

# Creating Connections

2017 Annual Trails Report





## Message from the Chair

The Pennsylvania Trail Advisory Committee is a volunteer committee of citizens of the Commonwealth. It is a great example of government and constituents working together. The state has over 11,500 miles of trails. The investment made into the development and maintenance of our trail systems results in tangible benefits to the communities and people they serve.

Trails create public health and wellbeing. Trails bring communities of all sizes economic development through tourism. Trails are a major tourism resource for Pennsylvania and the value of tourism in the state for recreation in 2015 was nearly 7 billion dollars. The travel and tourism industry is the 10th largest employer in Pennsylvania with over 300,000 jobs.

Trails are destinations as well as means of traveling from place to place. Trails offer safe and amiable places for people to exercise, commute, access parks and waterways, explore history, connect to commerce centers, or just simply to enjoy nature.

The 2017 Annual Trail Report demonstrates the continued positive impact that trails have on the Commonwealth. Wherever you live in Pennsylvania trails are available to you and more are being built toward the goal of having a trail within 15 minutes of all residents from their front door.

Sincerely,



Andrew Hamilton, Chair  
Pennsylvania Trail Advisory Committee

## Trail Advisory Committee

Andrew Hamilton, Chair (*at large*)  
Jane Sheffield, Vice-Chair (*at large*)  
Thomas Baxter, Secretary (*bicycling*)  
Betsy Aiken (*at large*)  
Eric Bruggerman (*ATV riding*)  
Kyle Buchter (*4-wheel driving*)  
John Confer (*at large*)  
John Daniel Glass (*walking*)  
Jae Ellison (*water trail users*)  
Jim Foster (*hiking*)  
Janie French (*snowmobiling*)  
Carl Keleman (*at large*)  
Larry Knutson (*at large*)  
Michael Kuhn (*mountain biking*)  
Jim Laird (*off-highway motorcycling*)  
William Ritting, III (*disabilities*)  
Henry Stroud (*at large*)  
Jeremy Wimpey (*at large*)  
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Gwen Wills (*horseback riding*)

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Cover Photo: Montour Trail, 2017 Trail of the Year

Opposite Page Photo: Volunteers work along the Laurel Highlands Trail.

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# Introduction



**T**rail work is all about *creating connections* and the combined efforts of Pennsylvania's trail community in 2017 reinforced that objective. Individuals and groups across Pennsylvania worked to close key gaps, build new spurs, and connect existing pathways to successfully expand Pennsylvania's impressive trail network.

Trails empower people to live healthy lifestyles and find safe passage, through walking and biking, to their desired destinations. Penn State University recently analyzed data from two surveys (a 2014 public survey as a part of the state's outdoor recreation plan and a 2015 survey conducted with outpatients of an internal medicine clinic) and found that the vast majority of adults consider parks and trails a critical component of Pennsylvania's healthcare system. It makes sense. People are using trails to connect to parks and waterways, travel to work or school, explore local downtowns, visit local libraries, and discover historical and cultural resources. In fact, in 2017, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, more Pennsylvanians biked to work than ever before.

Trails are becoming an important element in Pennsylvania communities especially since they not only serve as recreational amenities but as safe and dynamic pathways for everyday life.

*Cover Photo: Paddlers travel along the Conemaugh River in Indiana County.*

*Opposite Page Photo: A hiker walking across Little Lyman Run in the Susquehannock Trail System.*



# 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.

## Recommendations

- 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 Ten 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.



# 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 River at its confluence with the Susquehanna River. The Safe Harbor Bridge will connect five and a half miles of trail to the north with a 24-mile section of trail currently under development. In 2017, a bridge inspection report and preliminary engineering drawings were completed with a DCNR grant awarded in 2014. In 2018, engineering work will continue and funding will be sought.

## **Gap 125: Delaware & Lehigh 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. Construction is scheduled to begin in Spring 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. The city is actively working to close the gap with numerous partners and is making progress on a 2018 application to DCNR for funding.

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

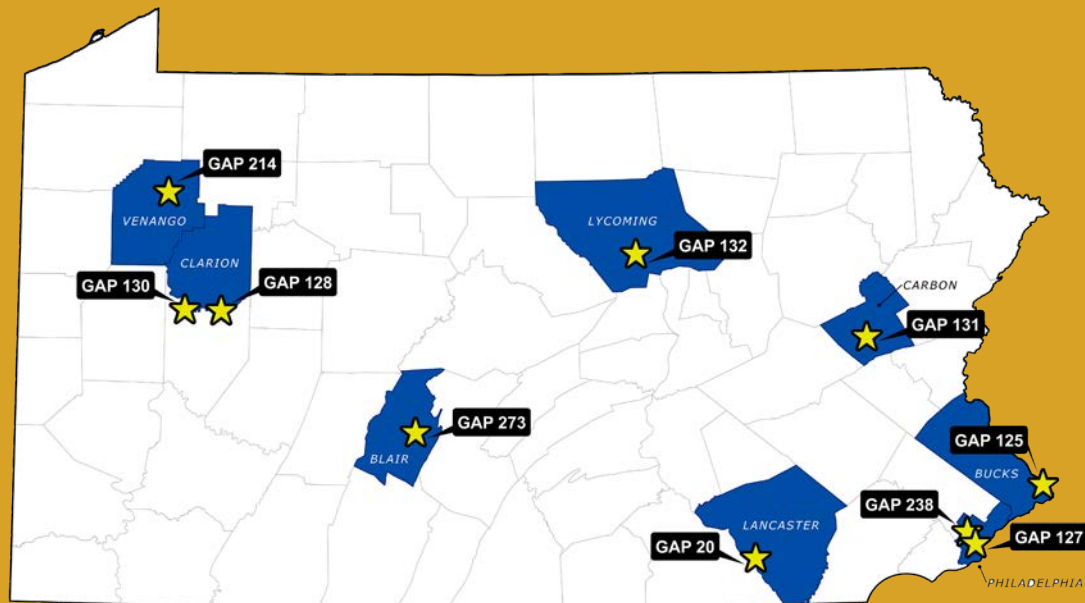
The Climax Tunnel is a 538-foot rail tunnel located near the half-way point of the 51-mile Redbank Valley Trail. The tunnel is currently unsafe to enter and forces trail user to detour around it. In 2017, the interior rehabilitation of the Climax Tunnel was successfully completed. In 2018, work to stabilize the entrances will be completed and the tunnel is expected to open for trail use in August 2018.

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

The Armstrong Trail is a 26-mile multi-use trail along the former Allegheny Valley Railroad and part of the planned Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. The half-mile Brady Tunnel is currently unsafe for use. In 2017, a final feasibility study was submitted to DCNR for review. In 2018, funding for construction will be sought.



**Established in 2015, Pennsylvania's Top 10 Trail Gaps are the State's top priority trail projects and were identified to raise public awareness of the need for funding and interagency cooperation to complete these gaps. These ten gaps 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. Below is a status report on the Top 10 Trail Gaps.**



### **Gap 131: Delaware & Lehigh Trail, Jim Thorpe Pedestrian Bridge**

A 250-foot pedestrian bridge over the Lehigh River south of Jim Thorpe will connect 40 miles of D&L Trail to the north with 25 miles of D&L Trail to the south to create a continuous 65-mile trail corridor. In 2017, construction of both bridge abutments and installation of bridge superstructure was completed. In 2018, construction of the bridge, retaining wall, and connector trail will be completed.

### **Gap 132: Lycoming Creek Bikeway, Susquehanna Riverwalk, 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. In 2017, a DCNR grant for design and engineering was awarded. Work will continue in 2018.

### **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. Options to close this gap are being evaluated. A feasibility study is expected to be completed in Spring 2018.

### **Gap 238: Schuylkill River Trail, Wissahickon Gateway Gap**

The Schuylkill River Trail is a 130-mile multi-use trail that will follow the river from Center City Philadelphia to the City of Pottsville. The Wissahickon Gateway Gap between the Wissahickon Creek and Manayunk presents the challenge of limited space and multiple conflicts. Closing this gap will connect seven completed miles to the east with 20 completed miles to the west. Philadelphia Parks and Recreation will continue to work towards acquiring additional land along the preferred route. In 2018, they will complete the plan and apply for funding to acquire property for the trail.

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

The Lower Trail is a 17-mile multi-use trail within the Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenway. The trail is separated from the multi-use trails within Canoe Creek State Park by the Juniata River and US 22, creating a need for one mile of trail, a pedestrian bridge, and a highway crossing. In 2017, PennDOT awarded a construction contract for a project that will close a portion of the gap. Completion of the project is scheduled for the end of 2019. Further coordination is needed to complete the connection into the state park.



# 2017 Highlights



## Accomplishments of DCNR-Funded Projects:

- Acquisition of the 73.8-mile Knox to Kane Railroad corridor, the largest single purchase of a rail corridor in the program's history
- 39 trail grant projects totaling \$5.6M in grant funds
- Development of 20 miles of non-motorized trail, including 5 bridges
- Rehabilitated of 18.3 miles of non-motorized trails
- Planning for 10.5 miles of new trails
- Acquisition of 93 acres of land for ATV riding
- Grooming for 100s of miles of snowmobile trails
- Purchase of 5 pieces of equipment to construct and maintain motorized trails

## Projects Awarded DCNR Funding

- Received 94 trail applications requesting \$19.5M
- Awarded 49 trail projects \$9.4M in grant funds that will leverage \$15.1M in local match
- 21 projects will address statewide or regional trail networks
- 13 projects will address statewide or regional trail gaps
- 16 projects will plan for 100 miles of new trails
- 19 development projects will construct 37 miles of new trails, including 5 bridges
- 9 development projects will rehabilitate 15 miles of trails, including 6 bridges and 1 tunnel
- 2 equipment purchases will maintain over 90 miles of motorized trails

## Additional Trail-Related Funding

- Commonwealth Financing Authority, Multimodal Transportation Program (\$1M)
- Commonwealth Financing Authority Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (\$2.3M)
- PennDOT, Multimodal Transportation Program (\$1M)

*Above Photo: A biker travels along the Schuylkill River Trail.*



# 2017 Pennsylvania Trail of the Year

## The Montour Trail

The Montour Trail in Allegheny and Washington counties was named the state's 2017 Trail of the Year.

DCNR's Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee coordinates the trail designation to elevate public awareness of the thousands of miles of trails available for public enjoyment in Pennsylvania.

"With a history of support dating back to the late 1980s, and annual user numbers surpassing 400,000, the Montour Trail deserves to be singled out in this fourth year of very special recognition," said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. "Quality, benefits to the region, and a strong volunteer network and multitude of partnerships qualify Montour for this honor."

The 63-mile Montour Trail system occupies the right of way of the former Montour Railroad and Peters Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad between Coraopolis and Clairton in suburban Pittsburgh, making it one of



the nation's longest non-motorized suburban rail-trails. The trail connects with Pittsburgh International Airport, the Panhandle Trail, and the Great Allegheny Passage that stretches over 330 miles from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C.

The Montour Trail Council was created in 1989 to oversee the construction, maintenance, and operation of the Montour Trail. With over

400,000 annual users, the all-volunteer organization relies on volunteers, friends' groups, and community organizations to keep the trail in excellent condition.

"The Montour Trail is deeply honored to be named Trail of the Year," said Ned Williams, council president. "The volunteers have worked tirelessly, for many years, to turn this old rail line into the recreational jewel that it is today.."

For more information on the Montour Trail, visit [www.montourtrail.org](http://www.montourtrail.org). For more information about the designation, visit [www.explorePATrails.com](http://www.explorePATrails.com). 📍



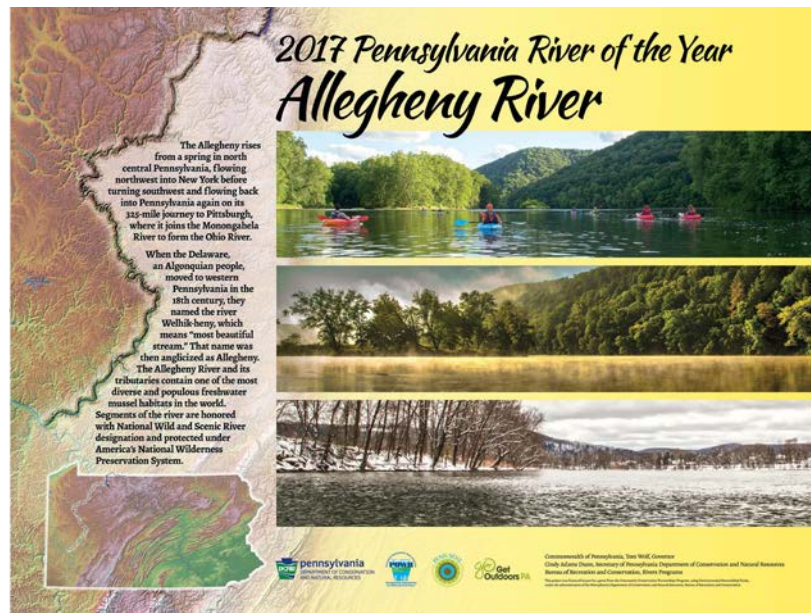
# 2017 Pennsylvania River of the Year Allegheny River

Among the most biologically diverse watersheds in Pennsylvania, and a federally designated National Wild and Scenic Recreation River, the Allegheny River in western Pennsylvania was voted the 2017 Pennsylvania River of the Year.

The general public was invited to vote online in a joint effort of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Organization for Waterways and Rivers (POWR).

“Pennsylvania is blessed with several large, iconic rivers and the Allegheny’s attributes are many, diverse and known so well to the thousands who fish and paddle its rebounding waters and hike, bike and camp along its banks,” said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. “So rich in scenic beauty and historical significance, the Allegheny River is deservedly one of western Pennsylvania’s natural treasures.

Home to an increasing bald eagle population, the Allegheny River flows



more than 315 miles through the state, including a portion of the PA Wilds. With a watershed area of 11,580 square miles, it contributes 60 percent of the Ohio River flow at Pittsburgh. Eighty-six miles of the Allegheny

River — from Kinzua Dam to Emlenton — are a federally designated National Wild and Scenic Recreation River, containing seven islands that are protected under America’s National Wilderness Preservation System.

The River of the Year sojourn is one of many paddling trips supported by DCNR and POWR each year. An independent program, the Pennsylvania Sojourn Program, is a unique series of a dozen such trips on the state’s rivers. These water-based journeys for canoeists, kayakers and others raise awareness of the environmental, recreational, tourism and heritage values of rivers.

Learn more about the sojourn program, visit [www.pawatersheds.org](http://www.pawatersheds.org). 



# Advancing Pennsylvania Trails

## Volunteers, Training, & Awards

### Volunteer Power



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 2017, 15 trail groups conducted trail care work by partnering with a variety of landowners, including PA Game Commission, DCNR bureaus of state parks and state forests, the U.S. Forest Service, land trusts, municipalities, and

private property owners. Often times, this work involved volunteers traveling hundreds of miles to work hundreds of hours.

Over 9,400 volunteers clocked 17,325 hours of work to maintain and/or rebuild 1050 miles of trail.

In the Fall 2017, KTA offered a new training opportunity for volunteers called Trail Care 101. The program is intended to offer basic training to those interested in joining a Trail Care, Trail Crew, or Code Orange project but felt unprepared.

Trail Care 101 is intended to provide volunteers with the skills, the lingo, and the safety precautions needed to be an effective "trail Maintainer." 



## 2017 Greenways and Trails Summit

The 2017 Greenways and Trails Summit was held in Reading and attracted 250 attendees—the event’s highest attendance yet.

Berks County offered wonderful outdoor recreational amenities, including the County’s beautiful park system, Blue Marsh National Recreation Area and the newly opened Berks Nature’s environmental education center provided a perfect setting for the event’s outdoor components.

In addition, the region’s long list of recent achievements including the Schuylkill River’s 2014 PA River of the Year designa-

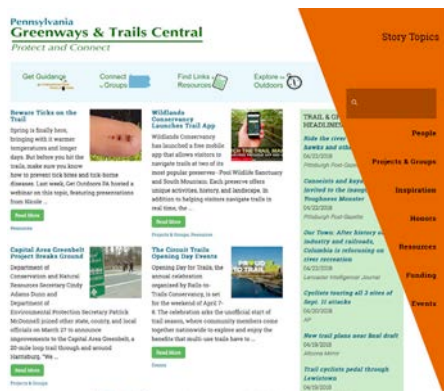


tion, International Mountain Biking Association’s Bronze Level Ride Center designation, League of American Bicyclists bike-friendly designation, 2015 recognition as #1 in the nation for its comprehensive Complete Streets policy and Reading Recreation Commission’s 2017 PA Parks and Recreation Agency of the Year award, reinforced Reading and Berks County as the right fit for the 2017 Summit.

The summit was funded in part by the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society and DCNR’s PA Recreational Trails Program funded through the Federal Highway Administration. ☐

## Greenways and Trails Central Launches

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, in partnership with DCNR’s Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, launched a new resource for those working to expand our trails and greenway systems. Greenways and Trails Central, [GreenwaysandTrails.org](http://GreenwaysandTrails.org), provides easy access to trail-related resources, tools, and news. ☐



## New Editions: Model Trail Easements

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association has published at [ConservationTools.org](http://ConservationTools.org) new editions of its long and short-form trail easement model documents:

The 4th edition *Model Trail Easement Agreement with Commentary* offers an expansive easement instrument that details many issues to avoid potential misunderstandings between landowners and holders

The 2nd edition *Model Grant of Trail Easement with Commentary* provides a one-page easement document for use where brevity is the paramount concern. ☐



## 2017 Regional Summits and Training

*These training and educational events were supported through the Regional Trail Workshop Grants—a grant initiative administered by the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society and funded through DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.*

### *Bicycle of South Central Pennsylvania Bike Summit*

In March, a summit was held at HACC Harrisburg Campus to highlight success stories in the region. ☞

Sixty-two participants attended and learned how several local communities have been successful at building trails, bike lanes and other infrastructure so their success can be replicated in other communities.

The event was intended to bring together people involved in all aspects of bicycling in order to explore ways to better work together to make bicycling safer and more popular and network with people running successful programs, share information about what's happening in the region and demo new electric bikes. ☞

### *2017 Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference*

The Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference, hosted by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association (PALTA), is the annual training, networking and inspirational event for those involved with private and public land conservation.

The 2017 conference, held May 6-8 in Lancaster, welcomed 330 attendees, and featured several trail focused sessions. Trail workshops included, Volunteer Develop-

ment for Trail & Conservation Groups; Best Practices for Trail Management & Signage; Trees & Trail; and Land Conservation, Trail Development and Water Protection Along the Susquehanna.

Eighty-two conference attendees participated in these trail related workshops. ☞

### *For the Trail, On the Trail*

This two-day training workshop, held at Paradise Farm Camp, was presented by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association. PALTA contracted with Penn Trails LLC staff to instruct on various issues related to the management, maintenance, and construction of trails.

Five workshops were offered, which included “on the trail” training. Forty-eight attendees registered. ☞

### *Laurel Steward Field Training*

Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education held an intensive hands-on workshop, combining theory and practice, focused land stewardship of urban forests.

Twenty-three individuals learned a variety of skills including, identifying invasives; utilizing basic tools to remove invasives; assessing the health of trees and shrubs; safely using pruning tools; accessing trail conditions; selecting appropriate mitigation strategies and more. ☞



## 2017 Awards and Recognition

### *Pennsylvania Outdoor Area Earns National Achievement Award*

Pennsylvania's Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA) earned the 2017 Tom Petri Achievement Award for Construction and Design.

During the June 14 awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., hosted by the Coalition for Recreational Trails, AOAA was nationally recognized for its construction and design of a trailhead event area for the off-highway vehicle park, which features an open pavilion, space for vendors and restrooms

The achievement awards recognize outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program funds across the country.

The Trailhead Event Area is a unique combination open pavilion and enclosed market space facility. The facility accommodates four secure vendor areas that can be rented by various vendors including food, accessory, maintenance or any others offering services to the AOAA visitors. The facility also allows for meeting/gathering areas for visitors using the vendors or to schedule group meetings before riding the trails. The Event Area development also included an expanded visitor parking area and ADA accessible parking spaces.

The Trailhead Event Area is also used for community fund raising events. In addition, a collection of canned food is undertaken at the Visitor's Center during Thanksgiving weekend activities and donated to the local food pantry.



*DCNR's Alex MacDonald and daughter Josie accepted the award in D.C.*

In keeping with their branding of "Recreational Opportunities for OHVs," the AOAA has always included people with disabilities. The Authority are working with Access to Adventure, which will conduct vehicle tours for those with disabilities.

DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation accepted the award on behalf of AOAA, the AOAA Authority, and its partners. DCNR is a partnering organization helping to support and maintain AOAA. 🏠



## Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Earns International Trail Accessibility Award

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary recently received the Trail Accessibility Award for its ADA-approved Silhouette Trail from the American Trails National and International Trails Awards Program.

The National and International Trails Awards Program recognizes the tremendous contributions and successes of exemplary people and organizations across the globe who are working to advance trails.

The Trail Accessibility Award recognizes a successful trail project that demonstrates the integration of accessibility characteristics into its design and construction.

DCNR provided a \$250,000 Growing Greener grant in 2013 to support the accessible trail construction.

The Hawk Mountain Silhouette Trail,

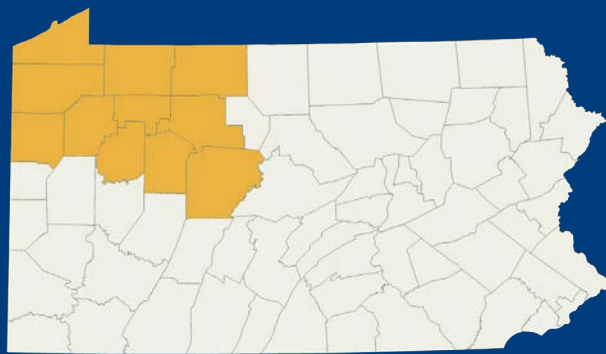


which opened in summer 2015, is a 900-foot, accessible trail that serves as an alternative route to the Sanctuary's South Lookout, where hawk-watching and educational programs occur. It includes a trail-side display of full-sized, in-flight, metal silhouettes of endangered birds of prey, adding an element of education to the wheelchair-accessible trail. ☐





# Northwest Region



## Justus Park Trailhead

### Erie to Pittsburgh Trail

#### *Oil City, Clarion County*

The original path of the northbound Erie to Pittsburgh Greenways Trail directed trail users over a railroad footbridge and through a busy, confusing intersection in Oil City. Situated at the confluence of Oil Creek and the Allegheny River, Oil City is an ideal location for trail users to stop and enjoy Pennsylvania's natural beauty. However, this dangerous intersection has overshadowed the various amenities Oil City has to offer.

In late 2014, Oil City was awarded the Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways Block Grant to remediate the safety issues along the City's portion of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. With additional support from the PNC Charitable Trust and a Trail Town Community Connection Grant, the City has successfully redirected the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. Instead of traversing through the dangerous and confusing intersection, trail users are now directed into the City's newly designated trailhead in Justus Park, a pre-existing park along the Allegheny River.

The implementation of the Justus Park Trailhead has greatly improved both the safety and aesthetics of the Erie to Pitts-

burgh Trail in Oil City. New directional signage and sharrows on the road have been added to the trail, increasing awareness for trail users and motorists alike. A large trailhead sign welcomes trail users to the park, inviting them to examine maps of Oil City and the entire Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, discover local businesses and restaurants, and even attend an event while they are in the City. A handy Fixit Station stands for bicyclists to inflate their tires or administer minor maintenance to their bikes. New playground equipment sits just off the trail and an ADA picnic table and benches line the area, encouraging trail users to enjoy the natural beauty of the Allegheny River and Justus Park.

The City of Oil City is extremely grateful for the support of its dedicated volunteers, diligent Public Works Department, and the financial support of various organizations throughout the completion of the Justus Park Trailhead Project. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: City of Oil City*

*Partners: Northwest PA Greenways Block Grant, PNC Charitable Trust, Trail Town*

Learn more at [traillink.com/trail/oil-city-trail](http://traillink.com/trail/oil-city-trail).



# Kinzua Valley Trail

## McKean County



The Kinzua Valley Trail (KVT) experienced both challenges and successes in 2017.

The year began with a major rain and snow event in January that damaged several areas of the seven-mile trail. Remedial work, with the help of volunteers and heavy equipment, have since repaired most of the areas affected. Currently there is only a 100 yard section of trail that needs to be re-surfaced and this will be completed in the Spring 2018.

Kinzua Valley Trail Club (KVTC) has financed these repairs by initiating a donation campaign for funds from the public and by using its' own capital.

On a more positive note, in March the McKean County commissioners approved the KVTC's Act 13 grant application for

over \$20,000. These monies were used as matching funds for a DCNR grant to begin construction of a new three-mile segment of the trail.

This new portion of the trail utilizes Forest Service roads and an abandoned one-mile segment of the original traffic road into the village of Westline. This is a crucial trail segment in the completion of the KVT, which is envisioned to reach the Kinzua Bridge State Park, thirteen miles to the east of the present trail terminus in Westline. This new portion will incorporate a trailhead at the intersection of the KVT with U.S. Route 219, a major north-south transportation artery in McKean county and, also puts the Trail within five-miles of PA Bike Route Y (U.S. Route 6).

The KVTC was also awarded a grant from

the Pittsburgh Trail Volunteers Fund that enabled the purchase of an articulated flail mower. This new piece of equipment has greatly streamlined trail berm maintenance and improved the capability of KVTC to maintain the trail berms to the high standard that users expect.

In 2017 the KVTC initiated a partnership with Wal-Mart employees to help with trail maintenance. The trail committee has also partnered with the Pennsylvania Game Commission in a program to combat invasive species with KVTC contributing funds and Club members volunteering in the field.

KVTC also held two annual fund-raisers

in 2017, which were met with much success and public support.

In conclusion, the Kinzua Valley Trail Club, in partnership with grant funding through the DCNR hopes to build on the progress made in the past year to continue progress towards completion of the envisioned twenty-one-mile length of the Kinzua Valley Trail to the Kinzua Bridge State Park. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: Kinzua Valley Trail Committee*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, McKean County, PA Game Commission, Pittsburgh Trail Volunteers Fund Wal-Mart, Zippo*

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

## **Knox-Kane Rail Trail**

### *Clarion and McKean Counties*

Physical work is progressing to convert the last 3.9 miles of the Knox-Kane Railroad corridor from the Center Street railhead in Mount Jewett to the Kinzua Bridge State Park to a multi-use trail.

Kovalchick Corp., a steel scrap company based in Indiana, owned the Knox-Kane Railroad route and received federal approval to abandon the freight line.

In 2014, PennDOT awarded McKean County funding to acquire the Knox-Kane Rail Trail.

In 2017, the Headwaters Charitable Trust acquired the 73.8-mile corridor, the largest single purchase of a rail corridor in Pennsylvania's rail-trail history.

The corridor begins in North Clarion Junction, Clarion County continuing northward through Forest, Elk, and McKean Counties ending at the skywalk in Kinzua State Park. Part of the corridor includes the Rail 66 Country Trail, a non-motorized, four-season trail that currently stretches 4.3 miles.

The Knox Kane project was actually launched in 2010 with the development of a feasibility study funded by DCNR. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: McKean County*

*Partners: DCNR, Bureau of Recreation & Conservation, PennDot, Kovalchick Corporation*

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



# North Country National Scenic Trail

## Clarion County

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

In 2017, the Chapter built a 24 foot bridge south of Cook Forest and mentored a boy scout, who made and erected six visitor

register boxes along the trail.

In 2018, the chapter will focus on closing some significant trail gaps. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: Clarion Chapter of the North Country Trail Association*

*Partners: Boy Scouts of America*

Learn more at [northcountrytrail.org/volunteers/local-contacts/clarion-county-chapter](http://northcountrytrail.org/volunteers/local-contacts/clarion-county-chapter).

## Redbank Valley Trails

### Clarion, Jefferson and Armstrong Counties

Redbank Valley Trail (RVT) parallels Red Bank Creek for 42 scenic, rural and nearly level miles over 14 bridges, with few road crossings. The bridges are as impressive as the trail with some of them a solid 100 yards long, ornately constructed with stone arches, and a 100 feet or so above the creek. The trail begins at an elevation of 825 feet above sea level at the Allegheny River confluence, and rises to 1,220 feet at its terminus in Brookville.

At the 524-foot Climax Tunnel (mile 17), two phases of work were completed in mid-2017 to support the brick-lined ceiling with a tunnel liner in from each portal and then guniting was added in the center. Accessible parking was added. Funding came from PennDOT's Transportation

Alternatives Program (TAP), DCNR's Community Conservation Partnerships Program, and the Commonwealth Finance Authority with support of sponsors Clarion County and Allegheny Valley Land Trust. The tunnel was opened in November.

RVT was named Pennsylvania's first Trail of the Year in 2014 for its connections to other trails, scenic beauty, and dedicated volunteers, and those attributes were expanded upon in 2017. Work on the Sligo spur to expand the improved trail has begun thanks to a DCNR/DEP Greenways grant through Northwest Commission. Magnificent sculptures have been donated and placed along the trail with more to come. Several sturdy picnic shelters, an



Adirondack shelter, outhouse, more historic markers, picnic tables and many memorial benches were added in 2017 by volunteers, including through Eagle Scout projects. Volunteers have uncovered the remnants of a fascinating and very early turntable near mile 23 with plans for art, an historic marker, and other amenities. Some parking areas were expanded and improved.

Volunteers continued to address drainage, downed trees, and maintenance issues. A maintenance manual was created and adopted and work has begun on a GIS based inventory.

An updated map was distributed early in the year. A promotional video was

added to the RVT and Redbank Renaissance websites in September as part of the Towns and Trails initiative directed by Cathy McCollom, involving Redbank Valley and Armstrong Trails communities. New Bethlehem and East Brady brochures have been created to assist increasing numbers of trail users and visitors. The trail's four-season popularity and use continues to grow as attested to by B&B's and restaurants. 📍

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***Project Leaders: Allegheny Valley Land Trust, Redbank Valley Trails Association***

***Partners: Commonwealth Finance Authority, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Eagle Scouts, PennDOT, Northwest Commission***

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



# Trails at Jake's Rocks

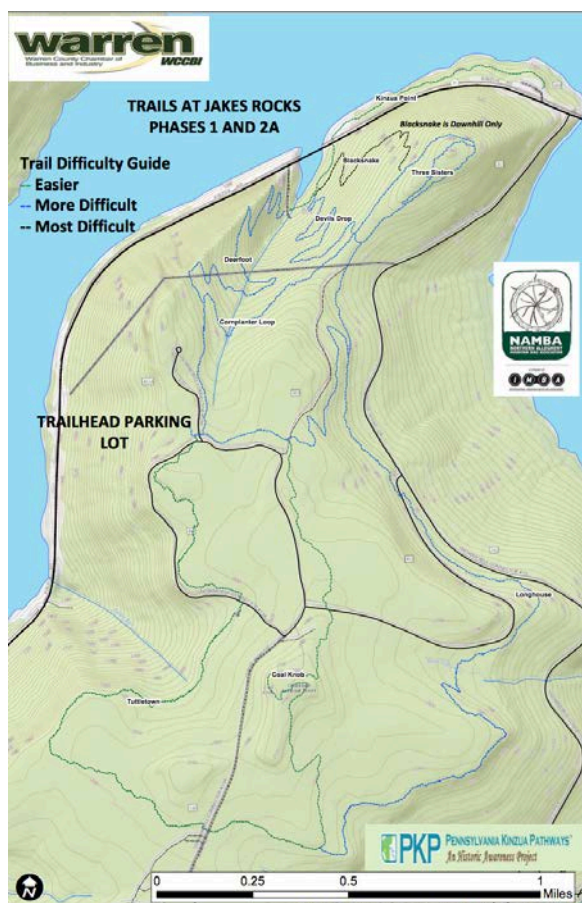
## Warren County

2017 was another great year for the Trails at Jakes Rocks.

The 10 miles of trail opened in September 2016 through Phase 1 received heavy usage throughout the 2017 season. Traffic monitoring data collected by the US Forest Service revealed a total of 14,221 individuals utilized the trails annually for hiking, biking or running.

Phase 2A of the construction process added an additional 4 miles of trail, connecting the Phase 1 trail system to the Kinzua Point Information Center (KPIC) on Route 59. With the completion of these trail segments in October trail users can now access the complete trail system of 14 miles from either the KPIC or Jakes Rocks trailhead parking areas.

A volunteer hand-built trail segment connecting Longhouse Scenic Drive to the system was nearly completed in 2017 and will be finished by the Northern Allegheny Mountain Bike Association members in early 2018. The Phase 2 trail segments provide more challenging topography.



In addition to the added trail mileage, an informational pavilion including a trail map, safety information, and historical and cultural resources along the trail were installed at the Trailhead parking area. A 3-dimensional trail map will be installed in Spring 2018.

Phase 2B will be completed in summer 2018 providing an additional 4.3 miles of trail, connecting Dewdrop Campground to the system.

The Jakes Witch Project, an outdoor recreation festival, was introduced in 2017. The event highlights the trails as well as other outdoor recreation activities available within the Allegheny National Forest. The 2018 event is scheduled to be held on September 28 and 29 and will include live music, food and beverage as well as organized group trail rides, trail running race and 2 mountain bike races. 🏠

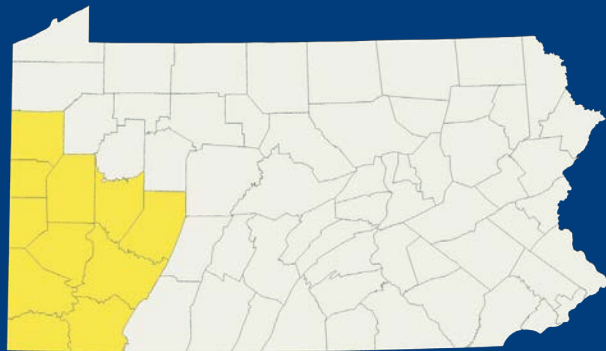
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**Project Leaders:** Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry

**Partners:** Northern Allegheny Mountain Bike Association

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

# Southwest Region



## Armstrong Trail

### *Armstrong and Clarion Counties*

The 36 mile Armstrong Trail is located on the former Allegheny Valley Railroad line along the eastern bank of the Allegheny River. The trail is a great place to bicycle, walk, jog, & cross country ski.



In 2017, volunteers and staff accomplished a number of capital projects, including the resurfacement of eight miles of trail; development of two new parking areas; and improvements to the Phillipston Turntable and Coaling Tower.

In addition, there was various maintenance conducted along the trail, including clearing out five miles of ditchline; pruning trees and shrubs; and maintaining four foot green berm clearance on both sides of the trail.

Educational efforts were also made, including the placement of signage at mile 61-66 (Templeton and Mosgrove) and the creation of a Towns and Trail program with local municipalities and businesses.

Several collaborative efforts were also accomplished including, the completion of the DCNR Mile 61-66 Project, the Brady Tunnel & Phillipston Feasibility Study,

the Templeton Connection; the Mosgrove Connector and Stormwater Management Project; and the Kittanning and Ford City DCNR Grant Projects.

The YMCA adopted mile 45, tapping volunteers to maintain that portion of the trail. CareerTRACK provided over 1200 hours of trail improvements and trail maintenance, including new signs, maps, bollards, split rail fences, benches and a Free Little Library; garbage and unwanted vegetation removal; and native plantings.



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

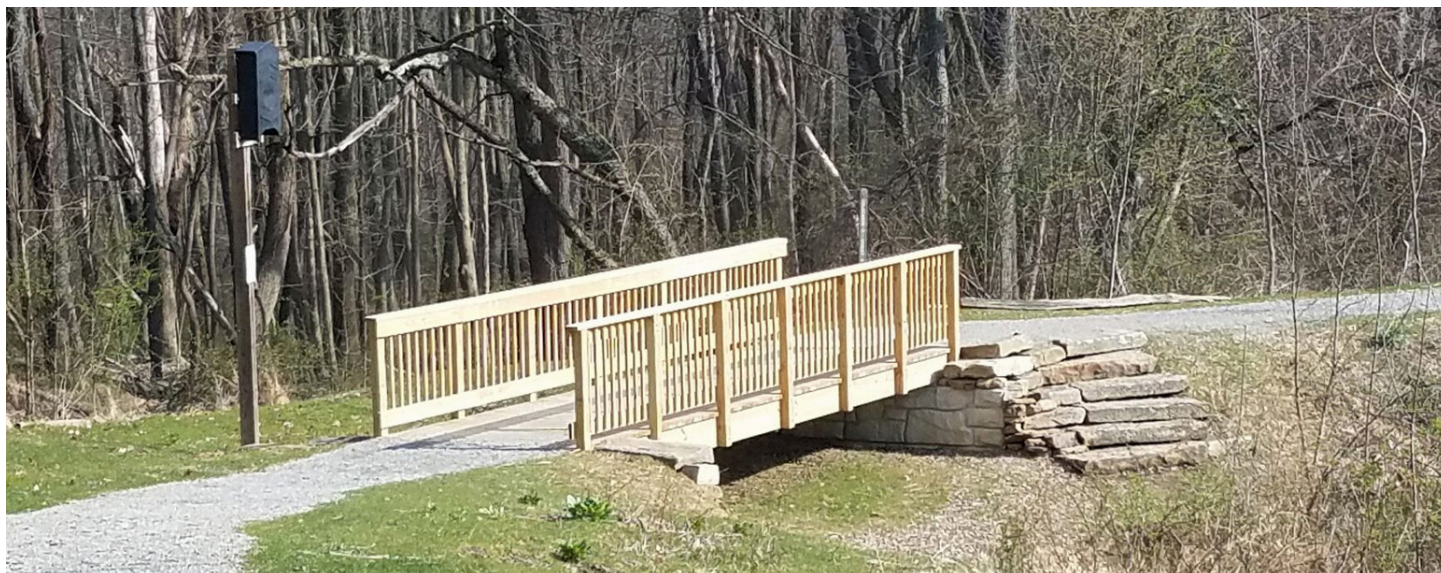
***Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, CareerTRACK, YMCA***

**Learn more at <http://armstrongrailstotrails.org>.**



# Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

*Allegheny County*



Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve serves as the headquarters for Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP). Located in the Fox Chapel area of Pittsburgh, it is the largest private environmental education center in Western Pennsylvania. Beechwood provides the public free access to over 3 miles of trails that traverse 134-acre scenic sanctuary featuring fields, forest, streams, and a pond.

Founded in 1916, ASWP launched its Centennial Campaign in 2016. This \$7 million campaign would fund new trails, buildings, and other enhancements at its three public sites. The campaign was also intended to engage the public as never before and create a new wave of conservation and environmental commitment.

In 2017, construction began to make two trails at the Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve ADA-accessible as well as make improvements to the entry area and parking lot. The two newly accessible trails

were named after families whose funding helped make the trails possible. Gockley Trail, about a third of a mile long, will offer a regulated slope in both directions and a uniform, crushed gravel surface. Adler Trail, about a half of a mile long, will provide access to the Tree Top lookout for a panoramic view of the reserve.

The parking upgrades involved changing the traffic pattern to make it easier and safer for students exiting buses on educational trips; adding ADA accessibility; and improving stormwater management.

Funding for the improvements comes from the Centennial Campaign, which raised \$6.4 million of its \$7 million goal, including \$1.7 million for the Beechwood projects. 📧

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***Project Leaders: Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania***

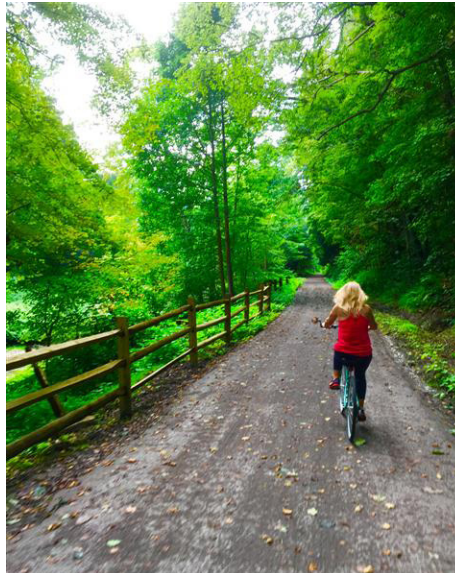
***Partners: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy***

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

# Butler Freeport Community Trail

## Armstrong and Butler counties

The Butler-Freeport Community Trail (BFCT) is a 21-mile rail trail, which runs from Laneville to Butler in Western Pennsylvania. The Butler Freeport Community Trail Council celebrated the trail's first mile 25th anniversary in 2017 and implemented a number of improvements throughout the year.



provided continued maintenance along the trail. Several Scout Projects were implemented including a Bike fix-it station. Volunteers also created a fairy garden.

The City of Butler's Bike/Pedestrian Committee, with the support of the city council, installed bike storage just one mile from the Trail.

Ten miles (just about half of the 21-mile corridor) of the BFCT were resurfaced with funding from two PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants. The remaining 11 miles are in good condition as they were constructed less than six years ago.

Volunteers made improvements to bridge railings, gates, trailhead parking, and

The council hosted the 12th Annual Buffalo Creek Half Marathon in which all funds were used for the promotion and maintenance of the Trail. ☑

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*Project Leaders: Butler Freeport Community Trail*

*Partners: City of Butler, PennDOT*

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

# Conemaugh Gap

## Cambria County

Conemaugh Gap is the deepest gorge east of the Mississippi. Hikers can follow the scenic route through seven miles of the Laurel Mountain Ridge. An overlook and the Laurel Highlands Trail both offer hiking and environmental experiences.

In 2017, the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy (CVC) continued its quest to enhance recreational access through the

scenic, seven-mile Conemaugh Gap. A pathway has been carved out and a rough surface placed establishing a portion of a planned trail from Johnstown's West End to CVC's Conemaugh Gap Gateway Park along Route 56. ☑

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*Project Leaders: Conemaugh Valley Conservancy*

**Learn more at [conemaughvalleyconservancy.com](http://conemaughvalleyconservancy.com).**



# Dead Man's Hollow

*Allegheny County*



Dead Man's Hollow Conservation Area, owned by the Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) is home to dense woodlands, an abundant wildflower population, and winding trails that lead hikers and bikers to vistas that tell of a rich and mysterious history.

In 2017, ALT unveiled a management plan to find new ways to preserve the land and tap into its recreational potential. Efforts include improving its habitats, removing invasive plant species and expanding its existing trails.

Dead Man's Hollow Conservation Area (DMH) sits along the Great Allegheny Passage in McKeesport and boasts an abundant wildflower population and other natural wonders.

In January 2017, the Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Re-

sources (DCNR) designated Dead Man's Hollow as part of the Wild Plant Sanctuary Program.

The goal of the Wild Plant Sanctuary Program is to recognize some of the best examples of habitat supporting state-listed species of concern. The property in question must function as an exceptional refuge for Pennsylvania's natural heritage.

Dead Mans Hollow is the largest privately-protected conservation area in Allegheny County and was once the site of a thriving industrial area. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: Allegheny Land Trust*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation*

**Learn more at [alleghenylandtrust.org/green-space/dead-mans-hollow](http://alleghenylandtrust.org/green-space/dead-mans-hollow).**

# Hoodlebug Trail

## Indiana County

The Hoodlebug Trail is a ten-mile recreation and commuter trail located in the central portion of Indiana County, Pennsylvania. The trail passes through residential, commercial and natural settings, providing direct trail access to many local residents and employees of schools, industries and small businesses.

In 2017, Indiana County Parks and Trails resurfaced one mile of the Hoodlebug Trail from Rose Street to Indian Springs Road. This was a \$27,000 project funded through the county's Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund.

The county also constructed the Yankeeetown Access Area on the Hoodlebug Trail near Homer City's Sheetz store. This project was funded by PennDOT as part of the Lucerne Road Extension project. PennDOT's contractor constructed several paved parking spaces, landscaping, paved several hundred feet of trail, installed a painted crosswalk and installed a crosswalk alert system. 🚶

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*Project Leaders: Indiana County*

*Partners: PennDOT*

Learn more at [indianacountyparks.org/trails/hoodlebug\\_trail.aspx](http://indianacountyparks.org/trails/hoodlebug_trail.aspx).

# Indiana County Regional Trail System

## Indiana County

Indiana County Parks & Trails is a natural resource-based park system located in west-central Pennsylvania. Indiana County operates 2,700 acres of parks, natural areas and historic sites along with an extensive regional trail system.

Allegheny Ridge Corporation and the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy led a capital campaign to close a \$150,000 private funding gap for a \$2.7 million pedestrian bridge over Route 22 at Route 119.

The completed bridge is a significant regional trail connector, connecting the Ghost Town and Hoodlebug Trails to the Blairsville Riverfront Trail. Design and engineering is fully funded and under-

way. An alternatives analysis has been reviewed by PennDOT District 10 and twice revised, while a local team is working to implement a recommended route from the bridge landing site on the southern side of Route 22 into the borough of Blairsville.

Bridge construction is slated for late 2018 or 2019; three miles of dedicated trail which shares the bike route from the bridge to the Blairsville Riverfront Trail will be acquired in 2018. 🚶

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*Project Leaders: Allegheny Ridge Corporation, Conemaugh Valley Conservancy*

*Partners: PennDOT*

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



# Indian Creek Valley ATV Club

*Fayette County*



In May 2017, DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn joined Indian Creek Valley ATV Club officials and members to celebrate the acquisition of 88 acres and to expand ATV riding opportunities in the region.

DCNR facilitated the acquisition by awarding a grant to the club, which stresses ATV riding instruction, safe operation and respect for the land. Indian Creek Valley ATV Club offers its members 52 miles of trails winding through club lands and property leased from area private owners.

The secretary noted Fayette is among the leading counties in ATV registration in Pennsylvania.

The club operates a riding area of trails made possible through the leasing of 796 acres from 12 property owners. All trail maintenance is completed by the member-

ship. With the latest acquisition, the club now owns 163 acres of property to go with their leased land. In 2016, the Club bought its first 65 acres with its own funding.

Volunteers also completed the Champion Creek Bridge Project in 2017, a project five years in the making. The club received funding through the Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative grant program and donated materials from Home Depot. The multi-use bridge was designed to maintain the historical integrity of the area and offer a “wow” experience for visitors. 🏠

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***Project Leaders: Indiana Creek Valley ATV Club***

***Partners: DCNR, Home Depot, Saltlick Township, Yamaha Motorsports USA***

**Learn more at [icvatvclub.com](http://icvatvclub.com).**

# Kiski-Conemaugh Water Trail

## Indiana County

Kiski-Conemaugh offers 86 river miles of paddling along historic communities and through Conemaugh and Packsaddle Gaps. 2017 brought expanded access and new online tools for trail users.

New printer-friendly, on-line maps were designed to include new access points, updated outfitter information, and highlight river towns. An interactive map was also updated and reformatted, showcasing river town historic photos, points of interest, businesses and services, and environmental stewardship messaging.

The Conemaugh Valley Conservancy's Stream Team program completed the State of the Watershed Report, updating progress from the 1999 Kiski-Conemaugh Riv-

ers Conservation Plan and making recommendations for continued restoration and recreation work in the Basin.

The Borough of Blairsville and the Blairsville Community Redevelopment Authority celebrated enhanced river accesses built through Western Pa Conservancy's Canoe Access Development Fund with a Ribbon Cutting on September 19. The launches provide a 45 minute paddle around Blairsville on the Conemaugh River that parallels the Blairsville Riverfront Trail. 📍

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*Project Leaders: Allegheny Ridge Corporation*

*Partners: Western PA Conservancy*

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





# Kiski Valley Greenway

## *Armstrong, Indiana and Westmoreland counties*

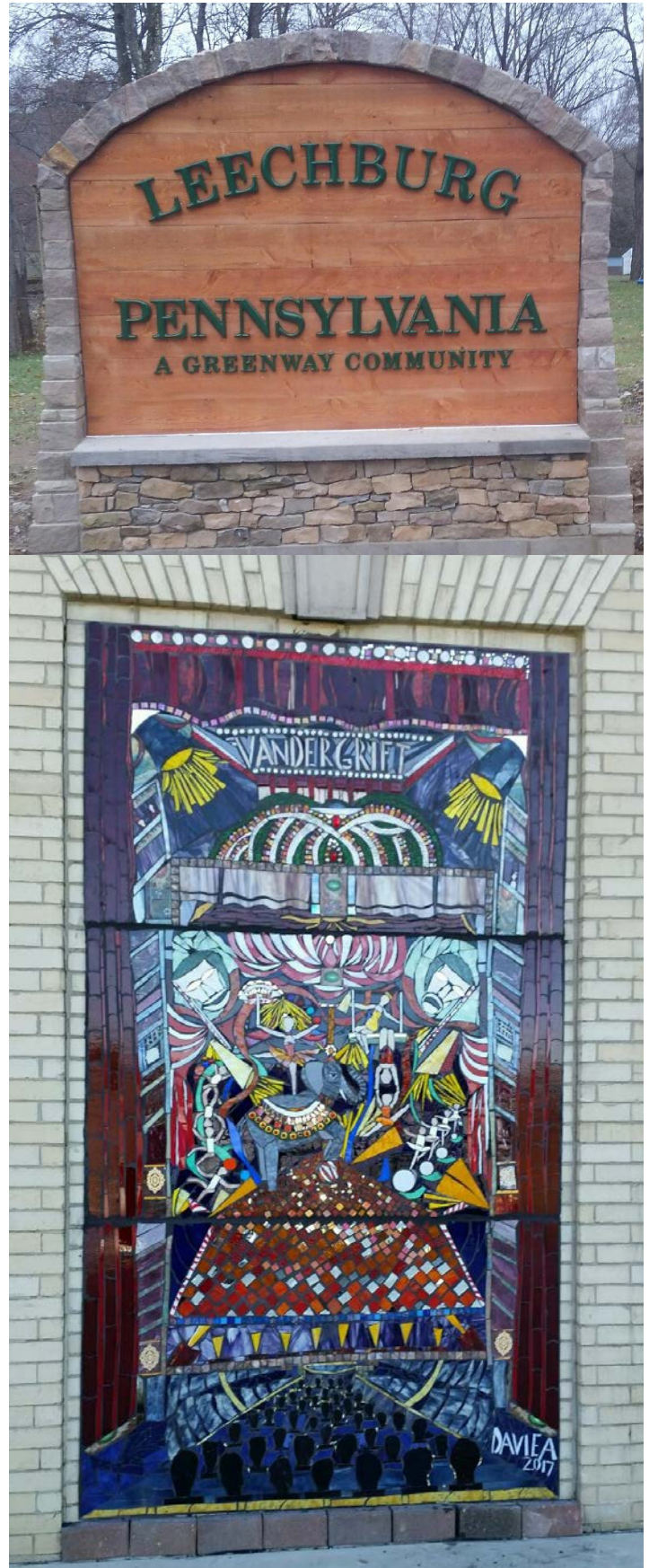
Eighteen municipalities and three counties along the 26-mile Kiskiminetas River completed the Kiski Valley Greenway Plan in 2012. Since then, stakeholders have been working to connect bike trails, interpret heritage, define community gateways, and further position Kiski Valley communities to benefit from their recovering river.

In 2017, several communities along 26 river miles implemented recommendations from the 2012 Kiski Valley Greenway, Trails, and Downtown Connectivity Plan.

These projects were completed using private foundation funds and a Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative mini-grant administered by the National Road Heritage Corridor, and coordinated through the Main Line Canal Greenway.

Two stone arch gateway signs were constructed in Avonmore and Leechburg. The stone arch design and lettering was conceived via public input about community identity.

A public art project was completed at Vandergrift's Casino Theatre by Pittsburgh glass tile mosaic artist Daviea Davis. Another gateway art project in Apollo is pipelined for installation in May 2018. ☐



*Project Leaders: Allegheny Ridge Conservancy*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, National Road Heritage Corridor*

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

## Mon Wharf Switchback

### Allegheny County

The Mon Wharf Switchback project, a collaboration between Riverlife and the City of Pittsburgh will create a vital missing link in the downtown riverfront trail system and Great Allegheny Passage.

Construction began in 2017 and the ramp was connected to the eastern end of the Mon Wharf landing in December.

When the Switchback is complete, trail users will enter the ramp from the upriver sidewalk of the bridge, walk or pedal east down the ramp before doubling back west



to pass underneath the bridge and land at the Mon Wharf. ☒

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*Project Leaders: Riverlife, City of Pittsburgh*

Learn more at [riverlifepgh.org/riverfront-guide/mon-wharf-switchback](http://riverlifepgh.org/riverfront-guide/mon-wharf-switchback).

## Montour Trail

### Allegheny and Washington counties

To celebrate the Montour Trail as Pennsylvania's 2017 Trail of the Year, Wolf Administration officials joined members of the Montour Trail Council to cut a ribbon and break ground for new trail segments in June 2017.

DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn joined DCED Secretary Dennis Davin, council members and partners on the trail in South Park Township to officially open the newly completed Library Viaduct and to break ground for a new segment.

The Montour Trail system occupies the right of way of the former Montour Railroad and Peters Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, making it one of the nation's longest non-motorized

suburban rail-trails.

The 98-year-old, 506-foot-long Library Viaduct was part of the Montour Railroad, which primarily transported coal until its abandonment in 1978. The Montour Trail Council combined federal, state, and foundation dollars with its own resources to rehabilitate the viaduct and the trail connection. The new 0.6-mile segment will eliminate a trail gap that currently requires a detour onto a busy road. ☒

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*Project Leaders: Montour Trail Council*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PennDOT*

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



# North Country National Scenic Trail

## Beaver County

The North Country Trail, which is administered by the National Park Service, stretches about 4,600 miles from New York to North Dakota. Nearly 300 miles of it twist and turn through Western Pennsylvania, just west and north of Pittsburgh.

In October 2017, the North Country Trail Association's Wampum Chapter officially opened an adjacent wheelchair-accessible spur trail.

The volunteer group built it this summer

on land owned by its president, Dennis Garrett, and his wife, Cathy.

The 200-yard spur trail curves between the North Country Trail and Little Beaver Creek at Watt's Mill. There's a trailhead with parking where the NCT crosses Watt's Mill Road. ☞

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*Project Leaders: North Country Trail Association, Wampum Chapter*

*Partners: National Park Service*

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

# Riverview Park Trail Circuit

## Allegheny County

In 2017, Hollow Oak Land Trust completed an additional mile of trails with the purpose of connecting Riverview Park with Brighton Heights Park.

The new addition will be a combination of three trails ensuring nearby residential areas are all accessible to both Brighton Heights and Riverview parks. The trails will be named Birkoff Connector, Harbison Connector and Coopers Run respectively.

The three trails will expand the Riverview Park trail circuit by approximately 10 percent for hikers, walkers, runners and cyclists.

The newly connected trails create an ex-

ceptional amenity for residents of Brighton Heights, Brightwood and Observatory Hill.

HOLT also held a volunteer trail maintenance day in November 2017 at Brighton Heights Park. Hollow Oak Land Trust and Friends of Riverview Park are planning several events for 2018, including a mountain bike race. ☞

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*Project Leaders: Hollow Oak Land Trust*

*Partners: Brighton Heights Citizens Federation, Brighton Department of Public Works, Buhl Foundation, Student Conservation Association, Friends of Riverview Park and Allegheny Goatscape.*

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

## Short Line Hollow Park

### Allegheny County

A 53-acre vacant property in Ross Township became a haven for hikers and bikers in 2017.

The project included more than a year of planning and support from local groups and lots of volunteers hours.

In February, township commissioners hired the Hollow Oak Land Trust (HOLT) to design and supervise construction of the trails. HOLT is a nonprofit conservation organization that owns five conservation areas of more than 400 acres in surrounding communities.

Work began in March to transform the

vacant property into a recreational destination complete with two miles of hiking and biking trails.

The park name was selected from an entry in a naming contest the township conducted earlier in the year. The moniker reflects the fact that the old Harmony Short Line railroad ran through the area as well as the type of terrain on which park is located. 🏡

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*Project Leaders: Ross Township*

*Partners: Hollow Oak Land Trust, Walk/Bike Ross*

[Learn more at ross.pa.us.](http://ross.pa.us)

## Sheepskin Trail

### Fayette County

The Sheepskin Trail will travel approximately 34 miles from Dunbar Township to Point Marion Borough.

The trail will alternate between a “rail-trail” and a “rail-with-trail” system following the old Penn Central line. When completed, the trail will pass through the communities of Dunbar, Mount Braddock, Lemont Furnace, Uniontown, Hopwood, Fairchance, Smithfield, Cornish, Outcrop, Gans, Lake Lynn and Point Marion.

In early fall of 2017, the Fayette County Commissioners approved the earmarking of \$250,000 in Act 13 Legacy funds for the completion of the Point Marion section of

the Sheepskin Trail. When completed the trail will connect the Great Allegheny Passage to the extensive network of trails in north-central West Virginia.

As a critical missing link in the larger Parkersburg-to-Pittsburgh Corridor, finishing the Sheepskin Trail will help complete the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition Network. 🏡

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*Project Leaders: Fayette County, National Road Heritage Corridor*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation & Conservation*

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



## Three Rivers Heritage Trail

### Allegheny County

Shaler Township Commissioners approved efforts to extend Three Rivers Heritage Trail, a 24-mile riverside trail, a portion of which runs through the township.

In July, the Commissioners unanimously voted to accept \$200,000 in funding from the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's Livability through Smart Transportation Program. The resolution states that the funding will assist "with preliminary engineering and final design of a trail connection from the Millvale Riverfront Park, through Shaler Township, to the Etna Riverfront Park."

The Millvale Riverfront Trail is a 1.7-mile

stretch of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail providing access to the North Shore, PNC Park and Heinz Field. Prior to reaching the Millvale Riverfront Park, the trail passes Herr's Island and the \$2 million Three Rivers Rowing Association boathouse.

The extensions will grant Shaler residents safe access to the river. 

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*Project Leaders: Shaler Township*

*Partners: Allegheny County, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Friends of the Riverfront, PennDOT, and Walk Bike Shaler,*


*Learn more at [friendsoftheriverfront.org/trails/three-rivers-heritage-trail](http://friendsoftheriverfront.org/trails/three-rivers-heritage-trail).*

## Westmoreland Heritage Trail

### Westmoreland County

The Westmoreland Heritage Trail travels along a section of the Turtle Creek Branch of the Penn Central Railroad right of way. This crushed-limestone trail featured reclaimed railroad bridges over the Conemaugh River and Loyallhanna Creek, offering impressive views of the river hydraulics below.

In 2017, Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation completed Phase 3 of its Westmoreland Heritage Trail with construction of 5.9 additional miles from Murrysville to Trafford. This fast-tracked extension

was abetted by an enthusiastic community base in the Murrysville area and celebrated with a massive Progressive Grand Opening on September 30. The route includes several road crossings and brings the Westmoreland Heritage Trail to within a few miles of the Great Allegheny Passage. 

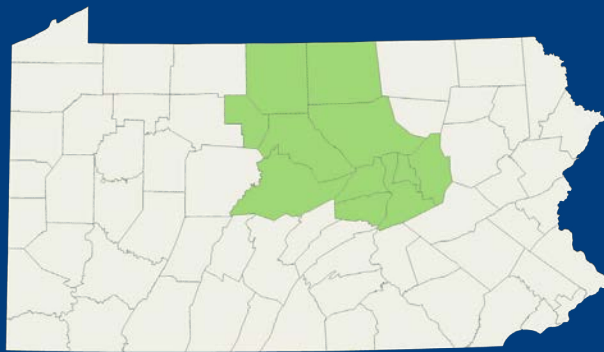
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*Project Leaders: Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter, Westmoreland County*

*Partners: Ohio River Trail Council*

*Learn more at [westmorelandheritagetrail.com/photos-2](http://westmorelandheritagetrail.com/photos-2).*

# Northcentral Region



## Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area

*Northumberland County*



The Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA) is located in the southeast part of Northumberland County in Coal Township. AOAA's topography, land features and soil composition are significantly influenced by the distinctive natural resources and history of the region.

2017 proved to be another growth year for the AOAA. The AOAA Authority acquired 200 acres in West Cameron Township with funding from DCNR. In addition, the Authority purchased another 150 acres in West Cameron Township to close some gaps in the trail system.

Ridership has grown by leaps and

bounds. In 2017, nearly 5,000 more passes were sold, totaling 18,500 passes and pass revenue surpassed \$427,000. Overall revenue also increased thanks to merchandise sales, sponsorships and rentals/events held at the AOAA.

Several large events were also held in 2017, including Wheelers Overland Adventure and numerous off-road training sessions and trail clean-ups. ☞

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*Project Leaders: AOAA Authority*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Northumberland County*

**Learn more at [aoaatrails.com](http://aoaatrails.com).**



# Clinton County Rail Trail

## Clinton and Lycoming counties

Work has begun on 11.5 miles of trail that will run along Bald Eagle Creek and the West Branch of the Susquehanna River and eventually connect trail users to the 62-mile Pine Creek Rail Trail.

Clinton County Commissioners believe this project will help to improve the quality of life and health of residents and visitors by creating a safe, walkable/bikeable pathway from Lock Haven (and points in between) to the Lycoming County border and the Jersey Shore trailhead of the Pine Creek Rail Trail.

Project materials have been purchased by the county using a portion of the Marcellus Legacy Fund and the county as well as

local townships have dedicated their work force for much of the labor.

Phase I, the 2.1 mile Spook Hollow section, has been completed. Phase II, which began in 2017 and should be completed in 2018, is 4.5 miles between the Castanea Train Station and Wayne Township Community Park. The entire project is expected to be completed in 2021. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: Clinton County*

*Partners: Castanea Township, Pine Creek Township, Wayne Township, Clinton County Solid Waste Authority*

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

# Mid State Trail

## Bedford and Centre counties

The Mid State Trail is primarily made up of remote, quiet natural corridors and acts to protect the quiet, wild and scenic, natural and cultural resources. In 2017, volunteers made several improvements.

Volunteers, led by Tom Bastian and Kevin Busko, constructed a new bridge over Cherry Run and removed and replaced a listing bridge in Section 12 near Carroll.

The Mid State Trail Association (MSTA), led by volunteer Deb Dunkle and with support from Bedford County Commissioners and DCNR, acquired trail easements on the Yellow Creek Bridge. The

non-covered bridge was constructed with DCNR funding in 2013.

In September 2017, MSTA acquired, by donation from the Shambaugh Family, a 5.2 hectare property in the heart of Aliquippa Gap—marking the first time in the 48-year history of the trail that MSTA owned a portion of the trail. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: Mid State Trail Association*

*Partners: Bedford County Commissioners, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Bald Eagle State Forest and the Shambaugh Family*

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

# Susquehannock Trail System

## Clinton and Potter counties

The Susquehannock Trail System (STS) is an 85-mile loop hiking trail in the Susquehannock State Forest in north-central Pennsylvania.

Three trail shelters are new to the trail in the past two years. To facilitate “long-weekend” trail loops, the Susquehannock Trail Club has also established two cross-over trails and refurbished the North and South Link Trails that connect the STS to the Black Forest Trail. The STC has also recently bridged half a dozen former “wet crossings” with log bridges that hikers will appreciate year-round, but especially in the winter and spring months when waters are colder and streams run higher.

The first shelter, at mile 10.7, provides a roof for a maximum of four people, but it is a site with a history. In the 1930s, it was a brick “dynamite house” built by the Civilian Conservation Corp for storing explosives. The historic building has been cleaned, bricks re-pointed, and roof repaired, with a porch and bench added to the front, so that a pair of hikers could camp without setting up a tent.

Two 9x12' Adirondack style shelters now stand ready to hold half a dozen or so backpackers: the Spook Hollow Shelter at mile 31.5, and the Scoval Branch Shelter at mile 42.5, the mid-point of the 85 mile STS loop. These two well-equipped shelters make possible a nice three-day weekend hike from Ole Bull State Park to the little village of Cross Fork.



The STS and BFT are orange-blazed. The link and crossover trails are sometimes red (for multi-use) and sometimes yellow (hiker-only), but they are well marked and easy to follow.

The Susquehannock Trail Club takes great pride in the upgrades of the past three years. Another shelter on the STS, this time on the west side of the trail at mile 68, is planned for 2018, with construction anticipated in the spring, weather permitting. ☞

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**Project Leaders:** *Susquehannock Trail Club*

**Partners:** *Keystone Trail Association*

**Learn more at** [stc-hike.org](http://stc-hike.org).



## Tom Ridge Wetlands

### Centre County

In 2017, the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation kicked off a fundraising campaign for a one-mile accessible trail to be built at the Wildlife Center on the Tom Ridge and Julian Wetlands just west of State College.

The goal of the Wildlife Center project is to create a world-class, fully accessible, outdoor learning space and nature observatory that offers everyone an opportunity to connect with nature. Upon completion, the Wildlife Center will serve as a recreational and educational hub, much like an outdoor museum for visitors. If fundraising objectives are met, groundbreaking for the Wildlife Center

will begin in 2018.

The origins of the Wildlife Center project begin with the WHM Group. In 2010, the WHM Group donated more than 135 acres of land including 55 acres of reconstructed wetlands to the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation along with a \$50,000 maintenance fund. ☑

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***Project Leaders:** Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation*

***Partners:** Department of Environmental Protection, Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living and ACCESS, Penns Valley Conservation Association, Wal-Mart, WHM Group*

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

## West Creek Recreational Trail

### Cameron and Elk counties

The West Creek Recreational Trail project was initiated in 2003 when the Allegheny and Eastern Railroad announced its intention to abandon the 18.9 mile rail corridor from Emporium, City of St. Marys, Elk County. The West Creek Recreational Trail Association (WCRTA) was established in 2004 for the purpose of acquiring and developing the corridor into a year round, multi-use trail.

The acquisition was finalized in August 2008 at which time the WCRTA completed a Master Site Plan and subsequently developed the trail in three six-mile phases, funded by grants from DCNR,

PENNDOT, and several foundations.

The \$1.3 million project was completed and dedicated in September 2017. The trail is constructed of trail surface aggregate and is open year round for bicycling, walking, running, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling. Current amenities include benches, a small pavilion in Truman, and interpretive signage. ☑

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***Project Leaders:** West Creek Recreational Trail Association*

***Partners:** DCNR Bureau of Recreation of Conservation, PennDOT*

**Learn more at [cameroncountychamber.org/trails](http://cameroncountychamber.org/trails).**

# Southcentral Region



## Capital Area Greenbelt

### Dauphin County

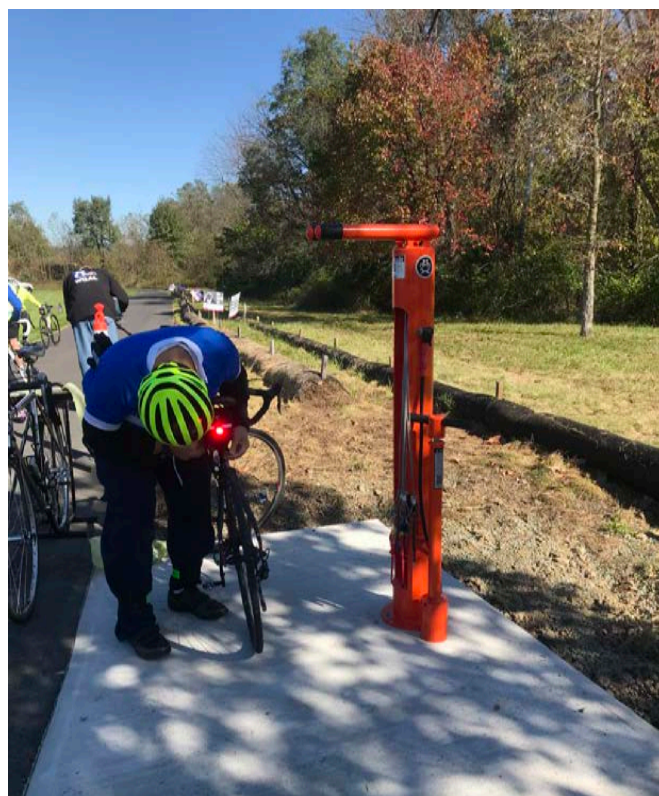
The Capital Area Greenbelt is a 22-mile loop through and around Harrisburg. It passes along the Susquehanna River through wooded areas, urban offices, residential neighborhoods, and scenic parks, including Reservoir Park and Wildwood Park. Parts of the trail share the road, but most of the loop is on dedicated paths.

In 2017, the Capital Area Greenbelt Association (CAGA) partnered with Dauphin County to complete a traffic safety and engineering study to craft a plan of safety improvements for the Greenbelt. Based on the study, intersection upgrades to install new traffic lights, trail protection, and crossings are underway.

In partnership with Dauphin County, CAGA is working to connect the Greenbelt to Fort Hunter Park. Construction is planned for 2018 in accordance with the Greenbelt Fort Hunter Trail Plan.

In October 2017, Bicycle South Central PA donated a Dero Fixit Station to the Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC), which will give riders on the Greenbelt Trail use of bike tools while on the go.

Manufacturers describe Dero Fixit as a mechanism that makes routine bike re-



pairs easy. This station provides a place to hang wheels while making repairs, including inflating or changing a flat tire or adjusting brakes and derailleurs. Creators say the tools are attached securely with stainless steel cables and tamper proof fasteners to prevent theft or vandalism. ☑

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***Project Leaders: Capital Area Greenbelt Association***

***Partners: Dauphin County, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PennDOT***

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



# Carlisle Borough Bicycle & Pedestrian Trail Network

## Cumberland County

The Carlisle Borough Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Network was completed in 2017. It is a continuous 14-mile trail system providing a safe and accessible connection to



Drive and at its trailhead where it connects to Valley Meadows Park. It provides Valley Meadow residents with safe access into town by foot or bike.

downtown, parks and points of interest within Carlisle Borough via on-street and off-road trails. The on-street connections feature bike lanes and sharrows. Segments of the off-road trail provide linkages to various trail systems. Below are trail segment descriptions.

**LeTort Spring Run Trail:** This is a 2.2-mile tranquil trail which winds along the LeTort Spring Run through a mixture of deciduous trees and lowland marshes. The trail is an easy hike and has two easily accessible entrances.

**Dickinson Trail:** Located within Dickinson Park and owned by Dickinson College, this 3.1-mile off-road trail links to Valley Meadows and Forbes Path trails.

**Forbes Path:** Providing a .7 mile meandering pedestrian and bicycle trail, this linear park has access at Royer Road, Hillside

### West End

**Trail:** This 1.6 mile trail, and final leg of Carlisle's Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Network, connects Valley Meadows Park with the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail. This trail consists of a combination of on-street and off-road trails that wind through a section of Carlisle's warehouse district.

The Carlisle Borough Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Network and its trail segments were funded by a myriad of entities and partners. ☒

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*Project Leaders: Carlisle Borough*

*Partners: Cumberland County, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PennDOT, Dickinson College, Letort Regional Authority, Partnership for Better Health*

Learn more at [carlislepa.org/departments/parks-recreation/bike-and-pedestrian-trail-network](http://carlislepa.org/departments/parks-recreation/bike-and-pedestrian-trail-network).

# Cumberland County Rail Trail

## Cumberland County



Once a stretch of railroad tracks, the 11-mile Cumberland Valley Trail, from Shippensburg to Newville, in Cumberland County was donated to the Cumberland Valley Rails-to-Trails Council (CVRTC) by Conrail in 1995.

In 2017, the CVRTC installed new rail trail bridges in Shippensburg and Newville.

The bridges are over Fogelsonger Road in Shippensburg and Big Spring Road in Newville. The project is part of a trail upgrade program that also includes a .9-mile extension of the trail from Shippensburg Township park to Fort Street in Shippensburg, and a 1-mile extension and underpass beneath Rt. 233, taking the trail past Big Spring High School.

Through a \$75,000 grant from the County's Land Partnerships Program, in addition to funding from various other

partners, the Cumberland Valley Rails-to-Trails Council was able to complete the section of trail near Newville.

The bridge was constructed at Big Spring Road. Just about a half mile away, the underpass crosses beneath Route 233.

The Cumberland Valley Rails-to-Trails Council has plans to continue expanding the trail. In 2018, they hope to add an additional two miles to the trail, taking it from Newville to Green Hill Road. With this addition, the trail will be a total of 14 miles. ☐

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***Project Leaders: Cumberland Valley Rails-to-Trails Council***

***Partners: Cumberland County, DCED, DCNR, Partnership for Better Health, Volvo Construction Equipment***

**Learn more [atcvrtc.org](http://atcvrtc.org).**



## Elizabethtown Area School District

### Bike Trail

#### Cumberland County

In early 2017, Elizabethtown Area School District, which competes in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Cycling League, authorized its mountain bike club to construct a bike trail on school property.

The group, only in its 2nd year of existence, approached the school board, received approval, and over the course of three spring weekends, coaches, riders and their families built a riding trail, approximately one mile long on the campus.

The International Mountain Biking Association and local chapter Susquehanna Area Mountain Biking Association served as consultants and trainers, educating the

team on trail building.

The league helps to foster a variety of skills in students and build confidence by offering both competitive and non-competitive opportunities.

The goal is to nurture a love of biking and the outdoors. 🏠

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***Project Leaders:** Elizabethtown Area School District Mountain Bike Club*

***Partners:** International Mountain Biking Association, Susquehanna Area Mountain Bike Association*

**Learn more at [etownmtb.com/EtownMTBSponsor-Letter2017.pdf](http://etownmtb.com/EtownMTBSponsor-Letter2017.pdf).**

## Enola Low Grade Trail

#### Lancaster County

The Enola Low-Grade Trail is open for nearly 29 miles and follows an abandoned right-of-way of the old Atglen and Susquehanna Branch.

The trail runs through several townships and each manages its own section, so trail conditions may vary among them.

In 2017, Providence Township received a \$1.9 million Transportation Alternatives Program grant to install a pedestrian bridge over Route 222 to replace a cut in the trail due to the removal of an old rail tunnel. This connection makes it possible

to enter the trail in Sadsbury Township and continue west into Conestoga Township at Safe Harbor.

The new pedestrian bridge was designed by Wilson Consulting Group and construction was awarded to Kinsley Construction. The 220 foot single span bridge will be completed in early April 2018. 🏠

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***Project Leaders:** Providence Township*

***Partners:** PennDOT*

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

## Ghost Town Trail

### Cambria County

Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority (CCCRA) completed an 8 mile extension of the Ghost Town Trail from the Rexis branch to North Street in Cardiff and celebrated with a Grand Opening on September 26.

A separate dedication was held on November 11 for the two pedestrian bridges that were constructed as part of the project. The bridges were named Carson's Crossing in memory of Carson Kitner, son of CCCRA Executive Director Cliff Kitner and his wife Karla.

CCCRA also added a number of amenities to the entire trail system. A mural was added to a Route 219 underpass on the Revloc section of the Ghost Town Trail. The Nanty Glo access was refreshed with



a painted sign and plantings. Pedestrian crossings were added to two streets the Ghost Town Trail crosses in Ebensburg. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority*

*Partners: PennDOT, Community Initiatives Fund, and Penelec Fund for the Future of Greater Johnstown at the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies*

[Learn more at cambriaconservationrecreation.com.](http://cambriaconservationrecreation.com)

## Hanover Trolley Trail

### York County

The Hanover Trolley Trail runs along the 16-mile corridor of the York-Hanover Trolley Line that ran between the two cities in the early 1900s. Currently, about a quarter of that distance is open in two disconnected trail segments.

In December 2017, the York County Rail Trail Authority successfully opened negotiations with Genesee Wyoming/York Rail, Inc. to railbank two sections of their dormant western line in York

County, totaling 9.3 miles. If successful, these sections of rail would provide alternate alignments for the 16.5-mile York Hanover Trolley Line corridor that is being developed into the Hanover Trolley Trail. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: York County Rail Trail Authority*

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



# Heritage Rail Trail

## York County

The York County Rail Trail Authority has acquired nearly \$2 million to connect the Heritage Rail Trail between Springettsbury Township and York City, thanks to numerous grants.

In 2017, the authority secured \$950,000 in funding from the PennVEST to add to a \$100,000 grant it received in June from the York County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Engineering and design was completed for 1.5 miles of the trail that will complete the Northern Extension of Heritage Rail

Trail from John Rudy County Park to N George Street in the City of York. 4.3 miles of the extension is complete. This final section will bring the total length to approximately 5.8 miles.

Construction bidding is on track to occur in February 2018. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: York County Rail Trail Authority*

*Partners: PennVEST, York County Community Foundation, York County Convention & Visitor's Bureau,*

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

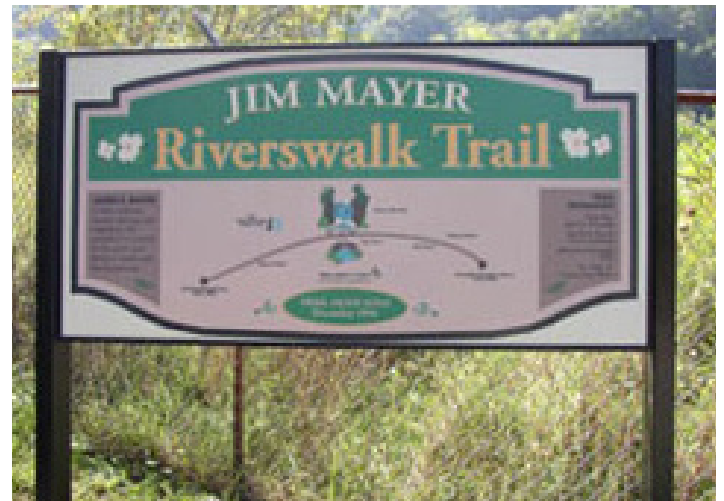
# Jim Mayer Riverswalk

## Cambria County

Named for a local conservationist, the Jim Mayer Riverswalk Trail is a 3.1-mile (5K) urban trail on the east end of the City of Johnstown.

The Jim Mayer Riverswalk Trail is part of a growing urban trail system in Johnstown that currently follows the Stonycreek River from Central Avenue behind an industrial complex to the residential community of Riverside.

In 2017, With support from local businesses and donations through its Friends of the Trail group, Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority resurfaced 1.4 miles of the Jim Mayer Riverswalk in Johnstown. Several benches were placed along the Jim Mayer



Riverswalk in Johnstown. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority*

*Partners: Friends of the Jim Mayer Trail*

*Learn more at [transalleghenytrails.com/trails/jim-mayer-riverswalk.aspx](http://transalleghenytrails.com/trails/jim-mayer-riverswalk.aspx).*

## Juniata River Water Trail

### Huntingdon County

The Juniata River is a recognized Pennsylvania River of the Year. The National Park Service has designated the water trail a Chesapeake Bay Gateway and has listed the Upper and Lower Sections of the Juniata River Water Trail a National Recreation Trail.

The Huntingdon County boroughs of Mapleton and Mt. Union celebrated a five-year planning and fund development effort during a groundbreaking at both Riverside Parks in September 2017.

The project will enhance access at the Mapleton site by adding a canoe and kayak launch facility and an accessible fishing pier. Development will result in facilities for overnight camping, allowing for multi-day experiences on the river.

Riverside trails will allow people looking

for low-impact recreation and contact with nature to experience viewing access and connect with the watershed. This project will also result in the construction of direct boating access to the river.

Water trail access is a high priority based on months of community input through the Juniata River Blueprint Communities Initiative. Implementation of other action items from the strategy will make the entire Juniata River Corridor better for residents and visitors. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: Allegheny Ridge Conservancy*

*Partners: Mapleton Borough, Mt. Union Borough, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, National Park Service*

Learn more at [mainlinecanalgreenway.org/experiencing-the-greenway/traveling-by-boat/juniata-river-water-trail](http://mainlinecanalgreenway.org/experiencing-the-greenway/traveling-by-boat/juniata-river-water-trail).

## Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail

### Cambria County

The Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail is a 70-mile backpacking and hiking trail in Western PA. Part of the Potomac Heritage Trail, it is one of the most celebrated Pennsylvania hiking trails for its varied terrain and wondrous beauty.

In Fall 2017, a Student Conservation Association trail crew established a new, scenic alignment for a section of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail (LHHT), creating a new vista along the Laurel Ridge.

This project included rebuilding and re-routing nearly two miles of the LHHT away from a gas pipeline. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Office of the National Park Service*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation & Conservation, PA Game Commission, DCNR Bureau of State Parks - Laurel Ridge State Park, Student Conservation Association*

Learn more at [laurelhighlands.org/listing/laurel-highlands-hiking-trail/565](http://laurelhighlands.org/listing/laurel-highlands-hiking-trail/565).



# Lebanon Valley Rails-to-Trails

## Lancaster and Lebanon counties

Created from the former Cornwall-Lebanon Railroad built in the 1880's, the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) follows a route rich with social and economic history.

In spring 2017, the oldest portion of the trail, an 8-mile stretch developed 15 years ago, received much needed improvements. New stone was laid, accessibility provisions were put in place, as well as new landscaping and signage.

Also in 2017, LVRT worked on an acquisition (the ALCOA spur in Cornwall Bor-



ough and South Lebanon Township) that would add 1.38 miles and connect the two municipalities. This new spur will eventually connect with future biking and pedestrian facilities in the township. Development of the spur route will hap-

pen in the next three to five years. 🏠

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**Project Leaders:** *Lebanon Valley Rails-to-Trails, Inc.*

**Partners:** *DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation*

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

# Logan Valley Streetcar Trail

## Blair County

The Logan Valley Streetcar Trail would serve as a connecting trail to Bells Gap Trail. It would follow the path of the streetcar and trolley line that connected Hollidaysburg, Altoona, Bellwood and Tyrone.

In August 2017, Blair County Commissioners offered support for the project and Antis Township's efforts to seek PennDOT and DCNR funding to develop the trail.

Plans offered to the commissioners show the proposed trail connecting, via the new

pedestrian bridge over the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks, with the Bellwood-Antis Community Park and the existing Bells Gap Trail heading west to the Blair-Cambria County boundary.

The township received a \$22,500 DCNR feasibility study grant in December. 🏠

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**Project Leaders:** *Antis Township*

**Partners:** *Blair County, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation*

Learn more at [atrtcpa.org/bellsgap.shtml](http://atrtcpa.org/bellsgap.shtml).

## The Lower Trail

### *Blair, Huntingdon and Mifflin counties*

The Rails to Trails of Central Pennsylvania has completed design and engineering for a lower trail extension aligning with Canoe Creek Road and US 22. This is preliminary work that will lead to a Route 22 underpass, with construction expected next spring for completion in the fall of 2018.

The Allegheny Ridge Corporation, in coordination with Huntingdon and Mifflin Counties is working with Campbell Thomas & Co. and Laird LA to prepare a Trail Feasibility Study for the Main Line Canal Greenway. The 42-miles study corridor is between Alexandria, Huntingdon and Lewistown.

This project will result in a Master Plan for

the co-located Main Line Canal Greenway and September 11th National Memorial Trail in Huntingdon and Mifflin counties.

The two corridors are co-located in Blair, Huntingdon, and Mifflin counties. The precise route has been identified along the 19-mile Lower Trail from near Canoe Creek State Park in Blair County north-eastward to near Alexandria in Huntingdon County. Additional planning is needed to continue the corridor between Alexandria and Lewistown. ☞

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*Project Leaders: Allegheny Ridge Corporation*

*Partners: Huntingdon County, Mifflin County*

[Learn more at rttcpa.org/lower.shtml](http://rttcpa.org/lower.shtml).

## Mason-Dixon Trail

### *York County*

The 199-mile Mason-Dixon Trail connects the Appalachian Trail with the Brandywine Trail.

York Hiking Club volunteers installed a bench in June to honor Charles "Skip" Newcomer, an avid hiker and long-time member of the club. "Skip's Bench" is located on the Mason-Dixon Trail between Shanks Mare and Hooper Farm. ☞

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*Project Leaders: York Hiking Club*

[Learn more at yorkhikingclub.com](http://yorkhikingclub.com).





## Michaux State Forest - Fuzzy Trail

### Franklin County

DCNR Bureau of Forestry plans to reroute an all-terrain-vehicle trail to protect vernal ponds in Michaux State Forest.

Fuzzy Trail, part of Michaux's 40-mile network of

ATV trails, was created in the late 1980s near the vernal pools in the Mountain Creek watershed. Eventually, rogue riders breached the banks of one of the ponds.

Improper ATV activity has disrupted life in the seasonal ponds that are home to uncommon species of frogs and salamanders.



State foresters are working to balance the recreational use of the forest with the protection of unique habitats.

Subsequently, a quarter mile of Fuzzy Trail is to be relocated up-slope from its current route. ☞

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*Project Leaders: Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation, DCNR Bureau of State Forests–Michaux State Forest*

*Partners: New Belgium Brewing Company*

*Learn more at [dcnr.pa.gov/StateForests/FindAForest/Michaux/Pages/default.aspx](http://dcnr.pa.gov/StateForests/FindAForest/Michaux/Pages/default.aspx).*

## Northwest Lancaster County River Trail

### Lancaster County

The Northwest Lancaster County River Trail is a multi-purpose, public recreation trail approximately fourteen miles long, spanning five municipalities at the northwestern edge of Lancaster County.

In 2017, approximately 1.5 miles of new trail in Marietta Borough were installed, as well as installation of an accessible pedestrian ramp/bridge.

Work was also completed on design and permitting of over two miles of trail in

Conoy Township. Approximately .75 miles in the township were cleared, rough graded and installed with stone trail base.

Two large box culverts have been bid to be installed in early 2018 in the same section of trail. ☞

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*Project Leaders: Susquehanna River Heritage Corridor*

*Partners: Lancaster County*

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

## Path of the Flood Trail

### Cambria County

The Path of the Flood, which begins just below the breached South Fork Dam and follows the same watercourse that floodwaters took in 1889, offers an 11-mile bicycle ride that's both intellectually and physically satisfying.

In 2017, the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority (CCCRA) and the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy completed additional acquisitions to extend this scenic, historic gem.

Right of Way Agreements are now in place to build the base trail for an extension of the Path of the Flood Trail from East Conemaugh Borough into the

City of Johnstown's Upper Woodvale neighborhood. Initially, an excavating contractor will establish a dirt surface with drainage where appropriate. Volunteers will place stone, fencing, signage and address other trail issues, although this work likely will be done in the spring. ☐

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*Project Leaders: Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority, Conemaugh Valley Conservancy*

*Partners: Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, NRG Energy*

Learn more at [transalleghenytrails.com/trails/path-of-the-flood.aspx](http://transalleghenytrails.com/trails/path-of-the-flood.aspx).

## Quittie Creek Nature Park Trail

### Lebanon County

The Quittie Creek Nature Park is a 33-acre municipal park that runs along the north bank of the Quittapahilla Creek, a spring-fed, catch-and-release trout stream.

The central trail of the park runs along the creek, but other trails extend inland, including into a deep quarry floor with central pond. Two railroad-tie staircases provide access to the tops of steep hills.

In 2017, the Quittie Creek Nature Park Committee, working in conjunction with



Annville Township to maintain the park, raised \$33,000 to purchase an additional 2.64 acres containing 0.25 miles of additional stream-side path. The purchase, which will take place in January, 2018, will expand the park to 36+ acres and

will expand the creek-side trail to a total of 1.3 miles in length ☐

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*Project Leaders: Quittie Creek Nature State Park, Annville Township*

Learn more at [fooa.org/quittie-park](http://fooa.org/quittie-park).



# South Mountain Trolley Greenway Trail

## Cumberland County

In 2017, the South Mountain Partnership launched an effort to develop a new rail-trail entitled South Mountain Trolley Greenway Trail that would connect Mechanicsburg to Dillsburg.

This potential rail-trail would highlight the heritage and beautiful scenery - those things that so many people love about South Mountain communities, while providing a place for convenient, safe, healthy, and beautiful recreation.

The first step is to conduct a study to explore the feasibility of constructing the project and how much community support exists. A feasibility study is required before grants can be acquired in the fu-

ture, should communities choose to move forward with the project.

Over the past year, a regional coalition of support has been growing for the trail, researching, and working together across Cumberland and York Counties.

The Partnership organized a fundraising effort to support the costs of a feasibility study. ☐

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**Project Leaders:** *South Mountain Partnership*

**Partners:** *Appalachian Trail Conservancy, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Carroll Township, Silver Spring Township.*

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

# Warwick-Ephrata Rail Trail

## Lancaster County

The Warwick-to-Ephrata Rail-Trail is a pathway along the former Reading Railroad. The seven-mile route connects the central Pennsylvania communities of Lititz, Warwick, Akron, and Ephrata.

In 2017, Warwick Township completed and opened to the public the .70 mile



section of trail between Picnic Woods Road and E. Meadow Valley Road. ☐

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**Project Leaders:** *Akron Borough, Ephrata Borough, Ephrata Township, and Warwick Township*

**Partners:** *DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation*

Learn more at [warwicktownship.org/regional-rails-to-trails](http://warwicktownship.org/regional-rails-to-trails).

# Waynesboro Borough Walking Trail

Franklin County



A walking trail, connecting Renfrew Park to Memorial Park, in Waynesboro has been completed.

Construction on the trail began Fall 2017 when maintenance crews cleared trees and brush behind the Waynesboro Area Middle School. A path was cleared, stone was laid, and finally the trail was paved. A bridge was also constructed over a small creek.

Signage will be installed at the borough's Memorial Park to direct people to the walking trail. The trails extends through the south side of the Waynesboro Area School District property and through the rear of the Brimington Farms development before ending at the farm



trail behind the barn at Renfrew Park.

Much of the work was completed by Waynesboro Public Works Department employees.

The project was funded through Franklin County Tourism and Quality of Life Enhancement Grant, from which the Borough received \$135,944. Borough officials anticipate that the project will come in under budget.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in September 2017. ☑

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*Project Leaders: Waynesboro Borough*

*Partners: Franklin County*

**Learn more at [waynesboropa.com](http://waynesboropa.com).**



# York County Rail Trail System

## York County

The York County Rail Trail Authority's mission is to enrich York County communities and countryside through the development of a network of public trails.

In 2017, the Authority partnered with York County Department of Parks & Recreation to complete two projects documenting and promoting visitorship to current York County rail trails.

The 2017 User Survey & Economic Impact Analysis of the Heritage Rail Trail County Park was conducted to monitor trail user characteristics and evaluate economic impact along the trail.

The survey clearly demonstrated the popularity and utility of the trail. More than 44% of respondents indicated that they use the trail several times each week and over 68% of trail users noted that they utilize the trail for health, exercise, and fitness training. Data collected from in-



framed counters and surveys estimate over 263,800 annual visits to Heritage Rail Trail County Park, and a total economic impact in 2017 of \$3.5-4.4 million to the local economy.

The 2018 York County Rail Trail Calendar was developed in 2017 to promote the beauty of York County rail trails. A public photo contest resulted in nearly 150 photo entries; ultimately, thirty images were

chosen to appear in the calendar. Nearly 150 photographs were submitted and thirty images chosen. Local businesses sponsored the printing of 250 2017 calendars. The sponsors agreed to sell the calendars at their locations. 📅

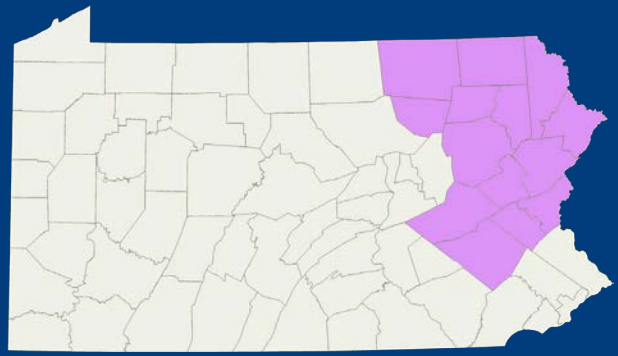
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**Project Leaders:** York County Rail Trail Authority, York County

**Partners:** DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

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

# Northeast Region



## Beltzville State Park - EZ Dock Launch

### Carbon County

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF) held a dedication last fall of the new ADA kayak launch at Beltzville State Park.

PPFF received a grant from the Commonwealth Financing

Authority through the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program, for Beltzville State Park to install an EZ dock launch, an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant transfer station and an access trail to the launch site at Beltzville Lake. PPFF has successfully planned and executed similar projects at other locations across the Commonwealth, but this is the first in the eastern part of the state.

The 3,002-acre Beltzville State Park has on average 500,000 visitors per year, many of whom participate in boating and fishing.



The new ADA kayak launch will allow water access for recreation to people of all abilities.

This project is consistent with Beltzville State Park's comprehensive plan to provide

quality visitor service to all state park customers and to remove attitudinal and physical barriers to allow access to facilities and programs for all visitors, especially population groups with specialized needs. 🏠

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***Project Leaders: DCNR Bureau of State Parks, Beltzville State Park, Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation***

***Partners: Commonwealth Financing Authority, River Runner Group***

***Learn more at [dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/BeltzvilleStateParkg](https://dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/BeltzvilleStateParkg).***



# D&H Rail-Trail

*Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wayne counties*



The 38-mile D&H Rail-Trail travels along upper Lackawanna River and passes Stillwater Cliffs and Starrucca Viaduct. 2017 brought some challenges and improvements as well as the beginning of a major capital campaign.

An 8 mile section of the trail was shut down temporarily due to new pipeline construction. Trail resurfacing will take place in early 2018.

Clearing has begun for a 6.5 mile trail improvement project between Herrick Center and Ararat with major work beginning in spring 2018.

Trail switchbacks between old railroad bridge piers were completed and interpretive signage was installed.

The D&H Pusher Caboose was transferred to its new home in Union Dale with plans to restore it as a historic display.

In December, the Rail-Trail Council of NEPA launched a \$350,000 capital campaign to integrate major improvements of the Susquehanna County trail system and eventually connect the D&L trail to the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail. ☐

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***Project Leaders: Rail-Trail Council of NEPA***

***Partners: DCNR Bureau of Rereation and Conservation, PennDOT, Department of Community & Economic Development, Williams Transco***

**Learn more at [nepa-rail-trails.org](http://nepa-rail-trails.org).**

## D&L Trail

### Delaware, Lehigh, Northampton counties

The D&L Trail is a multi-use trail spanning 165 miles through the mountains of northeast Pennsylvania.

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&L), which manages the trail, reported numerous accomplishments in 2017.

In the Anthracite Region, construction was substantially completed on the trail improvements along Middleburg Road in Luzerne County. This 400' stretch of trail will eliminate a short "share-the-road" section where the road sight-lines are not ideal for pedestrians in the roadway. The final portion of the project, a railroad crossing, will be installed in 2018.

Construction of the Mansion House Bridge in Jim Thorpe made considerable progress in 2017. The abutments on either side of the Lehigh River were constructed, and the bridge structure was assembled and installed. Final work installing the decking, fencing, and paving of trail approaches will finish in 2018.

The D&L led a full-day bike tour from Luzerne County through the Lehigh Gorge section of D&L Trail with the purpose of highlighting both the scenic environment and the industrial heritage that makes this portion of the trail so special.

In the Lehigh Valley, D&L launched the D&L Trail Towns pilot project in Slatington and Walnutport. These two towns are just on either side of the Lehigh River,

both with D&L Trail, but lacks signage to notify trail users of the proximity. Through the Trail Towns process, signage locations were identified and then the signs were produced and installed. Additional signage was installed directing trail users to the Slate Heritage Trail.

Improvements along the NorBath to D&L Trail connector, a short .8 mile stretch, included grading, paving, signage, and fencing where the trail parallels an active local rail line. As a result of these improvements, traffic in Northampton increased considerably and Northampton Borough Council voted to lift the ban on bicycles through Northampton Canal Street Park.

Construction of a pedestrian bridge across Dry Run in Northampton Borough started at the end of 2017. This 56' foot bridge, which will be completed in 2018, will close a major trail gap.

Bethlehem Township rehabilitated their Farmersville Road Trailhead with help from a Lehigh Valley Greenways Mini Grant, installing a new trailhead signage and improved parking.

Lehigh Valley Greenways, with support from the William Penn Foundation and the D&L, kicked off a marketing and branding campaign that will result in a formal name for the Lehigh Valley Trail Network. Klunk and Milan was hired to develop a strategy to highlight the 300+ miles of trail in the Lehigh Valley and



## D&L Trail (cont'd)



facilitate better advocacy for trail connections and gap closures. Grant funded portion of the project will conclude in 2018.

The D&L hosted its annual half marathon between Slatington and Northampton. The rain held off and although more than 900 people registered, more than 800 competed.

In the Delaware Canal Region, work to install a pedestrian tunnel along the CSX railway near Morrisville began. This project will resolve one of the three remaining obstructions to the towpath and will allow users to continue safely through Morrisville and Falls Township.

Riegelsville started the Trail Towns process, but is only in the very first stages.

A significant hurdle in closing the gap

at Tyburn Road south of Morrisville was cleared when DCNR and PennDOT finalized an agreement to allow DCNR to do work on PennDOT property. The D&L received \$75,000 to pay for the materials needed to improve the trail surface and install fencing to insure trail users stay a safe distance from the railway. These funds are reserved for this project and will be expensed when construction begins. 🏠

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***Project Leaders: Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor***

***Partners: Lehigh Valley Greenways, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, PennDOT, William Penn Foundation***

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

## Endless Mountain Trail

### Susquehanna County

One of the first rail-trails in the nation, this former Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad corridor was first an equestrian trail.

The Rail-Trail Council of NEPA is currently attempting to negotiate easements along the 10-mile corridor. The Endless Mountains Trail (EMT) is a trail concept that would connect the east end of the Loyalsock Trail to Ricketts Glen State Park.

In 2017, the Trail Council continued survey and legal work to ensure the EMT remains intact. ☞



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*Project Leaders: Rail-Trail Council of NEPA*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation*

Learn more at [nepa-rail-trails.org](http://nepa-rail-trails.org).

## Gardner Property

### Lackawanna County

The Gardner Spencer Preserve, an 82-acre property adjoining both the Conservancy's Ziegler Preserve and Lackawanna State Park, was acquired in 2017 by the Countryside Conservancy.

After years of discussions, negotiations, grant-writing, and fundraising, the Conservancy succeeded in acquiring its largest parcel yet. A DCNR grant assisted with the acquisition.

Bucolic fields, mature hemlock groves and a babbling brook are the main features of this brand-new preserve. The property will offer additional public access.

Work is underway to develop 1.5 to 2.5



miles of trail for hiking and biking. ☞

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*Project Leaders: Countryside Conservancy*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Ross Family Foundation, Gardner Family*

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



## Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails

### Luzerne County

The Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership is working to ensure a 16-mile portion of the Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails is constructed properly so that it is not harming the environmental, cultural, or archaeological integrity of the region.

In 2017, the Partnership received federal Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding, administered through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, to build a box culvert to take the trail underneath a truck crossing, which intersects the second leg of the trail in the Ashmore section of Hazle Township.

A State Historic Preservation Office

study was required since the area may have Native American artifacts as well as remnants of the coal mining era.

DCNR and DCED funds have been secured for the expansion of the trail another three miles from the Hazle Brook section to the historic village of Eckley. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Department of Community & Economic Development, Department of Environmental Protection*

Learn more at [civicpartnership.com/railstotrails.html](http://civicpartnership.com/railstotrails.html).

## Jordan Creek Greenway Trail

### Lehigh County

Jordan Creek Greenway is envisioned as a corridor of green space in the creek's watershed that would stretch from Allentown's Jordan Meadows Park to the Appalachian Trail in northwestern 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-owned parks and recreation areas.

South Whitehall Township received PennDOT funding (to match DCNR and

county funds) in 2017 to complete a few miles of trail and construct a pedestrian bridge over the creek.

A total of 2.85 miles have been completed, with a mile in the design and completed stage, five miles under design and 2.6 miles in the proposal stage. 🏠

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

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PennDOT, Lehigh County*

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

# Lackawanna State Park Trail System

## Lackawanna County

Lackawanna State Park Trail Care Crew (LSPTCC) is a volunteer group that maintains the 26 miles of trails on Lackawanna State Park and Countryside Conservancy lands.

Volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the year to complete the Abington Trail (ski slope). The work included raising the bottom area, installing small rollers for

drainage, and adding modified surface to the trail. ☞

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*Project Leaders: Lackawanna State Park Trail Care Crew*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of State Parks, Lackawanna State Park, Countryside Conservancy*

Learn more at [facebook.com/LSPTCC](https://facebook.com/LSPTCC).

# Lackawanna River Heritage Trail

## Lackawanna and Luzerne counties

In 2017, Lackawanna Heritage Valley (LHV) continued work along the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail (LRHT), filling in gaps in the trail system, and enhancing the safety for all trail users.

LHV developed a 1.4 mile section of trail beginning in downtown Carbondale and connecting to a 2.2 mile section of trail in Fell Township. The Riverwalk will create a direct link to the D&H Rail-Trail in Susquehanna County. Upon completion, trail users will enjoy 20 contiguous miles of trail from Carbondale to Ararat.

LHV is working with UGI to develop a 2.2 mile pathway in Fell Township in conjunction with UGI's pipeline project on site.

Design is underway for the development of Dickson City Trail, a 1.1 mile section of trail connecting Dickson City to Olyphant, filling a significant gap in the trail system.

Improvements will be implemented in Scranton to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians and to ensure safer connections to the LRHT.

Finally, LHV is working to complete the Lackawanna Avenue Connection, a safe, ADA-compliant pathway from the 7th Avenue Trailhead in West Scranton to Lackawanna Avenue in downtown Scranton. The connection will create an alternative route for pedestrians and cyclists who currently travel on busy city streets. ☞

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*Project Leaders: Lackawanna Heritage Valley*

*Partners: Department of Community and Economic Development, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Lackawanna County, National Park Service, PennDOT, Ronald McDonald House, City of Scranton, Scranton Area Foundation, UGI, University of Scranton*

Learn more at [lhva.org](https://lhva.org).



## O&W Rail-Trail

### *Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wayne counties*

The O&W Rail-Trail begins in Simpson and runs parallel to the D&H Rail-Trail for eight miles, with the Lackawanna River often running in between the two trails. The trail is managed by the Northeast Pennsylvania Rail Trail Council for bicycle and pedestrian use.

In 2017, the Council reported that the

O&W Browndale Bridge is near completion, with a new deck and railings. ☑

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*Project Leaders: Rail-Trail Council of NEPA*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation*

Learn more at [nepa-rail-trails.org](http://nepa-rail-trails.org).

## Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Network

### *Berks, Bucks, and Northampton counties*

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) continued work with partner organizations to develop the Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Network (PHTN), a 300-mile network of connected hiking and multi-use trails.

In 2017, along with directional signage, the first trail markers were installed by the Highlands Trail Stewards along several miles of the PHTN in Richland Township. In addition to directional signage and trail markers, AMC designed and installed three interpretive kiosks.

AMC also partnered with Bucks County and D&L Trail staff to develop a new trailhead on River Road north of Ringing Rocks County Park. Installed Kiosks offer information about local recreation and natural resources, and maps. The Highlands Trail Stewards also developed and installed new directional signage in

Ringing Rocks County Park.

AMC continues to partner with organizations and municipalities to conduct landowner outreach regarding trail gap areas and feasibility studies.

AMC is partnering with the Boy Scouts of America and Natural Lands to develop a 2.5-3 mile trail along the Unami Creek in the Musser Scout Camp, a key trail connection between the Perkiomen Trail and trail network in Upper Bucks County. ☑

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*Project Leaders: Appalachian Mountain Club*

*Partners: Boy Scouts of America, Bucks County, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, D&L National Heritage Corridor, Heritage Conservancy, Natural Lands, Milford Township, and Richland Township*

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

## Schuylkill River Trail

### Schuylkill County

Several improvements were made to the northern portion of the Schuylkill River Trail, which travels from southeast Pennsylvania to Schuylkill County.

Schuylkill Haven Borough and the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area unveiled a new Schuylkill River Trail segment, located near Mt. Carbon in Schuylkill County in November. This new section, which was indentified as a priority gap by DCNR, was built in part by the Heritage Conservation Corps, a group composed of four youth aged 16-20, with one adult supervisor.

Since the new trail was built on old rail line, the existing crushed stone surface was retained. The Corps cleared the trail, cut back shrubbery and installed fencing along steep slopes. Haven Borough work-

ers added additional fencing, signs, and trail surface repairs.

The Corps has also assisted community organizations in improving Schuylkill County parks and community gardens.

The property where the trail is located is owned by Schuylkill Haven Borough. After the trail is completed, it will be maintained by volunteers. ☑

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*Project Leaders: Haven Borough, Schuylkill Haven Borough, Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area*

*Partners: Clif Bar Family Foundation, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Schuylkill Area Community Foundation, Schulykill County CareerLink, Thrivent Financial, US Department of Agriculture, William Penn Foundation*

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

## Seven Tubs Nature Area

### Luzerne County

A group of young volunteers have helped enhance the Seven Tubs Nature Area in 2017.

A group of youth ages 15-18, trained through the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps, installed stone steps up and down the hill along the creek of the nature area as well as assembled picnic tables, restored trails, and assisted with other community projects around the region.

The state contracted with the Student Conservation Association, a national organization, to run the Corp program. The Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources contributed funding. ☑

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*Project Leaders: DCNR Bureau of State Forests, Student Conservation Association, Luzerne County*

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



# Sullivan County Trail System

## Sullivan County



Sullivan County boasts beautiful state parks, breathtaking waterfalls, scenic vistas, natural lakes, and a rich heritage that draws people to its region.

Sullivan County commissioners see the expansion of its trail system as an economic opportunity and have begun work to extend the roughly 60 miles of trail that currently exist in Sullivan and Lycoming counties into more than 100 miles.

Two landowners have agreed to open

their lands in an effort to connect adjacent state game lands and state parks.

Many visitors express their love of the county trails and welcome more opportunities to experience the region's waterfalls, gorges and caves. ☒

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***Project Leaders: Sullivan County***

***Partners: PA Game Commission, DCNR Bureau of State Parks, and private landowners***

**Learn more at [sullivancounty-pa.us](http://sullivancounty-pa.us).**



# Susquehanna Warrior Trail

## Luzerne County

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

With support from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council in 1995, a small local group explored the feasibility of a hiking and biking trail on the bed of the former Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad along the Susquehanna River in Luzerne County.

The trail has been managed by a small volunteer group, Susquehanna Warrior Trail Council, which was formed in 1996. Trail construction began in 2007.

In 2017, the Council recruited four new Susquehanna Warrior Trail Council mem-

bers as well as increased the number of maintenance and chainsaw crew volunteers.

A large number of downed trees plagued the trail in 2017; the “chainsaw crew” was able to respond within 48 hours.

The Susquehanna Warrior Trail celebrated a successful 10th Annual 5K Race/Fun Walk enabling the trail to fund day-to-day operations independently. ☑

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***Project Leaders: Susquehanna Warrior Trail Council***

***Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PennDOT, Lehigh County***

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





# Trolley Trail

*Lackawanna and Wyoming counties*



The Trolley Trail has become a core priority for the Countryside Conservancy to highlight the region's conservation work and serve as an important corridor to connect residents to conserved lands.

The first section of the Trolley Trail, built along a former Northern Electric Railway right-of-way was officially opened in October 2014. The three-mile segment, which runs between Clarks Summit and Dalton, largely wooded with boardwalks to protect precious wetlands.

In 2017, Countryside Conservancy partnered with Keystone College to complete Phase 2 of the trail, which added 1.7 miles of trail and connected Keystone College and Factoryville as well as Lackawanna and Wyoming counties.

Phase 2 brought the total miles of Trolley Trail completed to just under five miles

and sets up the next phase of work.

Additionally, Countryside Conservancy partnered with Factoryville Borough and raised additional funds in excess of \$80,000 to complete the "Factoryville Connector," which connects Phase 2 to the town of Factoryville.

Eventually, the Countryside Conservancy would like to continue the rail-trail along a 14-mile stretch of the interurban trolley line. This would continue the trail farther north to La Plume and Factoryville, and west to Lake Winola. 🏠

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***Project Leaders: Countryside Conservancy***

***Partners: Factoryville Borough, Keystone College, PennDOT,***

***Learn more at [countrysideconservancy.org/trails](http://countrysideconservancy.org/trails).***

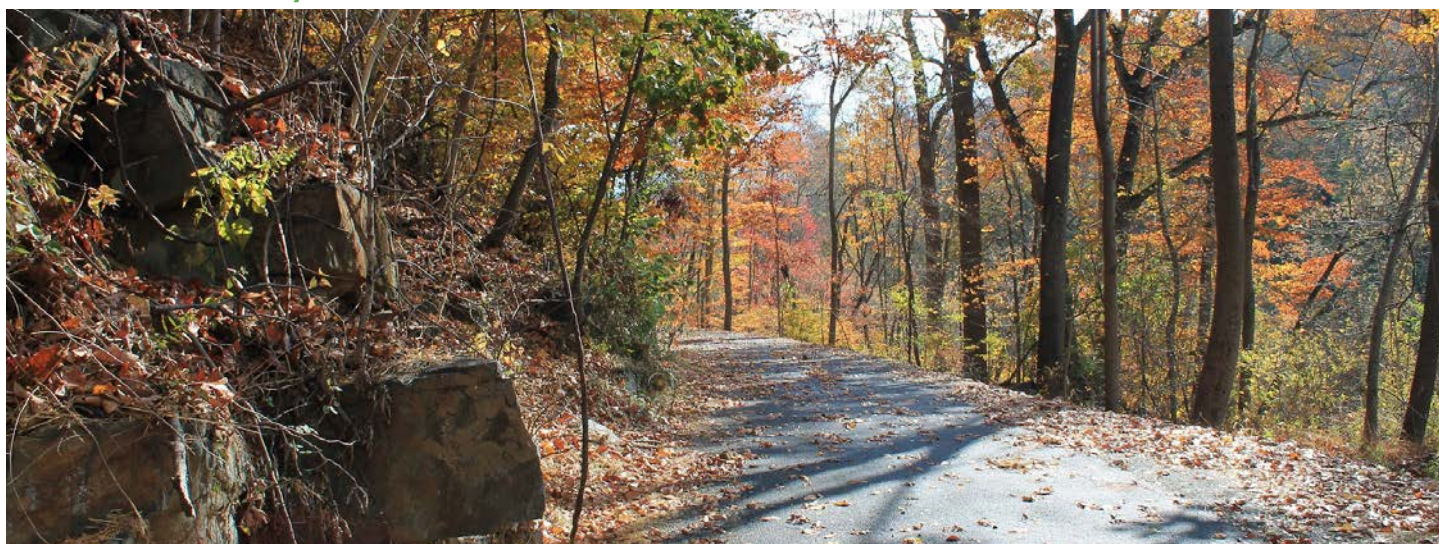


# Southeast Region



## Chester Creek Trail

*Delaware County*



After many years of planning and construction to transform an abandoned rail line into a scenic walking trail, Delaware County and the Friends of the Chester Creek Trail announced the official opening of the Chester Creek Trail at a ribbon cutting ceremony held in April 2017. The Friends of Chester Creek Trail have been dedicated partners and faithful advocates for the building of the trail.

Spanning 2.8-miles along Chester Creek through Middletown and Aston townships, the fully-paved scenic trail offers elevated views of the creek for recreation and fitness and provides access to some of Delaware County's earliest historical sites including mills of the Industrial Revolution era.

In addition to several road crossings and a trailhead with parking, the many years of inactivity led to the need for reconstruction or major rehabilitation of four bridges, construction of multiple culverts, and comprehensive streambank stabilization along the length of the trail.

Over the years, Delaware County Council conducted a feasibility study for the trail and secured several funding sources for the \$6.6 million construction project. 🏠

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*Project Leaders: Delaware County*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Department of Environmental Protection, Friends of Chester Creek Branch, PennDOT*

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



# Chester Valley Trail

*Montgomery and Chester counties*



The Chester Valley Trail is located on the old trail bed of the Chester Valley Railroad, a branch of the Reading Railroad. The trail currently stretches 14 miles between Exton and King of Prussia.

In 2017, The Valley Forge Park Alliance received \$60,000 to study a connection between the Schuylkill River Trail and the Chester Valley Trail. The project will focus on analyzing the feasibility of a 2.55 mile connector that would run through Upper Merion Township.

The north-south trail would involve working with the Schuylkill River Crossing Complex project, and the new Village at Valley Forge development, according to county officials.

It's just one of three Chester Valley Trail projects funded through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC).

DVPRC also funded \$100,000 for a junction center at the intersection of the Chester Valley Trail and Schuylkill River Trail in Norristown and \$60,000 to link Chester Valley Trail to Schuylkill River Trail in Upper Merion Township.

The projects are all a part of the completion of the Circuit, a planned 750-mile network of trails throughout the Philadelphia region.

When fully complete, the trail will continue farther east and west from Norristown to Downingtown—connecting to a number of other regional trails in both cities—via a former railroad corridor. ☑

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***Project Leaders: Valley Forge Park Alliance***

***Partners: Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission***

**Learn more at [chesco.org/1239/Chester-Valley-Trail](https://chesco.org/1239/Chester-Valley-Trail)**

# Circuit Trails

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

The Circuit Trails, a vast regional network of hundreds of miles of multi-use trails, envelopes the Greater Philadelphia region and is growing in size each year. The



Circuit is intended to connect local communities and provide endless opportunities for recreating and commuting.

In 2017, the trail network increased from 750 to more than 800 miles due to the addition of newly planned segments. The growth is due, in part, to more than \$5 million in funding awarded this year by DCNR and other state and federal agencies.

The Circuit Trails network, which crosses nine counties in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, now consists of 325.1 completed miles, 80.1 miles in progress, 119.2 miles in the pipeline (trails that are moving forward in the near future) and 286.6 miles planned. During 2017, the Circuit added 5.4 miles of new trails to the network, including 4.2 miles in Pennsylvania.

The opening Mile was a major highlight for the Circuit Trail's 2017 advocacy efforts. This small but-mighty segment will not only become part of a vital transportation

link between low-income communities in West and Southwest Philadelphia and the economic prospects that Center City offers, but has also created a scenic and safe connection between Bartram Village Apartments and the Schuylkill River waterfront. Previously, the apartment complex, and the surrounding community, had been cut off from the river and from the 45 acres of public gardens and recreational opportunities at Bartram's Garden by a rarely used freight rail line. The access that this .65-mile segment created was celebrated by community members, public officials, funders and trail advocates alike at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in May.

2017 also saw the creation of the 500 Miles by 2025 Circuit Resolution Campaign. This endeavor intended to demonstrate a groundswell of municipal and county





support for constructing 500 miles of the Circuit by 2025. The overarching plan is gear up the region to complete 750 miles by 2040 as called for in the master plan of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. The campaign began early in the year with the goal of securing 100 resolutions. To date, 67 resolutions have been signed in the region, including Bucks, Montgomery and Chester Counties, as well as 40 municipalities throughout Pennsylvania.

In April, the Circuit Trails Coalition celebrated Opening Day for Trails by mounting a Guinness World Record attempt at Penn Treaty Park for the longest fist-bump chain. That event kicked-off a Circuit Trails Challenge which saw more than 150

trail users meeting personal or team challenges by racking up 500 miles each on the Circuit.

By September, participants had amassed more than 81,000 miles of trails traveled. Additionally, the Circuit garnered over 270 million impressions from a paid advertising campaign, which included a media partnership with 6ABC, and consisted of TV spots, video ads on transit, bus wraps, and beyond. 📺

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***Project Leader: 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. See [connectthecircuit.org/#!/coalition](https://connectthecircuit.org/#!/coalition).***

**For more information at [connectthecircuit.org](https://connectthecircuit.org).**

## Cross County Trail

### Montgomery County

The Cross County Trail is a spur off of the Schuylkill River Trail in Conshohocken. Currently, the trail heads north for three miles before terminating in Plymouth Meeting.

In 2017, Upper Dublin Township received a \$100,000 Montgomery 2040 Implementation Grant to improve safety, trails, walkability near the Fort Washington Office Park.

Montco 2040 is the county's comprehensive plan which focuses on connecting communities and improving both envi-

ronmental sustainability and the economy.

Eventually, the completed 17.5-mile trail Cross County Trail will connect to Willow Grove and into Bucks County, providing a major north-south route through the heart of Montgomery County. It will also join up with the Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail. ☑

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*Project Leaders: Montgomery County, Upper Dublin Township*

Learn more at [montcopa.org/921/Cross-County-Trail](http://montcopa.org/921/Cross-County-Trail)

## Darby Creek Trail

### Delaware County

The Darby Creek Trail winds along a wooded creek through the western neighborhoods of Haverford Township, just outside of Philadelphia. The trail's southern end is anchored by Merry Place, a playground and nature area nestled within Glendale Park.

The first phase of the Darby Creek Trail in Upper Darby was constructed in 2017 and travels approximately one mile from Kent County Park to the historic Swedish Cabin. The county has been working toward its goal of creating a "ribbon of green" and recreational trail along Darby Creek for decades, beginning with conservation efforts that started back in the 1980s.

Eventually, the trail will connect north through Upper Darby, Haverford, and into Radnor. It will also follow the Darby Creek south through Clifton Heights, Lansdowne, Yeadon, and into Darby Borough where it will connect to the newest County Park at the recently acquired 33-acre Little Flower Manor site. ☑

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*Project Leaders: Delaware County, Upper Darby Township*

*Partners: Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, William Penn Foundation*

Learn more at [circuittrails.org/find-trails/darby-creek-trail](http://circuittrails.org/find-trails/darby-creek-trail).



# Kensington & Tacony Trail

## Philadelphia County



The Kensington and Tacony Trail (K&T Trail) is part of a planned 11-mile North Delaware Riverfront of trails and parks along the Delaware River.

In May, the first phase of the Kensington & Tacony Trail, a 1.15-mile trail segment, opened in Northeast Philadelphia. This trail also serves as an important link in the Circuit Trails, the region's multi-use trail network of trails, and as part of the multi-state East Coast Greenway initiative.

The construction of this project was managed by the City of Philadelphia in partnership with the Delaware River City Corporation. A second phase of the K&T Trail, which is currently in design, will extend this trail another .6 miles north and is slotted to break-ground later in 2018.

The K&T Trail follows the path of an abandoned freight rail line connecting

Lardner's Point Park to the Frankford Boat Launch and has transformed a previously neglected and overgrown post-industrial landscape, to a green, open-space corridor along the Delaware River. The multi-use trail includes the addition of 80 trees, 1,000 shrubs, 6,500 grasses and perennials, two new acres of meadow, 14 benches and seven new trash receptacles.

Along the trail, users will traverse a former railroad bridge that has been converted to a fifty-foot long multi-use trail over the remnants of the Wissinoming Creek. ☑

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***Project Leaders:*** City of Philadelphia, Delaware River City Corporation

***Partners:*** Circuit Trails Partners, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Environmental Council

**Learn more at** [circuittrails.org/find-trails/delaware-river-trail-kt-trail](http://circuittrails.org/find-trails/delaware-river-trail-kt-trail).

## Liberty Bell Trail

### *Bucks and Montgomery counties*

The Liberty Bell Trail is a proposed trail that follows the Liberty Bell Trolley Line between Norristown and Quakertown.

To date, two feasibility studies, one for Montgomery County and another for the Quakertown area have been completed. In 2017, Perkasie Borough received DCNR grant funds to update the feasibility study for the Bucks County portion of the trail.

The Borough of Lansdale was awarded a grant in 2014 to construct a half-mile section of the trail in 2017. A short walking trail has also been completed in Hatfield. When completed, the Liberty Bell Trail will connect the Schuylkill River Trail with the Upper Bucks Rail Trail. ☞



*Project Leaders: Montgomery County, Landale Borough, Perkasie Borough, Quakertown*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation*

Learn more at [circuittrails.org/find-trails/liberty-bell-trail](http://circuittrails.org/find-trails/liberty-bell-trail).

## Limerick TAP Trail

### *Montgomery County*

Faced with a growing population and a deficit of alternative transportation options, Limerick Township commissioned this township-wide study to develop a comprehensive network of trail and bicycle routes to connect major destinations.

The township applied for, and received a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant to prepare the master plans according to DCNR guidelines. Matching funds were provided by PECO / Exelon and Limerick Township.

Limerick Township received \$970,000 to

construct Limerick TAP Trail, a 2.57-mile long off-road trail that will connect to existing trails and create a 4.1-mile east-west network across the township.

The project is one of 51 “alternative transportation” initiatives around the state that have received \$33 million in federal funding. ☞

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*Project Leaders: Limerick Township*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PECO/Execon*

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



# Montgomery County Trail Challenge and Trail Design Award

## Montgomery County

Montgomery County launched its second annual Trail Challenge in 2017, encouraging residents to become more active outdoors through the region's diverse park system.

Thirteen trails were included in the challenge, which ran from May 6 through December 3. Trails include the 202 trail, Chester Valley, Cynwyd Heritage, Cross County, Green Lane Park system, Norristown Farm Park system, Pennypack, Perkiomen, Schuylkill River, Wissahickon Green Ribbon, Powerline, Skippack, and the Audubon Loop.

Participants complete challenge cards with the correct symbol, found on trail markers throughout the county, with the chance to win prizes like patches, medals, and a cooler backpack.

The challenge recognizes three levels of achievement. The Trailblazer level is achieved when 15 trails are marked on the card. That's what earns the cooler backpack prize. The Adventurer level (10 trails) recognizes participants with a medal, while the Explorer level (five trails) earns a patch.

The 2016 challenge was a tremendous success, with 94 percent of participants visiting a new trail, 76 percent learning something new about the area, and 72 percent exercising more.

Montgomery County also consistently acknowledges the great work happening locally and has also been honoring county-based projects for fifty years to recognize exceptional projects and partnerships.

In 2017, the county awarded Crossways Bridge and Trail, a 1.3 mile multiuse trail between Lower Gwynedd and Whitpain townships. The trail connects Penllyn Woods, Wissahickon Valley, and Montgomery County Community College to the cross-county Green Ribbon Trail.

The annual Montgomery Awards demonstrate projects that have excelled in promoting sustainability in planning, design, or advocacy.

Additional winners included the Lansdale Municipal Complex, the Perkiomen School in Pennsburg, the SEPTA Lansdale Parking Garage, Bryn Mawr Village in Lower Merion, and the Thompson Lexus Willow Grove in Upper Moreland. 🏆

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*Project Leaders: Montgomery County*

# Royersford River Trail Network

## Montgomery County



Royersford Borough was able to make the extension of an existing walking trail a reality thanks to two separate state grants.

Royersford's River Front Trail begins at Main Street in the borough and continues south along the east side of First Avenue. From there, the 10-foot-wide multi-purpose trail heads south to Arch Street.

The extension, at a cost of \$362,250, would move the trail even further south, paralleling First Avenue and ending at Upper Providence Township.

The borough received \$100,000 from the Commonwealth Finance Authority in November and \$181,000 from DCNR in December.

The combined funds will cover a large part of the expense for excavation, clearing, grading and construction of the 1,800-foot addition, a rain garden, landscaping, benches, trash containers, and signs. The funding will help pay for adding nearly 1,800 feet to the existing trail, and will pay for excavation, clearing, grading and construction of the trail, a rain garden, landscaping, benches, trash containers, and signs. ☐

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***Project Leaders: Royersford Borough***

***Partners: Commonwealth Finance Authority, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation***

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



# Schuylkill River Trail

## *Berks, Chester, Montgomery, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill counties*

The Schuylkill River Trail is a multi-use trail with a projected length of almost 130 miles. There are currently over 60 miles completed, including a 30-plus mile stretch from Philadelphia to Parkerford. The trail breaks off in Parkerford and picks up again in Pottstown where it continues for about 20 miles to Reading. From there, cyclists can follow a 20-mile signed on-road route to Hamburg. In Hamburg, trail users can access a scenic seven-mile stretch to Auburn in Schuylkill County.

In 2017, The Schuylkill River Development Corporation (SRDC), the City of Philadelphia, and various other partners completed two extensions to the Schuylkill River Trail. Bartram's Mile was opened to the public in April, and the South to Christian trail and greenway opened in December. Both segments provide riverfront recreational access for diverse communities who had been cut off from the Schuylkill River for more than a century. With these two segments opened to the public, Philadelphia is closer to having a continuous trail and greenway along the tidal Schuylkill, from the Fairmount Dam to the Delaware River.

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation led the development of the new Bartram's Mile segment of Schuylkill Banks, which runs along the west bank of the Schuylkill River between Grays Ferry Avenue and 56th Street, on either side of Bartram's

Garden, a National Historic Landmark.

This greenway will eventually connect to the Grays Ferry Crescent via the Conrail Crossing of the Schuylkill River. A stunning plaza at 56th Street provides a gathering place for community events and unique skyline and river views.

SRDC and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation have partnered with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) to build a trail segment along the east bank of the Schuylkill from South Street to the vicinity of Christian Street. This segment extends the popular trail into Center City, Philadelphia by an additional 1,400 feet. The north end of this trail segment ties into the southern end of the Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk and the stair tower to the South Street Bridge. CHOP has built a pedestrian bridge to connect the South to Christian trail segment to the elevated public plaza around its new facility at South Street and Schuylkill Avenue. This segment will eventually connect to the Grays Ferry Crescent via the Christian to Crescent segment, which is currently under study.




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***Project Leaders: Schuylkill River Development Corporation, Philadelphia Parks and Recreation***

***Partners: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia***

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

## South Tamenend Trail

### Bucks County

Construction to link pedestrian access on the South Tamenend Trail system in New Britain Borough took place in the fall of 2017.

The construction project will link the trail system from the north side of Butler Avenue to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority train station on South Tamenend Avenue.

Goals for the future involve seeking grant

funding to construct sidewalks from the Covered Bridge in Orchard Park to connect to the existing sidewalk at the east side of New Britain Borough with Doylestown Township. ☑

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*Project Leaders: New Britain Borough*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation*

[Learn more at newbritainboro.com.](http://newbritainboro.com)

## Tacony Creek Trail

### Philadelphia

In December, stakeholders gathered to break ground for Phase 2 of the Tacony Creek Trail. This 0.3-mile segment will create a safe link between the north and south trail sections at Tacony Creek Park.

This connector will not only increase trail access for local residents, but it will also improve the safety of the thousands of trail enthusiasts who frequent it throughout the year. When completed, the full Tacony Creek Trail will span 3.2 miles.

Currently, the two segments are divided by the highly trafficked, multi-lane Roosevelt Boulevard. Although Tacony Creek Park is the largest open greenspace for residents of the surrounding neighborhoods, the barrier of having to cross Roosevelt Boulevard has limited trail access

many communities, including many that are economically disadvantaged.

As development on the Tacony Creek Trail progresses beyond the completion of this connector, it will ultimately link trail users to Philadelphia's segments of the East Coast Greenway – a 3,000-mile trail system along the East Coast – via the Frankford Creek Greenway, which entered its construction phase earlier in 2017. ☑

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*Project Leaders: Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership*

*Partners: Circuit Trail Partners*

[Learn more at circuittrails.org/find-trails/tacony-creek-trail.](http://circuittrails.org/find-trails/tacony-creek-trail)



# Resources



## GRANTS

**DCNR Bureau of Recreation & Conservation**  
[dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants)

**PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund**  
[penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/MultimodalProgram](http://penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/MultimodalProgram)

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

**Commonwealth Financing Authority**  
[newpa.com/cfa](http://newpa.com/cfa)

**Rails-to-Trails Mini-Grants**  
[railstotrails.org/our-work/trail-projects/pennsylvania-trail-assistance-mini-grants](http://railstotrails.org/our-work/trail-projects/pennsylvania-trail-assistance-mini-grants)

**Pennsylvania RecTAP Grants**  
[prps.org/resources/resources-grants-funding.html](http://prps.org/resources/resources-grants-funding.html)

**FHWA Recreational Trails Program**  
[www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails)

## 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)

**Trail Advisory Committee Annual Reports**  
[dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/recreation/trails/patrailsadvisory/trailsadvisoryannualreport/index.htm](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/recreation/trails/patrailsadvisory/trailsadvisoryannualreport/index.htm)

**Rails to Trails Report**  
[railstotrails.org/resource-library/resources/americas-rails-with-trails](http://railstotrails.org/resource-library/resources/americas-rails-with-trails)

**DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation Publications**  
[dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/elibrary/brcpublications/index.htm](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/elibrary/brcpublications/index.htm)

## LINKS

**Greenways & Trails Central**  
[Greenwaysandtrails.org](http://Greenwaysandtrails.org)

**Explore PA Trails**  
[ExplorePATrails.com](http://ExplorePATrails.com)

**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.state.pa.us/brc/recreation/trails/patrailsadvisory/index.htm](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/recreation/trails/patrailsadvisory/index.htm)

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





The Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee is charged with implementing the recommendations of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to develop a statewide land and water trail network to facilitate recreation, transportation, and healthy lifestyles. The 20-member DCNR-appointed committee represents both motorized and non-motorized trail users and advises the Commonwealth on the use of state and federal trail funding.

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

*Previous Page Photo: A ribbon cutting takes place along the Westmoreland Heritage Trail.*

*Above Photo: A man and his dog sitting along the river in Clinton County.*

*Back Cover Photo: Kayakers enjoy the views along Allegheny River, the 2017 River of the Year.*





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AND NATURAL RESOURCES



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