

*Pennsylvania*  
2018 Annual Trails Report

# Creating Connections



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



PENNSYLVANIA  
LAND TRUST  
ASSOCIATION



# Message from the Chair

As Pennsylvanians, we are fortunate to have access to a world class trail system. From riding your bike on Forbidden Drive (2018 Trail of the Year winner), to exploring the Whiskey Springs Trail System on your ATV, or through-hiking the Loyalsock Trail, Pennsylvania's trails offer many different types of experiences.

Today, Pennsylvania has more than 12,000 miles of trails and each year our trail system continues to grow due in no small part to the work that DCNR does to promote and fund trail projects throughout the Commonwealth. Together, we are making great progress towards ensuring that every Pennsylvanian has access to a trail within 15 minutes of their home.

The Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee is comprised of members that represent different types of trail users. Collectively, we use our varied perspectives to lend guidance to DCNR on emerging trail issues and to ensure that Pennsylvania's trails continue to be inclusive spaces that meet the needs of an ever-changing society.

The Annual Trails Report describes the many trail success stories that occurred in 2018 and highlights our "Trail of the Year" and "River of the Year" winners. Within this report you will find pictures and descriptions of recently completed projects and links to websites where you can find more information about these trails and the organizations that maintain them. What you won't find are the countless hours of planning and hard work that go into completing every mile of trail. Behind each of the projects highlighted in this report is a government agency, non-profit organization, or volunteer group that is committed to improving the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians and ensuring we continue to reap the benefits of a well-developed statewide trail system.

Sincerely,



Henry D. Stroud, 2019 Chair

Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee

*Cover Photo: Walkers enjoy Forbidden Drive, 2018 Trail of the Year.  
(Photo by Harriet Morton)*

## Trails Advisory Committee

*Andrew Hamilton, Chair*

*Jane Sheffield, Vice-Chair*

*Thomas Baxter, Secretary*

*Betsy Aiken (Members at Large)*

*Kyle Buchter (ATV Riding)*

*John Confer (Members at Large)*

*Jae Ellison (Water Trails)*

*Jim Foster (Hiking)*

*Carl Keleman (Members at Large)*

*Larry Knutson (Members at Large)*

*Michael Kuhn (Mountain Biking)*

*Jim Laird (Off-Highway Motorcycling)*

*Lydia Martin (Walking)*

*Chris Patterson (Snowmobiling)*

*Todd Peifer (ATV Riding)*

*William Ritting III (Persons with Disabilities)*

*Henry Stroud (Members at Large)*

*Michael White (Cross-Country Skiing)*

*Gwen Wills (Horseback Riding)*

*Jeremey Wimpey (Members at Large)*

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*Paula DeVore, DCNR*

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*Jacqueline Koons-Felion, PennDOT*

*Diane Kripas, DCNR*

*Alexander MacDonald, DCNR*

*Leslie Sarvis, DCNR*

*Tyler Semder, DCNR*

*Alyssa Wentz, DCNR*



## Contents

- 2** CHAIR MESSAGE
- 4** 2018 HIGHLIGHTS
- 5** STRATEGIC PLANNING
- 6** TRAIL AWARENESS
- 7** WHAT ARE TRAIL GAPS?
- 8** TOP 10 TRAIL GAPS
- 10** TRAIL OF THE YEAR
- 11** RIVER OF THE YEAR
- 12** ADVANCING PA TRAILS

### Northwest Region

- 18** Allegheny River Trail
- 18** Kinzua Valley Trail
- 19** Knox & Kane Rail Trail
- 20** North Country Trail
- 21** Redbank Valley Trail

### Southwest Region

- 22** Armstrong Trail
- 23** Great Allegheny Passage
- 23** Indian Creek Valley Trail
- 24** Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail

- 24** Sheepskin Trail
- 25** Three Rivers Heritage Trail
- 27** Westmoreland Heritage Trail

### Northcentral Region

- 28** Bald Eagle Valley Trail
- 29** Diahoga Trail
- 30** Mid State Trail
- 30** Northcentral PA ATV Initiative
- 31** West Creek Recreational Trail

### Southcentral Region

- 33** Cumberland Valley Rail Trail
- 33** Enola Low Grade Trail
- 34** Ghost Town Trail
- 34** Lebanon Valley Rail Trail
- 35** Northwest Lancaster County River Trail
- 35** Path of the Flood Trail
- 36** York County Heritage Trail

### Northeast Region

- 37** D&H Rail Trail
- 38** D&L Trail
- 39** Jordan Creek Greenway
- 40** Lackawanna River Heritage Trail
- 40** Stroud Greenway
- 42** Susquehanna Warrior Trail
- 43** Trolley Trail

### Southeast Region

- 44** The Circuit Trails
- 46** Neshaminy Creek Greenway
- 46** Schuylkill River Trail
- 48** Trolley Trail (Fairmount Park)

### 49 RESOURCES

### 50 TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE





## 2018 Highlights

### **Accomplishments of DCNR-Funded Projects**

- Completion of the Mansion House Bridge, a top 10 trail gap, to connect 60 miles of the D&L trail.
- Completion of the 517-foot-long Climax Tunnel located on the Redbank Valley Trail. This is one of DCNR's top 10 trail gaps.
- 40 trail grant projects completed totaling \$8.2M in grant funds
- Development of 16.8 miles of non-motorized trail, including 4 bridges
- Rehabilitation of 22.1 miles of non-motorized trails
- Planning for 7.4 miles of new trails
- Acquisition of 200 acres of land for ATV riding
- Grooming for 65 miles of snowmobile trails
- Purchase of 3 pieces of equipment to construct and maintain motorized trails

### **Projects Awarded DCNR Funding:**

- Received 76 trail applications requesting \$16.8M
- Awarded 50 trail projects with \$9M in grant funds that will leverage \$39.2M in local match
- 14 projects will address statewide or regional trail gaps
- 7 projects will plan and design for 32 miles of new trails
- 21 development projects will construct 28.5 miles of new trails, including 18 bridges
- 8 development projects will rehabilitate 19 miles of trails, including 2 bridges and 1 tunnel
- 4 equipment purchase will maintain over 500 miles of motorized trails

### **Additional Trail-Related Funding:**

- Commonwealth Financing Authority, Multimodal Transportation Program (\$1.7M)
- Commonwealth Financing Authority Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (\$2.9M)
- PennDOT, Transportation Alternatives Program (\$33M)

*Above Photo: Volunteers welcome the reopening of Climax Tunnel near Redbank Valley Trails' midpoint. (Photo provided by Allegheny Valley Land Trust)*

*Previous Page Photo: Bicyclists participate in the 2018 sojourn along the Delaware & Lehigh Canal National and State Heritage Corridor. (Photo by Alyssa Wentz)*





## Strategic Planning

For decades, Pennsylvania has been a leader in trail development. Building on this success, DCNR's Pennsylvania Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan, along with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, lays a course of action to develop a statewide greenways and trails network to facilitate recreation, transportation, and healthy lifestyles. Both plans will be evaluated and updated in 2019 to set a vision for trails and outdoor recreation over the next five years.

### **Recommendations of 2014-19 Trail Strategic Plan**

- Close priority gaps in Pennsylvania's statewide land and water trail network to achieve the overall goal of having a trail within 15 minutes of every citizen.
  - Top 10 trail gaps Map: [gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/storymaps/trailgaps/](https://gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/storymaps/trailgaps/)
  - Priority Trail Gaps Map: [maps.dcnr.pa.gov/trailgaps](https://maps.dcnr.pa.gov/trailgaps)
- Coordinate state and federal funding programs to leverage maximum investment in priority trail projects.
- Cultivate diverse partnerships to build capacity to address local and regional trail needs.
- Develop a marketing strategy to promote Pennsylvania as a premier land and water trail destination.
- Connect community assets through accessible trail networks.
- Elevate the priority to maintain and improve existing land and water trails and related infrastructure.
- Promote the economic, environmental, and public health benefits of trails through education and outreach.

*Above Photo: Students, coaches, and parents from Danville and Lycoming County teams at RB winter on first annual PA Teen Trail Corps Day. (Photo by Dave Decoteau)*



# September is Trails Month in PA

During the month of September, 20+ events were held around the state, which included a Bilingual Bird Walk in Tacony Creek Park on the Tacony Creek Trail. Attendees embraced the diversity of their region by experiencing a bilingual bird walk! They had the opportunity to experience the walk in either English or Spanish while they walked through the beautiful neighborhood spotting the singing birds and wildlife along the way.

The 2nd Annual Jakes Witch Project is Northwestern PA's Premiere Mountain Bike Festival was held at the end of September. Attendees enjoyed 20 miles of multi-use trail systems, live music, food and drinks. The festival took place at Kinzua Beach & Jakes Rocks Trails.



Lastly, as part of a recognition of the value of trails, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn visited three trails the northeast region to hear from stakeholders and local officials about their importance to healthy citizens and attracting visitors. “

At these three locations in northeast Pennsylvania we can see the exciting range of trail opportunities

that are examples of what you can find across the state – trail connections between schools and places to enjoy nature; a wide range of trail types including for those who like to ride horses, bikes or ATVs; and locations for events that draw visitors who reenergize towns along the path,” Dunn said.

## Help promote Trails Month every year!

- Host trail events during the month of September!
- Post your events at [events.dcnr.pa.gov](https://events.dcnr.pa.gov).
- Be sure to categorize your events as “ExplorePATrails” and Trails Month”.
- Share Trails Month information on your website, through emails, and on social media.
- Encourage others in the trail community to host and coordinate events during September.
- Promote [ExplorePATrails.org](https://ExplorePATrails.org).



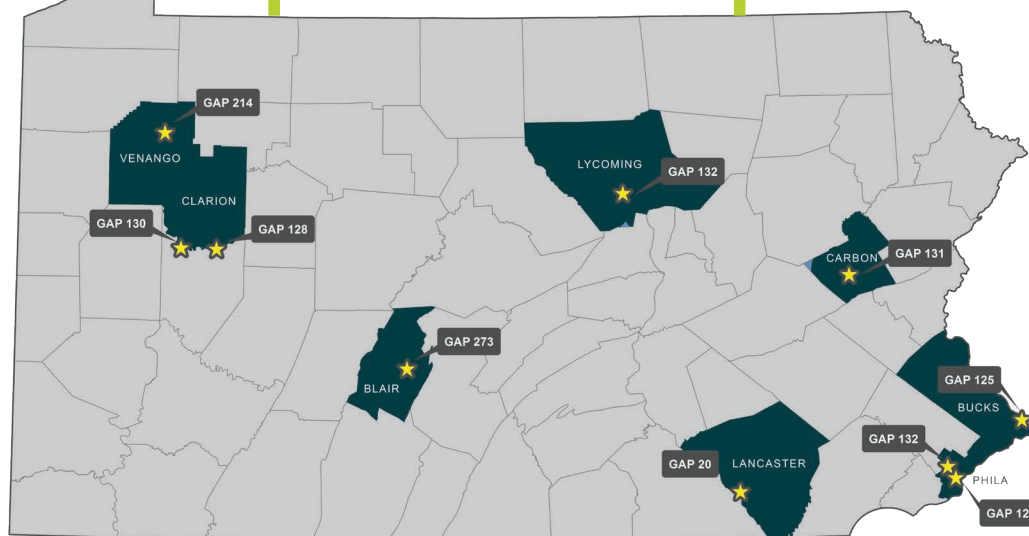
## What are Trail Gaps?

Trail connectivity is an important part of any trail system and identifying Pennsylvania's trail gaps is vital in the development of funding strategies, now and into the future. DCNR works with partners to identify and map trail gaps on Pennsylvania's major and regionally significant greenway and trail systems. Closing these identified trail gaps is a program priority. Trail gaps are identified to give priority to projects that will make connections between Pennsylvania's major and regionally significant greenway and trail systems.

In 2009, the first set of gaps were collected from organizations managing major greenways as well as a few statewide trail partners. There were very little parameters placed on what was considered a gap. Requirements to close the gaps included land acquisition, planning, design, and construction. 107 gaps were identified. In 2010, DCNR allowed groups to submit additional gaps for major greenways and regionally significant greenways. In 2014, DCNR defined its parameters and added 40 more gaps to the list. In the beginning of 2018, a Trail Gaps Task Force was formed to further improve definitions and criteria. This will lead to improved quality data management, delivery on the web, good planning, better funding decisions, good data collection and overall, better decision making.

Trails help promote healthy living, creating opportunities for tourism and economic

## Top 10 Trail Gaps



**Trail Gap Definition:** Trail gaps are existing land-based trails which are recognized as a major or regionally significant greenway trail system that have missing segment(s) of no more than five miles and the trail is identified in an official planning document. Map Link: [gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/storymaps/trailgaps](https://gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/storymaps/trailgaps).

development and enhancing close-to-home recreation. Pennsylvania and its many partners continue to develop an outstanding network of greenways and trails across the Commonwealth, creating an asset highly valued by Pennsylvanians and enhancing the quality of life for all. This network of greenways and trails connect Pennsylvania's open space, natural landscape features, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites, and urban and rural communities. Greenways and trails are one of the Commonwealth's most powerful tools to achieve sustainable growth and livable communities.

The 10 gaps identified on the next two pages represent projects that will connect contiguous open miles of trails, require construction or rehabilitation of major infrastructure, have a large price tag and can be completed by the end of 2019.



# Top 10 Trail Gaps

### **Gap 20: Enola Low Grade Rail-Trail, Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge**

The Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge is a former railroad bridge spanning 1,500 feet across the Conestoga Creek at its confluence with the Susquehanna River. The Safe Harbor Bridge will connect 5.2 miles of trail to the north with a 23-mile section of trail currently under development. The project will be bid by late 2019. Construction will start in early to mid-2020 and will take two construction seasons to complete. The project is expected to be completed in 2022.

### **Gap 125: D&L Trail, Bridge Street Gap**

Currently, the D&L Trail ends on either side of Bridge Street, requiring trail users to turn around since the elevation of Bridge Street is significantly higher than the trail. The plan to close this gap includes construction of ADA accessible ramps on either side of Bridge Street and a signalized road crossing for trail users. Closing this gap will bring the Bristol to Allentown section of the D&L near to completion. The environmental review and bid package are expected to be completed in 2019.

### **Gap 127: East Coast Greenway – Spring Garden Street**

Spring Garden Street will be transformed with the addition of a linear park, urban trail, and separated bikeway that connects the Schuylkill River Trail to the Delaware River Trail which is an important link in the East Coast Greenway. Through 2019, the City will be completing planning and preliminary design of the project.

### **Gap 128: Redbank Valley Trail – Climax Tunnel**

The Climax Tunnel is a 538-foot rail tunnel located near the half-way point of the 51-mile Redbank Valley Trail. The tunnel was unsafe to enter and force trail users to detour around it. In 2018, work to stabilize the entrances was completed. On August 18, 2018, there was a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion and reopening of the Climax Tunnel. The Climax Tunnel now links the entire 51 miles of the Redbank Valley Trail from Brookville to the Allegheny River. It is Pennsylvania's first Top 10 Trail Gap to close.

### **Gap 130: Armstrong Trail – Brady Tunnel**

The Armstrong Trail is a 26-mile multi-use trail that follows the alignment of the former Allegheny Valley Railroad, and is part of the planned 333-mile Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. The tunnel is the main connection of the northern and southern sections of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail and would remove miles of dangerous public road use. In 2019, Allegheny Valley Land Trust will continue to work towards acquiring additional grants for tunnel work.

### **Gap 131: D&L Trail – Jim Thorpe, Mansion House Bridge**

The Delaware and Lehigh Trail is one of Pennsylvania's most complete long-distance trails. One of the most significant and long-standing gaps along this trail is the inability to cross the Lehigh River near Jim Thorpe. The bridge and trail work will create 60 miles of completed trail from Wright Township in Luzerne County to Northampton Borough in Northampton County. On June 11, 2018 the Mansion House Bridge was opened for its dedication ceremony. Although the bridge is complete, the trail on the east bank of the river is unimproved and unsafe. The bridge will reopen when the trail improvements are complete.



# Top 10 Trail Gaps (cont'd)

### **Gap 132: Susquehanna Greenway Riverwalk to Susquehanna State Park**

The Susquehanna Riverwalk and Lycoming Creek Bikeway are two popular trails located in the Williamsport area. Currently, US Highway 15, Interstate 180 and Lycoming Creek present barriers to connecting these two trails with Susquehanna State Park. The connection will require three miles of trail, a bridge, and creative engineering work. The County is currently drafting a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the design work and anticipate advertising it by spring 2019.

### **Gap 214: Oil Creek State Park Gap**

The Oil Creek State Park trail system includes 10 miles of multi-use trails that are part of the planned 333-mile Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. Currently, there's an on-road segment separating the 10 miles of multi-use trail in the park with 35 miles of completed Erie to Pittsburgh Trail to the south. The gap is approximately 4 miles. A comprehensive feasibility study of optional routes through the lower section of Oil Creek State Park has been taking place throughout 2018 and is in the final stages of completion. This study is thoroughly examining several alternatives with associated costs, to provide DCNR with information needed to decide on how best to proceed.

### **Gap 238: Wissahickon Trail Gateway**

The Schuylkill River Trail is a 130-mile multi-use trail that will one day link Pottsville, Schuylkill County with Center City Philadelphia. The Wissahickon Gateway Gap presents one of the most challenging gaps. Multiple conflict points, including an active bus stop and 11 curb cuts, prevent many from continuing the trail. Closing this gap on the Schuylkill River Trail will be the last remaining step in linking 7 miles east to the Schuylkill Banks and the Philadelphia Art Museum and 20 miles west to Phoenixville. SEPTA, the regional public transportation authority, is seeking to make changes to the transportation hub at that location that will improve bus circulation as well as reduce obstacles to trail improvements. Philadelphia Parks and Recreation is working toward acquiring additional land that would allow the preferred route.

### **Gap 273: Lower Trail to Canoe Creek State Park**

The Lower Trail is a 17-mile multi-use trail within the Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenway. The trail is separated from Canoe Creek State Park by the Juniata River and US 22. A connection between the existing trailhead for the Lower Trail (Flowing Spring Station) and the Canoe Creek State Park is currently under construction as part of a larger PennDOT road improvement project. The project will provide a ½ mile of new shared use trail and a trail underpass under US 22. Trail users will connect into the park via a short share the road connection via Beaver Dam Road. The project is scheduled for completion in November 2019.

Learn more about Trail Gaps: [dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/TrailDevelopment/Pages/default.aspx](http://dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/TrailDevelopment/Pages/default.aspx)

Top 10 trail gaps Map: [gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/storymaps/trailgaps](http://gis.dcnr.state.pa.us/storymaps/trailgaps)

# 2018 Pennsylvania Trail of the Year

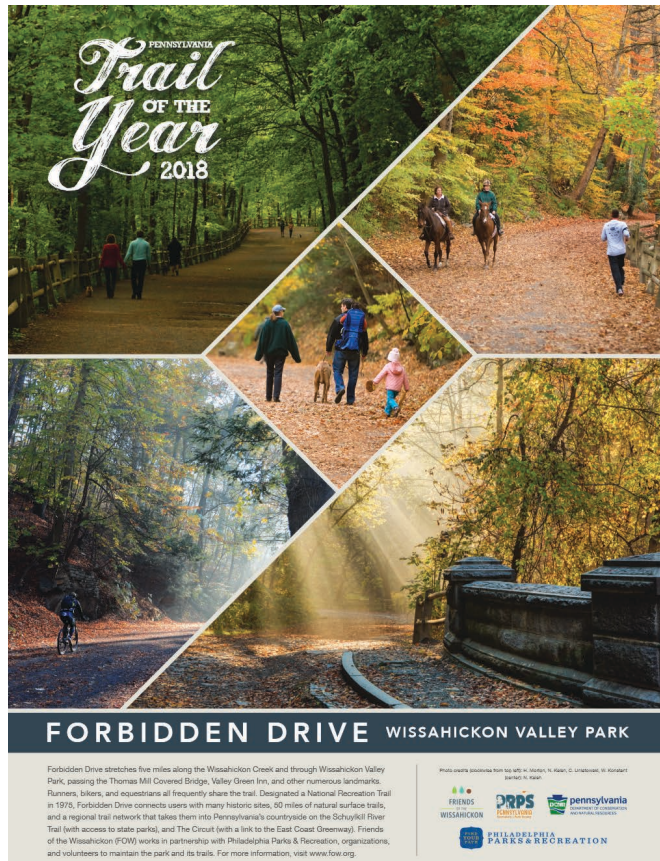
## Forbidden Drive

Forbidden Drive, located in Wissahickon Valley Park, was named 2018 Trail of the Year.

Also known as Wissahickon Valley Park Trail, Forbidden Drive stretches five miles along Wissahickon and through Wissahickon Valley Park, passing the Thomas Mill Covered Bridge, Valley Green Inn and other numerous landmarks. Runners, bikers, and equestrians all frequently share the trail.

The Wissahickon Valley once served as the hunting and fishing grounds of the Leni Lenape. It later became the site of more than 25 mills that were built along its banks in the 1800s. Numerous taverns and roadhouses were built along the Wissahickon Turnpike, now known as Forbidden Drive.


The Wissahickon Valley Park has been celebrated in poetry and in paintings. In 1868, Fairmount Park acquired the 1,800 acres of the Wissahickon Valley to preserve the purity of a then-city water supply. Mills and taverns were demolished, but the dams remain, telling the story of the industry that was once there.



Designated a National Recreation Trail in 1975, Forbidden Trail connects users with a rich history through many historic landmarks, 50 miles of natural surface trails, and a regional trail network that takes them into Pennsylvania's countryside on the Schuylkill River Trail (with access to state parks), and The Circuit (with a link to the East Coast Greenway).

Friends of the Wissahickon (FOW) works in partnership with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, organizations, and volunteers

to maintain the park and its trails. Today, the Wissahickon Valley is viewed as among the most natural places in the City of Philadelphia, and is visited by more than 1 million people each year. FOW partners with 40 or more organizations annually, and over 1,000 volunteers, including 15-20 volunteer groups, contribute over 12,000 hours annually toward maintaining Forbidden Drive and the park.

For more information on Forbidden Drive -- named long ago when it was closed to motor vehicles -- visit [fow.org](http://fow.org). 



# 2018 Pennsylvania River of the Year

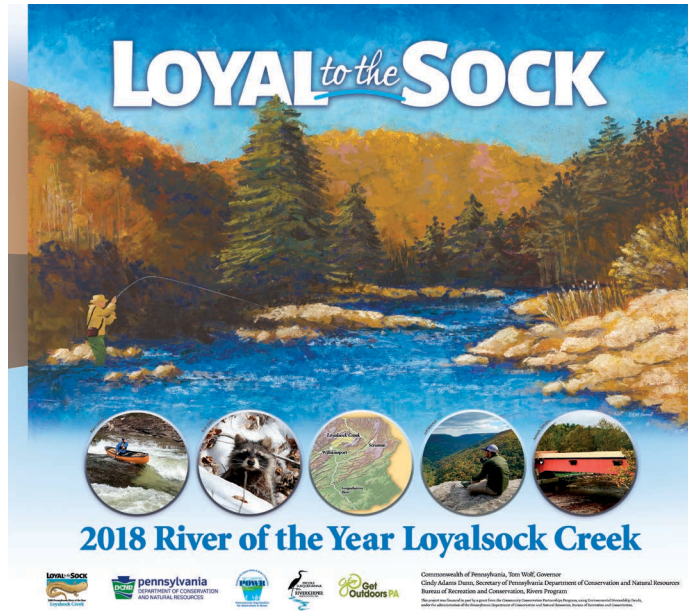
## Loyalsock Creek

Home to legions of paddlers, anglers, and other outdoors enthusiasts in north central Pennsylvania, Loyalsock Creek has been voted the 2018 Pennsylvania River of the Year.

The public was invited to vote online, choosing among five waterways.

Loyalsock Creek flows through Worlds End State Park, a highly popular destination state park encompassing 780 acres, and Loyalsock Trail, a well-treked 59-mile trail providing vistas overlooking the stream below. Extraction of coal, lumber and natural gas all have presented conservation challenges, both past and present, to the waterway. Also, erosion and sedimentation issues continue to be addressed by government and private agencies and organizations.

“The Pennsylvania 2018 River of the Year competition truly showed the depth of the region’s ‘Loyalsock Love,’” said Middle Susquehanna RIVERKEEPER® Association Executive Director Carol Parenzan. “We are grateful to those who voted and encouraged others to vote as well, and we thank our lead



partner -- Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association -- for its unending commitment and unlimited loyalty to this precious waterway, flowing from the Endless Mountain region of Pennsylvania to the West Branch Susquehanna River.”

The association held an ambitious schedule of events and programs that showcased its attributes to the public throughout 2018.

The Pennsylvania Organization for Waterways and Rivers (POWR) administers the River of the Year program with funding from DCNR.

A commemorative River of the Year sojourn was organized, among several events throughout the year to raise awareness of the environmental, recreational, tourism and heritage values of rivers.

Learn more at [middlesusquehannariverkeeper.org](http://middlesusquehannariverkeeper.org). 

## **Awards, Outreach, and Volunteers**

### **Awards**

#### **2018 Greenways Awards**

Last summer, Council on Greenways and Trails (CGT) honored those actively working to enhance or protect greenways and trails in Clarion, Crawford and Venango counties.

The Thomas Allen Greenways Partner of the Year Award was presented to Tom Jennings, recognizing his talent and expertise in organizing the Oil Creek 100 Trail Race held in Oil Creek State Park. The Clarion County Chapter of the North Country Trails was honored with the 2018 Greenways Neighbor of the Year Award for their work developing the new Clarion Loop Trail. The James E. Holden Greenways Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Michael O'Neill for his work on the Rail 66 Country Trail.

Award recipients received framed certificates and native trees planted in their honor. 🌲

#### **Jim Mayer Riverswalk Nationally Recognized**

In June 2018, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke designated 19 new National Recreation Trails, including one Pennsylvania trail, acknowledging the efforts of local communities to provide outdoor recreational opportunities that can be enjoyed by everyone. Jim Mayer Riverswalk Trail in the City of Johnstown joined the 69 PA trails already designated. 🌲

#### **PA Trails Advisory Committee Earns National Recognition**



The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) awarded the PA Trails Advisory Committee the 2018 Achievement Award for Outstanding State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee. The honoree is chosen each year by the National Association of State Park Directors Awards Committee, particularly appropriate because in most states, the agency administers Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds.

The award was one of CRT's 2018 Tom Petri Annual Achievement Awards. The award, named for the former Wisconsin Congressman, recognizes outstanding use of RTP funds. The PA Trails Advisory Committee was honored along with 10 trail projects at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C. in June as part of the celebration of Great Outdoors Month. The awards are part of annual efforts by national trails and outdoor recreation organizations to promote the importance of RTP funding. 🌲



## **2018 Environmental Partnership Awarded to Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor**




The Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partners awarded the 2018 Partnership Award to the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor at its 28th annual dinner and awards ceremony.

“The Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor was chosen for their ability to form strong partnerships with local entities to not only complete the 165-mile D&L Trail, but also to create a regional network of interconnected multi-use trail in the Lehigh Valley,” said David Woodwell of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC). “The D&L has built relationships with organizations in five counties and over fifty municipalities to connect the D&L Trail and preserve the heritage of the region. Their ability to form and maintain unique partnerships

is what allows for increased support for complicated projects.”

“We couldn’t be more pleased,” said Elissa Garofalo, Executive Director of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. “We take great pride in our ability to inspire connections and build unique partnerships. And we were honored to be nominated by a long-time partner we admire, Wildlands Conservancy.”


The Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partnership is comprised of Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, PPL Corporation, Proctor & Gamble Paper Products Company, and Wilkes University. 

## **Trail Group Receives PA State Historic Preservation Office Community Initiative Award**

Redbank Valley Trails Association (RVTA), an all-volunteer organization works to improve and maintain the 51-mile trail, promote preservation and protection of natural resources, and recognize historic sites along the corridor. Since 2010, RVTA has improved nearly all 51 miles and continue to maintain the non-motorized recreational trail, stabilized the Climax Tunnel, improved 17 of 19 bridges, added parking and restroom facilities, signage, and creek access, and installed educational panels about sites of historic significance, many about former natural resource-based industries along the corridor. RVTA received the award in conjunction with Allegheny Valley Land Trust, DCNR, and the Clarion County Commissioners.

## Outreach & Education

### Explore PA Trails Website Reboot

In September 2018, DCNR launched an updated interface of the Explore PA Trails site. The website was created for sharing and exploring Pennsylvania trails information and features an interactive map, driving directions, a forum for updating trails information, and a place where people can upload reviews and share stories about their favorite trails. There is something for everyone in Pennsylvania! Pursue your trail at: [trails.dcnr.pa.gov](https://trails.dcnr.pa.gov). 



### Regional Trail Workshop Grants

In 2018, the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society awarded \$21,084 in grants for workshops and education related to trails and greenways. Below is a list of funded workshops.

#### South Central PA Regional Bike Summit

Bicycle of South Central Pennsylvania

May 22-23 (York)

90 Attendees (\$1,723 grant)

#### Eastern PA Greenways and Trails Summit

Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

October 1-2 (Bethlehem)

163 Attendees (\$5,000 grant)

#### For the Trail, On the Trail Workshop

Pennsylvania Land Trust Association

September 14-15 (Lancaster)

35 Attendees (\$3,500 grant)

#### Ghost Town to Trail Town to Boom Town:

#### Creating Healthy Economies and Communities through Trails

Pennsylvania Environmental Council

September 18 (Ebensburg)

75 Attendees (\$5,000 grant)

#### Trail Tread 101, Tread and Bed

Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation

September 21-22 (Michaux State Forest)

13 Attendees (\$1,283)



## Eastern PA Greenways and Trails Summit

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor led the planning committee for the biennial Eastern PA Greenways and Trails Summit on October 1 and 2, 2018 at ArtsQuest Center (Steelstacks) in Bethlehem, Pa.

Among the mix of 163 participants at the summit were Pennsylvania experts on trails and greenways, municipal officials, planners, and trail users from eastern Pennsylvania. Participants were engaged by keynote speaker Laura Johnston, a conservationist and creative professional from Northern Virginia who thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail and Pacific Crest Trail and currently writes for The Trek, Patagonia, Osprey, and “Dear Nature Podcast.”

Highlights included a talk by Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn, a session on how to incorporate MS-4 requirements and riparian buffers into sustainable trail design and construction, and two outdoor mobile workshops—one to the D&L Trail in North Catasauqua and Jordan Creek Greenway, and another at Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Stroudsburg showcasing the restoration of a former golf course.

The summit was funded in part by the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program funded through the Federal Highway Administration. 📌





## OHV Simulator Training



The Pennsylvania Trails Foundation (PTF) and the Pennsylvania Off-Highway Vehicles Association (PaOHV) continue to support the efforts of all of those involved with the OHV (Off-Highway Vehicle) Simulator Training. The goal is for proper, prudent, OHV operation views presented in the simulator training will foster safe and legitimate OHV recreation. Chapter 77 of the Motor Vehicle Code of Pennsylvania clearly states the requirement of an ATV Safety Certificate for all riders under the age of 16. The PTF Simulator training is a direct outreach to this age group in a controlled, non-threatening environment that allows participants and their parents to the preliminary aspects of a certified OHV Safety Course. The promotion of Sensible, Courteous, Off-Road Enthusiasts is Pennsylvania Trails Foundation primary objective. SCOREing a win for the Off-Road Community.

Continued support from DCNR funding, along with donations from Revzilla, and help from 15 dedicated volunteers allowed the

organization to visit eight counties across the state of Pennsylvania this season. The training locations ranged as far west as Allegheny, east to York, north to Pike, and south to Bedford counties with 755 youth trained. The venues varied from a Boy Scout Jamboree, to a cycle shop open house, to community street fairs, to a riding park open house, and to the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Youth Field Days. All of these events took place within a six-month time-frame and made for another busy summer for the PaOHV volunteers.

In addition to supporting the simulator events, grant funding supports the organization's web presence on Facebook and at *PATrailsFoundation.org*. The website provides the public a view of the simulator training in action without leaving their home. 📺




## Volunteer Power

### **Pennsylvania Interscholastic Cycling League Teams**

The 34 PA Interscholastic Cycling League Teams across the Commonwealth, consisting of a total of 735 student athletes, 450 coaches, and the families of these members, contributed over 4750 hours of trail service to trails all across Pennsylvania, in 2018, only the third year of the league.

Though in its infancy, the PA League has taken a lead role in designing the Teen Trail Corps Program for the National Interscholastic Cycling League. This program will soon roll out to close to 30,000 students and coaches across the United States.

The League is dedicated to instilling a commitment to service through trail stewardship in our participants and teams. Learn more at [PAmtb.org](http://PAmtb.org). 



### **Keystone Trails Association**


The Keystone Trails Association (KTA), a volunteer-powered, public service organization is a federation of membership organizations and individuals dedicated to providing, preserving, protecting and promoting recreational hiking trails and hiking opportunities in Pennsylvania. Each year, KTA organizes trail care weekends across the state in an effort to build and maintain Pennsylvania's trail system.

In 2018, KTA organized 20 separate events to improve and maintain trails. In organizing these events and recruiting volunteers, KTA collaborated with a variety of organizations, including the Sierra Club, York Hiking Club,

Appalachian Mountain Club, and Warrior Trail Association.

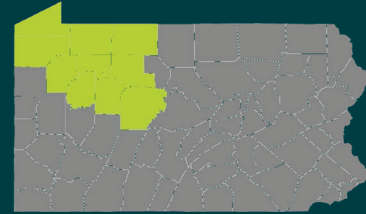
Over 300 volunteers participated in the trail care weekends, donating over 11,000 hours of time and working to improve 312 miles of trail.

Specific work included trail blazing, brush cutting, removing debris and fallen trees, building new trail, constructing new shelters, and addressing drainage issues.

Much of the work was completed on state forest lands. Two projects were conducted on state game lands while one was held in the Allegheny National Forest. 

# Regional Accomplishments

## Northwest Region



### Allegheny River Trail

#### Venango County

Allegheny Valley Trails Association repaired drainage, smoothed and surfaced a portion of trail that detours onto a private drive known as Sunny Slopes along the Allegheny River Trail, just 15 miles south of Franklin. This is a rural, dirt road that is shared by the camps and houses in the area. The connector is about a half mile long with some small hills. The contractor replaced four drainage pipes, cleaned all ditches and added ditches next to one property, put a crown on the trail to help disperse water run-off and widened the trail in several spots. Finally, the trail was surfaced with crushed concrete. Total cost of the project was \$30,343. [↗](#)

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Project Leaders: Allegheny Valley Trails Association

Partners: PNC Charitable Trust

Learn more: [avta-trails.org](http://avta-trails.org)



*Before (top) and after (bottom) photos of trail resurfacing project.*

### Kinzua Valley Trail

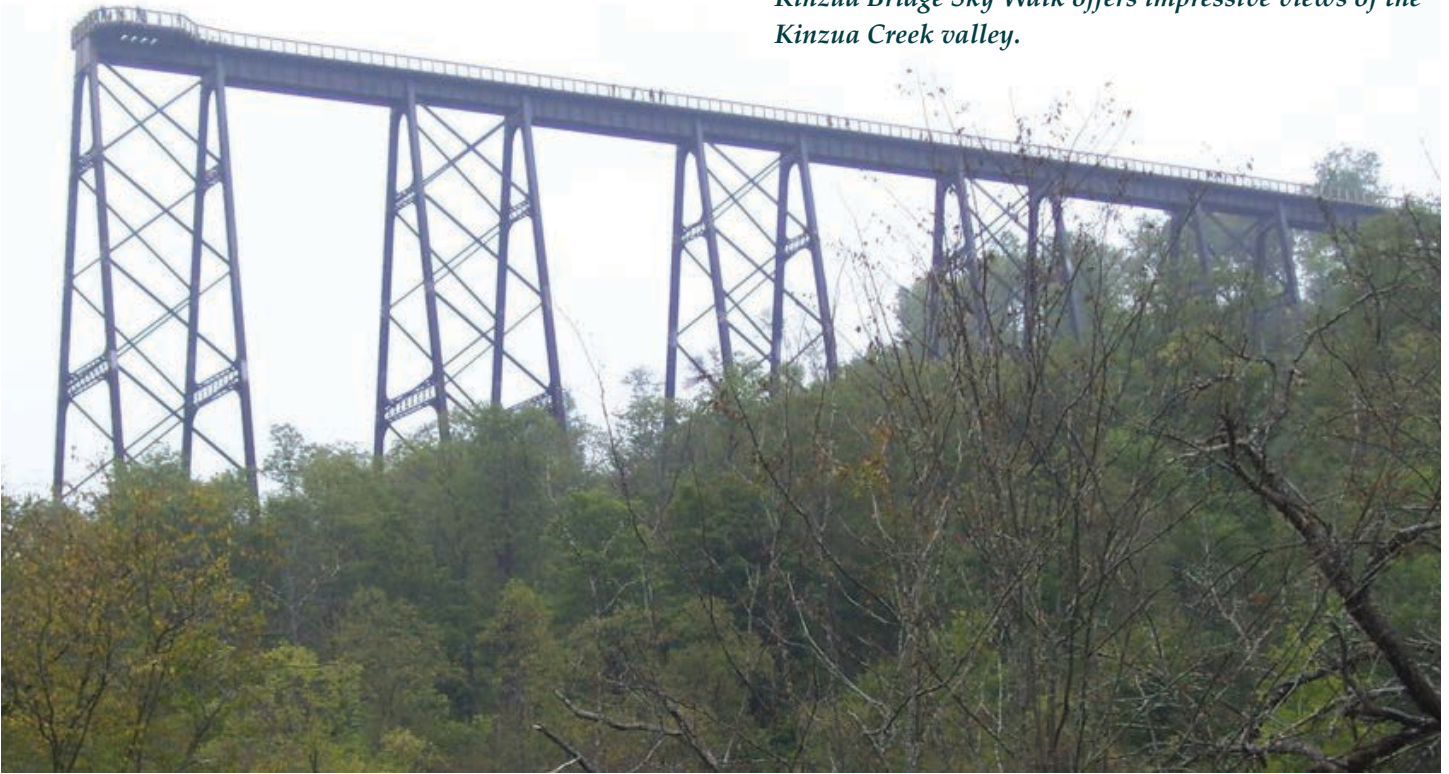
#### McKean County

The Kinzua Valley Trail Club (KVTC) accomplished a great deal in 2018 thanks to the many volunteers, members, sponsors, and dedicated board members who continue to work so hard to make the Kinzua Valley Trail a 1st class destination trail within the PA Wilds.

KVTC invested time and effort in restoring the trail from storm damage. The Club completed the resurfacing of Thundershower West towards Libby Run and constructed a barrier/diversion wall to prevent further erosion west of Markham Run. The Allegheny National Forest (ANF) service installed root balls east of fs321 at the



*Kinzua Bridge Sky Walk offers impressive views of the Kinzua Creek valley.*



crossing of 150 to help mitigate high flows during storm season.

KVTC also collaborated with ANF to rebuild Camp Run Road. This work included new culvert pipes, adding heavy stone in trouble spots, ditching, grading and installing surface material.

The organization's efforts to reach US Route 219 by 2019 became one step closer in reality with a \$137,000 DCNR grant. Construction will begin as soon as contracts are in place and weather permits. This DCNR grant will be used for the section of trail from Camp Run to Olivedale,

a bridge across Kinzua Creek, signage and miscellaneous appurtenances.

In addition, KVTC was awarded over \$22,000 in Act 13 funds to construct a new trailhead at US Route 219 and Westline Road. 🏠

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Project Leaders: Kinzua Valley Trail Club

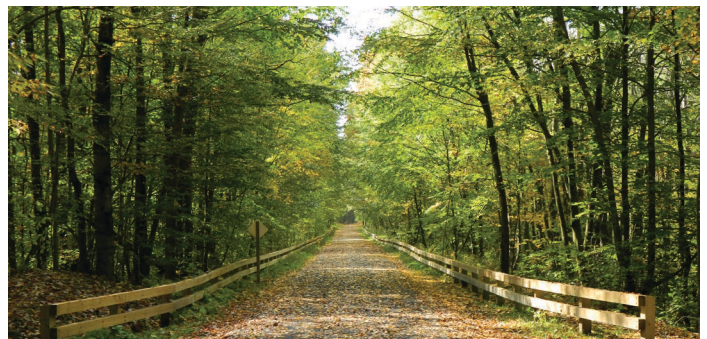
Partners: Allegheny National Forest, Commonwealth Financing Authority, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

Learn more: [kinzuavalleytrail.org](http://kinzuavalleytrail.org)

## **Knox & Kane Rail Trail**

### **McKean County**

The first northern section of the Knox & Kane Rail Trail was opened in 2018. This 3.8-mile trail offers hiking/biking, equestrian, and snowmobiling. A variety of partners worked together on this 72.8-mile rail trail corridor which stretches from the Kinzua Bridge State Park to Northern Clarion Junction. The Knox &



Kane Excursion Train historically traveled this corridor to cross the Kinzua Viaduct, a National Engineering Landmark.

The trail project began when the Knox & Kane corridor was railbanked and local residents recognized an opportunity to develop a major recreational trail. Partners who worked to purchase and then develop this section of trail included county government, local trail partners, with financial support from local foundations and regional organizations as well as state and federal agencies. The Headwaters Charitable Trust took the lead role of overseeing the feasibility study, appraisals, line survey, and purchase of the corridor.

The Headwaters Charitable Trust is now the owner. As trail groups to adopt sections of trail, such as the new Mt. Jewett to Kinzua Bridge Trail Club, agreements are made between the trail club and Headwaters for trail development and maintenance. [↗](#)

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Project Leaders: McKean County Planning, Headwaters Charitable Trust

Partners: Appalachian Regional Commission, ANF Visitor's Bureau, Clarion, Elk and Forest counties, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Mt. Jewett to Kinzua Bridge Trail Club, Kinzua State Park, U.S. Department of Transportation

Learn more: [visitanf.org](http://visitanf.org)

## North Country Trail

### Clarion County

The Clarion Chapter of the North Country Trail Association built a one mile section of new trail on the



western portion of the county's trail, along Game Lands 63 and private property. The new trail eliminates walking on a busy road.

The Clarion Chapter of the North Country Trail Association is responsible for developing, promoting and maintaining the North Country National Scenic Trail's pathway in and around Clarion County. The Chapter's section of the NCT offers 96 miles of adventure into the PA



countryside.

The Eastern portion of Clarion Chapter's section of the North Country National Scenic Trail

starts at the southern border of the Allegheny National Forest and ends near the Clarion County Airport. The western portion ends at the trail's crossing of the Allegheny River in the town of Parker. [↗](#)

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Project Leaders: North Country Trail Association

Learn more: [northcountrytrail.org](http://northcountrytrail.org)



# Redbank Valley Trail

## Armstrong, Clarion and Jefferson counties

A Top 10 Trail Gap was closed by the completion of the Climax Tunnel, a collaborative effort between Allegheny Valley Land Trust and the Redbank Valley Trails Association.

Climax Tunnel near Redbank Valley Trails' midpoint was reopened after implementing five years of grant-funded improvements. This work resulted in the closing of the first of DCNR's top 10 gaps. Steel supports each portal, uniting in the center, a buttress wall, an 80-foot extension to protect from rock falls and a paved interior surface were added to the 1876 vintage 528-foot tunnel, now 608 feet.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) sponsored a grand reopening celebration on August 18, 2018. More than 200 attended. PEC produced a video of the event. Use has increased since its reopening, with B&Bs seeing increased bookings. Preservation PA gave an award for preserving the tunnel and its history.

The northern five miles of the nine-mile Sligo Spur were improved with a Northwest Commission Greenways grant. Parking and a sign will be added in spring 2019 to complete the improvements. The remaining lower three miles were completed in December. The Trail Volunteer Fund provided assistance with bridge decking, railing and approaches installed by volunteers. The Towns & Trails Regional Coalition and RVTA volunteers installed two kiosks with funding sponsored by the Benedum Foundation, PEC and the ACMH Foundation. 📌

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Project Leaders: Allegheny Valley Trails Association, Redbank Valley Trails Association

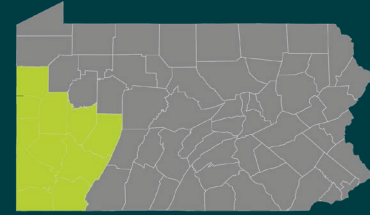
Partners: ACMH Foundation, Benedum Foundation, Commonwealth Financing Authority, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Northwest Commission, PennDOT, Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Learn more: [redbankvalleytrails.org](http://redbankvalleytrails.org)



# Regional Accomplishments

## Southwest Region



### Armstrong Trail

#### Armstrong and Clarion counties

Numerous improvements were made to the Armstrong Trail in 2018 through the leadership and hard work of the Allegheny Valley Trail Association and Armstrong Rails to Trails Association.

Work was completed on the Templeton Connector, which included grading and adding new surface material and a ramp. Volunteers installed new signage and planted native wildflowers.

A new parking area, complete with a accessible parking and bike fix-it-station, was completed at the Manorville Connector as well as additional improvements.


New surface material was installed at the Mosgrove Stormwater Connector along with the new signage and native plantings.

Towns & Trails kiosks have been installed in Kittanning Borough, East Brady Township and Ford City, in a format that can be duplicated throughout the corridor. The kiosks include a trail map, map of the town, historical information and local amenities. A developer installed lighting, native plantings, benches, picnic tables, bike fix-it-station and a Towns & Trails kiosk on the Armstrong Trail in Kittanning Borough.



Funding for the Templeton/Rimer accessibility project was awarded in November 2018. The scope of work includes a northern ramp in Templeton. In Rimer, a new parking lot will be installed with a handicapped accessible parking spot.

Funding for Phase I of the Brady Tunnel design/stabilization project has also been secured. A DCNR grant will fund 100% of the design and engineering. A PennVest Phase II grant, managed by the Armstrong Conservation District and with support from the Clarion Conservation District, will provide matching funds.

Clarion County and Allegheny Valley Land Trust continue to work together to secure additional funding for future phases. 

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Project Leaders: Allegheny Valley Land Trust, Armstrong Rails to Trails Association

Partners: Armstrong County Conservation District, Clarion County, Clarion County Conservation District, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PennVEST

Learn more: [alleghenyvalleylandtrust.org](http://alleghenyvalleylandtrust.org)



## Great Allegheny Passage

### Fayette County

The 150-mile Great Allegheny Passage soars over valleys, snakes around mountains, and skirts alongside three rivers (the Casselman, Youghiogheny, and Monongaleha) on its nearly level path.

In 2018, Yough River Trail Council resurfaced 2.5 miles of trail from mile 96 to 100 of the Great Allegheny Passage Trail in Fayette County. 🏡

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Project Leaders: Yough River Trail Council

Funding Partners: Laurel Highlands Visitor's Bureau

Learn more: [gaptrail.org](http://gaptrail.org)



## Indian Creek Valley Trail

### Fayette and Westmoreland counties

The Indian Creek Valley Trail is located in the heart of the Laurel Highlands region and is managed by the Mountain Watershed Association.

Expansion of the Indian Creek Valley Trail is an initiative of the Mountain Watershed Association, which is dedicated to protecting, preserving and restoring the Indian Creek and greater Youghiogheny River watersheds.

In 2018, the Indian Creek Valley ATV Club created .8 miles of extreme trails to challenge ATV and dirt bike riders. This trail was built using hand tools and manual labor. 🏡

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Project Leaders: Indian Creek Valley ATV Club

Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Yamaha Motor Sports

Learn more: [indiancreekvalleytrail.com](http://indiancreekvalleytrail.com)



## Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail

**Cambria, Fayette, Somerset, and Westmoreland counties**

The Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail is a major segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, a network of trails between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands.



In 2018, a multi-year cooperative effort to complete a restoration of the shelters along the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail was completed. Both the fireboxes and chimneys in 40 Adirondack-style shelters along eight separate shelter areas were restored by a local stone mason.

On National Trails Day, a celebration was held to rededicate the trail and to celebrate the restoration work on the shelters. Speakers included representatives from DCNR, Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation, Friends of Laurel Hill, Ridge Runners, REI

Inc., Western PA Conservancy, and the Laurel Highlands Visitor Bureau. These restoration efforts utilized grants and private funding. No operational dollars were utilized for this effort. These shelters will stand tall for the next several generations of backpackers on Laurel Ridge. 🏠

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Project Leaders: DCNR Bureau of State Parks, Friends of Laurel Hill, Laurel Hill State Park

Partners: Laurel Highlands Ultra, Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, REI, Inc.

Learn more: [laurelhighlands.org](http://laurelhighlands.org)

## Sheepskin Trail

**Fayette County**

The Sheepskin Trail is a 34-mile trail under development in Fayette County, alternating between a rail-trail and a rail-with-trail system following the old Penn Central line. This trail is the missing link to nationally significant trail systems, including the Great Allegheny Passage and the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. In 2018, a section of the trail beginning at the West Virginia/Pennsylvania border was

completed. The 1.7 mile trail connects to a 48-mile West Virginia trail system. 🏠

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Project Leaders: National Road Heritage Corridor, Fayette County

Partners: Commonwealth Financing Authority, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Fayette County, Local Share Account

Learn more: [sheepskintrail.org](http://sheepskintrail.org)



## Three Rivers Heritage Trail

### Allegheny County

The Three Rivers Heritage Trail is a 24-mile multi-use riverfront trail system in the Pittsburgh region with access to city neighborhoods, business districts, and local attractions. In 2018, several communities pitched in to further develop and improve the amenity.

Blawnox Borough had been considering trail connections within their community as an extension of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail for several years. In 2017, the municipality worked with Friends of the Riverfront, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and the River Town Program to determine a safe route through their community. The borough decided on a low-volume and low-speed approach to connect their trail through their community. In June, the trail officially opened. The route is approximately 1 mile in length and has been signed to safely guide trail users. This connection is a part of a larger vision to connect the Three Rivers Heritage Trail to Freeport, as a part of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. Funding for the signage to mark the trail was provided by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council River Town Program, supported through the Benedum Foundation.

Brackenridge Borough is working on connecting the Three Rivers Heritage Trail that is currently in the neighborhood of Tarentum Borough with the developing section in Harrison Township. In 2018 the borough was successful in applying for and receiving an Active Allegheny Grant that would cover the design and preliminary engineering of their trail. The half-mile trail extension will look at improving an existing pathway within the Brackenridge Memorial Park and creating a new riverfront trail along East 1st Ave.



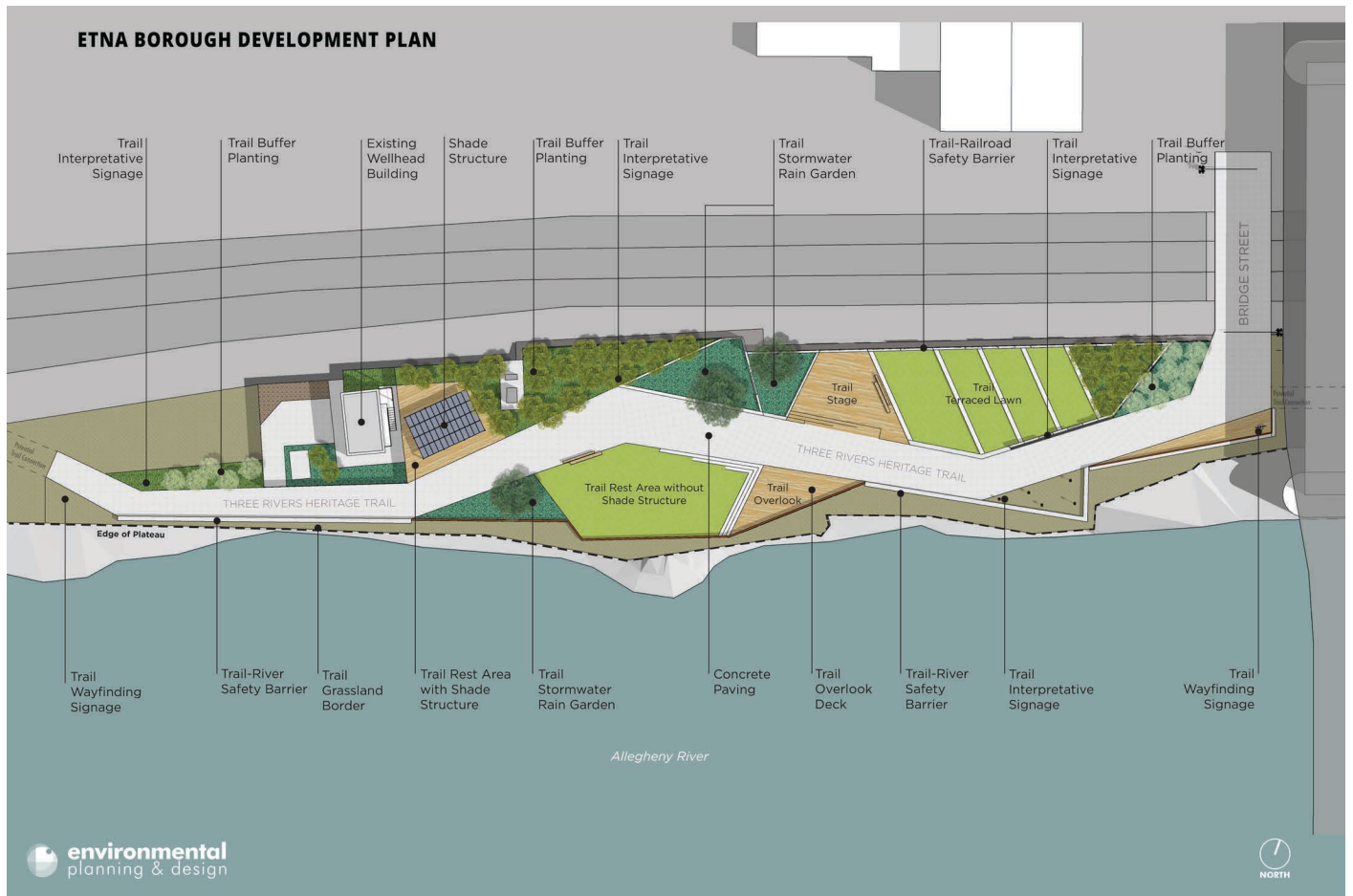
*Trail opening celebrated in Blawnox Borough.*

Etna Borough has been working diligently over the past 5 years to connect the community and resident to the riverfront. The borough has raised over \$2.3 million dollars for the expansion of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail and the creation of the Etna Riverfront Park.

In 2017, Etna was successful in establishing a safe public crossing at Bridge Street, which eliminated the need for a fly over. As a part of the Riverfront Park and Trail Project, funding was received to include rail road crossing improvements for additional safety.

Phase 1 of the project, which will include the construction of the trail, will begin in late spring or early summer of 2019. Phase 2 of the project, which includes the construction of the park, will begin in 2020 with a total completion goal of 2020.

In addition, Etna Borough is entering into a lease agreement with PennDOT for a dedicated parking area. The Borough is also working with the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania on incorporating specific educational materials and aspects for habitat for migratory water fowl in



the area and implementing native plantings.

Etna and Shaler Townships have received funding from Allegheny County to look at the connections between the two communities along Pine Creek, connecting parks and residents to the Etna Riverfront Park. This project is projected to begin in 2019.

In 2018, Springdale Borough was successful in applying for and receiving a grant through Allegheny County's Active Allegheny Program. This funding will be used for design of the extension of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail through the community. The 1.5 mile trail will be a mix of on-road and off-road surfacing. Through this grant, the community is also looking at connections to the Three Rivers Water Trail launch as well as the Rachel Carson Hiking Trail. Once completed, this project will connect three major recreational assets in one community.

Each of these extension projects of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail are a part of a larger effort to connect the trail to Freeport, PA as a part of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail system. 🏡

Project Leaders: Blawnox Borough, Breckenridge Borough, Etna Borough, Friends of the Riverfront, Springdale Borough

Partners: Allegheny County Active Allegheny, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania, Benedum Foundation, Colcom Foundation, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Fugh Foundation, Hillmand Foundation, PENNDOT, Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Learn more: [friendsoftheriverfront.org](http://friendsoftheriverfront.org)



# Westmoreland Heritage Trail

## Allegheny, Indiana and Westmoreland counties



The Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter had a productive 2018 with numerous accomplishments ranging from fundraising milestones to trail repairs to completing major improvements to the trail.

The Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter installed Trail Mile Posts along every quarter mile of the trail from Roberts Trail Access in Murrysville (Mile 16.0) to beyond B-Y Park in Trafford (Mile 22.5).

Six new drainage culverts were installed along the Phase III part of the trail to minimize washout damage from heavy rains.


A bicycle repair tool station was installed at the Parkside Creamery along Forbes Road, with support from the Urban Corporation.

Construction was completed of a new Sarah Steele Trail Access kiosk, which had been destroyed by a car accident. In addition, Boy Scout McCain Varley, successfully completed his Eagle Scout Project, an educational kiosk that displays the history of Murrysville and the Turtle Creek Railroad located at the intersection of Carson and Braun Avenues Trail Access in Murrysville.

The Chapter received approval to construct Phase IV of the trail from the Roberts Trail Access in Murrysville to Lincoln Avenue in Export.

Numerous repairs were made along the trail during a year of unprecedented rains and flooding with the help of local partners, including Penn Township maintenance staff. The Chapter also acquired new equipment to better manage maintenance in the future.

The Chapter joined the Murrysville Garden Club in the dedication of the Blue Star Memorial at the Roberts Trail Access in Murrysville.

The Chapter engaged in various efforts to promote the trail and improve outreach and education along the amenity, greatly expanding their membership and volunteer base along the way. 

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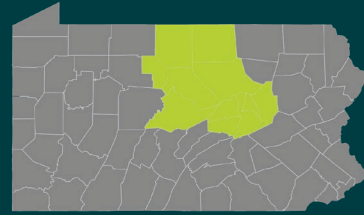
Project Leaders: Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter

Partners: Municipality of Monroeville, Municipality of Murrysville, Penn Township, Pittsburgh Foundation, Trafford Borough, Urban Corporation

Learn more: [westmorelandheritagetrail.com](http://westmorelandheritagetrail.com)

# Regional Accomplishments

## Northcentral Region



### Bald Eagle Valley Trail Clinton County



The new Bald Eagle Valley Trail, a planned 11.5-mile multi-use line, will ultimately run from Castanea to the Jersey Shore Trailhead of the Pine Creek Valley Rail Trail.

2018 was a big year for the Bald Eagle Valley Trail since most importantly it was officially named. In addition, significant funds were acquired to move forward with engineering, construction, and expansion efforts.

The county had negotiated an agreement to purchase an 860-foot abandoned railroad bridge over the Susquehanna River. In 2018, work began, through a \$1 million PennDOT grant, to convert the bridge for bike and pedestrian use. An engineering firm was chosen and PennDOT scoping meetings were held. The county also

received, in 2018, funding through DCNR to support the bridge project.

The county made headway on securing additional access for the trail, including the completion of a PennDOT agreement for two state road crossings and beginning the easement preparation for the entire length of the trail.

The county established a partnership between three host municipalities, the county, and a citizen trail group for the purpose of maintaining the trail over time.

The county, with support from Pine Creek Township, completed 3.4 miles of new trail surface; installed 2000 linear feet of split rail fencing, nine gates, signage, and a trailhead parking lot; and began phase 3, which would add



an additional 2.27 miles of trail through Wayne Township Community Park.

Finally, the county conducted multiple presentations to local and regional citizens clubs and committees to advance support of the trail.



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Project Leaders: Clinton County Planning Department

Partners: Castanea Township, Clinton County, Clinton County Solid Waste Authority, Clinton County Economic Partnership and Tourist Promotion Agency, Clinton County Historical Society, DCED, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Jersey Shore Borough, Lycoming County, Middle Susquehanna Bicycle Pedestrian Planning Committee, PennDOT, Pine Creek Township, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, Wayne Township

Learn more: [clintoncountypa.com](http://clintoncountypa.com)

## **Diahoga Trail**

### **Bradford County**

An initiative six years in the making entered its premier stage of development as crews broke ground on the first phase of the Diahoga Trail in September 2018. This two-mile trail located on the upper North Branch of the Susquehanna River will run from Riverfront Park in Sayre Borough along the banks of the Susquehanna River to the Valley Playground in Athens Borough, connecting two valuable assets and communities together.

The Diahoga trail was born from a public visioning process in the wake of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011. Since then, a local nonprofit, Futurescapes, with support from several community partners have spearheaded the efforts to secure funding to transform an idea into reality. DCNR funding was secured, as well as additional donated in-kind support, allowing



the first phase to be completed in Spring 2019.

When complete, the Diahoga Trail will connect to multiple other trails and area parks, providing a safe means for residents and visitors to travel between communities, view the river, and recreate in preserved public spaces.

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Project Leaders: Futurescapes

Partners: Athens Borough, Bradford County, Bradford County Conservation District, Carantouan Greenway, Civil and Environmental Consultants, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Stiffler McGraw and Associates, Northern Tier Planning & Development Commission, Sayre Borough, Susquehanna Greenways Partnership, Valley Joint Sewer Authority

Learn more: [futurescapes.org](http://futurescapes.org)

## Mid State Trail

### Bedford, Blair, Centre, Clinton, Huntingdon, Lycoming, Mifflin, Tioga, and Union counties

Pennsylvania's longest and wildest footpath inspired massive volunteer efforts in 2018.

The Mid State Trail Association tapped a Patagonia grant to purchase graffiti remover to address well over 100 square meters of tagged rocks in Tioga State Forest. During a Keystone Trails Association Trail Care event, Tom Oliver, DCNR forester, operated a fire pump and brought fire line to support volunteers pressure washing the boulders. 🏠

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Project Leaders: Mid State Trail Association

Funding Partners: DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Patagonia

Learn more: [hike-mst.org](http://hike-mst.org)



## Northcentral PA ATV Initiative

### Cameron, Centre, Clinton, Clearfield, Elk, Lycoming, Potter, and Tioga counties

Four years ago, members of the Central Mountains ATV Association (CMATVA) and the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails met with DCNR, local legislators, tourism committees, business owners, and local residents to present their dream of creating a network of legal riding in Pennsylvania similar to the Hatfield McCoy Trail System in West Virginia.

To date, the CMATVA has helped facilitate 688 miles of PA road access for legal ATV riding. The goal is to create 1,400 miles of legal riding from the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails to the New York state line by 2024.

CMATVA also joined together with Snow Shoe Rails to Trails Association (SSRTA) to cover

the cost of signage for any township that opens their roads. Much of this work has focused on mapping the existing roads and trails that have the potential to connect towns, villages, and landmarks.

Recently, CMATVA worked on mapping out all of the open township roads in Potter County and connecting them to Denton Hill trail system and Cross Fork. 🏠

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Project Leaders: Central Mountains ATV Association, Clinton County Commissioners and Tourism Office, Snow Shoe Rails to Trails, PA Off High Vehicle Association

Learn more: [cmatva.org](http://cmatva.org)



# West Creek Recreational Trail


## Cameron and Elk counties

The West Creek Recreational Trail is a 19-mile trail which travels from Emporium, Cameron County to the City of St. Marys, Elk County. It is a year round multi-use trail open to bicyclists, pedestrians, skiers, and snowmobilers. The trail itself was completed in three phases in 2017 thanks to federal, state, and local government grants, as well as local and regional charitable foundation support.

In 2018, thanks to funding from DCNR, North Central Greenways Program, Stackpole Hall Foundation, and the George A. and Margaret Mee Foundation, the St. Marys Trailhead was completed. The trailhead includes a metal storage



building, two parking levels, ADA parking, and an informational kiosk.

Additional parking is planned to be constructed in 2019. 

Project Leaders: Cameron County, West Creek Recreational Association

Funding Partners: A.J. and Sigismunda Palumbo Charitable Trust, Cameron County Act 13 Funds, DCED, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Dominion Foundation, Emporium Foundation, George A. and Margaret Mee Foundation, City of St. Marys, PennDOT, Seneca Resources, Sinnemahoning Stakeholders Committee, Stackpole Hall Foundation

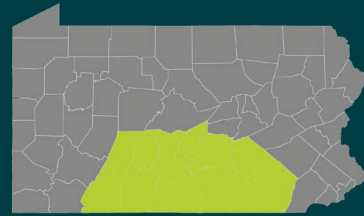
Learn more: [visitpago.com/listings/west-creek-trail](https://visitpago.com/listings/west-creek-trail)





# Regional Accomplishments

## Southcentral Region



### Cumberland Valley Rail Trail Cumberland County



The Cumberland Valley Rail Trail runs between the South Mountain and Blue Mountain ridges on the eastern flank of the Appalachians. Stretching from New York State to Alabama, this lush agricultural valley formed a travel corridor for Native Americans—and for the Scots-Irish immigrants who began settling here in the mid-1700s.

The trail runs 13 miles from downtown Shippensburg, along the edge of Shippensburg University to Carlisle. The trail, which is wheelchair-accessible, has a crushed limestone surface except for the first mile from Shippensburg Station to the Shippensburg

Township Park and 1/2 mile at the Newville trail head which are paved.

In 2018, a two-mile extension of the trail was completed from Centerville Road (RT 233) in Newville to Green Hill Road. Engineering was started for an additional two miles along Greason Road. 🏡

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Project Leaders: Cumberland Valley Rail-Trails Council

Partners: Cumberland Area Economic Development Council, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Partnership for Better Health

Learn more: [cvrtc.org](http://cvrtc.org)



# Enola Low Grade Trail

## Lancaster County



The Enola Low-Grade Trail runs nearly 29 miles in disconnected segments along the Susquehanna River in southeastern Pennsylvania. It follows an abandoned right-of-way of the old Atglen and Susquehanna Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad that linked Atglen with the Harrisburg area.

The trail runs through several townships and each manages its own section, so trail conditions may vary among them. In 2018, Conestoga, Martic, and Providence townships worked together to make several improvements to the trail.

Martic Township installed rideable crushed stone along the trail section that runs through the township in addition to installing a new 40-car parking area near Red Hill Road.

Providence Township completed the construction of a \$1.9 million pedestrian bridge, which now allows trail users to follow the Enola Low Grade Trail across Route 222 into the township. This bridge re-established the connection to the easternmost part of the Enola Low Grade. A

ribbon cutting was held in April.

In September, an additional \$150,000 was awarded to pave approximately one-quarter mile of mile, approaching the bridge. This additional paving was recommended in order to ensure continuous and accessible route from the accessible Fairview Trailhead to the bridge and to the next crossroads leading to Quarryville Borough.

The paved area has become a spot enjoyed by those who may have difficulty walking on the stone surface as well as families with small children in strollers. Organizations have held 5K/10K runs; fun runs, night rides and hikes across the bridge since its opening.

Providence Township plans to hold an Enola Low Grade Trail Trot on April 27, 2019. 📅

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Project Leaders: Conestoga Township, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Martic Township, Providence Township

Learn more: [enolalowgradetrail.com](http://enolalowgradetrail.com)

## Ghost Town Trail

### Cambria County

The Ghost Town Trail is a 44-mile long rail-trail that offers recreation, historical features, and natural beauty along the way.

The trail includes the 32-mile main stem portion that stretches from Blacklick to Ebensburg as well as the 12-mile C&I Extension that includes the four-mile Rexus Branch that stretches from Vintondale to White Mill and the eight-mile Stritty's Way that stretches from the end of the Rexus Branch to Cardiff.

The C&I Extension connects to two points of the Ghost Town Trail. The first 8 miles of the extension was built and opened in the fall of 2017. In 2018, the Cambria County Conservation

and Recreation Authority received funding to add two additional miles. This two-mile section is nearly complete. With only 5.5 miles left to be funded and constructed, the Ghost Town Trail will soon have the first continuous loop of rail trail in eastern United States history. 🏡

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Project Leaders: Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority

Partners: Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC), Cambria County, Community Foundation for the Alleghenies (CFA)

Learn more: [cambriaconservationrecreation.com/ghost-town-trail](http://cambriaconservationrecreation.com/ghost-town-trail)

## Lebanon Valley Rail Trail

### Lebanon County

The Lebanon Valley Rail-Trail provides a much-needed recreational resource suitable for a wide variety of uses which appeal to a broad cross-section of the community. The trail offers recreation for all age groups and abilities. The trail is an important greenway through a rapidly developing section of the county and highlights the region's industrial heritage.

In 2018, Phase 7 was completed which included construction of a shared use path on the rail-bed from 25th Street behind the Lebanon Valley Mall to Long Lane in West Lebanon and North Lebanon Townships, a distance of 1.8 miles. 🏡

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Project Leaders: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Lebanon County, Lebanon Valley Rail-to-Trails, Inc., PennDOT

Learn more: [lvrailtrail.com](http://lvrailtrail.com)



*Completion of Phase 7 along the Lebanon Valley Rail-Trail.*



# Northwest Lancaster County River Trail

## Lancaster County

The Northwest Lancaster County River Trail is a multi-purpose, public recreation trail approximately 14 miles long, spanning five municipalities at the northwestern edge of Lancaster County. Parts of the trail are also owned by Lancaster County and the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority.

2018 saw significant progress on the Northwest Lancaster County River Trail. The Marietta Borough section of the trail was completed, connecting 1.0 mile of the trail section between the Decatur Street trailhead and Chestnut Street in Marietta. This was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 5, 2018.

Progress continued concurrently on several sections of the trail in Conoy Township as work

moved north. Several significant bridges and culvert bridges were constructed across creeks in this section as work continued to prepare the trail base for future paving.

The river towns of Marietta and Bainbridge, in Conoy Township, continued to realize economic revitalization as expanded recreational opportunities brought increased trail visitors to these towns. It is anticipated that completion of the 14 mile Northwest Lancaster County River Trail will occur in late 2019. 

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Project Leaders: Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA)

Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

Learn more: [nwrt.info](http://nwrt.info)


## Path of the Flood Trail

### Cambria County

The Path of the Flood Trail follows the path of the flood waters that seized the city of Johnstown in May 1889. The 11-mile biking/walking trail provides numerous educational markers that tell the story and enable users to visualize the scene within the Little Conemaugh River valley, which remains largely unchanged more than 120 years later. Additionally, this trail is naturally beautiful and challenging with some steeper grades and varying trail surfaces.

In 2018, the Department of Environmental Protection awarded a \$2 million grant to the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority to reclaim the Stineman coal refuse pile. Because the grant required an economic

development component, the Authority facilitated construction of a missing section of the Path of the Flood Trail.

This 1.6 mile extension will soon have the trail starting just 200 yards away from the breast of the dam that broke in 1889, causing the Johnstown Flood. 

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Project Leaders: Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority

Partners: Department of Environmental Protection

Learn more: [cambriaconservationrecreation.com/path-of-the-flood-trail](http://cambriaconservationrecreation.com/path-of-the-flood-trail)

# York County Heritage Trail

## York County



Established in 1992 and covering 176 acres, the York County Heritage Rail Trail is 21 miles long and runs north from the Mason Dixon line just south of the Borough of New Freedom through Glen Rock, Hanover Junction, and Seven Valleys to the City of York.

The Northern Extension project began in July 2018. The \$2.1 million expansion connects John Rudy County Park and the headquarters of the York County Department of Parks and Recreation with the northern terminus of the Heritage Rail Trail in the center of the City of York by following the Codorus Creek and making compatible use of the US Army Corps of Engineers levees. Earlier phases completed this project from John Rudy County Park to RT 30, a distance of approx. 4.3 miles. This phase was to complete the trail from Route 30 into the City of York at N. George Street.

There were several elements to the construction, including construction of a ramp/wall system at the Loucks Mill Road-Route 30 parking lot to

access the south walkway of the Route 30 Bridge; installation of a pre-fabricated bridge to cross Willis Run; and trail construction from Route 30 to N. George Street including modifications to Hamilton Avenue in the City of York.

A grand opening will be held in early spring 2019. 📍

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Project Leaders: York County Rail Trail Authority

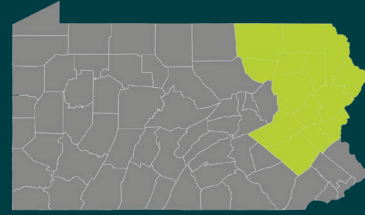
Partners: Borough of North York, Codorus Creek Watershed Endowment, County of York, City of York, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Department of Transportation, Federal Lands Access Program, Manchester Township, PENNVEST, School District of the City of York, Springettsbury Township, York City Sewer Authority, York County Community Foundation, York County Convention & Visitor's Bureau, York County Department of Parks & Recreation, York County Lumber Company, US Army Corps of Engineers

Learn more: [yorkcountytails.org](http://yorkcountytails.org)



# Regional Accomplishments

## Northeast Region



### D&H Rail Trail


Lackwanna, Susquehanna and Wayne counties



The D&H Rail Trail, also known as the Delaware & Hudson Rail Trail, is a 38-mile unpaved pathway that extends from the New York border to the community of Simpson, just north of Carbondale, in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The trail follows an abandoned railroad through thick woods, along the creek and past beautiful waterfalls.

Over 16 miles have been improved with a stone dust surface. In October 2018, 6.5 miles of trail surface improvements were completed from Herrick to Ararat. In the Spring of 2019,

20 additional miles of improved trail will be completed.

The trail is also used by equestrians, runners and hikers. Other sections of the D&H are graded original rail-bed surface usable by mountain bikers and hikers. 

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Project Leaders: Rail-Trail Council, Herrick Township

Partners: DCED, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PennDOT, Rail-Trail Council

Learn more: [neparailtrails.org](http://neparailtrails.org)



## D&L Trail

Bucks, Carbon, Lehigh, Luzerne, and Northampton counties



In the summer of 2018, the Delaware and Lehigh National Corridor had completed the installation of the Mansion House Bridge (above) that spans the Lehigh River at the southern end of Jim Thorpe, a project 25 years in the making. Unfortunately, the unfinished second phase of the project, a retaining wall reinforced ramp taking the trail around the wastewater treatment plant, kept the bridge from opening.

The Lock 1 Retaining Wall and Trail project has been nearly as tricky as the bridge itself. But by partnering with Jim Thorpe Borough, D&L staff has secured all the necessary funds and has awarded the construction contract for the retaining wall project to Don E. Bower from Luzerne County.

Since then, the contractor has been working with Jim Thorpe Borough and D&L staff on

two very important steps. First is approval to cross the railroad tracks. In order for work to happen safely, the construction traffic must be coordinated with the railroad traffic.

If all goes according to plan, construction may wrap up as early as June 2019. Improvements will also include widening the roughly .75 mile narrow section of trail just southward from the Mansion House Bridge. 🏗️

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Project Leaders: Delaware and Lehigh National Corridor

Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Jim Thorpe Borough

Learn more: [delawareandlehigh.org](http://delawareandlehigh.org)

*Above Photo (from left): Elissa Garofalo, Executive Director, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor; Dennis Demara, Wildlands Conservancy; Tom Gerhard, Chairman; Lorne Possinger, DCNR*



## Jordan Creek Greenway

### Lehigh County




The Jordan Creek Greenway & Trail project has been underway for several years with a goal to physically and ecologically connect five existing municipal parks and recreation areas.

Working on this project are the City of Allentown along with the townships of Heidelberg, Lowhill, Lynn, North Whitehall, South Whitehall, Upper Macungie, Washington, Weisenberg and Whitehall.

In 2018, South Whitehall Township began construction on a 1-mile spur that connects Wehr Mill Road to Rt. 309. The project consists of a 10-foot wide paved walking path, 2 wooden boardwalks, hundreds of trees and shrubs, rain gardens and signage. Partners anticipate this stretch being completed by the summer of 2019.

The Whitehall Section of the Jordan Creek Greenway officially opened in October 2018. This 0.9-mile section of trail, which connects Mickley Road to MacArthur Road in Whitehall, includes

a 150 ft pedestrian bridge over the Jordan Creek. This project connects two existing sections of the Jordan Creek Greenway, helping to close a critical gap. Whitehall Township is the landowner and trail manager for this section and was the lead for this project. Lehigh County originally transferred the property to the township to be a part of the Greenway, with grant writing support and project oversight provided by Wildlands Conservancy. 

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**Project Leaders:** Wildlands Conservancy, South Whitehall Township, Whitehall Township

**Partners:** DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Lehigh County, PennDOT, South Whitehall Township, Wildlands Conservancy

**Learn more:** [wildlandspa.org/jordan-creek-greenway-trail-2](http://wildlandspa.org/jordan-creek-greenway-trail-2)



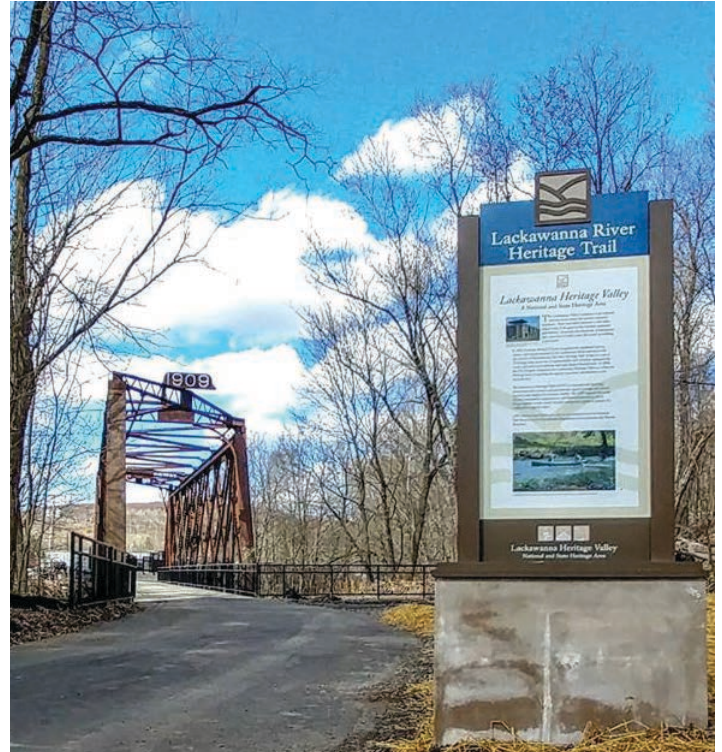
# Lackawanna River Heritage Trail

## Lackawanna County

This storied route stretches more than 70 miles, passing through the heart of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area. The Valley is dotted with vestiges of a great industrial past, authentic historic sites, beautiful architecture, notable educational institutions and a special sense of community.

In 2018, the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA) completed a new section of the trail in Carbondale, including restoring a century-old railroad bridge.

The LHVA also secured \$1 million that will be used to build a bridge connecting the trail to the Steamtown National Historic Site and \$200,000 to connect the trail to Dickson City. 🏗️



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Project Leaders: Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority

Partners: DCED, City of Carbondale, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Lackawanna River Conservation Association, Rutledge Excavating, UGI

Learn more: [lhva.org](http://lhva.org)

*Above Photos: Signage helps convey the trail's story.*

*Bottom Photo: A unique feature along the trail is stylistic fencing designed to hide a nearby junkyard.*



# Stroud Greenway

## Monroe County

The Stroud Greenway is a linear corridor of open space, trails, parks, communities, and recreation along the Brodhead, Pocono, and McMichaels Creeks. It links the Stroud Region's municipalities of East Stroudsburg and Stroudsburg Boroughs and Stroud Township.

It is a network of trails connecting parks, open

space, and waterways including the Flagler Run and Zacharias Run tributaries. The greenway serves as a conservation and recreation corridor in the Brodhead Creek Watershed offering year-round opportunities for hiking, biking, running, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, nature-viewing, fishing, kayaking, canoing, and bird watching.





*The Pocono Creek Pedestrian Bridge completes an important trail gap.*

In 2018, the Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission received a DCNR grant to complete the Stroud Greenway Trail Gap Analysis. The trail gap analysis compiles data from multiple existing greenway and trail plans and identifies gaps in the trail right-of-way for desired connections in the Stroud Greenway. A final report will be prepared of the trail gaps, implementation strategy, and include preliminary concept designs and construction costs of three priority sections.

The construction of the Pocono Creek Pedestrian Bridge completes a trail gap that provides a safe route to school and activities from the neighborhood. The bridge serves as a catalyst to prioritize trail gaps and implementation of future trail connections as part of the Stroud Greenway to connect Stroudsburg Borough and Stroud Township. The pre-fabricated bridge spans 120' long and 10' wide and is made of concrete

decking and a weathered steel finish. A 10' wide paved trail connects the school district complex access road to the bridge.

SROSRC hosted a ribbon cutting and bridge dedication in September 2018 with over 40 participants. The commission was honored to have DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn kick off Pennsylvania's Indian Creek Valley Trail Trails Month.

This project is a true testament of collaboration, partnership, and persistence. 🏡

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**Project Leaders:** Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission and Stroud Township

**Partners:** Commonwealth Financing Authority, DCED, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Hanover Engineering, Leeward Construction, PennDOT, Stroudsburg Area School District, Stroudsburg Borough

Learn more: [srosrc.org](https://srosrc.org)



# Susquehanna Warrior Trail

## Luzerne County

The Susquehanna Warrior Trail is nestled in the Susquehanna River Valley, lush with green meadows and surrounding mountain peaks.



gaps, the SWTC established a volunteer grant writing team to work towards procuring necessary funding.

When completed, the Susquehanna

The trail has successfully re-purposed a formerly inaccessible natural area on the bed of a former railroad in Luzerne County into a 12.5 mile hiking and biking trail along the Susquehanna River. It provides hikers, bikers, and cross-country skiers a safe and scenic outlet for healthy exercise.

Most of the trail runs from north of Berwick to Nanticoke between US Route 11 and the Susquehanna River on the corridor of the old Delaware, Lehigh and Western railroad beds.

The Susquehanna Warrior Trail Council (SWTC) executed two notable trail improvement projects in 2018. An Eagle Scout project established a much needed parking lot at the Salem Township boat launch trail head. The council also added PennDOT approved signage along US Route 11 in order to direct motorists to each of the trail heads.

In an effort to close the trail's two remaining

Warrior Trail will extend 16 miles from the Riverlands Park in Salem Township to the levee trail system in Plymouth Borough. Eventually the trail will connect users to various other trails via the trail system in Wilkes-Barre.

Each spring the SWTC hosts an annual 5K Race and Fun Walk in Shickshinny as an annual fundraiser for trail maintenance and operating expenses. 2018 marked the 10th anniversary of the competitive race, which welcomed 320 participants. 🏆

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Project Leaders: Susquehanna River Trail Council

Partners: Eagle Scouts

Learn more: [susquehannawarriortrail.org](https://susquehannawarriortrail.org)



# Trolley Trail

## Lackawanna and Wyoming counties



The Trolley Trail uses a former interurban line to link several communities north of Scranton. Currently, the trail comprises two disconnected sections that total 4.7 miles, although Countryside Conservancy is actively working to extend the trail in its mission to preserve distinctive natural features and create a recreational trail.

The trail uses the right-of-way of the former Scranton, Montrose, and Binghamton Railroad, also known as the Northern Electric trolley line, which carried passengers between Scranton and Dalton, and later to Montrose, from 1907 to 1932. A spur line from Clarks Summit ran west to Lake Winola, where the railroad company built a dance pavilion and amusement park that subsequently closed.

2018 saw intense investigative and legal work in order to determine and obtain ownership at the

site of the original Trolley Trestle off of Cherry Street straddling LaPlume Township and Dalton Borough, Lackawanna County. It is anticipated that construction will begin on Phase 3 of the Trolley Trail in the first quarter of 2019.

Countryside also selected Barry Isett & Associates to conduct a Feasibility Study on connecting the new Phase 3 back to the existing Phase 1 Trail in Dalton, Lackawanna County. The study is currently underway with anticipated completion in early 2019. 🏠

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Project Leaders: Countryside Conservancy

Partners: Cabot Oil & Gas, Commonwealth Financing Authority, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PennDOT

Learn more: [countrysideconservancy.org/trolley-trail](http://countrysideconservancy.org/trolley-trail)

# Regional Accomplishments

## Southeast Region



### The Circuit Trails

#### **Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties**

The Circuit Trails, a regional network of hundreds of miles of multi-use trails is intended to connect communities, natural resources, and destinations throughout Greater Philadelphia. With over 340 miles complete, the planned 800+ mile network is roughly 40% built.

The expansion of The Circuit Trails continued to advance in 2018. In Pennsylvania, about 1.6 miles were completed. Trail sponsors were awarded over \$18 million, including federal, state, and private foundation funding, for planning, design, and construction of the trail network.

Major advancements in 2018 included the opening of an extension of the Schuylkill River Trail; completion of the Tacony Creek Trail Roosevelt Boulevard Underpass in Philadelphia; and the completion and opening of about a mile of the Darby Creek Trail in Delaware County.

A further extension of the Schuylkill River Trail, the Christian to Crescent segment, which will involve an bridge-like structure along the Schuylkill River took a major step forward with an award of a \$12 million U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER grant.

Work also got underway on two gaps in the D&L Canal Trail with completion expected in 2019. With these completions, the East Coast Greenway can finally occupy its intended off-road align-

ment in large portion of Bucks County.

Trail segments completed in 2018:

- Darby Creek Trail – Kent Park to Swedish Cabin (1 mile)
- Schuylkill River Trail – South-Christain Segment (0.3 miles)
- Tacony Creek Trail Roosevelt Boulevard Underpass Trail (0.3 miles)

Circuit Trails Funded in 2018

- Cross County Trail – Flourtown Road to Stenton Avenue (\$200,000 DCNR)
- Cross County Trail – Fort Washington Segment (\$150,000 CFA)
- East Coast Greenway – Station Avenue to Gravel Pike (\$60,000 CZM)
- Octoraro Trail – US 202 to Temple Road (\$1,163,000 U.S. DOT)
- Manayunk Trail Gateway Enhancements (\$30,000 DVRPC)
- Parkside Cynwyd Trail Extension (\$534,000 U.S. DOT)
- Pennsy Trail – Manoa Road to West Chester Pike (\$1,163,000 U.S. DOT)
- Pennypack Trail – State and Rhawn (\$60,000 DVRPC)





- Schuylkill River Trail – Christian to Crescent Segment (\$12,000,000 TIGER, \$500,000 DCNR, and \$50,000 CZM)
- US 202 Parkway Trail – Aquetong Park Segment (\$1,000,000 U.S. DOT)
- Radnor Trail Extension (\$50,000 CFA)
- Schuylkill Banks Bulkhead Restoration (\$75,000 CFA)
- Schuylkill River Trail – Kelly Drive Segment (\$200,000 DCNR)
- Schuylkill River Trail – Manayunk Segment (\$300,000 DCNR)
- Schuylkill River Trail – Wissahickon Gateway (\$200,000 DCNR, \$100,000 DVRPC)
- Schuylkill River Trail Gap Improvement Project – Reading Segment (\$125,000 CFA)
- Tookany Creek Trail – Harrison Avenue to Tookany Creek Parkway (\$150,000 DCNR)

The Circuit Trails Coalition continued its advocacy of advancing development of the trail as

well. As of December 2018, 90 municipalities and eight county governments have adopted resolutions supporting the goal of building 500 miles by 2025, a short term target intended to advance the region towards eventual completion of the network. The vast support for the Circuit Trail underlines the regional nature of this effort, one that involves government agencies, non-profits, and private foundations, key among them the William Penn Foundation. 🏡

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**Project Leaders:** The Circuit Coalition is a collaboration of non-profit organizations, foundations, and agencies working to advance the completion this network of trails in the Greater Philadelphia region.

**Partners:** Coastal Zone Management (CZM), Commonwealth Financing Authority, U.S. Department of Transportation, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, William Penn Foundation

Learn more: [circuittrails.org](http://circuittrails.org)



## Neshaminy Creek Greenway

### Bucks County

The Neshaminy Creek Greenway, when complete, will span 33 miles, reaching from Peace Valley Park near Chalfont to Neshaminy State Park and the East Coast Greenway in Bensalem. Currently, two segments are open. The paved trail begins at Upper State Road in New Britain Borough and heads southeast, paralleling a wooded creek, to connect to the 202 Parkway Trail. Farther south the network of existing trails in Tyler State Park will become part of the greenway.

In 2018, work continued on the Neshaminy Connector Trail project, which includes 0.75 mile of new shared use path to connect the SEPTA New Britain Regional Rail Station to the Neshaminy Creek Greenway.

A short section of the Greenway in New Britain and Chalfont is also currently under design. This trail serves as a neighborhood spur trail

connecting several residential neighborhoods to the main stem of the Neshaminy Creek Greenway, the SEPTA Regional Rail Station as well as the 202 Parkway Trail.

Best practices include the use of “root guard” along the edge of the trail to prevent buckling of the trail pavement by several large trees adjacent to the shared use path, custom wayfinding signage to trail user destinations as well as the use of shared lane markings (aka “sharrows”) on an infrequently used roadway through a cemetery as part of the trail network. 📍

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Project Leaders: Doylestown Township

Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, New Britain Borough

Learn more: [circuittrails.org/find-trails/neshaminy-creek-greenway-extension](https://circuittrails.org/find-trails/neshaminy-creek-greenway-extension)

## Schuylkill River Trail

### Montgomery and Philadelphia counties

The Schuylkill River Trail is a multi-use trail in southeastern Pennsylvania with a projected length of almost 130 miles. There are currently over 60 miles complete in sections, including a 30-plus mile stretch from Philadelphia to Parkerford.

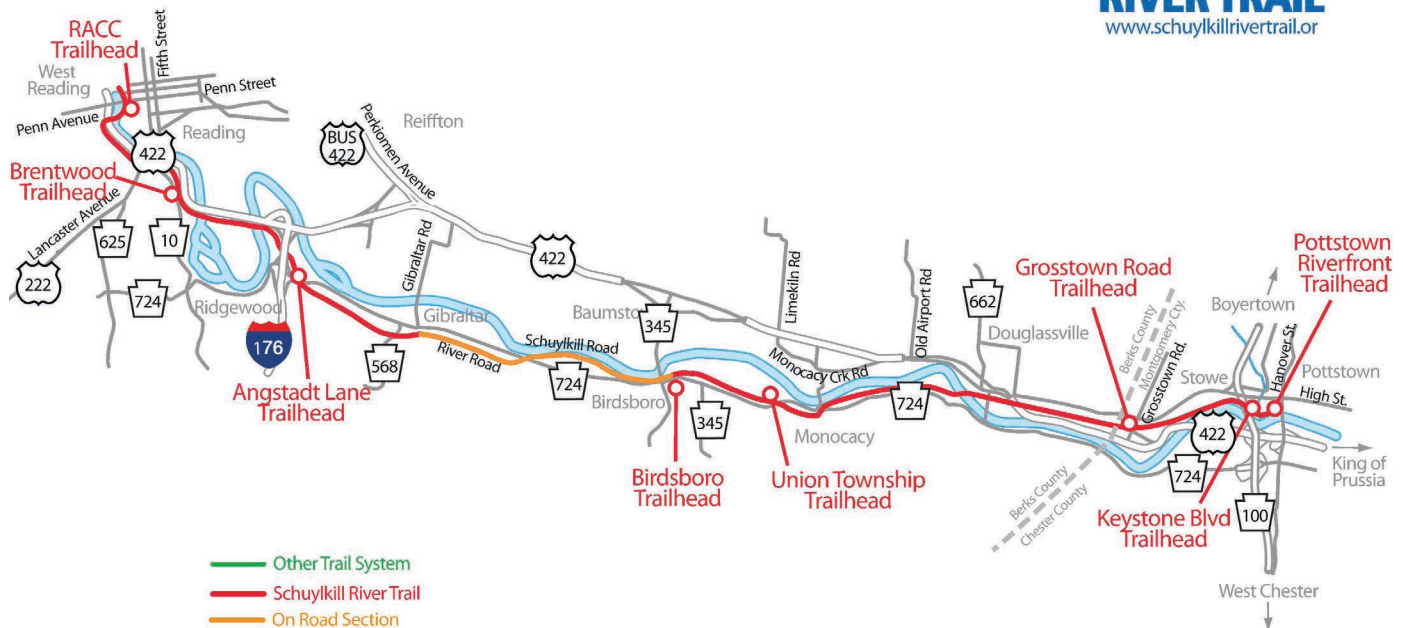
In 2018, Montgomery County completed construction of 1.1 miles of the Schuylkill River Trail in Pottstown. The newly completed segment is located along Industrial Highway between Washington Street and Moser Road. Prior to construction, Industrial Highway had been a 36-foot-wide two-lane road. To accommodate the 10-foot wide paved shared use path, the driving lanes were narrowed to 12 feet





# Schuylkill River Trail

## Pottstown to Reading section




wide, and a guardrail was installed to separate trail users from vehicle traffic. The project also included coordination with Norfolk Southern to widen a rail crossing to accommodate the trail.

In addition to trail construction, a crosswalk and pedestrian signage were installed at Washington Street, which will facilitate pedestrian access from Pottstown's downtown. The Borough of Pottstown also reduced the speed limit along Industrial Highway from 40 to 25 miles per hour.

This project represents one of the last remaining segments of the trail to be completed in Montgomery County, in which 22 miles have been built.

In Philadelphia, a trail segment officially opened to the public in January 2018, and includes 1,400 feet of trail, 2 acres of greenway, a bridge that connects to the community, bike racks and benches. The old railroad truss bridge and fender system have been removed. A new truss bridge is being fabricated while the new fender system

is installed in the river. Also, a bioswale was installed along the tidal Schuylkill River to better manage stormwater, filter out nonpoint source pollution, control erosion, reduce air pollution, and create habitat for wildlife.

The Susquehanna River Trail is part of the greater Philadelphia region's Circuit Trails network. Approximately 60 miles have been completed to date. The longest completed trail section runs from South Street in Philadelphia through Montgomery County to Phoenixville in Chester County. 

Project Leaders: Montgomery County Planning Commission, Schuylkill River Development Corporation

Partners: City of Philadelphia, Commonwealth Financing Authority, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Montgomery County, PA Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Department of Transportation

Learn more: [schuylkillrivertrail.com](http://www.schuylkillrivertrail.com)

# Trolley Trail in Fairmount Park

## Philadelphia County

Within Fairmount Park exists a network of corridors that are the remnants of a passenger rail system that existed up until the mid part of the last century. These trails offer a unique opportunity to connect residents and visitors to various areas of the park as well as to the city's unique history.

In 2014, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR), Fairmount Park Conservancy (FPC) released The New Fairmount Park plan—an effort to enhance accessibility of park amenities, reduce the physical and perceptual barriers to park use and provide “maps and apps” to allow citizens and visitors to better curate their park experiences.

One of the plan's recommendations was to establish a “Trolley Trail” to provide “access for the park's western neighbors by creating a continuous trail that follows the pathway of the scenic trolley that ran through the woods of West Fairmount Park in the early 20th century.

In 2018, the Natural Lands team at FPC, with Knight Brothers and Belmont Plateau Trails Alliance, began clearing the way for a 3,050-foot-long segment along the Trolley Trail between Greenland and Chamounix drives.

The next section of the trail will be a little more than a .5 mile long and will include the addition



of a kiosk with historical and interpretative information and a map. This phase of the project is being supported by the Adelberg Estates and proceeds raised for the Belmont Plateau Trails Alliance at a Parks on Tap Happy Hour held

at Belmont Plateau in June.

The full Trolley Trail network will ultimately be five miles long, following the old pathway of the scenic trolley that ran through the woods of West Fairmount Park in the early 20th century.

Although work on the Trolley Trail project has been ongoing for a few years now, the trail still remains a hidden gem and proves difficult to find for those new to the trail. The kiosk and wayfinding information could help more park-goers enjoy the trail and its show-stopping bridges and tunnels, plus learn about the fascinating history behind the old trolley line.

When this phase is complete in late August 2019, there will be about 1 more mile to go before there is a usable Trolley Trail loop. 📍

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Project Leaders: Fairmount Park Conservancy

Partners: Belmont Plateau Trails Alliance, Knight Brothers

Learn more: [myphillypark.org](http://myphillypark.org)





## Resources

### GRANTS

#### **C2P2 Trail Grants**

[dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/TrailGrants/Pages/default.aspx](http://dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/Grants/TrailGrants/Pages/default.aspx)

#### **Conservation Easement Assistance Program**

[conservationtools.org/ceap](http://conservationtools.org/ceap)

#### **Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program**

[dced.pa.gov/programs/greenways-trails-and-recreation-pro-gram-gtrp/](http://dced.pa.gov/programs/greenways-trails-and-recreation-pro-gram-gtrp/)

#### **Rails-to-Trails Mini-Grants**

[railstotrails.org/our-work/grants/dop-pelt/application/](http://railstotrails.org/our-work/grants/dop-pelt/application/)

#### **Regional Trail Workshop Grants**

[greenwaysandtrails.org/regionalworkshopgrants](http://greenwaysandtrails.org/regionalworkshopgrants)

#### **Pennsylvania RecTAP Grants**

[prps.org/Public/Resources/Funding](http://prps.org/Public/Resources/Funding)

#### **Transportation Alternatives Program**

[penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Pages/Transportation-Alternatives-Program.aspx](http://penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Pages/Transportation-Alternatives-Program.aspx)

### REPORTS

#### **Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**

[PAoutdoorrecplan.com](http://PAoutdoorrecplan.com)

#### **Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan**

[dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr\\_20030875.pdf](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_20030875.pdf)

#### **Trails Advisory Committee Annual Reports**

[dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/TrailDevelopment/PATrailsAdvisoryCommittee](http://dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/TrailDevelopment/PATrailsAdvisoryCommittee)

#### **Rails to Trails Report**

[railstotrails.org/resource-library/resources/americas-rails-with-trails](http://railstotrails.org/resource-library/resources/americas-rails-with-trails)

#### **DCNR Geologic Data & Publications**

[dcnr.pa.gov/Geology/PublicationsAndData](http://dcnr.pa.gov/Geology/PublicationsAndData)

#### **DCNR Research Database**

[research.dcnr.pa.gov/Search](http://research.dcnr.pa.gov/Search)

#### **Conservation & Natural Resources Citizens Advisory Council (CNRAC) Reports**

[dcnr.pa.gov/CNRAC/Pages/default.aspx](http://dcnr.pa.gov/CNRAC/Pages/default.aspx)

### LINKS

#### **Greenways and Trails Central** [GreenwaysandTrails.org](http://GreenwaysandTrails.org)

#### **Explore PA Trails** [trails.dcnr.pa.gov](http://trails.dcnr.pa.gov)

#### **Get Outdoors PA** [GetOutdoorsPA.org](http://GetOutdoorsPA.org)

#### **Good for You, Good for All** [GoodforPA.com](http://GoodforPA.com)

#### **GoTo Trails** [gototrails.com](http://gototrails.com)

#### **PA Trails Advisory Committee** [dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/TrailDevelopment/PATrailsAdvisoryCommittee](http://dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/TrailDevelopment/PATrailsAdvisoryCommittee)

#### **Tools for Trail Groups** [ConservationTools.org](http://ConservationTools.org)

#### **American Trails** [americantrails.org](http://americantrails.org)

#### **Trails.com** [trails.com/pennsylvania](http://trails.com/pennsylvania)

#### **Trail Link** [traillink.com/state/pa-trails](http://traillink.com/state/pa-trails)





## Trails Advisory Committee

The Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee is a 20-member, DCNR-appointed committee that represents both motorized and non-motorized trail users and advises the commonwealth on the use of state and federal trail funding.

The committee is charged with implementing the development of a statewide land and water trail network to facilitate recreation, transportation, and healthy lifestyles based on recommendations from the:

- Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (PDF)
- Pennsylvania Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan (PDF)

The committee also fulfills the federal requirement for Pennsylvania's use of federal Recreational Trails Program funds and is administered by DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

Learn more at [dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/recreation/trails/patrailsadvisory/index.htm](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/recreation/trails/patrailsadvisory/index.htm).

*Previous Page Photo: (from left) Numa F. Louis, District Representative; Congressman Dwight Evans; David Pope, Friends of the Wissahickon board member; Maura McCarthy, Executive Director, Friends of the Wissahickon; Cindy Adams Dunn, DCNR Secretary; Michael DiBerardinis, Managing Director, City of Philadelphia; Stephanie Craighead, Director of Planning, City of Philadelphia; and Henry Stroud, Member at Large, PA Trails Advisory Committee (photo by Charles Uniatowski)*

*Above Photo: Caption: Trail Advisory Committee members enjoying a ride along the Susquehanna River.*

*Back Cover Photo: The 1850 Forksville Covered Bridge stretches across Loyalsock Creek, 2018 River of the Year. (Photo by Joseph Simons)*





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Instagram: padcnr

*Learn more at [dcnr.pa.gov](http://dcnr.pa.gov).*



 View PDF

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