

Susquehanna Greenway eConnections

January 2011



Susquehanna *Healthy, Sustainable Susquehanna Communities*



The Susquehanna Greenway is a planned corridor of interconnected trails, parks, river access points, and conserved areas, linking people to the natural and cultural treasures of the Susquehanna River and its West Branch. Nearly 500 miles in length, it is one of our state's greatest resources -- balancing the needs of generations today and tomorrow, conserving the environment for all living things, and creating healthy, sustainable communities.

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Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

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Our Commitment to You in 2011

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) begins 2011 with a strong commitment to promote a sustainable and healthy environment, to champion protection of the natural and cultural resources of the Susquehanna River Watershed and to help connect people to these resources. After all, nothing is more critical to life than clean air and water. As the newly elected Chair of the SGP Board, I encourage you to share your thoughts and aspirations with us for making our watershed an even better, more sustainable place to live, work and play.

Through our Treasured Towns and Landscapes initiative we will be reaching out to you in the year ahead, and asking what special places you would like to see conserved -- those places where you feel connected to nature, your neighbors, or your community. Please let us know about your favorite River Town park, historic street, farmers market, hiking trail, water trail, river view or scenic vista. We have just closed the deadline for our first photo contest, winning photos will be announced in our next newsletter. We plan to make this an annual event because we want you to capture the essence of these special places with your photos. We pledge to work with you to ensure that these photos will not just be an image of the past, but a valued part of our region's future smart growth strategy. Your photos will help us understand the special places you value.

Our Board, Staff, Regional Lead Organizations and Susquehanna Greenway Coordinators will be working with residents and leaders to achieve the best economic, environmental and social future for our communities. Our goal is to be the Best Champion for the Susquehanna Greenway, but that is only possible with your involvement.

For over 40 years, I have been a community and natural resource planner, and an avid outdoorsman. In my experience, even our most treasured places cannot be saved, unless they have a group of champions willing to work for their conservation. Our Susquehanna Greenway Partnership will soon launch a general membership initiative to enlist more active volunteer champions. Watch our website www.susquehannagreenway.org for the details.



Our Mission

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership is a leading champion for the Susquehanna River Watershed, Pennsylvania's most important natural resource and the largest tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. We advocate for public and private efforts to connect people with our natural and cultural resources, and promote a sustainable and healthy environment.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers who want to make a difference. If you are interested in helping with a local Greenway project, or would like to assist SGP with an event, photography, office work, grant research, social networking, then go to our website and [click on volunteer](#).

Susquehanna Greenway Regional Organizations

North Branch
[Endless Mountains Heritage Region](#)

Middle Susquehanna
[SEDA-COG Community Resource Center](#)

Lower Susquehanna
[Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area](#)

Upcoming Events

Positioning Waterside Communities as Tourism Gateways
Webinar
January 19

[Linn Conservancy X-Country Ski Event](#)

The International City/County Management Association recently released a report on *[Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities](#)*. The report is concise and worth reading. It frames three key goals to help communities pursue sensible growth in the future, while maintaining and enhancing its rural character and quality of life. We embrace these goals and would like to help communities achieve them. The three key goals are:

1. Support the rural landscape by creating an economic climate that enhances the viability of working lands and conserves natural lands;
2. Help existing places thrive by taking care of assets and investments such as downtowns, Main Streets, existing infrastructure, and places that the community values; and,
3. Create great new places by building vibrant, enduring neighborhoods and communities that people, especially young people, don't want to leave.



Jerry Walls paddling with granddaughters Jillian and Kayla

Please join us in helping our existing river communities thrive with sensible growth that respects the character of our special places.

Sincerely,

Jerry S. Walls, AICP
Chair, SGP Board of Directors

The Time is NOW to Stand Up for Pennsylvania's Future!

There are few times in one's life when an opportunity arises to make a long-lasting difference in Pennsylvania. We are currently facing one such

opportunity! Growing Greener will soon be out of money and much more is left to do to ensure Pennsylvania's treasures are here for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

Growing Greener has transformed Pennsylvania by empowering communities to protect working farms and conserve special landscapes, clean up rivers and streams, create and improve parks and greenways, and revitalize cities and towns. We are losing three



Lewisburg
January 23

Berwick Area
Walkable Community Event
January 25

Muncy - Hughesville
Walkable Community Event
January 27

Susquehanna River Trail
Association
Business Meeting
January 27

DCNR Grant Workshops
Nanticoke, February 3
Go to DCNR Website
for additional date and locations

Basic Boating Safety Course
PPL Brunner Island
March 5

If you would like to have an event included in our newsletter, please send event and contact information to: info@susquehannagreenway.org

Special Thanks to Our Major Sponsors



times as much forest, wildlife habitat, farmland and other open spaces to development as we are able to conserve.

- The Commonwealth currently has 16,000 miles of streams that are unfit for swimming or fishing.
- Abandoned mines scar 189,000 acres in 44 counties and are the cause of 5,300 miles of dead streams.
- Protecting productive farmland safeguards our food supply, but more than 2,000 families remain on a waiting list to protect their farms.
- 58% of the state's population lives in older communities that need investment aimed at improving livability and prosperity: rehabilitating parks, establishing trails, planting trees, managing stormwater, renovating waterfronts and redeveloping brownfields.

The time is now to Renew Growing Greener! [Click here](#) to find out more about how to fund Growing Greener and how to contact your State Representative and State Senator.

Lower Susquehanna Conservation Initiative Update

An informational meeting was held on November 22 to update anyone interested in the Lower Susquehanna Conservation Landscape Initiative (CLI). Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



(DCNR) Secretary John Quigley gave an overview of the successes DCNR and local partners have accomplished to date. He also urged those in attendance to continue the work in the Lower Susquehanna CLI even as DCNR transitions to a new administration in Harrisburg. DCNR staff reviewed Pennsylvania's CLI Program and introduced the management team for the Lower Susquehanna CLI. As co-lead organizations for the CLI, Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area (SGHA) and the Lancaster County Conservancy (LCC) provided an overview of priority strategies. The meeting also included an opportunity for attendees to provide input on implementation strategies to advance the Lower Susquehanna CLI.

The Lower Susquehanna CLI covers a large swath of land area in York and Lancaster counties. Framed by endless miles of forested rocky cliffs that are adjacent to rich agricultural fields and occasional settlements, the Susquehanna River is the heart of this iconic landscape. The Lower Susquehanna CLI is a place-based strategy for natural resource stewardship and advocacy that seeks to enhance the rich landscape of the Susquehanna River Corridor through increased land protection, natural and cultural resource stewardship, increased public connections to these resources, and promoting sustainable economic development strategies keyed to



heritage and eco-tourism. For more information visit the [SGHA](#) or [LCC](#) websites.

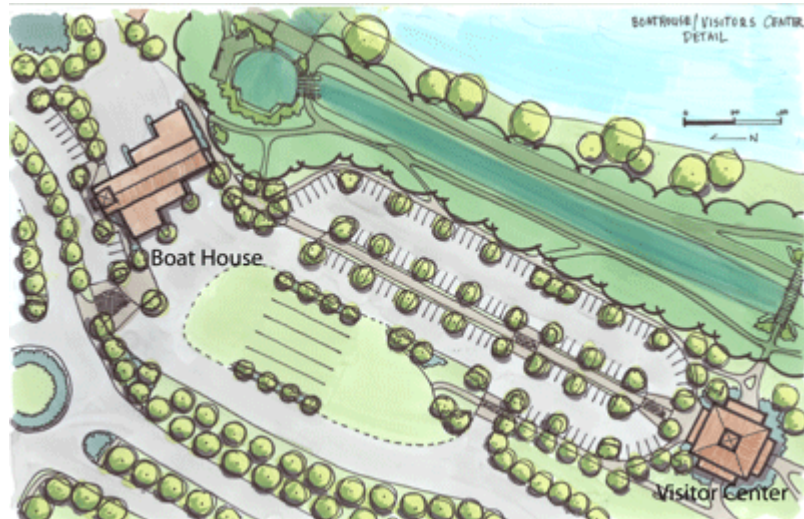
Helping Improve Community Walkability



Regional Plans to Improve Community Walkability and Public Health are underway in the Middle Susquehanna Region. SEDA-Council of Government's Community Resource Center (CRC) is partnering with regional health care providers, county and transportation planners, schools, and local municipalities to create better bike and pedestrian transportation options. CRC has received partial funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission for the 'Walkable Communities' project. Brian Auman and other CRC staff members are working in several regional communities (Berwick Area, Williamsport Area, Muncy/Hughesville, and Northumberland/Sunbury) to evaluate the built environment, to identify barriers to walking and biking, and to work with the communities to identify practical solutions. The project will identify community priorities and work with local communities to secure funding for project implementation. To learn more or get involved contact: [Amy Davis](#)

Susquehanna River Sports Park Boat House and Riverfront Development Planned

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has funded a feasibility study and master plan for the development of the Susquehanna River Sports Park at Shamokin Dam. This plan was prepared by SEDA-COG's Community Resource Center (CRC) in association with the Central Pennsylvania Rowing Association, Bucknell and Susquehanna universities, state agency and municipal officials and others. The study systematically explored alternative sites for the rowing venue. The project seeks to establish Lake Augusta as a venue for competitive rowing and to improve access and diversify recreational opportunities on Lake Augusta.



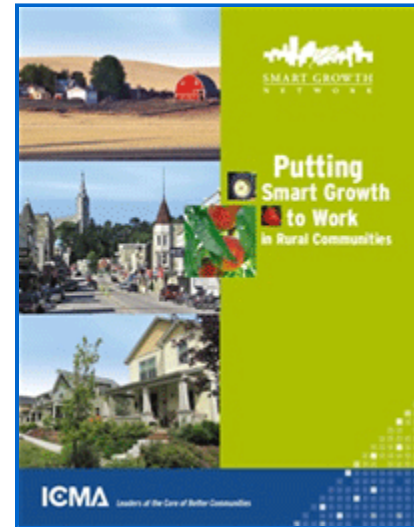
A master plan for a riverfront rowing center on the preferred site, including preliminary boathouse plans and elevations, were used to estimate building construction and site development costs. The Sports Park plan also addresses the potential for connections to adjacent commercially-zoned properties, and establishes a framework for new and related mixed-use urban town center development. The project establishes a new vision for a strategic regional gateway. The CRC works to coordinate local-state objectives, interests, and investments relevant to the future use and development of the Sports Park site.

Grants Help SGP Provide Technical Assistance and Encourage Stewardship

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership has received grants totaling \$210,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Chesapeake Bay Commission. The grants help SGP and its Regional Lead Organizations to provide technical assistance to local groups that are developing trails, parks, and other conservation projects. Some of the funding is being used for educational programs to increase local civic engagement in recognizing, prioritizing, saving and celebrating the natural and cultural treasures of the Susquehanna Greenway, through a Treasured Towns and Landscapes initiative. The objectives of the project are to increase personal connections to the landscapes of the Susquehanna in order to foster environmental stewardship and conservation of treasured landscapes; to assist River Town leaders in assessing how well their communities are incorporating green infrastructure elements, such as river front parks and trails to protect the river resources; foster sustainable Susquehanna communities and encourage appropriate tourism development; and to recognize local leaders and communities that are embracing and protecting the natural and cultural resources of the Susquehanna, and creating sustainable Susquehanna communities.

Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities

Many rural communities are facing challenges, including rapid growth at metropolitan edges, declining rural populations, and loss of working lands. To help address these issues the International City/County Management Association has developed a report called *Putting Smart Growth to Work in Rural Communities*. The report focuses on smart growth strategies that can help guide growth in rural areas while protecting natural and working lands and preserving the rural character of existing communities. It intended to show how smart growth approaches can be applied in the rural context, particularly in times of change. Hard copies of the report are available by emailing nscep@bps-imit.com or calling (800) 490-9198 and requesting EPA 231-K-10-003. To see the report on-line [click here](#).



Bridget Kane Joins Susquehanna Greenway



Bridget Kane recently joined the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership as the Communications & Outreach Coordinator. She holds a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Florida, and a M.S. in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development from the University of Maryland.

Bridget served in the Peace Corps in Madagascar where she worked on sustainable agriculture projects, as well as, environmental outreach and education. More recently she worked for the Potomac Conservancy in the Washington, D.C. area where she managed the River Center at Lockhouse 8 along the C&O Canal, researched stormwater issues, monitored conservation easements, and assisted in development activities of the organization. She lives in Berwick and enjoys biking, paddling, hiking, and just being outdoors.

Greenway Coordinator Receive National Award

The American Trails Association recently announced that David Buck, Greenway and



Water Trail Coordinator for the Susquehanna River North Branch, is the recipient of the 2010 Pennsylvania Trail Advocate Award. David was recognized for his successful efforts to influence public policy relating to trail planning, protection, development and maintenance.

David serves as the Greenways and Water Trail Coordinator for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Inc. (EMHR). He does outstanding work for the Susquehanna River North Branch Water Trail and its integration with water trails on other sections of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania and in New York, as well as other water and land trails in our region. He volunteers much in the way of time and resources beyond designated responsibilities to enhance the water trail, attract people to it, and advocate for its protection and enhancement. David is currently Vice Chair of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership's Water Trail Committee. Way to go David!

Grant and Program Funding Opportunities

DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program

Local governments, county governments and non-profit organizations can apply for Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) funding to assist them with addressing their recreation and conservation needs as well as supporting economically beneficial recreational tourism initiatives. [Learn more](#) about the C2P2 program, including grant lists, program documentation and upcoming workshops.

Natural Resource Conservation Service Programs:

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by:

- Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities; and
- Undertaking additional conservation activities.

CSP is available in Pennsylvania on private agricultural lands and non-industrial forest land. The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location. Application Deadline is January 21, 2011. [Learn More.](#)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Organic Farming Initiative

Under EQIP, eligible farmers and landowners can receive financial and technical assistance to install conservation practices needed to protect natural resources as part of their certified organic operation, or if they are transitioning to organic production. In addition, there is an option for farmers transitioning to organic production to receive funding to hire a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) to develop an Organic Transition plan. (NOTE: an Organic Transition Plan is not the same as an OSP.)

To apply, you will need to complete an application form and contact your local NRCS office at a USDA Service Center. [Read More](#)

Please visit our website at <http://www.susquehannagreenway.org/>
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