

# Creating Connections

2016 Annual Trails Report





# Message from the Chair

The Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee is a volunteer committee of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. We are pleased to be supporting the planning, development, and promotion of an outstanding network of greenways and trails across the Commonwealth. Did you know that Pennsylvania has over 11,500 miles of trails? Trails are an equitable resource for Pennsylvanians, and a significant economic driver for the state. Spending on outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania is over 4 billion dollars annually. This creates over 84,000 jobs, and generates over 770 million in tax revenue. This is 1/3 of the total spending for tourism in Pennsylvania, and trails are an important part of outdoor recreation.

The 2016 Annual Trails Report shows the continued significant impact that trails have on the state. It also shows the dedication and impact that funders, advocates and professionals have toward building sustainable recreation and alternative transportation resources for all Pennsylvanians. Whether you live in, or plan to visit the Pennsylvania Wilds, the Allegheny Highlands, the Pocono Mountains, Lancaster Valley, the Endless Mountains, the Pittsburgh metro and Philadelphia metro area, trails are accessible to you and free to use all over the state.

Trails energize communities. With the support of the state, local municipalities, counties and non-profit partners Pennsylvania continues to be a leader in trail development. Plan your next trip to a trail using [explorepatrails.com](http://explorepatrails.com) to discover the many places in Pennsylvania where you can access outdoor opportunities.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hamilton, Chair  
Trail Advisory Committee

Cover Photo: Standing Stone Trail, 2016 Trail of the Year  
(photo contributed by Brad Snider)

Opposite Page Photo: Cherry Pie Hike along the North  
Country National Scenic Trail in Butler County.

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# Introduction



Volunteer efforts are the backbone of successful trail projects in Pennsylvania and 2016 proved no different. The projects completed this year demonstrated the dedication of these trail enthusiasts and the value that they contribute to the ongoing maintenance and improvements of the state's vast trail systems.

As any trail user knows, weather and time play havoc on our natural trails. Volunteers, bringing their minds and might, played a major role in trail maintenance projects throughout the year. These dedicated individuals were often what made the difference between a passable and impassable trail. Taking power tools to overgrown passages; rerouting away from precarious conditions; removing invasives and dangerous debris; and rebuilding damaged bridges—all in a day's work for a trail volunteer.

These individuals also provided invaluable man (and woman) power in making significant trail improvements. These efforts included building new structures, paving and retreading and adding new miles to existing pathways.

The hours and expertise provided by volunteers translate into real savings for organizations and governmental entities that manage these amenities. When it comes to trail projects, every dollar counts; volunteer power helps to stretch those dollars even further.

*Above Photo: Loyalsock State Forest staff and volunteers team up to help with trail building and maintenance.*

*Opposite Page Photo: A kayaker enjoys a beautiful day along the Allegheny River.*

# Strategic Plan



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.

## Plan 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

**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 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 2016, bridge inspection reports and preliminary engineering drawings were completed with grant assistance from a DCNR. Partial funding from DCNR and Lancaster County has been secured for design and construction. In 2017, design work will continue and additional funding will be sought.

**Gap 125: Delaware & Lehigh Trail, Bridge Street Gap** - The bridge carrying Bridge Street over the D&L Canal in Morrisville obstructs the towpath and forces trail users to leave the trail to cross the busy street. The solution to this gap will be accessible ramps to bring trail users to street level to use an improved street crossing and continue back to the trail on the other side. Closing this gap will bring the Bristol to Morristown section of the D&L near to completion, and connect to completed trail all the way to Allentown. This project received funding for design in 2016, which will continue in 2017.

**Gap 127: East Coast Greenway, Spring Garden Street** - Spring Garden Street transformed with the addition of a linear park, urban trail, and separated bikeway that connects the Schuylkill River Trail to the Delaware River Trail and makes an important link in the East Coast Greenway. Phase 1 of the preliminary design was funded in 2016 and will be completed by the end of 2017.

**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. Work to stabilize the tunnel and improve it for trail use has been on-going. Final design for Phase 3 of the tunnel was completed in 2016, and the remaining work on the tunnel will be completed by the end of 2017.

**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 2016, a feasibility study and permitting was completed. The Allegheny Valley Land Trust is seeking funding for green infrastructure and the rehabilitation of the tunnel.

*Above Photo: Susquehanna North Branch River, 2016 River of the Year*

**Gap 131: Delaware & Lehigh Trail, Jim Thorpe Pedestrian Bridge** - A pedestrian bridge over the Lehigh River south of Jim Thorpe will connect completed trail the borough of Jim Thorpe and the Lehigh Valley Gorge Trail. When the bridge is completed, it will create a 60-mile trail corridor. In 2016, all clearances were completed and bridge construction was advertised and awarded. The bridge is expected to be opened in 2017.

**Gap 132: Susquehanna Riverwalk and Susquehanna State Park Connection** - The Susquehanna Riverwalk is a 4-mile trail along the levees within the Susquehanna Greenway. Currently, US Highway 15, Interstate 180 and Lycoming Creek present barriers to connecting the trail to Susquehanna State Park. The connection will require 3 miles of trail, a bridge, and creative engineering work. Design of the connection was funded in 2016 and design work will continue in 2017.

**Gap 214: Oil Creek State Park Gap** - The Oil Creek State Park trail system includes 62 miles of trails and a part of the planned Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. Currently, there is an on-road segment separating 10 miles of multi-use trail in the park to 35 miles of completed trail to the south. Options to close the gap are in planning, which will continue in 2017.

**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 7 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.

**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. The project has been delayed due to permitting and landowner complications. Gaining landowner support, finalizing design and obtaining permit approvals will occur in the first half of 2017. Construction will likely begin in 2018.



# 2016 Highlights



## DCNR Funded Projects Completed

- Completed 45 trail grant projects totaling \$8.35M in grant funds
- Developed 52 miles of non-motorized trail, including 12 bridges and 6 trailheads
- Developed trailhead for motorized Keystone Site
- Planned for 85 miles of new trails
- Acquired land for development of 12 miles of new trails
- Groomed 100s miles of snowmobile trails
- Implemented 3 non-motorized and motorized education and training programs

## Projects Awarded DCNR Funding

- Received 75 trail applications requesting \$16.3M
- Awarded 40 trail projects \$8.5M in grant funds that will leverage \$20M in local match
- 16 projects will address statewide or regional trail networks
- 9 projects will address statewide or regional trail gaps, including 2 Top 10 Gaps
- 12 projects will plan for 52 miles of new trails and address 3 gaps on statewide or regional trail networks
- 17 development projects will construct 27 miles of new trails on statewide or regional trail networks
- 6 development projects will rehabilitate 6 miles of trails
- 1 acquisition project will secure 93 acres for development of a motorized recreation facility
- 6 equipment purchases will maintain over 250 miles of motorized trails
- 2 project will provide education and training programming for non-motorized and motorized trail users

## Additional Trail-Related Funding

- PennDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (\$22M)
- Commonwealth Financing Authority Multimodal Transportation Program (\$5M)
- Commonwealth Financing Authority Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (\$3M)

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

# 2016 Pennsylvania Trail of the Year Standing Stone Trail

Standing Stone Trail, which links two state parks and three counties in central Pennsylvania, was chosen as the state's 2016 Trail of the Year.

Stretching 84 miles through Fulton, Huntingdon and Mifflin counties, the trail traverses central Pennsylvania ridges and valleys from Cowans Gap State Park in the south, to Rothrock State Forest's Detweiler Natural Area and the Mid State Trail in the north.

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

"In testament to the vast walking and hiking opportunities Pennsylvania offers, almost two dozen trails were nominated during the third year of this very special designation," DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn said.

"Standing Stone was singled out for 2016



because of its quality, benefits to the region, tremendous dedicated volunteer network and a multitude of strong partnerships."

"As president of the Standing Stone Trail Club, it is my pleasure to express our club's appreciation to DCNR for bestowing this distinction upon the Standing Stone Trail," said the club's President James Garthe.

Standing Stone Trail is part of the 1,600-mile Great Eastern Trail, which starts at Flagg Mountain, Alabama and extends to the Finger Lakes Trail in New York.

More than 80 percent of the trail traverses state owned forest and Pennsylvania Game Lands.

There is one Adirondack style shelter on the trail, and it links to Greenwood Furnace State Park, Huntingdon County, and passes through designated Trail Towns of Three Springs and Mapleton. ✦



# 2016 Pennsylvania River of the Year Susquehanna North Branch

Steeped in historical and recreational value, the free-flowing Susquehanna River North Branch in northeastern Pennsylvania has been voted the 2016 Pennsylvania River of the Year following a five-week voting process, in which the public could choose among five waterways nominated across the state.

A 15-mile stretch of the Susquehanna River North Branch flows from New York into Pennsylvania's Northern Tier, and continues south 166 miles to join the river's West Branch at Shikellamy State Park in Northumberland County.

The Susquehanna River North Branch is a prominent regional feature, running through Susquehanna, Bradford, Wyoming, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Colombia, Montour, and Northumberland counties. Once a major transportation corridor, the entire waterway still is navigable by kayaks and canoes, even



during dry seasons.

Conservation challenges for the Susquehanna River North Branch include long-term water quality recovery from abandoned mine drainage; sediment issues since

the timber was cleared over 200 years ago; and development of towns and cities along the river. Stakeholders along the North Branch are strengthening the water quality of the river with green infrastructure, and planning future river town improvements to make the Susquehanna River North Branch a great place to live, work and play.

"Shaping countless community lifestyles in the past while emerging as a recreational treasure of the future, the North Branch of the Susquehanna highlights how Pennsylvania is blessed with a wealth of rivers and streams, and a core of dedicated folks who fight to protect them," said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. ✦

# Advancing Trails Across Pennsylvania

## Special Honors

### Ghost Town Trail Ranked 7th in Nation



The Ghost Town Trail was selected as one of the Best Hiking Trails in the United States by the editors of American Towns Media.

The Ghost Town Trail was ranked 7th in the nation and it joins a list that includes national treasures such as the John Muir Trail in Yosemite National Park and the Continental Divide Trail. It was selected based on its unique historical features, and an outstanding amount of positive public sentiment and good reviews from trail users. The Ghost Town Trail is a 36-mile long rail trail that features natural beauty and fascinating historical features. The Ghost Town Trail derives its name from numerous mining towns that once existed along the railroad corridor and boasts the Eliza Furnace, in Vintondale, one of Pennsylvania's best preserved

iron furnaces.

The Cambria County Commissioners support the vision and work of the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority (CCCRA). Commissioner Chernisky said, "This recognition did not happen by accident. The CCCRA does their due diligence to acquire, construct, and maintain our trails. This is an endorsement of their services to Cambria County." ✦

### Trails Honored as Pennsylvania's Great Places by PA Planning Association

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association announced its Great Places for 2016 and honored the following Greenways/Trails:

- D&L Trail
- Great Allegheny Passage
- Schuylkill Banks Trail & Greenway
- Walkable Warren

Great Places are unique, memorable places that work not only for their community, but as a model others want to emulate – places of exemplary character, quality, planning, identity, cultural interest, and community involvement with a sustainable vision for tomorrow.

A panel of nine judges determined the winners. ✦



## Outreach and Education

### Lackawanna River Heritage Trail Hosts 2 Dozen Races

In 2016, the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail served as the venue for 28 charitable races, welcoming 9,261 participants to run and walk along its pathways. The Scranton Half Marathon Committee donated \$90,000 to help fund the installation of 14 cameras as a result of a partnership with the Scranton Police Department. The cameras feed live images to Scranton Police Headquarters.

In addition, the half marathon funded safety improvements that opened a quarter mile pathway connecting the trail on Olive Street to Providence Road directly across from Scranton High School. This area, known as the “Spur Trail,” is now an ideal space for community programs and events, and for future development of a sculpture park. ✦

### Pennsylvania Off-Highway Vehicle Association Trains Youth and Adults

The Pa Off-Highway Vehicle Association (PaOHV) has been funded by DCNR for the last five years to offer off road training opportunities.

PaOHV’s SCORE Project is training the next generation of riders on skill, technique, and trail etiquette early in their lives, fostering responsible riding practices.

The Pa Trails Foundation offered train-

ing, using PaOHV’s simulator unit. With the help of PaOHV volunteers along with DCNR rangers, the association presented Sensible Courteous Off-Road Enthusiast views at 11 different locations across Pennsylvania in 2016.

PaOHV has discovered Youth Field Days to be great events to interact with future riders. Youth Field Days will be their mission again for 2017.

PaOHV hopes that the efforts of demonstrating proper prudent OHV operation will create a brighter future for off-highway vehicle users. ✦

### York County Rail Trail Authority: 2nd Annual Pumpkin Walk

On an October evening, the small Borough of Seven Valleys welcomed nearly 5,000 visitors to enjoy a 0.25-mile section of the Heritage Rail Trail County Park.

Traffic lined up and volunteers – decked out in all the safety equipment – were ready to park and direct visitors to two planned entrances. White canopy tents marked the entrances, where families were welcome to drop a \$5 donation into the pumpkin box – or not. Over 250 donated pumpkins brightly lighted the rail trail. A costumed Pumpkin Lady handed out pumpkin stickers to all children, as they approached a pavilion where picnic tables were piled high with bags of donated cookies and popcorn to give to the children.

The 2016 Heritage Rail Trail Pumpkin Walk was a real hometown success. ✦

## 2016 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

This event, held in May in Lancaster, welcomed 100 attendees involved in all aspects of bicycling. The goal of the summit was to explore ways to work together to make bicycling safer and more popular. The summit highlighted several local communities that have been successful at building trails, bike lanes and other infrastructure. ✦

### Eastern Pennsylvania Greenways and Trails Summit

A two-day event in September, the Eastern Pennsylvania Greenways & Trails Summit featured speakers, mobile workshops, and numerous breakout sessions on various greenways and trails topics.

Chuck Fink, one of the nation’s leading greenway planners, provided the keynote address. The summit also included a bike ride along the D&L Trail and dinner at the National Canal Museum. ✦

### Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition Trail Summit

The Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition (IHTC) is collaborating across four state lines to connect a system of over 1,400 miles of shared-use trails, with more than 48 percent of the total mileage already completed. A total of 124 stakeholders

came together at this summit held in November to determine the next steps to implement that vision. The goal at the summit was to encourage and enable trail groups and managers to use the IHTC structure, vision, and network to their benefit and advance the implementation and visibility of the IHTC. ✦

### Laurel Highlands Trails Summit

The Laurel Highlands Trails Summit, held in September in Meyersdale, offered a one-day training to empower trail stakeholders to build community investment and economic development, market trails, and build volunteer capacity. The summit included a walk through the established Trail Town of Meyersdale and an easy eight-mile bike ride to view and learn about the development and ongoing maintenance of the Great Allegheny Passage in and around Meyersdale. ✦

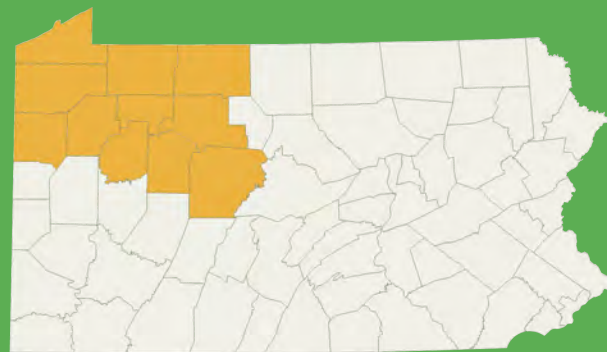
### Stand-Alone Training Seminars

The PA Land Trust Association held two training sessions in western Pennsylvania with 35 attending the Trail Management & Signage Workshop and eight attending the two-day Trail & Bed Workshop.

The PA Parks and Forests Foundation hosted nine attendees for their two-day Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance and Construction Training held at Kings Gap Environmental Education Center. ✦



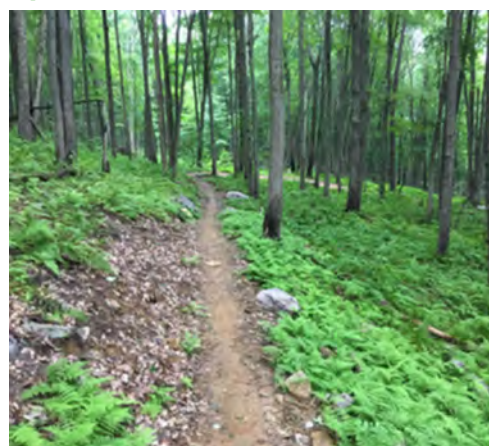
# Northwest Region



## Jakes Rocks Epic Mountain Bike Trail System (Allegheny National Forest)

### Warren County

In 2015 Warren County Development Association received \$107,000 of Growing Greener grant funding to help



sociation's local chapter, Northern Allegheny Mountain Bike Association, works with the Allegheny National

Forest to construct 10 miles of the 46-mile Jakes Rocks Epic Mountain Bike Trail System in the Allegheny National Forest. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held in August 2016 and included various time trial events.

Phase 1 of the trail system created a high-quality recreation experience for people of all ability levels. In contrast to other mountain biking opportunities in the region, the trail is uniquely designed to deliver a bike-optimized experience. Although designed as a destination mountain bike trail system, the trails also appeal to hikers, runners, cross country skiers, and snowshoers.

Phase 2 and 3 will expand the trail and are expected to be completed soon.

The International Mountain Bicycling As-

sociation's local chapter, Northern Allegheny Mountain Bike Association, works with the Allegheny National Forest to provide volunteer maintenance on the trail.

The idea of a destination mountain biking system in the Allegheny National Forest was first proposed by the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways in 2010. The trail system is a component of a larger historical awareness and economic development project and it is projected to attract 5,000 visitors to the county and generate more than \$800,000 annually. ✦

**Project Leaders:** Allegheny National Forest and Warren County

**Partners:** Northern Allegheny Mountain Bike Association

Learn more at [fs.usda.gov/allegheny](http://fs.usda.gov/allegheny).

## North Country National Scenic Trail

### Allegheny National Forest (McKean County)

The North Country National Scenic Trail stretches across seven states and has inspired collaboration among local chapters and other groups in regards to its maintenance and improvements. In 2015-16, 1,343 volunteers contributed \$1.6M of man hours (over 69,700 hours) in an effort to implement safety measures and upgrades to the 4600-mile trail.

The Allegheny National Forest Chapter made significant enhancements along the trail including a 24-foot bridge, which was built over Root Run and the last project that Gene Cornelius worked on before he passed away.

Installation of wire mesh on bridges was done throughout the year. The wire mesh provides a nonslip treadway to prevent hikers from slipping on the wood surfaces. A total of 1886 feet of wire mesh has been laid down, over 74% of the total bridge footage has been covered.

Registration for the 2016 Allegheny 100 Challenge, a hiking event that covers 100 miles of the Allegheny National Forest, was filled in the first six days and ultimately resulted in 135 participants. With dry conditions and moderate temperatures there was a record number, 25, of hikers that completed all 100 miles.

The Clarion Chapter also contributed to efforts to improve the trail. Chapter volunteers completed a 3/4 mile reroute off a high traffic roadway. This work included



three new foot bridges.

The Tour de Clarion, a series of twelve hikes encompassing the entire 93 miles of the Clarion section, was a great success with a total of 422 hikers participating throughout the year.

The Chapter coordinated three more Eagle Scout projects, an overnight shelter near Van, a kiosk with trail data and placard at the Route 322 trail crossing, and a 24-foot bridge near the Clarion River.

Several chapter members also participated in the week long KTA-sponsored work week in June working on several projects in the Butler section. ✦

**Project Leaders:** North Country Trail Association

**Partners:** Allegheny National Forest, Allegheny Outdoor Club, FCI-McKean, Shell Appalachia, USDA - Forest Service

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



## Quehanna Trail

*Moshannon and Elk State Forests (Clearfield County)*



The Quehanna Trail (QT) is a 73-mile loop trail in the heart of the Pennsylvania Wilds. Starting from the primary trailhead at Parker Dam State Park, smack in the middle of the state about 5 miles north of I-80 in Clearfield County, the QT explores the Allegheny Plateau—traversing deep glens, open forests, and meadows that turn fire-red in the autumn.

Among the most picturesque trails in Pennsylvania, the QT offers outstanding solitude and great camping. In addition to the QT proper, 2 cross-connectors, and numerous trails intersect the eastern half of the QT in the vast Quehanna Wild Area, allowing hikers to create many smaller loops. As they showcase some of the best scenery in Pennsylvania, these side trails

in the wild area are worthy of hiking in their own right.

The QT and its network of trails were constructed in the 1970s and for many years were maintained by the Quehanna Area Trails Club. Unfortunately, the Quehanna Area Trails Club was disbanded a couple years ago, and Keystone Trails Association (KTA) was asked to step in to help with trail maintenance.

This was the third year when KTA hosted a Trail Care Weekend on the QT. ✦

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*Project Leader: Keystone Trails Association*

[Learn more at dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/recreation/hiking/stateforesttrails/quehannatrail](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/recreation/hiking/stateforesttrails/quehannatrail).

## Redbank Valley Trail

*Armstrong, Clarion and Jefferson counties*

Redbank Valley Trail, 2014 Trail of the Year, parallels the Red Bank Creek in southern Clarion County reaching from the Allegheny River, where it meets the Armstrong Trail/Erie to Pittsburgh

Trail Alliance, 41.5 miles to Brookville in Jefferson County.

In early 2016, work was completed on a new kayak launch accessing Red Bank

Creek from the trail at Moore Road in Corsica, Jefferson County near a scenic bridge and parking area.

Repair of a major washout near mile 1 of the 9 mile Sligo Spur was completed in late July. The first mile was improved with drainage repairs and a crushed limestone surface which will allow further progress on the Spur in 2017.

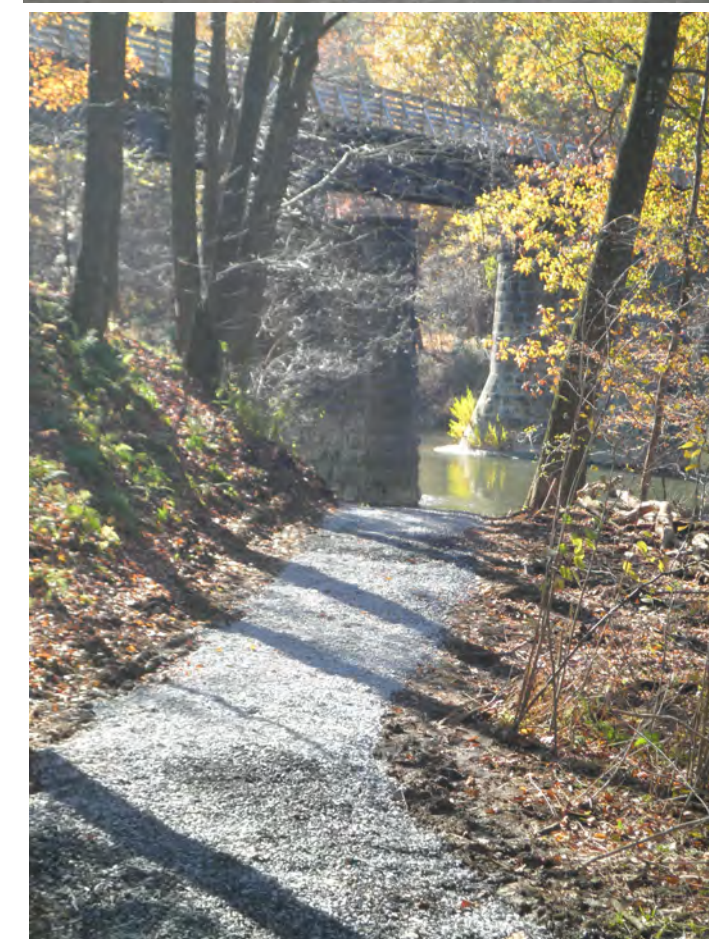
In August, in cooperation with Brookville Borough, the Depot Street Spur Trailhead was dedicated. It provides trail access directly into downtown Brookville at the current eastern terminus of the trail. The trailhead includes parking, an information kiosk, gazebo, picnic area and port-o-john.

Summer and fall marked completion of stream bank stabilization improvements at Fishbasket (mile 22) and at St. Charles (mile 14.6).

In the fall, volunteers completed application of a crushed limestone surface on the remaining 5 miles of the main trail between miles 6 at Lawsonham and 11.4. Lawsonham is the connection point for the Sligo Spur.

A picnic area and an Adirondack shelter were installed in memory of dedicated volunteer and bridge builder, Ray Doverspike, near the eastern portal of the Long Point Tunnel (mile 8) in the fall.

Throughout the year many benches were installed along the trail in honor or memory of trail supporters and their families, including 2 picnic tables and 3 benches as part of an Eagle Scout project. Redbank Valley Trail is grateful for the



support of its dedicated volunteers, supporters and public contributions. ✦

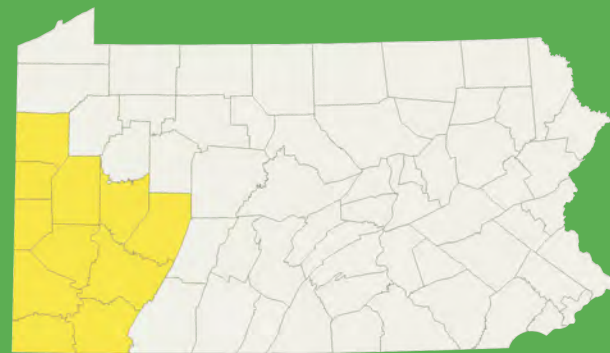
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*Project Leader: Redbank Valley Trails Association*

*Partners: Brookville Borough, Eagle Scouts*  
[Learn more at redbankvalleytrails.org](http://redbankvalleytrails.org).



# Southwest Region



## Armstrong Trail

### Armstrong County

According to the Armstrong Rails to Trails Association, 2016 was a great year for the Armstrong Trail. The Association measures their success in the number of smiles adorned by those traveling along the trail.



in the future for both trail improvements and maintenance.

This year, nine trail surface projects occurred that amassed over 8.8 miles. The projects ranged in length from 50 feet to 5.3 miles.

Vegetation controls involved 20 miles of trail and required over 1600 volunteer hours.

Cooperation is always key to the progress made along the trail. A prime example is a local road leading to Rosston in Manor Township, Armstrong County that had stormwater problems year round. This problem became a severe safety problem in the winter with ice forming on the road surface. A solution was made possible through the cooperation of the Armstrong Conservation District, Manor Township Supervisors, and the Allegheny Valley Land Trust (AVLT). This solution involved a non-point pollution PennVEST grant that utilized property of AVLT to

install infiltration trenches and vegetated swales to intercept water migrating to the public road and provide an area to filter and regulate stormwater. Constructing access to the infiltration trenches and installing new drain pipes also allowed for the trail surface to be restored to a compact smooth limestone surface. This project enabled Manor Township to make improvements to the drainage infrastructure of the local road. This project also stimulated additional trail improvement by volunteers. The Armstrong Rails to Trails Association, Armstrong Probation Department, CareerTRACK, volunteers, and AVL T combined funds, labor, equipment, and desire to remove decades of vegetation overgrowth, regrade, and install a smooth limestone surface from the PennVEST project to the Crooked Creek

trailhead. The results were not only a safer local road and an improved trail surface, but also the addition of trust with partnerships across a diversity of entities.

Projects also included Boy Scouts, high school students, and social organizations that cleaned the Phillipston turntable, removed graffiti and painted the coaling tower, planted natives, removed litter, and introduced others to the trail so parents and friends could smile when they viewed the fruits of the volunteers' labor. ✦

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*Project Leader: Emlenton Borough, Oil Region Alliance*

*Partners: Allegheny Valley Land Trust, Armstrong County Conservation District, Manor Township, PENNVEST*

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

## North Country National Scenic Trail

### Butler and Lawrence counties

Keystone Trails Association (KTA) and local chapters of the North Country Trail pitched in and supported various improvement efforts along the trail.

KTA organized a work week which operated out of Davis Hollow Cabin, an historic facility that sits along the trail. Each day, KTA was fortunate to have eight or nine workers volunteering their time and expertise.

A portion of the trail near West Sunbury had developed some very muddy sections that were difficult to traverse. KTA decided to reroute three of these sections

onto a dryer area. On State Game Lands 95, volunteers replaced a very steep section with a much more manageable path. The skillful crew also reworked several old hillside treadways, including rock placements and path cutting, to improve water flow off the slopes.

The North Country Trails Butler Chapter dedicated hours to maintaining the trail within State Game Lands 95. In addition to organizing KTA's work week, the Chapter invited the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to work within Moraine State Park to repair portions



of the trail and apply limestone to wet, muddy areas.

Another key milestone was the installation of a new 54-foot bridge which allows a safe crossing of Muddy Creek downstream of the Lake Arthur Dam.

The Wampum Chapter also partnered with SCA to improve treadway in McConnell's Mill State Park. Volunteers improved three parking areas and installed new story boards along the trail.

Three Rivers Heritage Trail

Tarentum Borough (Allegheny County)

The Three Rivers Heritage Trail is a multi-use trail system in the Pittsburgh region, along the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio rivers.

Friends of the Riverfront worked with Tarentum Borough to designate a safe route through town as an extension of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail along the Allegheny River. The route through Tarentum is designed to accommodate community concerns and needs.

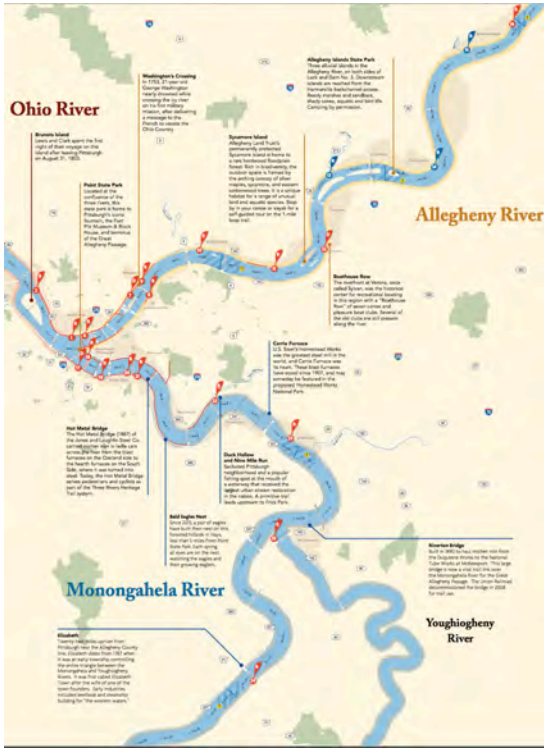
The 1.4 mile route runs along a road parallel to the Allegheny River as well as the Tarentum Riverview Memorial Park. A route leading from the trail to town was designated to encourage tail

The Chapter led various outreach efforts including the 1st Annual Wampum Chapter Backpacking Trip, showcasing the off-road miles available for outdoor recreation in the area. ✦

Project Leader: North Country Trails Association

Partners: Glacier Ridge Trail Ultra, North Country Trails Butler and Wampum Chapters, Keystone Trails Association, Student Conservation Association

Learn more at northcountrytrail.org.



users to visit the town and amenities. Signage for the route was possible with funding through the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. The installation of the signs was completed by the Tarentum Borough Public Works Department.

In Fall 2016, a \$500,000 DCNR Bureau of Recreation & Conservation grant was announced, supporting a \$2 million project to extend the Three Rivers Heritage Trail from

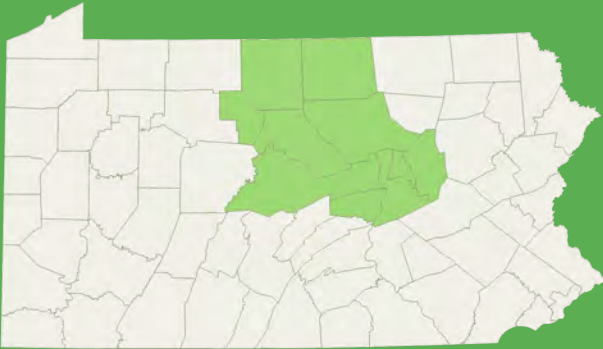
Millvale another half-mile through Etna. ✦

Project Leader: Friends of the Riverfront

Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation & Conservation, Rails to Trails Conservancy, Tarentum Borough

Learn more at friendsoftheriverfront.org.

Northcentral Region



Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area

Northumberland County

The Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area (AOAA) will be expanding by approximately 200 acres after receiving a state grant in 2016.



The funds, approved by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources through the Community Conservation Partnership Program, will add 164 acres along the western portion of the AOAA and 36 acres along the Eastern Reserve.

The land is in Coal, East Cameron and West Cameron townships and both tracts have numerous trails for development. The addition along the western portion of the AOAA will provide continuous connectivity to the Eastern Reserve.

The AOAA Authority also approved an agreement to sublet 50 acres of county property to a private company that plans to build a campground.

The campsite will be adjacent to the north end of the trailhead, which is located along Route 125 near Burnside. A trail will connect the AOAA to the campground,

which will only be used by AOAA riders, said Jim Backes, authority chairman.

In October, a group of 20 volunteers helped with a small clean up on the property in which they filled a 30 yard dumpster with residual trash left over from AOAA's spring clean up of the Whale-back. The volunteers also removed three truck loads of tires. ✦

Project Leader: Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area Authority

Partner: Anthracite Trail Riders, Coal Township, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Northumberland County, Reading Anthracite

Learn more at aoaatrails.com.



## Black Forest Trail

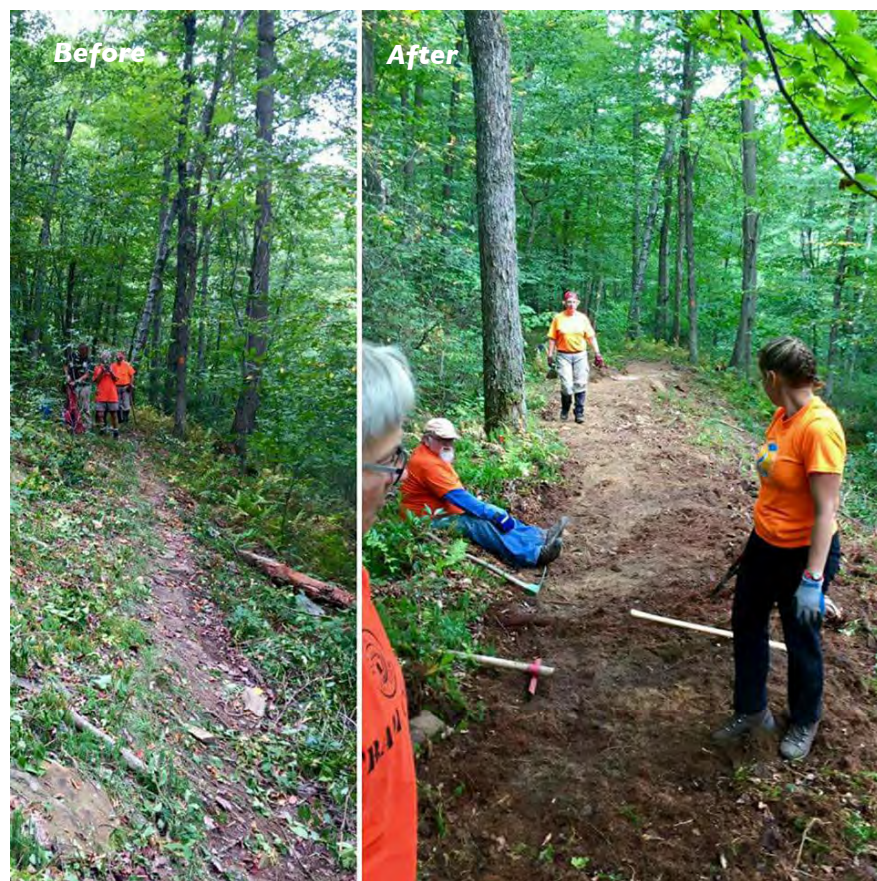
### Tiadaghton State Forest (Lycoming County)

Tiadaghton State Forester, Ben Sands, had thoroughly scouted the 43.5 Black Forest Trail, marking sections needing the most work, and prioritized two spots for improvements.

On a fall weekend, a team of volunteers showed up to work. The group split into 2 crews to

tackle a particularly overgrown 2.5-mile segment in the Algerine Wild Area in the northeast quadrant of the trail. The crews started from opposite ends, with the goal to meet in the middle. As often happens, the volunteers succeeded in taming all but a short section in the middle after some mower problems.

To tackle the next project, volunteers eagerly chose their weapons of destruction (Pulaskis, hazel hoes, fire rakes, loppers, and brushcutters) and tackled the section between the T-Squared Trail and Pump Station in the southwest quadrant. The whole section needed to be trimmed back, and some segments were drifting close



to the edge of a drop-off. Volunteers worked hard to clear, dig sidehill, and reposition the trail, now flatter and wider, upslope away from the precipice.

Another crew, armed with brushcutters and a chainsaw, headed east to conquer

some overgrown sections between Manor Fork Road and the Gas Line Trail. That evening, the Trail Care leaders treated the hardworking crew to some Oktoberfest-ish sauerkraut and brats. Others contributed by bringing snacks.

These segments are now in much better shape for hikers and backpackers that take on the challenging Black Forest Trail. Some of the crew had the pleasure of seeing the same backpackers enjoying different parts of the trail during these three days. Others enjoyed seeing remnants of Bob Webber's trail-clearing efforts (the ax-cut blowdown was a telltale sign), and some wandered down the short

Bicentennial Trail to admire the stalwart, virgin, 4-foot-diameter hemlock tree found there.

Participants included Jenn Ulmer, Tony Robbins, Donna Thompson, Dave Walp, Ed Lawrence, Tom Bastian, Wanda Shirk, Mary Ladish, Elena Rose, and Matt Crosbie, as well as 3 retired forestry workers—John Eastlake, Jeff Raisch, and Bob Merrill and two current foresters, Doug Frederick and Ben Gamble, along with DCNR volunteer Boyd Clark Jr. and two Trail Care rookies, Liz Lingle and Doug Van Brunt. ✦

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*Project Leader: Keystone Trails Association*

*Partner: DCNR Bureau of State Parks - Hyner Run State park*

[Learn more at dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/recreation/hiking/stateforesttrails/blackforesttrail](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/recreation/hiking/stateforesttrails/blackforesttrail).



## Bucktail Path Trail

### Elk State Forest (Cameron County)

The focus of this year's Bucktail Path Trail Care in Elk State Forest was a short reroute—taking a trail section north of Hunts Run Road up a mountainside away from its namesake stream, Hunts Run. At its former location, the trail was proving precarious because of its slow collapse into the stream. Fortunately, by using a convenient existing grade, the crew only had to dig a new treadway for half the reroute.

The participants—Tony Robbins, Tom Bastian, Wanda Shirk, and Ed Lawrence—

were up to the task and plied their digging tools with determination. The new trail section was blazed and ready to go by the afternoon. This was the last scheduled Trail Care of the year; 2017 will offer more opportunities to help keep Pennsylvania's hiking trails safe and accessible. ✦

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*Project Leader: Keystone Trails Association*

[Learn more at dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/recreation/hiking/stateforesttrails/bucktailpath/index.htm](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/recreation/hiking/stateforesttrails/bucktailpath/index.htm).



## Garby Trail

### Sproul State Forest (Clinton County)

In October a sizable oak fell and dealt a direct body blow to the bridge spanning Huff Run. The bridge, originally built by a Keystone Trails Association (KTA) Trail Care Crew,

is located on the Jack Paulhamus / Garby Trail in Sproul State Forest. It is a yellow blazed hiking-only trail that connects the Donut Hole Trail to the Chuck Keiper Trail and is also used during the Hyner View Challenge.

Coordinated by Sproul Forester Thaddeus Ligenza, the repair of the bridge began by having the Hyner Maintenance Crew cut and remove the tree. KTA trail crew volunteers Tom Bastian and Tony Robbins then assessed the damage and determined what materials would be needed to make



the repairs. They then stripped the bridge down to what was still useable.

Local trail runners then carried in the new lumber and hardware, supplied by forestry, to the

bridge site and removed the damaged materials. Bastian and Robbins returned and made the necessary repairs. Barely a month later the bridge was as good as new thanks to the combined efforts of volunteers and Sproul foresters. ✦

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*Project Leader: Keystone Trails Association*

*Partner: DCNR Bureau of State Forests - Sproul State Forest*

*Learn more at [dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/sproul](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/sproul).*

## Marsh Creek Greenway

### Tioga County

The Marsh Creek Greenway is a 3-mile connector Rail-Trail from the Borough of Wellsboro to Wellsboro Junction, the northern terminus of the Pine Creek Trail that runs 65 miles through the PA Grand Canyon to Jersey Shore. Wellsboro and Tioga County are gateways to the Pennsylvania Wilds.

The year has been busy for the newly formed Tioga County Trail Authority and major milestones were met. Along with the action and support of the County Board of Commissioners to establish and fund the County Trail Authority, the association qualified for Federal Highway Administration funding through the

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program. (Tioga County had failed an Air Quality test and that opened doors for the funding.) The Authority was able to demonstrate that the trail segment would remove 1500 vehicles from the highway annually. PennDOT will be coordinating the project and Wilson Consulting Group has been selected to work on the project.

This funding is being used for preliminary engineering and final design for the trail that runs for about 1/3 of the distance along an operating railroad. The owner of the railroad, Growth Resources of Wellsboro, is a partner in the trail development and has contributed time and treasure into developing the trail.

The authority has been offered a sizable donation of land for trail corridor, stream relocation work and mid-way “pocket park” development along Marsh Creek. Marsh Creek is the third fork of Pine Creek and is a splendid example of a breech divide wetland and an Audubon Important Bird Area. This connector trail will allow the local community and visitors to journey through the woods past grandmothers and on to the River of Pine and beyond and have the spirit to push into the Canyon for a real adventure.

One of the Authority’s most significant upcoming efforts is the stream relocation project. This work will require moving two segments of Marsh Creek and creating fish habitat, wetlands, and adequate space for the trail, adjacent to



the railroad, to pass a densely settled portion of the corridor. Most importantly, this work will protect the village of Stokesdale and the railroad from flooding.

The Authority has secured Growing Greener funding for the project and are awaiting permits to begin the work. ✦

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*Project Leader: Tioga County Trail Authority*

*Partner: Growth Resources of Wellsboro, PennDOT, Tioga County, U.S. Department of Transportation*

*Learn more at [pinecreekwatershedrcp.org/marshcreek.htm](http://pinecreekwatershedrcp.org/marshcreek.htm).*



# Mid State Trail

## Clinton and Tioga counties

### Woolrich Region, Ravensburg State Park

Keystone Trail Association (KTA) volunteers descended on the Mid State Trail in Ravensburg State Park, Clinton County, this past summer to implement some much-needed improvements.

The work occurred over the course of a weekend and began with the clearing of picnic areas in Hairy John State Forest.

During dinner at the park, a long-distance biker — yes, biker — came in and registered to camp for the night. He’d biked from Michigan and was heading to Newark, Delaware. As he was a strong-looking young man, he was quickly approached by KTA volunteers to help with the workload. He was very agreeable and spent the next day digging sidehill.

On Saturday morning there were two paint crews sent to an area that needed re-blazing, as well as 12 individuals assigned to dig sidehill to finish a reroute that was started last year. The project was finally completed and was blazed on Sunday morning before the rains came.

Those in attendance were Ben Auer, Tom Bastian, Kevin Busko, Pat Cody, Alex Curtze, Joe and Lorraine Healey, Tony Robbins, Wanda Shirk, Kathy Sieminski, Sharon Southall, Alex Soroka, Rick Stibgen, Donna Thompson, Jenn Ulmer, and Dave Walp. The gang worked a total of 192 hours, drove 54 hours round-trip, and reblazed 8-1/2 miles on the Middle

State Trail. Last of all, a huge thank-you to Ravensburg State Park Manager Mike Crowley and his staff for keeping the park a great place for us to camp.

### Tioga County, Tioga State Forest

Eight KTA volunteers spent three days working on the northern segment of the Mid State Trail in July.

The crew cleared a rock bypass trail in Tioga State Forest around a stretch of scenic yet difficult rock crevice treadway south of the so-called Haunted Vista.

Around Sand Run Falls, the group replaced the signs and the post at the first junction north of the falls. The volunteers mowed and brushwhacked several areas in Tioga State Forest, as well as in State Game Land 37, on private land, and at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hammond Lake.

The diverse landforms of the area added interest to this not-yet-well-traveled portion of the trail, which skirts rural farms interspersed with fingers of deep woods.

Slightly cooler temperatures than downstate, as well as microbrew beer with Saturday’s dinner at the Wellsboro House, greeted the much-appreciated volunteers. Neil Brennen of the Reading area, our newest and farthest-coming volunteer and outdoor blogger (“A Taste for the Woods” on various platforms), took a break from

riding his bicycle across Pennsylvania to participate.

### Everett Region, Bedford County

Maintaining the Mid State Trail in the Everett Region, in south-central Pennsylvania, is an ongoing challenge. Fortunately, volunteers who joined the KTA Trail Crew in June were up to the task.

The crew opened a long-anticipated section of the trail north of Everett — going on the Blue Triangle property diagonally through the lumber yard to the Everett Door Company edge of the woods out to Route 26. Connecting this piece of the puzzle was a great accomplishment because of the number of different landowners involved and the confusing state and dated details of some of the

survey maps. KTA greatly appreciated the private landowners who’ve allowed the Mid State Trail to pass through their properties.

Volunteers also worked in the Rainsburg area, locating an easier way to access the trail in two different places. It took five people doing serious combat with thick briars to find and mark these new paths.

The week went well, and the trail is in better condition thanks to the dedication of the KTA Trail Crew. ✦

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*Project Leader: Keystone Trails Association*

*Partner: DCNR Bureau of State Parks - Ravensburg State Park*

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

# Moss-Hanne Trail

## Black Moshannon State Park (Centre County)

The successful boardwalk build along the Moss-Hanne Trail in Black Moshannon State Park has added new nomenclature to Keystone Trail Association’s (KTA) Trail Care playbook: the Flash Crew. The Flash Crew consists of volunteers who come together on relatively short notice to tackle a project that was not on KTA’s regular Trail Care schedule. The tentacles of social media were instrumental in getting the word out about this spur-of-the-moment project, not only making the endeavor feasible but also bringing a bright spot to a beautiful fall weekend in

central Pennsylvania.

Over three days, the volunteer crew did what Park Manager Jeb Miller described as “an amazing amount of work” — building 232 feet of new boardwalk on the section of the Moss-Hanne Trail that coincides with the Allegheny Front Trail (AFT) as it traverses the park. This section has many soggy areas that hikers either slog through or try to avoid, resulting in trail widening. The new boardwalk addressed 4 of these problem areas, improving the sustainability of the trail and the general hiking experience.



The brunt of the work consisted of carrying in the boardwalk materials to each of the 4 build sites. The lumber was heavy, and the farthest of the sites, requiring a 96-foot-long boardwalk, was almost a mile from where the materials had been off-loaded by the access trail. The crew was up to the task, however, and overall carried in 44 planks and 48 of the sleepers. By one calculation, some participants walked over 10 miles just going back and forth—and never empty-handed.

## West Rim Trail

### Colton Point State Park (Tioga County)

Despite the forecast for a rainy weekend, 12 volunteers convened in the camping area of Colton Point State Park in May to work on the West Rim Trail.

Picking up where work stopped last year, the participants cut back the abundant laurel overgrowth that continues to constrict sections of the treadway on the southern half of the trail. Reclaiming the corridor from laurel is slow going, and every foot of the way was contested by the wiry and tenacious bush,



but another 1.5 miles of trail was cleared between the Pine Trail access and Bohlen Trail by the end of the day. A logging crew also worked to open the trail south of Bradley Wales Picnic Area. Sunday's

To round out the work, chainsaw crews also walked through 20 miles of the AFT loop, cutting blowdowns and clearing debris.

Volunteers logged a total of 149 hours of work during the weekend. ✦

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*Project Leader: Keystone Trails Association*

*Partner: DCNR Bureau of State Parks - Black Moshannon State Park*

*Learn more at [dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/blackmoshannon](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/blackmoshannon).*

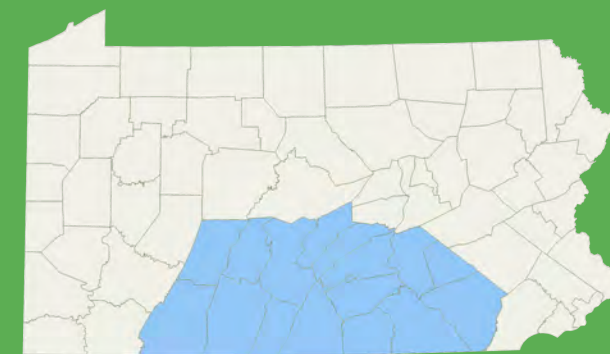
crew went out with their rain gear on and cleared the trail from Barbour Rock to Deadman Hollow Road. ✦

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*Project Leader: Keystone Trails Association*

*Learn more at [dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/recreation/hiking/stateforesttrails/westrimtrail/](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/recreation/hiking/stateforesttrails/westrimtrail/)*

# Southcentral Region



## Bedford Heritage Trail

### Bedford Borough (Bedford County)

The Bedford Heritage Trail, which opened in September 2015, and connects the Omni Bedford Springs Resort and Spa to downtown Bedford, has proved to be a popular addition to the community for residents and visitors alike.

This year, the Bedford Joint Municipal Authority added eight benches, six environmental and history storyboards, two bulletin boards and one kiosk to the 1.1 mile newly constructed segment. The Authority made other improvements to this section late in calendar year 2016, including an enlarged parking lot, and planting several hundred native grasses and shrubs.

The Authority has also conducted surveys of trail users and finds that most users visit the trail one to three times a week. The trail allows visitors to easily walk or bike to downtown. On weekends, 35% of the trail users are from outside Bedford County. This figure is impressive given the



fact that the trail is more of a connecting link than a destination trail. The community uses this trail heavily and has supported it financially by purchasing amenities, sponsoring eight-foot fence sections, and making cash and in-kind donations.

Finally, the Authority has entered into a contract with an engineering firm to update a 2007 plan to extend the trail to Old Bedford Village (a living history museum)

and Friendship Village (a popular campground) from Ft. Bedford Park in downtown Bedford. The extension will bring the total length of the trail to approximately 5 miles. The contractor will complete the update by March 15, 2017. ✦

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*Project Leader: Bedford Joint Municipal Authority*

*Partners: Bedford Borough, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation*

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



# Capital Area Greenbelt

## Dauphin County



Efforts towards creating the Greenbelt first began about 100 years ago with the City Beautiful Movement. Cities at the time were heavily polluted, sanitation very poor, and public parks and open space scarce. The City Beautiful Movement was an effort to improve living conditions across the nation's cities, and in Harrisburg one of many improvements planned was the creation of a "parkway", a linear park around the city. Portions of the parkway were completed, but fell in to disrepair over the years.

A half-mile trail extension of the Capital Area Greenbelt opened in September after two decades in the making.

The Andrea Avenue trail begins in Harris Hills neighborhood of Susquehanna Township and leads to the Capital Area Greenbelt, which is a 20-mile green ring around Harrisburg.

The Capital Area Greenbelt Association was formed in 1990 to restore the completed sections of the greenway and complete what hadn't been done. In the past years, it has been accomplished with much volunteer help from the community, supported by various groups, grants and donated materials and equipment. Significant grants obtained in 1999 allowed the loop to be essentially completed.

There were times in the past when it seemed that maintaining such an extensive linear park with volunteers was not possible. The turning point may have been a confrontation with McDonald's and the county over the proposed siting of a fast food restaurant on the greenbelt. Almost overnight, the greenbelt became an accepted institution and a household word.

The completion of additional sections, addition of the Five Senses Garden, and

much hard work by many individuals and groups has resulted in greatly increased usage of the greenbelt. There's now no doubt that the Capital Area Greenbelt is and forever will be one of the gems of our Capital City. ✦

*Project Leader: Capital Area Greenbelt Association*

*Partners: City of Harrisburg, Dauphin County, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PennDOT, Susquehanna Township*

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

# Enola Low Grade Trail

## Lancaster County

The granddaddy of all the rail-trails in the county, the 23-mile Low Grade Rail-Trail, is a testament to perseverance and vision.

The Enola Low Grade, built between 1903 and 1906 by the Pennsylvania Railroad, was a marvel of engineering for its time and location. Its construction from Chester County to Harrisburg which is almost entirely flat, never exceeding a 1% slope and with curves no sharper than two degrees was



unique in this geographical region. The intent of the rail line was to provide efficient transport of freight from the East coast to the Midwest freeing up the existing heavily used and less efficient lines for passenger use.

In 2008 the townships adjacent to the Enola Low Grade in Lancaster County came to an agreement with Conrail, Amtrak. Providence Township also acquired the Quarryville section as part of



the agreement.

In 2016, work on the last missing link—conversion of the Safe Harbor railroad trestle to pedestrian use—began. Removal of ballast and railroad ties began and the bridge was inspected.

Manor Township, which has taken the lead on the project, is awaiting word on additional funding that would underwrite the \$4 million project.

Meanwhile, a final design would place a crushed-stone surface on the railbed from Safe Harbor through Conestoga Township

to the Providence Township line. That is likely to be done next spring or summer.

The other remaining gap is crossing Route 222 outside of Quarryville. A 210-foot-long concrete bridge is to be built above the highway in 2017 at a cost of about \$1.1 million. ✦

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*Project Leader: Conestoga Township, Manor Township, Providence Township, Quarryville Borough*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation*

## Hanover Trolley Trail

### York County

In 2015, York County Rail Trail Authority faced a pleasant situation. Funds remained in a 2012 PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Growing Greener Grant to develop a nearly 1-mile section of the Hanover Trolley Trail in Penn Township. Largely due to the Township’s generous contributions of labor and equipment, the grant funds were directed primarily to the purchase of materials. As a result, the project was completed under budget. As 2015 drew to a close, the Rail Trail Authority requested and was granted a one-year extension on the grant contract and an increase in the scope of work that permitted work to be done to sections of the trail in other municipalities.

The Rail Trail Authority quickly focused on designing and constructing drainage improvements in areas where major

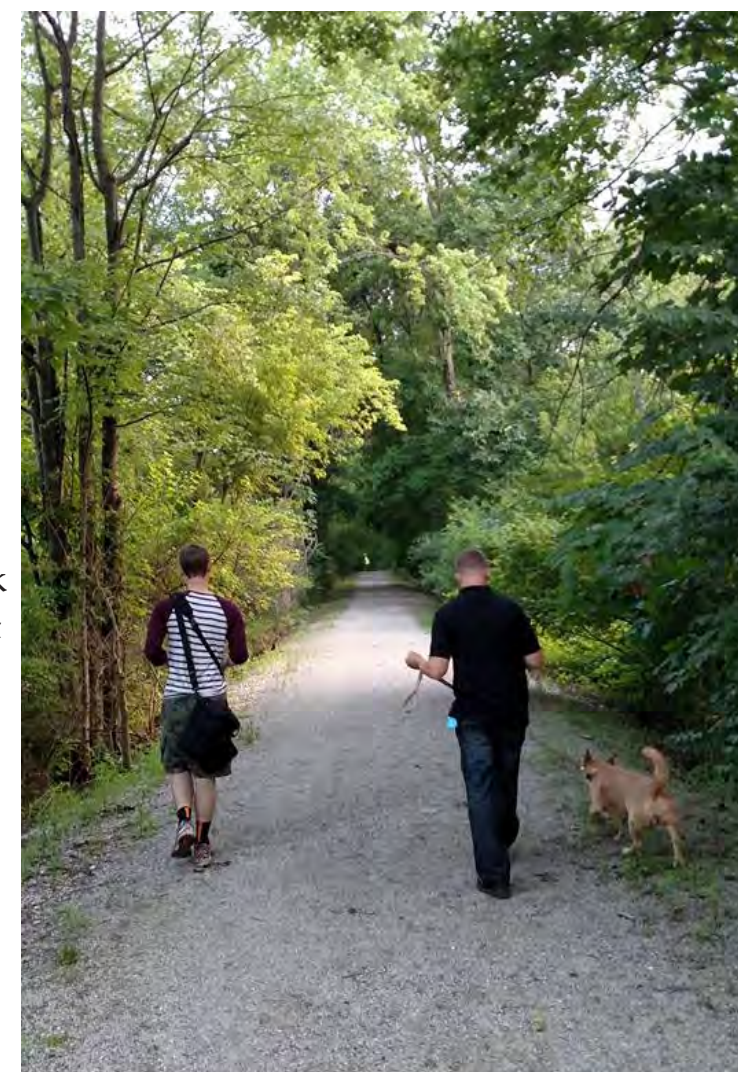
storm events had eroded the trail surface. Most of the improvements were done in partnership with the local municipality, and as a result relations were strengthened. In Hanover Borough, residents and the local YMCA were persistently asking for the trail surface to be improved.

Originally built in 2008 in part with PA DCNR grant funds, this section of the Hanover Trolley Trail had suffered from several severe storm events aggravated by major housing development adjacent to the trail. A partnership with the borough and a local contractor donating labor and equipment along with grant funds to purchase materials, resulted in a new trail surface being placed just in time for the YMCA’s annual half-marathon race. Thank you letters and emails have been flowing into the Rail Trail Authority office

since the project was completed in October.

Drainage improvements and re-surfacing work has also been completed in two other municipalities along the Hanover Trolley Trail. At these locations, York County Department of Parks and Recreation and a local paving contractor were used to complete the work. And finally, in early December a local nursery was hired to plant five native trees in two parking lots.

In all, the Rail Trail Authority was able to stretch these remaining grant dollars to build lasting improvements and partnerships that will sustain the built sections of the Hanover Trolley Trail for many years. Most importantly, these improvements demonstrate to neighboring municipalities, where local elected officials continue to debate whether to initiate trail development



of sections of the corridor within their jurisdictions, the Hanover Trolley Trail is a sustainable community amenity. Hanover Borough recently sent a letter of thanks to the Rail Trail Authority that contained this statement, “We reaffirm the Borough’s responsibility for maintenance, security and insurance for the portion of the trail lying with the Borough.” Thanks in great part to

the willingness of PA DCNR to extend its grant term and scope, the Rail Trail Authority was able to expand upon this municipal goodwill in 2017 and advance development of the Hanover Trolley Trail. ✦

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*Project Leader: Hanover Borough, Penn Township, York County Rail Trail Authority*

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

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



## H&BT Rail Trail

### Bedford and Huntingdon counties

The H&BT Rail Trail reuses an abandoned railroad right-of-way and railroad bridge to provide public recreational access along the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River. The trail



connects Hopewell Borough and Tatesville, intersecting with two public parks, Riddlesburg Park at the North and Cooper Park at the Trail Center.

The final phase of the H&BT Rail Trail was completed in the spring of 2016. A 4.2 mile section including a trailhead was completed bringing the trail length total to 10.6 miles. The total project was constructed using Broad Top Township personnel and equipment with design funding provided by DCNR Bureau of Recreation & Conservation grants.

The completion of the project provides a

recreational corridor that connects the two villages in Bedford County.

The H&BT Rail Trail runs north and south along the Raystown

Branch of the Juniata River for four miles then inland through the forest for 6.6 miles that provides for many scenic vistas and river access. The trail passes through two parks and crosses the river via a 350 historic trestle bridge.

Historic attractions include the Foundry Museum in Hopewell and the Coke Ovens in Riddlesburg. ✦

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*Project Leader: Rails to Trails of Bedford County*

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

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

## Lebanon Valley Rails-to-Trails

### Lebanon County

Created from the former Cornwall-Lebanon Railroad, the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail follows a route rich with social and economic history.

In 1999 Lebanon Valley Rails-to-Trails acquired the corridor to develop a multi-use trail.

In 2016, the John Light Property in Union Township was acquired and will be used for Phase 10 in northern Lebanon County.

Work began on the Shared Use Path in the Jonestown area. The project will encompass a 1.9 mile stretch and be completed



lot was improved at the Aiden Place Trailhead as well. ✦

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*Project Leader: Lebanon Valley Rails to Trails*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Lebanon County, PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund*

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

in 2017.

The parking facility at the Cornwall Trailhead was expanded and enhanced, adding an additional 30 parking space and traffic calming elements.

A park-and-ride

## 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.

The trail follows the route of the historic Pennsylvania Mainline Canal and uses some of the original towpath that remains along the corridor. This provides ample

opportunities to interpret the numerous industrial archaeological remains along the way and connects the historic river towns and villages of Columbia, Marietta, Bainbridge, and Falmouth.

The entire section of this popular paved trail along the Susquehanna River between Columbia and Bainbridge has been open to the public. However, in Mari-



etta, users have had no choice but to walk through town.

A 1.5-mile trail section began construction in 2016 which includes a bridge over Evans Run. This new segment will enable trail users to stay along the river. The section will not be paved until next spring, but trail users will be able to ride bikes on the crushed-stone surface until then.



can rejoin the trail.

The entire 11-mile trail is paved for maintenance reasons, as parts of the trail are susceptible to flooding and ice damage.

The last northern-most section of trail, three miles from Bainbridge almost to the Dauphin County line, should be paved in 2018. ✦

**Project Leader:** *Susquehanna Heritage Region*

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

Learn more at [susquehannaheritage.org/learn/our-workalongthesusquehanna/northwestlanastercountyrivertail.aspx](http://susquehannaheritage.org/learn/our-workalongthesusquehanna/northwestlanastercountyrivertail.aspx).

## Parkway Trail System

### Dauphin County

In October, the Parkway Trail System, a 10-mile natural surface trail option to the Capital Area Greenbelt, officially opened to the public.

The trail, 90 percent of which is located within Harrisburg, was funded entirely by the Susquehanna Area Mountain Bike Association, a nonprofit association that is responsible for maintaining over 55 miles of trails surrounding Harrisburg. The Parkway Trail System allows use by

runners, hikers, bikers and birdwatchers, offering pathways for beginners and experts. It can be accessed, at no cost, from residential neighborhoods throughout the city. ✦

**Project Leader:** *Susquehanna Area Mountain Bike Association*

**Partners:** *City of Harrisburg, Dauphin County*

Learn more at [sambabiker.com/samba/parkway-trail-system-map-available-now/](http://sambabiker.com/samba/parkway-trail-system-map-available-now/)

## Warwick to Ephrata Rail Trail

### Lancaster County

The Warwick-to-Ephrata Rail-Trail, first envisioned in the 1990s, is a developing pathway being built along the former Reading Railroad. The 7-mile route is hoped to be completed in 2018 and will connect the central Pennsylvania communities of Lititz, Warwick, Akron, and Ephrata. Today, just over half the trail is complete.

The newest extension of the rails-to-trails path through Warwick Township opened in late 2016. This leg of the trail crosses East Newport Road and runs to Picnic Woods Road. A crosswalk with bright white striping will be installed as well.



When complete, the full eight mile trail will link downtown Lititz to downtown Ephrata. Warwick's next phase will connect Picnic Woods with Meadow Valley Road in 2017, then connecting to Ephrata Township. ✦

**Project Leader:** *Ephrata Borough, Warwick Township*

**Partners:** *Akron Borough, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Ephrata Borough, Ephrata Township, Lititz Borough, Warwick Township*

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

## Whipple Lake Trail

### Huntingdon County

Ten volunteers came out to improve the Whipple Lake Trail hiking loop. One crew, consisting mainly of Standing Stone Trail members, spent the morning working on several rock projects along Laurel Run; a second crew dug a side hill reroute that took the trail away from a steep, eroded bank and short road walk; and a third crew did some lopping and reblazing. The

afternoon saw the volunteers straightening 2 flood-skewed bridges and setting more rock steps. ✦

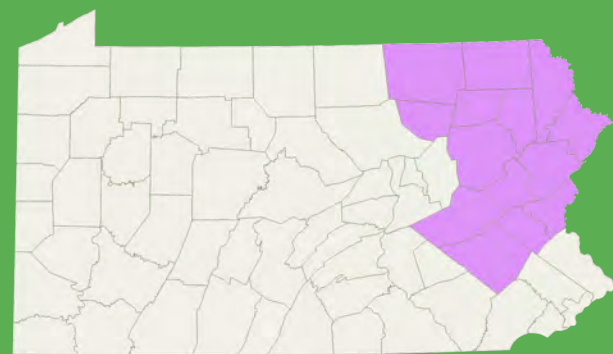
**Project Leader:** *Keystone Trails Association*

**Partners:** *Friends of Greenwood Furnace, Whipple Dam and Penn Roosevelt*

Learn more at [dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/whippledam/](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/whippledam/)



# Northeast Region



## Big Woods Trail

*French Creek State Park (Berks County)*



Emerging as a signature trail project of the Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape, the Big Woods Trail will link major natural features of the area, including the Schuylkill River Trail, French Creek State Park, Hopewell Village National Historic Site and state game lands.

The recently added segment represents a vital link in what is proposed to be a 13-mile trail in a rapidly developing area.

The new ADA-compliant portion of the trail links the Thun Trail section of the Schuylkill River Trail with the French Creek State Park. The Big Woods trail

project eventually will cover 13 miles, passing from the Thun Trail through the state park; over to Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site; and southward to the Boars Back Trail.

This first section of the Big Woods Trail, which offers a view of the Schuylkill Highlands, has taken eight years of planning to secure the land and funding.

The project is the result of numerous partners working together in landscape to make this happen. Natural Lands Trust has spent years assisting the Bureau of State Parks to make this very significant

connection. ✦

*Project Leader: Natural Lands Trust*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, DCNR Bureau of State Parks - French Creek State Park*

Learn more at [dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/frenchcreek](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/frenchcreek)



## Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

*Bucks, Carbon, Luzerne and Northampton Counties*

2016 has proven to be an exciting and productive year for the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. After setting the goal to connect 165 miles of D&L Trail across five counties by 2020, the

corridor is proud to have completed three construction projects and to have received two more grants from DCNR to help build northward towards downtown Wilkes-Barre.

The Carbon County Connectivity project, with funding from DCNR and PennDOT, connected three long stretches of discon-



tinuous trail between Weissport, Lehighton, and East Penn Township in Carbon County. A delineated bike lane, switchback, and signalized pedestrian crossing now aid trail users in traveling safely on 20 continuous miles of trail.

The intersection of Route 13 and Green Lane in Bristol Township, Bucks County was improved through a partnership between the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and PennDOT. A side path was constructed along Route 13 and a pedestrian crossing was installed at the



Green Lane intersection to move trail users safely through this high traffic volume area.

Because of the completion of the first of a three-part gap, Northampton County is now in competition with Carbon County to see who will be the first to connect their section of the D&L Trail. A storm pipe wash out in North Catasauqua, Northampton County was repaired and the trail was reconstructed. Although this is in an unimproved section of the D&L Trail, plans and funding are in place to build the other two bridge portions of this gap, creating the infrastructure needed to connect the D&L Trail through Northamp-

ton County.

Finally, the construction of 6.5 miles of D&L Trail through Luzerne County has been awarded funding. The D&L is grateful for the partnership with North Branch Land Trust and is looking forward to working together towards our goal. ✦

*Project Leader: Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor*

*Partners: Carbon County, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Northampton County, North Branch Land Trust, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, PennDOT*

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

## Jordan Creek Greenway

### Lehigh County

The Jordan Creek Greenway is a proposed 13-mile natural greenway corridor connecting the City of Allentown to the 1,100-acre Trexler Nature Preserve.



A feasibility study was completed to explore the possibility of connecting the City to Trexler Nature Preserve via an off-road trail and shared roadways connecting

the Nature Preserve to the Appalachian Trail through rural northern Lehigh County.

The 13-mile trail is in several stages of development with some sections completed and open to the public, and others

being designed and engineered. This trail will connect several municipal parks and open space lands surrounded by areas of residential development.

A ribbon cutting event was held in November to officially open the final completed section of trail through Lehigh County’s Jordan Creek Parkway, an important public recreation space located along the Jordan Creek corridor.

This .68-mile section recently completed included a new 100-foot pedestrian bridge over the Jordan Creek. In total 1.95 miles are completed through Jordan Creek Parkway including two trailheads. Adjacent to this section of trail is another one mile of trail planned for construction in 2017.

The completion of this section of trail will shine light on the already opened areas of the Jordan Creek Greenway. By the end of 2017, this section will contribute

to over 3.5 miles of open and connected trail through the more urbanized areas of Lehigh County. Wildlands Conservancy and the Jordan Creek Greenway Steering Committee plan to hold a number of public events to highlight the greenway and the future connections over the next several years.

Funding for this bridge and section of trail was provided by DCNR, Lehigh County, and the Trexler Trust Foundation. ✦

*Project Leader: Lehigh County, Wildlands Conservancy*

*Partners: DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Trexler Trust Foundation*

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

## Lackawanna River Heritage Trail

### Lehigh County

There have been several improvements made to the the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail (LRHT) in the past year. These include:

**Murals on the Trail:** Under the direction of artist and educator Ryan Hnat, 11 Marywood University art majors painted nine original designs under bridges on Mulberry Street, Linden Street, and Lackawanna Avenue. The photo to the right is a mural painted by Eric Bussart.

**Old Forge Land Donation:** The Mariotti family donated 35 acres of land in Old Forge to Lackawanna Heritage Valley (LHV). Acquisition of this land, which parallels the Lackawanna River, provides



Mural painted by Eric Bussart.



an important link to fill the gap in the trail system between Taylor and Pittston.

**Paving:** A 1-mile stretch of trail from the 7th Avenue Trailhead to Elm Street in Scranton was paved and made ADA accessible. The project also included improvements to the parking area at this trailhead, and a new connection to LHV Headquarters for bicyclists and pedestrians.

**Scranton Safety Crossings:** Plans were finalized for a \$1 million project that will improve safety conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists crossing eight intersections in the City of Scranton.

**Carbondale Riverwalk:** Construction began in September on a 1.2 mile section of trail in Carbondale connecting to a 2.2 mile section of trail in Fell Township that will give LRHT users a direct link to the D&H Rail-Trail. The Carbondale Riverwalk is scheduled to open in 2017.

**Dickson City Section:** Funding is in place for the development of a new 1.1 mile section of the LRHT that will connect Dickson City to Olyphant. The new section also will provide access for those who run, walk and bicycle in the area, and will provide direct access to the Lackawanna River for fishing. LHVA



anticipates the design of the section of trail to begin in early 2017.

**Fell Township Pathway:** LHV is developing a 2.2-mile pathway in Fell Township, beginning at Simpson and continuing to

Vandling Borough. Upon completion of this section, users will be able to follow the trail 62 miles from Taylor to the New York State border.

**Interpretive/Wayfinding Signage:** Twenty interpretive signs have been developed for placement along sections of trail in Scranton, Mid Valley and Upper Valley. The signs feature narratives and photos to help trail users understand the cultural and historical significance of the sites they're visiting. Signs have been installed along a 3-mile section of the Mid Valley Trail.

**Survey:** LHV conducted a Trail User and Economic Impact Survey in 2016. The results will be released in January of 2017. ✦

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**Project Leader:** Lackawanna Heritage Valley

**Partners:** DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Department of Community and Economic Development, Lackawanna County, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Educational Mini Grant, and City of Scranton

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

## Susquehanna Warrior Trail

### Luzerne County

The Susquehanna Warrior Trail Council completed several improvements to the Susquehanna Warrior Trail in 2016.

These improvements included the completion of a half-mile section of trail and boardwalk through Spencer's Salvage Yard in Salem Township; the extension of the trail from the Garden Drive-In in Plymouth Township to a point across from the Flamingo Diner on U.S. Rt. 11, in the West Nanticoke section of Plymouth Township; and the completion of the Canal Park trailhead and parking area.

With these improvements, the Susquehanna Warrior Trail now stretches from the



Riverlands in Salem Township to the Flamingo Diner area in West Nanticoke, paralleling Route 11 on the western side of the Susquehanna River.

The trail is built on the former railroad bed of the Delaware Lehigh and Western

Railroad. ✦

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**Project Leader:** Susquehanna Warrior Trail Council

**Partners:** Central Susquehanna Community Foundation, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Department of Community and Economic Development, Lackawanna County, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Educational Mini Grant, and City of Scranton

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

## Thunder Swamp Trail

### Monroe County

The Thunder Swamp Trail System (TSTS), a designated state forest hiking trail, traverses Delaware State Forest in the Poconos.

This year, the Keystone Trail Association (KTA) focused its Trail Care Week on the main trail loop based on reports that the

trail system in this section was overgrown and had become an obstacle course of blowdowns and deadfalls. Those reports proved to be accurate. The crew was based out of the Resica Falls Boy Scout Camp, which had excellent facilities and was very comfortable.





Dedicated and experienced KTA volunteers Kathy Sieminski, Rick Stibgen, Tony Robbins, Tom Bastian, and Ed Lawrence put the trail on their priority list for 2016, and their efforts have had a significant, positive impact on the trail. The game plan for the week was simple and straightforward: clear the trail of hurdles, and clean up as much of the trail corridor as possible.

The combined efforts of Tony Robbins and Tom Bastian tackled the first objective, clearing over 200 blowdowns and dead-falls from the trail.

The second objective kept the brush whackers and loppers busy all week. The result: the trail corridor through the eastern half of the main loop is now cleared and in excellent shape for hiking. The volunteers also cleared the eastern third of the trail leading from the main loop to Big

Bear Swamp, seeing an actual big bear in the process.

Another major accomplishment was that the volunteers opened a spillway that beaver activity had clogged at the stone walk-across over Saw Creek. Removing the debris lowered the water level so that the trail is no longer flooded, allowing hikers to safely walk the length of the stone walk-across section without having to wade through the creek.

KTA will return next year to the TSTS to continue improving the trail. Volunteers will be needed to make this 2017 Trail Care Week successful. ✦

**Project Leader:** *Keystone Trails Association*  
**Learn more at** [dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/recreation/hiking/stateforesttrails/thunderswamptrail](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/recreation/hiking/stateforesttrails/thunderswamptrail).

# Trinity Gorge Trail

## Carbon County

Despite a rainy forecast, along with high heat, six Keystone Trail Association volunteers donated their skill sets to Beltzville State Park for a rewarding and much needed workday in August.

Joined by four park staff, the crew handily accomplished the goal of making the Trinity Gorge Trail more accessible to park hikers by digging in a set of switchbacks to replace a steep section of trail.

Rain made only a fleeting appearance as the crew walked into the worksite and didn't dampen the spirits of the group as they cleared, raked, and benched the new trail.

KTA volunteers also kept busy lopping the trail corridor, brushwhacking and im-



proving the treadway on a nearby section of the trail. ✦

**Project Leader:** *Keystone Trails Association*  
**Partner:** *DCNR Bureau of State Parks - Beltzville State Park*  
**Learn more at** [dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/beltzville](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/beltzville).

# Trolley Trail

## Lackawanna County

2016 marked a very active and productive year for Countryside Conservancy's Trolley Trail Project. The Conservancy completed two major projects: the installation of historical signage along Phase 1 and the beginning of construction on Phase 2 of the Trail.

The signage project was led by conservancy volunteer, Amy Broadbent, who coordinated efforts to compile and pictorially bring the history of the Northern Electric Trolley to life along the trail. Amy





researched and found numerous historical post cards from the Trolley's interesting past and then worked with Diane Turrell of DDH Design to create and highlight significant and interesting signs unique to the local area where the Trolley Trail meanders. 21st century trail users had no idea that over a dozen local dairies supplied the local area as well as the City of Scranton with fresh milk and dairy products carried daily on the Trolley's Milk Express.

In late 2014, Countryside Conservancy and Keystone College was awarded a grant through PennDOT's Transportation Alternative Program to build Phase 2, a section of trail that traverses the back campus of Keystone College.

Work on Phase 2 began in 2016, including the clearing and grubbing process. This section of Trolley Trail, although not contiguous to Phase 1, still represents the second installment of a surfaced pathway in the conservancy's overall planned trail system. This phase will allow trail users to travel through beautiful wooded tracts of land consisting of rock ledges and deep ravines where stands of pines and hard woods abound. Phase 2 will ultimately connect Keystone to the town of Factoryville and provide residents and college students with a reciprocal amenity. Construction will be completed in early 2017.

As the year draws to a close, Countryside was approved for funding through the Marcellus Legacy Fund and DCNR for Phase 3, which will connect Keystone College to a right-of-way adjacent to Route



6/11. This Phase will head back toward Phase 1 with the ever present goal of crossing Route 6/11 in sight. ✦

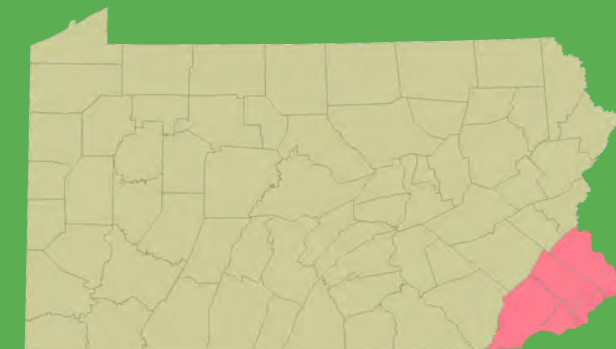
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**Project Leader:** Countryside Conservancy

**Partners:** DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Keystone College, Marcellus Legacy Fund, Overlook Estate Foundation, PennDOT, Pocono Forest and Waters Conservation Landscape Mini-Grant Program,

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

# Southeast Region



## The Circuit Trails

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



The Circuit is Greater Philadelphia's multi-use trail network connecting people to jobs, communities, parks, and waterways. Governments, non-profits, and foundations have collaborated to complete over 300 miles of the envisioned 750-mile regional network. More miles are added to the network each year.

During 2016, 7.35 miles of new Circuit Trails were added to the network in Pennsylvania and many more entered design and construction. In addition, Circuit Trails in the state received more than \$12 million in new funding for planning, design and construction of new trails. Trails were added in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.

One major highlight of 2016 arrived in August when hundreds of trail enthusiasts gathered for the opening of the long-awaited Sullivan's Bridge. This bridge creates important connections between the Schuylkill River Trail and Valley Forge National Historical Park, and serves as a direct link between Chester and Montgomery counties. ✦

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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](http://connectthecircuit.org/#!/coalition).

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



## Crossway Bridge and Trail

Montgomery County



The Crossway Bridge and Trail is a 1.3 mile multi-use trail which connects Montgomery County Community College with Penllyn Woods and the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association's (WVWA) 13-mile Green Ribbon Trail.

The trail includes a new footbridge across the Wissahickon Creek, several sections of elevated boardwalk crossing sensitive wetlands and floodplain, and a surface trail comprised of stone, asphalt, and turf.

Most of the trail is accessible and a major portion traverses the WVWA Crossways Preserve, the most ecologically diverse of their 12 preserves.

This inter-municipal project, which was completed and formally opened in December 2016 was a product of private and

public partnerships. This collaboration was essential to the success of this trail project.

Sustainable construction practices included the utilization of recycled tennis courts from a nearby floodplain restoration project as a trail base material and the installation of pre-manufactured concrete boardwalks and bridges. ✦

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**Project Leader:** *Montgomery County*

**Partners:** *DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Lower Gwynedd Township, Montgomery County Community College, North Wales Water Authority, Whitpain Township, Williams Pipeline Company, Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association*

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

## East Coast Greenway

Delaware and Philadelphia counties

The East Coast Greenway (ECG), conceived in 1991, is the nation's most ambitious long-distance urban trail. By connecting existing and planned shared-use

trails, a continuous, traffic-free route is being formed, serving self-powered users of all abilities and ages.

At 3,000 miles long, the Greenway links Calais, Maine, at the Canadian border, with Key West, Florida. Alternate routes add another 2,000 miles to the ECG trail system.

Over 30 percent of the route is already on traffic-free greenways, creating safe, accessible routes for people of all ages and abilities.

The greenway had a banner day in Pennsylvania on June 9, with two ground-breakings. Phase one of the Kensington and Tacony (K&T) Rail Trail kicked off in Philadelphia. This 1.15-mile greenway will connect the Frankford Boat Launch and



Lardner's Point Park and is also part of the Circuit.

The Tinicum Township broke ground on a .7-mile trail in Delaware County. Not only will this be a nice recreation amenity for

residents, but "It provides a safer passage from one side of town to the other," says township Manager David Schreiber. The Tinicum trail is also part of the September 11 National Memorial Trail.

With these trails breaking ground, there are currently three ECG projects under construction in Pennsylvania.

The Greenway fosters healthy lifestyles, empowers sustainable transportation, and economic development in each of the communities it touches. ✦

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**Project Leader:** *Pennsylvania Committee for the East Coast Greenway*

**Partners:** *City of Philadelphia and Tinicum Township*

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



## Reading Viaduct Trail

City of Philadelphia



The Viaduct, which carried trains into Center City for almost 100 years, is an elevated train track that transects diverse and rapidly redeveloping neighborhoods just north of the traditional boundary of Center City. Built in the 1890s, the Viaduct is a combination of embankment sections, bridged by steel structures and arched masonry bridges, that runs 10 blocks through the Callowhill and Chinatown North neighborhoods.

In November, Governor Tom Wolf, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, and Rep. Mike O'Brien participated in a ground-breaking ceremony to begin a \$10 million trail project that will convert an obsolete rail yard into a public green space.

A \$3.5 million state grant will fund

phase I of the Reading Viaduct Trail project, including the revitalization of the 1300 block of Noble Street and the elevated portion of the viaduct that runs to Callowhill Street.

The Rail Park, to be completed in early 2018, will transform parcels between Fairmount Park to Northern Liberties into parks and green space. Friends of The Rail Park is working in collaboration with the Center City District on the first of three phases of The Rail Park and ensuring its maintenance and care. ✦

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**Project Leader:** Friends of the Rail Park

**Partners:** DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, City of Philadelphia

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

## Schuylkill River Trail

City of Philadelphia, Montgomery County



Montgomery County recently completed the Schuylkill River Trail Tow Path, marking the completion of the Schuylkill River Trail from Philadelphia to Phoenixville.

The newly opened 1.7-mile trail was developed by the county and completed in conjunction with other site improvements that make the 2.5-mile Schuylkill Canal located in Mont Clare and Port Providence a great place for recreation.

The trail was constructed with a gravel and stabilized soil mix to provide a suitable surface for walkers, runners, and bikers, while at the same time respecting the historic nature of the canal towpath.

This trail section also involved the construction of two bridges and the restora-

tion of the canal banks. The restored canal also provides a vital link in a 5-mile loop water trail with the adjacent Schuylkill River. Paddlers can safely head downstream in the river, portage across to the canal, and easily paddle back to where they started.

In the fall, Governor Wolf announced a \$3 million grant to support the development of a 2.25 mile section of the trail that will expand to the Passyunk Avenue Bridge in southwest Philadelphia. ✦

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**Project Leader:** Montgomery County, Schuylkill River Development Corporation

**Partners:** DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, City of Philadelphia

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





## GRANTS

### DCNR Bureau of Recreation and 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)

### Commonwealth Financing Authority

[newpa.com/cfa](http://newpa.com/cfa)

### PA Trail Assistance 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)

### PRPS RecTAP Grants

[prps.org/resources/resources-grants-funding.html](http://prps.org/resources/resources-grants-funding.html)

## REPORTS

### 2014-2019 Pennsylvania State-wide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

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

### Past 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)

### Bureau of Recreation and Conservation Publications

[dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/elibrary/brc-publications/index.htm](http://dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/elibrary/brc-publications/index.htm)

## LINKS

### Explore PA Trails

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

### Get Outdoors PA

[GetOutdoorsPA.org](http://GetOutdoorsPA.org)

### iConserve

[iConservepa.org](http://iConservepa.org)

### Good for You, Good for All: PA Parks and Recreation

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



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on Twitter **@DCNRnews**  
on Instagram **padcnr**

Previous Page Photo: A new foot bridge is opened along the Crossway Bridge and Trail in Montgomery County.

Above Photo: The New Freedom Train Station is a popular amenity along the York Rail Trail County Park.

Back Cover Photo: Visitors walk along the Susquehanna North Branch River, the 2016 River of the Year.





**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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