



The Susquehanna Greenway will not only promote outdoor recreation (as seen above), but also economic development, community revitalization, environmental stewardship, and conservation education within the region.

The Susquehanna Greenway is a linear corridor of land and water that follows the Susquehanna River and its West Branch tributary along a 500-mile journey through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Greenways Action Plan recognizes it as the state’s largest greenway. The purpose of the Susquehanna Greenway is to protect, value, and enjoy the exceptional resources of the river, creating an interconnected network of trails and natural areas traversing urban, suburban, and rural landscapes. The Susquehanna Greenway provides endless opportunities for visitors and residents to connect with the river and its bountiful heritage through land and water trails, parks, historic sites, working farms and forests, and many unique river communities.

1.0 Purpose and Benefits

This Strategic Action Plan was developed to guide the Susquehanna Greenway, during the first three years of operation, to ensure steady and coordinated growth of the greenway from a visionary concept to on-the-ground reality. The production of this plan marks the completion of a multi-year, multi-phase planning effort, which shifts the focus away from planning and toward implementing the greenway.

The Susquehanna Greenway will promote economic development, community revitalization, environmental stewardship, and conservation education as well as increase outdoor recreation within the region. The following plan of action strategically outlines a new organizational framework for the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, a method of implementing greenway projects, a communications and outreach program to promote greenway, and a list of actions to accomplish the goals identified in this plan.

1.1 Susquehanna Greenway Goals

Implementing this Strategic Action Plan will accomplish five overarching goals established for the Susquehanna Greenway. These Goals are:

Goal # 1 – Special Place

The Susquehanna Greenway will be a specially recognized place – a distinctive destination consisting of diverse and interconnected landscapes and communities.

Goal # 2 – Conservation

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership will conserve, protect, and restore the natural environment for future generations, creating healthy and sustainable communities.

Goal # 3 – Benefits

The Susquehanna Greenway will bring multiple benefits to the region including economic development, community revitalization, environmental stewardship, and enhance recreation, education, and healthy living opportunities.

Goal #4 – Awareness

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership will increase public understanding and awareness of the Susquehanna River and its enduring story.

Goal # 5 – Partnership

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, in cooperation with local partners, will champion and implement the vision of the Susquehanna Greenway.



View of the Susquehanna River from Wyalusing Rocks.



The Susquehanna River near Sunbury, Pennsylvania.

1.2 Defining the Greenway

In 2001, the Pennsylvania Greenways Partnership Commission proposed the identification of a statewide system of greenways. The result was the formation of a concept describing a greenway that would preserve, enhance, and interpret the unique environmental and cultural story of the Susquehanna River. The Commission defines a greenway as:

... a corridor of open space. Greenways vary greatly in scale, from narrow ribbons of green that run through urban, suburban, and rural areas to wider corridors that incorporate diverse natural, cultural, and scenic features. They can incorporate both public and private property, and can be land or water-based. They may follow old railways, canals, or ridge tops, or they may follow stream corridors, shorelines, or wetlands, and include water trails for non-motorized craft. Some greenways are recreational corridors or scenic by-ways that may accommodate motorized and non-motorized vehicles. Others function almost exclusively for environmental protection and are not designed for human passage. Greenways differ in their location and function, but overall, a greenway will protect natural, cultural, and scenic resources, provide recreational benefits, enhance natural beauty and quality of life in neighborhoods and communities, and stimulate economic opportunities.

The above definition of a greenway was adopted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, from “Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections.” (June 2001).



1.3 Organization of the Document

The Strategic Action Plan is divided into five chapters. In Chapter Two, a brief description of the Susquehanna River environment is provided, along with the greenway vision and concept plan. Chapter Three is devoted to defining and describing an organizational framework for the greenway. Chapter Four presents key implementation strategies for the greenway, including the identification and prioritization of greenway projects. Chapter Five offers strategies for marketing and promoting the greenway. Finally, Chapter Six provides a summary chart of the key action steps to organize, implement, and promote the greenway.