



# Discover Towanda

## A Susquehanna Greenway River Town



### The River and the Bay

With a watershed of nearly 28,000 square miles, the Susquehanna River supplies the Chesapeake Bay with fifty percent of its fresh water (24 billion gallons) on a typical day.

**Towanda is a progressive, historic and scenic community** situated on the banks of the beautiful Susquehanna River and along the Pennsylvania Route 6 byway. Settled in 1786, Towanda has a rich heritage connection with Native Americans of this agricultural valley of the Allegheny Mountains and industrial history that includes natural resources of coal and lumber. Towanda was established as the county seat of Bradford County in 1812 and was home to famous songwriter Stephen Foster and statesman David Wilmot, author of the famed "Wilmot Proviso" during the Abolition period of our nation. Towanda is the historic, cultural, political and economic center of Bradford County.

## Live, Learn, Explore

These are just a few of the many places in and around Towanda for you to discover. The numbers below correspond to those on the map to the right. Learn more about these and other places at [www.susquehannagreenway.org](http://www.susquehannagreenway.org)



### Historic District

The Towanda Historic District has 441 structures and contains one of the largest and most varied collections of period architecture in Bradford County. The Walking Tour features sites with bronzed plaques representative of the district's beautiful homes, churches and public buildings with Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Gothic, Romanesque and Victorian architecture.



### River Walkway Trail

This scenic, gently sloping trail of over 10,000 feet of paved surface has become a popular attraction for people of all ages from all over our region. Built mostly over the former location of the old canal towpath along the river, it connects the entire Borough to industry, the hospital, downtown, neighborhoods and other points.



### Old County Jail

The old county jail is located at 109 Pine Street in the center of Towanda Borough's Historic District. The massive three-story structure was built in 1871-73 with locally quarried stone at a cost of \$67,000. The outside walls are 3 feet thick. In 1998, the county transferred the property to the Historical Society for renovation into its research library and museum.



### Towanda Public Library

Donated in 1897 by Frank Welles, this historic structure of Flemish Renaissance Revival features red brick, terracotta decoration, tall stepped gables, steep roofs with lacy spires, faux dormer windows and round towers with conical roofs. The public library offers excellent children's programming, adult classes, and a strong collection about the American Civil War.



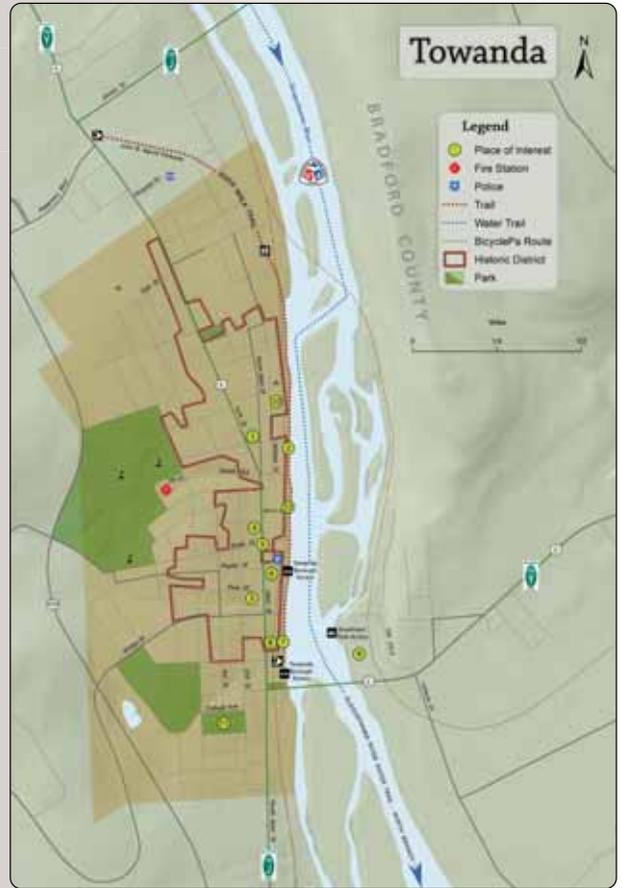
### Downtown Towanda

The historic downtown area of Towanda Borough is centered along Main Street. With Towanda's growth as a vibrant manufacturing, industrial and research and development center came a robust and charming downtown center. A variety of stores, restaurants and offices contribute to the visitors experience of Towanda. Some of the most varied and intact collection of period architecture exists here. Visitors can shop, dine and be entertained in a beautiful and historic downtown of the County seat.



### Bradford County Courthouse

Built in 1897-98 using locally quarried limestone, the third courthouse in Towanda was the first public building in Bradford County with electric lights and flush toilets. Listed individually on the National Register, it is an excellent example of Beaux Arts Classical style architecture. The octagonal dome rises 70 feet above the first floor and is topped by a rare statue of Lady Justice that is not blindfolded.



## Additional Places of Interest

- Washington Street Station** – Built in 1884, this Brick Style structure was built for the PA & NY Railroad and later served passengers on several rail lines traveling through Towanda. *Corner of Washington Street and the Merrill Parkway*
- Keystone Theater** – This Romanesque Revival structure was built in 1886 and named the Hale Opera House. In 1913 the building was renamed the Keystone Theater and served as a "movie house". It is now the home of the Bradford County Regional Arts Council which sponsors educational and arts programs. *601 Main St.*
- Eastside Riverfront Park** – Developed in 1997, this Towanda Borough park features a boat launch, walking trail, picnic facilities, fishing areas and a multi-use sports field. *Along the east bank of the river in Wysox Township*
- Riverside Cemetery** – Many prominent early settlers are buried here and include David Wilmot, author of the 1846 "Wilmot Proviso". Numerous tombstones of Civil War veterans can also be found in the seven acre cemetery overlooking the Susquehanna River. *Corner of William and Walnut streets*
- SCI Complex – Bradford County YMCA** – Operated as the Susquehanna Collegiate Institute from 1854 to 1905 as a place of higher learning until it moved its operation to Selinsgrove to become Susquehanna University, the building was made into a community center in the 1930s and over the years a swimming pool, picnic grounds and Little League fields have been added. *9 College Ave.*
- Heritage Center** – Endless Mountains Heritage Region occupies the circa 1840 house that was built for Elizabeth Means, widow of Towanda's founder William Means, and was owned by several prominent town leaders. The house is used today for the support of heritage tourism, water trails and outdoor recreation, the greenway, scenic byways and historic preservation throughout the Endless Mountains. *2 Jefferson St.*

