



PENNSYLVANIA 2019 ANNUAL TRAILS REPORT

MID STATE TRAIL



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES





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PENNSYLVANIA TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR LETTER

Pennsylvania has more than 12,000 miles of trails for you to explore! From riding your bike on the Great Allegheny Passage, hiking the Mid State Trail (2019 Trail of the Year and “Pennsylvania’s Wildest Trail”), riding the Thunder Mountain Equestrian Trail, exploring the gravel roads of the Whisky Springs Trail System on an ATV, or kayaking the Conewango Creek Water Trail, Pennsylvania’s trails offer a wealth of experiences.

Each year our trail system continues to improve and grow, thanks in no small part to DCNR’s commitment. DCNR works continuously with trail enthusiasts, local governments, nonprofits, government agencies, and other partners to advance the goal that every resident of the Commonwealth has access to a trail within 15 minutes of their home. DCNR promotes and funds trail projects, prioritizes trail gaps for closing, and provides extensive training and online resources invaluable to the trail community.

Today there is considerable recognition of the many ways that trails enhance quality of life. Use of trails improves a person’s health, well-being, and enjoyment of life; the presence of trails strengthens a community and spurs grassroots, resilient economic development. As outdoor facilities, most trails remain open to visitors year-round.

To support DCNR’s work, the Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee (PTAC) provides guidance about trail issues and priorities. Members of PTAC represent different trail users and the variety of Pennsylvania’s community groups, volunteers, and professionals committed to trails. Members’ varied perspectives enrich discussions and strengthen the committee’s recommendations to ensure that Pennsylvania’s trails continue to be inclusive spaces that meet the needs of all Pennsylvanians.

The 2019 Trails Report highlights 2019’s “Trail of the Year” and “River of the Year” winners. Enjoy the report and share our gratitude for the countless hours that volunteers, along with elected officials, government agencies, and nonprofits, devote to making all of Pennsylvania’s trails such tremendous resources that add so much to our quality of life.

Happy trails to you!



Betsy Aiken

Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee



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HIGHLIGHTS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DCNR-FUNDED PROJECTS:

- Fifty-two trail grant projects completed, totaling \$9M in grant funds
- Completion of 4 projects that addressed Priority Trail Gaps
- Development of 20.5 miles of non-motorized trails, including 7 bridges
- Rehabilitation of 14.3 miles of non-motorized trails
- Planning for 43.4 miles of new trails
- Acquisition of 7.6 acres of land for non-motorized trails
- Mini-grants to 19 snowmobile clubs for grooming and trail improvements for snowmobile trails
- Purchase of 3 pieces of equipment to construct and maintain motorized trails

PROJECTS AWARDED DCNR FUNDING:

- Received 69 trail applications requesting \$18.5M
- Awarded 48 trail projects with \$12M in grant funds that will leverage \$49M in local match
- Thirteen projects will address statewide or regional trail gaps
- Eight projects will plan and design for 40 miles of new non-motorized trails, including 1 bridge
- Five projects will plan and design for new motorized trails and facilities
- Eighteen development projects will construct 42 miles of new trails, including 5 bridges
- Eight development projects will rehabilitate 16 miles of trails, including 3 bridges and 2 tunnels
- Four projects will develop or rehabilitate 22 miles of motorized trails, including 3 bridges
- Two equipment purchases will maintain over 390 miles of motorized trails
- One project will assist in the acquisition of 213 acres of land for motorized trails
- Two projects will assist in the acquisition of 21 acres of land for non-motorized trails
- Grooming for 2,500 miles of snowmobile trails on state forest lands

ADDITIONAL TRAIL-RELATED FUNDING:

- Commonwealth Financing Authority, Multimodal Transportation Program (\$4.7M)
- Commonwealth Financing Authority, Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (\$2M)

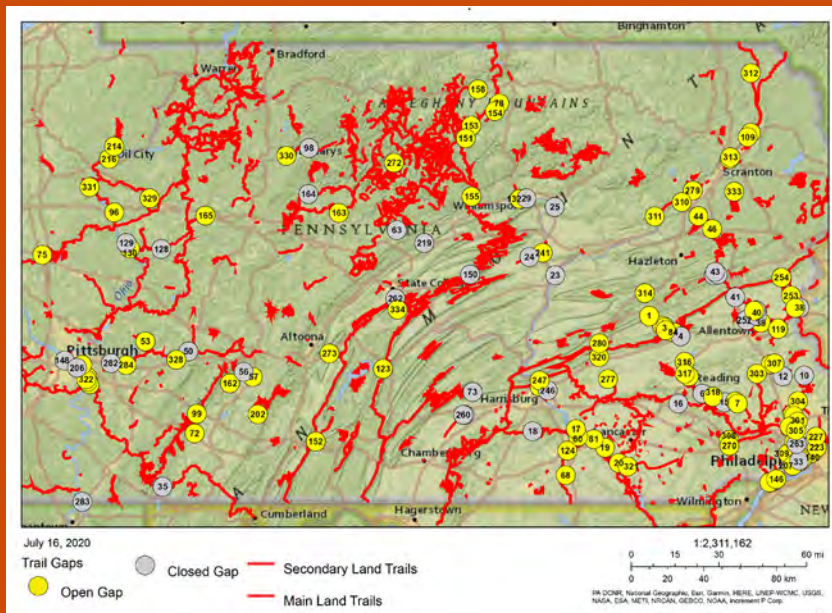




Sherri Anderson

2019

PENNSYLVANIA'S PRIORITY TRAIL GAPS



Since 2009, DCNR has been working with partners to identify and map trail gaps along Pennsylvania's Major Greenways and Regionally Significant Trail systems. Identifying and prioritizing the closing of Priority Trail Gaps is believed to be the most effective method for improving the connectivity of trail systems statewide. To support this approach, DCNR provides additional consideration to grant requests that address these gaps.

Sherri Anderson



In 2018, a workgroup made up of trail organizations and DCNR staff developed new Priority Trail Gap criteria that more clearly defines which projects are deemed a Priority Trail Gap. Prior to this, the criteria was very vague, which resulted in a long list of gap projects. Many of which were very long or lacked a local organization to move them forward. The workgroup developed the following updated criteria to be considered a Priority Trail Gap:

- Gap is along a Major Greenway or Regionally Significant Trail
- Connects two existing segments of trail or connects an existing trail to a state park, state forest or key community
- The gap is 5 miles or less
- The trail itself has been formalized in an official planning document

Trail managers were then asked to supply data for all gaps in their trail systems that meet the updated criteria. In addition, all of the existing gaps were re-evaluated. The results are published on the [**Pennsylvania's Priority Trail Gaps map**](#).

The most notable result due to the revision of the gap criteria is the reduction in the number of Priority Trail Gaps from 248 to 112. These newly vetted 112 gaps require approximately 200 miles of new trail and the construction or rehabilitation of 62 bridges. DCNR will continue to work with local trail providers to periodically update the trail gap data.

TOP 10 TRAIL GAPS IN PENNSYLVANIA

From the Priority Trail Gaps, DCNR and the Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee assign the Top 10 Trail Gaps as the state's most critical gaps requiring a significant amount of time and resources to address. These 10 trail gaps represent projects that:

- Will connect contiguous open miles of trails
- Require construction or rehabilitation of major infrastructure
- Have a large funding need, generally over \$1,000,000
- Require interagency coordination

In 2019, two Priority Trail Gaps were elevated to the list of Top 10 Trail Gaps:

- Buffalo Valley Rail Trail - Lewisburg Gap (Gap #241)
- Enola Low Grade Trail – Martic Forge Bridge (Gap #321)

DCNR maintains a story map of the current **Top 10 Trail Gaps**, see below for current project status.



Enola Lowgrade Rail-Trail Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge

Manor Township

#20 Enola Low Grade Rail Trail, Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge

The Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge is a former railroad bridge spanning 1500 feet across the mouth of the Conestoga Creek as it empties into the Susquehanna River. Half of the trail is complete, with the other half to be completed in the next two years. The rehabilitation of this bridge would aid completion of the Enola Low Grade Rail Trail for a total of 28 miles of trail. Rehabilitation of the Safe Harbor Trestle Bridge has begun!

Go to **[Manor Township's Facebook page](#)** for up-to-date information on the rehabilitation project.

Status: Scheduled to begin construction in 2020.

#125 Delaware and Lehigh Trail, Bridge Street Gap

The Delaware and Lehigh Trail is one of Pennsylvania's most complete long-distance trails, with 90% of its 165-miles completed. Trail users must currently turn around at Bridge Street in Morrisville, as its elevation makes the street impassable. Closing this gap would enable 30 miles of uninterrupted travel to Easton and restore full access to nine miles of trail. The **[Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor's website](#)** provides detailed information on current gaps and open sections of the trail network.

Status: Scheduled to begin construction in 2021.



Delaware and Lehigh Trail

#127 East Coast Greenway, Spring Garden Street

The East Coast Greenway is a multi-use 2,900 mile trail from Maine to Florida with 30% already constructed on traffic-free greenways. The construction at Spring Garden Street in Center City Philadelphia would connect the Schuylkill River Trail with the Delaware River.

Status: Preliminary design underway.

#241 Buffalo Valley Rail Trail, Lewisburg Gap NEW

The Buffalo Valley Rail Trail is a 9.5 mile, multi-use trail that spans between Lewisburg and Mifflinburg boroughs. The current US Highway 15 crossing into Lewisburg Borough is unsafe for trail users. Closure of this gap will create a safer connection between the majority of trail miles and the 0.5 mile section of trail in the Borough.

Status: Early planning underway.

#130 Armstrong Trail, Brady Tunnel

The Armstrong Trail is a 36-mile multi-use trail that follows the alignment of the former Allegheny Valley Rail Road, and is a part of the planned 333-mile Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. The Brady Tunnel is currently closed due to its deteriorated state. Once rehabilitated, it will connect 4 miles of Armstrong Trail to the north with 32 miles of trail to the south to create a fully-connected 36-mile system.

Status: Design complete, seeking construction funding.



Armstrong Trail, Brady Tunnel

#321 Enola Low Grade Trail, Martic Forge Bridge NEW

Martic Forge Trestle Bridge is a former railroad bridge that was turned into a pedestrian walkway for the Enola Low Grade Rail Trail in 2017. In the summer of 2018, the bridge was severely damaged by arson. The bridge is located over Pequea Creek between Martic and Conestoga townships, Lancaster County. Officials estimate reconstruction costs will be about \$2.5 million to close this top ten trail gap.

Status: Scheduled to begin construction in 2021.

#132 Lycoming Creek Bikeway, Williamsport Riverwalk and Susquehanna State Park Connection

The Lycoming Creek Bikeway and Williamsport Riverwalk are two local trails located within the Susquehanna Greenway, a 500-mile greenway of parks, trails, river access points and revitalized towns along the **Susquehanna River**. Currently, US Highway 15, Interstate 180 and Lycoming Creek present barriers to connecting these two trails and the state park. Three miles of trail and one pedestrian bridge will need to be constructed to make this connected vision a reality.

Status: Design underway.

#214 Oil Creek State Park Trail Gap

The **Oil Creek State Park** trail system includes 52 miles of hiking trails and 10 miles of multi-use trails, and is also a part of the 333-mile Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. Currently, travelers on the Oil Creek State Park multi-use trail must either end their trip or continue on-road to reach 35 additional miles of multi-use trail at the southern end of the Park. Four miles of trail must be constructed within the State Park to create a continuous 49.5 mile trail.

Status: Planning underway.

#238 Schuylkill River Trail, Wissahickon Gateway Gap

The Schuylkill River Trail is a 130-mile multi-use trail that will one day link Pottsville, Schuylkill County with Center City Philadelphia, with 60 miles currently complete. The Wissahickon Gateway Gap presents one of the most challenging gaps. Multiple conflict points, including an active bus stop and eleven curb cuts, prevent many from continuing on the Trail. The completion of this gap will connect 7 miles of trail east to Schuylkill Banks in Center City Philadelphia with 20 miles of trail west to Phoenixville, Chester County.

Status: Planning and land acquisition underway.

#273 Lower Trail to Canoe Creek State Park Gap

The Lower Trail is a 17-mile multi-use trail that is a part of the 320-mile **Pittsburg to Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenway**. Currently, trail users cannot travel between the Lower Trail and the multi-use trails within Canoe Creek State Park, including access to overnight accommodations. The connection will require construction of one-mile of trail, crossing over the Juniata River and US Highway 22.

Status: Construction scheduled for completion in 2020.

2019

GREENWAYS AND TRAILS SUMMIT

© Jeremy Schultz

The 2019 Greenways and Trails Summit was held September 22 – 24 at the Shippensburg University Conference Center. The summit drew 262 unique registrations and 116 people (44 percent) attended all three days.

The summit provided an opportunity for 87 individual speakers to present on a variety of recreational trails topics across three days. Educational tracks included:

- Public Engagement
- Large Scale Projects
- Trail Planning
- Economic and Community Development
- Health and Wellness
- Data and Technology
- Acquisitions and Easements

A plenary session on September 23 served as the official kick-off to the event. This plenary included an introduction from DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn, followed by a presentation from Appalachian Trail Conservancy Executive Director Sandi Mara, a **Pennsylvania Statewide**

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) presentation by DCNR,

Bureau of Recreation and Conservation Division Chief Diane Kripas, and ended with the Keynote presentation on *The Nature Fix* with author Florence Williams. Five mobile seminars were scheduled for September 22, including a mix of hiking and bike tours. The mobile seminars were highly regarded, receiving an overall evaluation score of 4.68 out of 5.00 (81 responses). Forty-two individual workshops were offered on September 23 – 24. Educational sessions received an overall evaluation score of 4.3 (81 responses).



Capital Area Greenbelt bike tour





Letort tour

The greatest benefits to summit attendees (as reported by the evaluation survey) included: the opportunity to network and make state-wide connections with peers, learning new skills and gaining exposure to new ideas, and the opportunity to enjoy new trails via mobile seminars. The additional networking and recreational opportunities provided by daily morning yoga sessions and the Monday evening history walking tour were also appreciated by attendees.

The next Greenways and Trails Summit is scheduled for September 19 – 21, 2021 at the Bayfront Convention Center, Erie.



Michaux Mountain Biking

2019

REGIONAL TRAIL WORKSHOP GRANT PROGRAM

The Regional Trail Workshop Grant program provides funding to conservation-oriented organizations for the purpose of developing, marketing, and presenting trail education programs across the state, and in support of recreational trail outreach efforts. In 2019 the following organizations received funding through the program:

- Hollow Oak Land Trust
- Nittany Mountain Biking Association
- Pennsylvania Environmental Council
- Pennsylvania Interscholastic Cycling League
- Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education
- Steffey Trail Connections

Regional Trail Workshop Grants are funded through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and administered by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association.

These grants are made possible by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). FHWA provides funds to states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has been designated as the state agency responsible for administering this federal program in Pennsylvania.



Hollow Oak Land Trust Project





Hollow Oak Land Trust Workshop

HOLLOW OAK LAND TRUST

Program Title: Greenways & Trails Workshop (2-part series)

Program Dates: Workshop Session, August 27 and Fieldwork Session, September 10

Program Location: Robin Hill Park, Moon Township, PA 15108

Program Description: As land development extends into the suburbs and rural areas of the state,

land conservation and outdoor recreation have become key components in retaining livability while boosting prosperity. In this two-part series, participants learned how long-term planning and vision inspire private citizens, businesses and elected officials to spur the creation and expansion of greenways in the greater Pittsburgh area. The process of leveraging greenspace for public benefit by developing sustainable woodland trails; and linking parks and other greenspaces via such trails was also discussed. The field session provided participants with first-hand experience in trail assessment, design, construction and maintenance.

NITTANY MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION

Program Title: Trail Build School

Program Dates: September 21- 23

Program Location(s): Rothrock State Forest and Tussey Ski Resort Lodge

Program Description: The *Trail Build School* workshop series, presented over the course of one classroom and two field sessions, focused on hand-building techniques for trails, and the management of volunteers during hybrid construction projects for new & beginner friendly single-track community trails. As a secondary focus, workshop attendees learned techniques for the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing state forest trails suffering from poor drainage or that have recently been hit by record wet weather.



Nittany Mountain Biking Association Trail Building Workshop

PENNSYLVANIA MOUNTAIN BIKE SUMMIT

Program Title: Pennsylvania
MTB Summit

Program Dates: May 10

Program Location(s): Seven Points
Visitor's Center, Raystown Lake,
Hesston PA

Program Description: The
Pennsylvania Mountain Bike
Summit provided an opportunity
for a strategic discussion around
improving and expanding trail-riding
opportunities throughout Pennsylvania.

Mountain bike club representatives, event promoters, conservancy, land trust and agency staff were all given the opportunity to share their perspective on the current state of off-road cycling, and opportunities and challenges faced by those working to improve the riding experience. Resources available to groups and land managers were also be discussed.



Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Pennsylvania Mountain Bike Summit

PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC CYCLING LEAGUE

Program Title: Teen Trail Corps Day & Teen Trail Corps Camp

Program Date(s): Teen Trail Corps Days, June 1-2, Teen Trail Corps Camp,
June 26-30

Program Location(s): French Creek State Park (Valley Meadows); RB Winter
State Park (Moon Lake); Greenbelt State Park (Coventry Woods, Blessings
Fields); Marsh Creek State Park; Boyce State Park; Rothrock State Park; Penn
State Mont Alto Campus

Program Description: The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Cycling League builds strong minds, bodies, character and communities through cycling. Integral to our mission is Teen Trail Corp, a program that connects student-athletes to stewardship and land advocacy. During June 2019 the League presented a series of coordinated Teen Trail Corps Days across Pennsylvania. Throughout the season, students attended camps promoting a stewardship ethos, and coordinated with local advocacy groups to maintain and build local trails on public and private lands.

The second summer event, Teen Trail Corps Camp was conducted June 26-30 at the Penn State Mont Alto Campus. This program included a combination of guest speakers, and trail work with other experiential learning opportunities for Teen Trail Corps members. Volunteer hours for both events were recorded through the PICL Pit Zone.

SCHUYLKILL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Program Title: Restoration Volunteer Training

Program Date(s): May 18, June 15, July 20, September 24

Program Location(s): The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education

Program Description: The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education has long been dedicated to improving access to environmental education for families. In order to continue and expand their programs, the maintenance and restoration of the land is a key component. The SCEE's Volunteer Restoration Training workshops provide training on invasive plant removals, the use of native species, and trail maintenance techniques with the goal of improving land health and biodiversity. These events also provide an opportunity for participants to create lasting connections with each other and with nature.

During the 2019 series, volunteers learned techniques to repair/stabilize damaged trails focusing on an area damaged by an off-roading Jeep, methods of clearing invasive plants while working on the Schuylkill River Trail Connector, and in methods of pruning and maintaining trees/shrubs while working at several key trail junctions on the property. Volunteers also participated in a general site-cleanup at a major section of forest and trails linking three of SCEE's main trails with the outdoor classroom.



Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, Restoration Volunteer Training

STEFFEY TRAIL CONNECTIONS

Program Title: Preparing Trails for Investment Opportunities

Program Date(s): June 12, July 11, August 28, September 4-5, September 6-7

Program Location(s): Spartansburg, Corry, Kane

Program Description: Steffey Trail Connections presented a series of workshops throughout the summer and fall. Participants received training in methods of boundary identification, proper pruning, and in improving drainage and infrastructure to maximize the trail user experience, while also improving the trail's physical appearance and how the trail appears to investors. Additionally, participants also learned how to capitalize on volunteer 'sweat equity' to leverage trail improvement activities, and gain additional funding from investors.

2019

TRAIL OF THE YEAR MID STATE TRAIL

© Nicholas Torelli

*On January 24 the **Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee** named the **Mid State Trail** the 2019 Trail of the Year. The trail—Pennsylvania’s longest—stretches 327 miles from Maryland to the New York border, crossing through the heart of Pennsylvania.*

“Showcasing some of our state’s most scenic areas and offering hikers everything from gentle rail-trail travel to rigorous rocky climbs, the Mid State Trail captures the essence of Pennsylvania’s abundant trail system,” said Cindy Adams Dunn, DCNR secretary. “Known to so many, the Mid State truly is most deserving of this honor.”



Trail of the Year Event, Mid State Trail

The Mid State Trail is divided into four distinct regions. Traveling from the south, hikers pass through the Everett Region, State College Region, Woolrich Region, and Tioga Region. The trail’s main route, marked by rectangular, orange blazes, also features several long side trails. Largely on public land, the trail passes through: eight state parks; five state forests; eight state forest natural areas; four state forest wild areas; four state forest picnic areas; two Scout camps; and one roadside rest. The trail’s sheer length offers more challenge to hikers than any other trail in the state. Sometimes-

difficult hiking takes travelers through isolated forests and past historic sites, vistas, waterfalls, and natural springs.

The **Mid State Trail Association** was formed in 1982 to guide the Mid State Trail’s continued growth and protect its future. The association engages many local volunteers who construct and maintain only foot paths.

“The Mid State Trail Association is so thankful to all our dedicated volunteers who have, over the past 50 years, built and maintained the Mid State Trail,” said Association President Ed Lawrence. “As Pennsylvania’s longest and



wildest foot path, and now as the 2019 DCNR Trail of the Year, we celebrate a trail that is at the heart of the hiking experience at its best.”

Each year, the Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee designates a Trail of the Year to help build enthusiasm and support for both large and small trails, and raise public awareness about the value of Pennsylvania’s trail network. The committee is also charged with implementing the recommendations of the **Pennsylvania 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 use of state and federal trail funding.



Mid State Trail Event

Left to right: Ed Lawrence, Mid State Trail Association President, Cindy Adams Dunn, DCNR Secretary, Henry Stroud of the PA Trails Advisory Committee

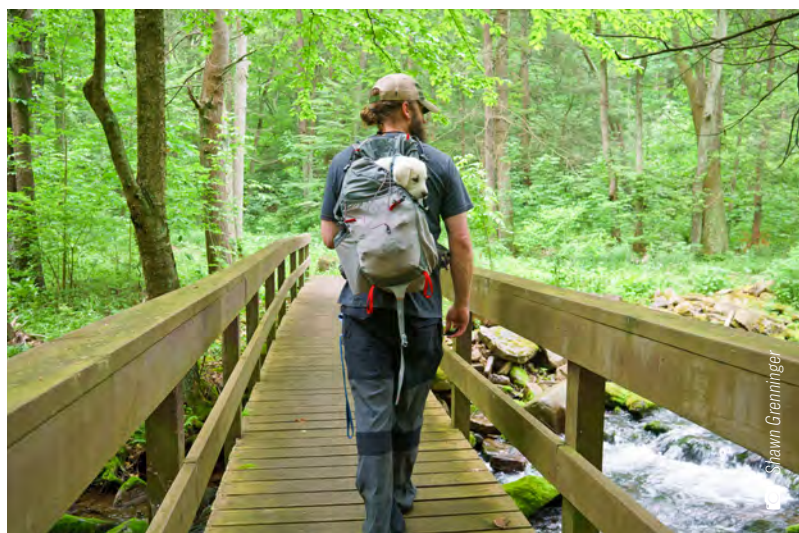
Sherri Anderson



Mid State Trail Sign

In 2018, DCNR named **Forbidden Drive** in Philadelphia County as Pennsylvania’s Trail of the Year.

For details on Pennsylvania trails, visit **Explore PA Trails**. More than 600 trails covering almost 12,000 miles in Pennsylvania are featured on the site.



Trail user, Mid State Trail at Ravensburg State Park

Mawn Greminger



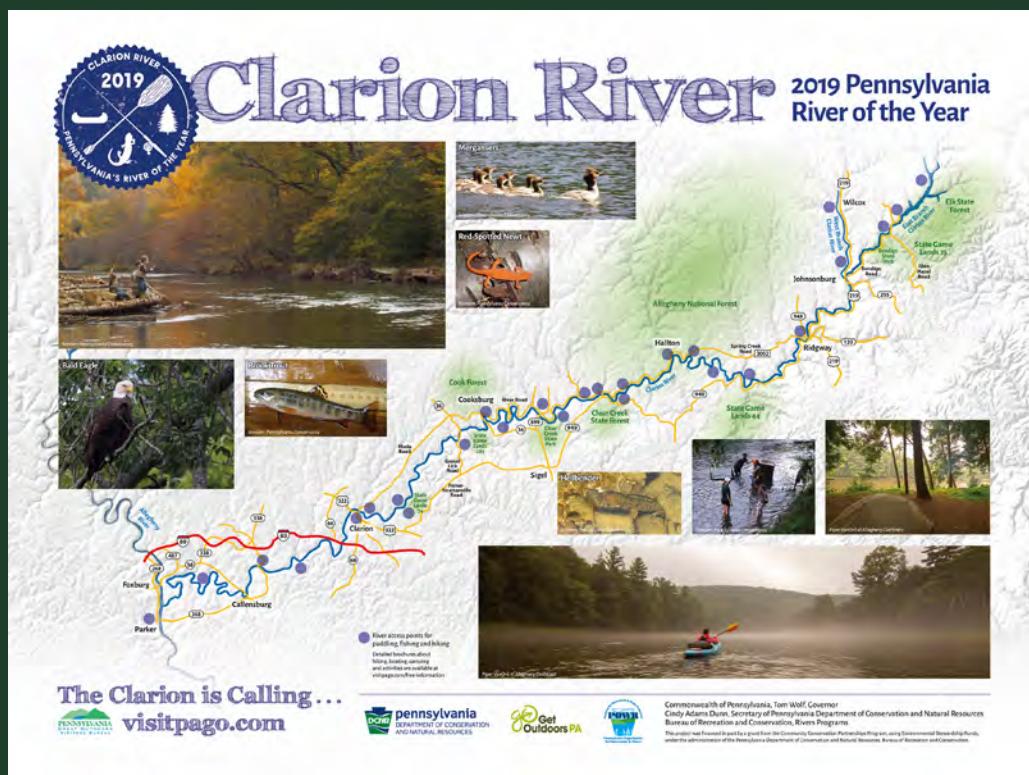
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RIVER OF THE YEAR CLARION RIVER



After a 5-week public voting period, DCNR and the Pennsylvania Organization for Waterways and Rivers (POWR) announced the winner of the **River of the Year** designation for 2019—Clarion River.

A Wild and Scenic River, the Clarion draws anglers, paddlers, and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy the recreation opportunities along the waterway year-round. DCNR and POWR worked with the nominating organization, the Allegheny Watershed Improvement Needs Coalition (WINs), to create a commemorative poster and to fund a series of activities throughout 2019 to celebrate the Clarion. WINs is a network of 35 organizations that collectively aim to protect, restore and improve habitat and watersheds throughout the Allegheny National Forest in northwest PA. To learn more about the River of the Year program, including other 2019 nominees and past winners, please visit www.pariveroftheyear.org.



2019

TRAILS MONTH

September is celebrated as Trails Month in the commonwealth. Trails connect places, and people, while providing an important connection to nature. Trails also have a role to play in maintaining good health by providing walkable access to appropriate sites, encouraging physical activity that can improve health and providing safe spaces for people to play and exercise, away from busy streets and commercial zones. Providing a trail within 15 minutes of every Pennsylvanian is a top DCNR priority.

Why is Pennsylvania a Top Trail State?

DCNR is working to provide a trail within 15 minutes of every Pennsylvanian

Pennsylvania has 1,924 miles of rail trails and 2,150 miles of water trails

In addition, there are

- 7,100 mi. (Hiking)
- 6,221 mi. (Bicycling)
- 2,641 mi. (Horseback riding)
- 2,500 mi. (Canoeing/Kayaking)
- 908 mi. (ATV/UTV)

DCNR awards \$7-\$8M annually to support trail projects and designates a "Trail of the Year" to promote trails in PA

Pennsylvania has more than 12,000 miles of trails to be explored.

Get outdoors on a trail today!

Pennsylvania has thousands of miles of trails of all types to hike, ride, and paddle, just waiting to be explored at little to no cost. To find information about the more than 600 trails covering almost 12,000 miles in Pennsylvania, visit the [Explore PA Trails](#) website.

Health Benefits of Trails

Getting Regular, Physical Activity on Trails Helps:

- Control weight
- Reduce risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and some cancers
- Strengthen bones and muscles
- Improve mental health and mood
- Improve coordination and balance
- Increase your chances of living longer

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2019 PA TRAILS MONTH MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

This mini-grant program is a project of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and is funded through DCNR's Environmental Stewardship Fund administered by the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. Each year PEC awards grants of up to \$500 help community organizations and trail groups celebrate PA Trails Month, offsetting the costs of programs that encourage people to get out and enjoy PA trails.

Stay Safe Outdoors PLAN AHEAD

- Always plan out your trip in advance; know where you're going and how long you'll be
- Always tell someone where you are going and your expected time of return
- Always check the weather forecast before heading out and dress appropriately
- Don't rely on your cell phone; take a paper map with you
- Bring other helpful gear, like matches, a knife, a whistle, food and water
- Stay on designated trails and learn the trail markings



2019 SPONSORED TRAILS MONTH EVENTS

QR Code Trivia Trail at Asbury Woods, Erie County (entire month)

In celebration of trails month 2019, Asbury Woods launched a Trivia Trail Program. By utilizing a QR code scanner app on their smart device, visitors were encouraged to explore trails and learn about the trees, swamps, forests, wildflowers, wildlife and watersheds on Asbury Woods 205 acres of property.

Williamsport Bike Ride, Williamsport, Lycoming County (September 28)

This single-day, biking event took participants on an exploration of the 10.5-mile network of connected bike paths along the Susquehanna River between Montoursville and South Williamsport.

D&H Distance Run, Forest City, Susquehanna County (September 8)

The Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania hosted their 11th annual D&H Distance ½ Marathon and 5k on the D&H Rail-Trail.

Heritage Explorer Bike Tour, Carbondale, Lackawanna County (September 29)

Coinciding with the Greater Carbondale YMCA's Fall Family Festival, the Heritage Explorer Bike Tour began and ended at the YMCA Community Park in Carbondale, and featured a 20-mile bike tour as well as shorter options.

Pennypack Bike & BBQ, Philadelphia (September 28)

Joined by Pennsylvania Representative Joe Hohenstein, participants engaged in a 20-mile guided bike ride led by members of the East Coast Greenway Alliance. The ride stretched from Pennypack on the Delaware up the Pennypack Trail to Lorimer Park and back and was followed by a Sweet Lucy's Smokehouse BBQ lunch in the park.

Pennsylvania Environmental Council Public Lands Ride, Phillipsburg, Centre County (September 28)

On September 28, 2019 Pennsylvania Environmental Council, hosted its inaugural Public Lands Ride, a celebration of Pennsylvania's public lands. Cyclists rode at their own pace through the woods and waters of Moshannon State Forest, with a home base at Black Moshannon State Park. Two different distance options (26 and 58-mile) offer experiences for a variety of abilities.

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TRAIL RESOURCES

© Linda Stager

GRANTS

- [DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program, Trail Grants](#)
- [PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund](#)
- [Commonwealth Financing Authority](#)
- [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Acquisition Funding](#)
- [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Maintenance Funding](#)
- [Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, Grants](#)
- [Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Grants](#)

REPORTS

- [Pennsylvania Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan](#)
- [Pennsylvania Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan](#)
- [Trails Advisory Committee Annual Reports](#)
- [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, America's Rails-with-Trails Report](#)
- [DCNR, E-Library](#)
- [DCNR, Research Database](#)
- [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council \(CNRAC\)](#)

LINKS

- [GreenwaysandTrails.org](#)
- [ExplorePATrails.com](#)
- [GetOutdoorsPA.org](#)
- [GoodforPA.com](#)
- [GotoTrails.com](#)
- [ConservationTools.org](#)
- [AmericanTrails.org](#)
- [Traillink.com/state/pa-trails/](#)



2019

TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

Learn more at <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Communities/TrailDevelopment/PATrailsAdvisoryCommittee/Pages/default.aspx>.



Back row, left to right: Chris Firme, Mike Kuhn, Betsy Aiken, Donna Iannone, Liz Fager, Gwen Wills, Lydia Martin
Front row, left to right: Jim Laird, Jeremy Wimpey, Frank Maguire, Ron Steffey, Owen Worozbyt, Bill Ritting, Tom Kase, Henry Stroud, Carl Kelemen





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This report, a project of the Trails Advisory Committee and compiled by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, is financed in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program, Federal Highway Administration administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.