny Ridge Corporation funded the design and production of an interpretive panel for Duncannon Borough, matching those previously installed along the Juniata River Water Trail. The panel provides information on the water trail, the Main Line Canal Greenway and offers safety tips for boaters.

The Juniata River Water Trail panel increases the awareness of residents and visitors to Duncannon of the opportunities afforded by the water trail and the Main Line Canal Greenway.

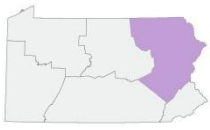
Sponsor: Allegheny Ridge Corporation

Submitted by: Jane Sheffield, Allegheny Ridge Corporation

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Juniata River Water Trail interpretive panel



Heritage Towns and Tours Program

Project Location: Schuylkill County: Schuylkill Haven and Pottsville; Berks County: Hamburg and Exeter; Montgomery County: Pottstown and Norristown; Chester County: East Pikeland & Phoenixville; Philadelphia County: East Falls, Manayunk, Historic Germantown

Description: The Schuylkill River Heritage Area's Heritage Towns & Tours initiative assists communities along the Schuylkill River Trail in attracting trail users to downtowns, restaurants, shops, historic sites and other attractions. The program strives to increase visitors to trail towns and improve the economies of participating municipalities.

Two types of grants are offered through the Heritage Towns and Tours program. Heritage Action Plan grants assist communities in developing a Heritage Action Plan using the Heritage Towns and Tours Toolkit. Grant recipients are awarded \$2,000 to support creation of a plan, and receive up to \$5,000 in consultant support while developing the plan. All recipients who have completed a Heritage Action Plan are then eligible for an implementation grant of up to \$25,000 to implement specific items outlined in the plan.

In addition to the grants, any interested community or organization can purchase a Heritage Towns and Tours Toolkit, available on DVD for \$5 through the Schuylkill River Heritage Area website. The grants are made possible through funding from the William Penn Foundation and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.



Signage installed as part of the Heritage Towns and Tours Program

Since the program was initiated in 2011, the Schuylkill River Heritage Area has provided Heritage Action Plan grants to 12 communities and implementation grants to nine communities located along the Schuylkill River land and water trails. The grants support communities with projects in three areas: improving connections between trails and towns, creating an identity and a sense of place, and marketing themselves as destinations. Examples of projects funded by the grants include the design, fabrication and installation of wayfinding and/or interpretive signs in several communities; striping bike lanes and adding kiosks with information about downtown Pottstown; adding landscaping and designing a mural arts program in Manayunk. More information is available at http://www.schuylkillriver.org/Heritage_Towns_Tours.aspx.

Sponsor: Schuylkill River Heritage Area

Submitted by: Laura Catalano, Schuylkill River Heritage Area

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58th Street Greenway

Project Location: Philadelphia, connecting Historic Bartram's Garden to Cobbs Creek Park

Description: The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) is helping the City of Philadelphia coordinate completion of the 58th Street Greenway. The greenway is a community-designed, multi-use trail project to create a safer, more attractive and economically active corridor for residents and businesses around 58th Street in Southwest Philadelphia. A 1.5-mile trail will connect historic Bartram's Garden to Cobbs Creek Park.

PEC has been protecting and restoring the natural and built environment through innovation education and advocacy for over 40 years. One of PEC's major initiatives has been developing greenway corridors throughout the Philadelphia area. PEC has been leading the development of the 58th Street Greenway since 2009 in order to connect a key link in the Circuit (Greater Philadelphia's Regional Trail Network).

Starting in the fall of 2009, PEC rallied local residents, institutions, business owners, clergy, and school administrators to work with traffic engineers to design the trail through a series of nine community meetings. The final design for the greenway combined a 10 foot wide paved trail with new trees, pedestrian-scale lighting, benches, way-finding signage, traffic calming and innovative bicycle safety measures, and green stormwater management structures.

While the trail was under construction this past year, PEC partnered with Neighborhood Bike Works to help educate neighborhood youth and adults on proper bicycle maintenance and safe riding habits in anticipation of the greenway opening in early 2013.

Children who successfully completed the program got to take home the bike they repaired over the eight week course.



Neighborhood Bike Works opens recreation opportunities for local kids on the 58th Street Greenway.

PEC also partnered with uGO: A Community Wellness Venture to organize an active-living program that brought seventy-five community residents together to stretch, walk, exercise, to Zumba® or do line dancing at Myers Recreation Center. The program encouraged participation from the young and old, with ages ranging from teenager to septuagenarian.

"I feel better walking. I haven't done it for so long I had forgotten how fun it is," said longtime resident Ella Johnson, "I wish it had been going on a long time ago. We need this, us older folks."

Neighborhood organizations are now working on developing future greening projects, bicycling clubs, and better connecting senior citizens and children to the trail.

Sponsor: Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Submitted by: Jeff Knowles, Pennsylvania Environmental Council

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September 11th National Memorial Trail Ride

Project Location: Somerset County

Description: On September 29, 2012, bicyclists rode the 22-mile distance between Flight 93 National Memorial and the Great Allegheny Passage in Rockwood, Pa. This was an exploratory effort to scout out the best possible route for a key segment of the September 11th National Memorial Trail through the Laurel Highlands.

The larger goal of the project is to develop a national multi-state trail connecting the three national memorials honoring those lost on September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and the Flight 93 crash site near Shanksville, Pa.

Sponsor: September 11th National Trail Alliance

Submitted by: David Brickley, September 11th National Trail Alliance



Bicyclists began the 22-mile ride at the Flight 93 National Memorial.

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ExplorePAtrails.com Mobile Website

Project Location: Statewide

Description: Since late in 2009, DCNR, in partnership with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Keystone Trails Association, and more than a thousand trail stewards and volunteers, have powered the one-stop website, www.ExplorePAtrails.com. This website, designed for desktop internet users, provides resources for searching, viewing, mapping, and sharing information about Pennsylvania's extensive network of trails.

But with more than 400 million smart phones sold in 2012, mobile computing has quickly become the norm. More than 13,000 visitors used mobile devices to request information on ExplorePAtrails.com.

In response, DCNR launched the ExplorePAtrails.com Mobile Website in October 2012. This gave users of smart phones and tablets a better way of getting trails information. The new mobile-friendly website allows users to search, map and share trails information while on the go. Trails enthusiasts can now find a trail or connect and share with Facebook friends while on the road or on the trail. All the data and information available on ExplorePAtrails.com for desktop is now available for mobile users.

Join other smart phone and tablet users by visiting ExplorePAtrails.com to view and share maps, photos, tweets, Facebook posts, [calendar events](#) and [YouTube videos](#). To find out more, visit the site or contact NR-ExplorePAtrails@pa.gov.

Sponsor: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

Submitted by: Kent Taylor, DCNR



Visit ExplorePAtrails.com Mobile today!

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LEADING THE WAY

As has been described in this report, much work is being done to develop, maintain and promote trails under the leadership of the Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee. These actions include organizing trail work crews, constructing additional trail miles, improving trail access, leading trail sojourns, building useful trail websites and mobile apps, guiding trail construction and funding, and posting signage for trail users. Trail

projects will continue to build on connections, lessons learned, and ideas shared at summits, workshops, and volunteer trainings in 2013.

In 2012, trail leaders came together to form the Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee, helping to guide the future of trails in the state. Trail experts and decision-makers will continue to support the process, and together will achieve the vision of a trail in every community throughout the Commonwealth. Partner organizations across the state will promote these trails and jointly sponsor training for trail construction and maintenance. The Committee will continue to carry out action items in the Outdoor Recreation Plan, and as one of the committee members stated, "Like the plan itself, the group's success is dependent upon an enthusiasm for the work, active participation and implementation of ideas."

For more information, visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/recreation/trails/index.htm or www.paoutdoorrecplan.com. For free information about trails in Pennsylvania, visit www.ExplorePATrails.com.



Girl Scouts work on trailhead improvement project on the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Trail.

"I feel better walking. I haven't done it for so long. I had forgotten how fun it is. I wish it had been going on a long time ago."

-Ella Johnson, longtime resident of Philadelphia speaking about the 58th Street Greenway

APPENDIX: TRAILS TO WATCH IN 2013

Trail	County(s)
Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area	Northumberland
Bensalem Greenway - Delaware River Trail	Bucks
Chester Valley Trail, Bridgeport	Chester
D & L Trail, Mountain Top to White Haven	Luzerne
Delaware Water Gap to Portland	Monroe and Northampton
Enola Low Grade Trail	Lancaster
Jordan Creek Greenway, South Whitehall and Whitehall townships	Lehigh
Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, Archbald and Jermyn Boroughs	Lackawanna
Lebanon Valley Rail Trail	Lebanon
Mingo Creek Multi-Use Trail	Washington
Musser Gap Greenway	Centre
Northwest Lancaster County River Trail, Shocks Mill Bridge	Lancaster
Oil Creek Trail, Memorial Landing	Venango
Panhandle Trail	Allegheny and Washington
Redbank Valley Rail Trail	Clarion and Armstrong
Rock Run Recreation Area	Cambria and Clearfield
Route 202 Parkway Trail	Bucks
Schuylkill River Trail and Cynwyd Trail, Manayunk Bridge Extension	Philadelphia and Montgomery
Schuylkill River Trail, Phoenixville Borough and East Pikeland Township	Chester
Seaway Trail Extension	Erie
Spring Garden Street Greenway	Philadelphia
West Creek Recreational Trail	Cameron and Elk

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