

Healthy
Sustainable
Susquehanna
Communities

eConnections

February



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Susquehanna Greenway
Partnership



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Dear Greenway Friends,

When snow and temperatures are falling along the Susquehanna, it can be hard for all of us to remember that spring really is around the corner.

For many of our Susquehanna Greenway communities and partners, this winter has been a great time to plan new park and trail connections, and community events along the river.

We are excited to share news and stories of this progress here and hope you'll be inspired to get involved, volunteer, or become a member. With your help we are making communities along the Susquehanna healthier and more attractive places to live, work, and visit.



Thank you!

Trish Carothers, Executive Director
Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

Revitalizing River Towns:
Renovo Ramps Up Greenway Connections

[Get Involved. Volunteer!](#)

[Contact Us](#)



Thanks! Your gift helps revitalize river towns; connect parks, trails, and river access areas; and protect clean water.



Our Vision

The Susquehanna Greenway with its connected walking, biking, and water trails, unique river towns, and natural land improves the quality of life for the people who live near it, enhances the economic vitality of the communities that foster it, and preserves the natural resources of the Susquehanna River itself. It protects our water quality, encourages active lifestyles, and inspires stewardship and civic pride in places where people love to live, work, play and visit.

Upcoming Events

To see more events, or list your event, visit our [Calendar of Events](#).

Human Powered Winter Fest

Bloomsburg
Feb. 21

Winter Hash Run

Bloomsburg
Feb. 22

Riparian Buffers and Your Property

Berwick
Feb. 24

Green Infrastructure

Webinar
Feb. 25

Union County Greenway & Open Space Public Meeting

Laurelton
Feb. 25

Natural Gas: Forest Fragmentation

Williamsport
Feb. 25

Susq. River Trail Meeting



On January 16, 2015, Renovo residents and others from Western Clinton County attended a public meeting to discuss ideas and projects to make the community more connected to the Susquehanna River.

The meeting was organized by Preserve, Renew and Revitalize (PRR), a new non-profit organization in the Greater Renovo Area and the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership.

Over 100 people attended and discussed the natural environment, built environment, community life, and the downtown environment. "The River Towns Program will be a testing ground to prove to others that Western Clinton County can work together and that we can take on larger regional projects," said Alice Tarr, a representative from Chapman Township.

The meeting included highlights from the SEDA-COG Community Development Program that is helping the area move forward by providing assistance with infrastructure and grant opportunities. With the support of the Clinton County Commissioners, SEDA-COG is developing a \$750,000 grant application for improvements in the Ontario Street area, which include street and pedestrian facility improvements, infrastructure upgrades, and removal of blighted structures.

Moving forward, all five municipalities are working to complete River Town Program applications. The feedback from the public meeting will be used to prioritize community based projects and to identify potential funding sources to implement these projects.

Thank you PRR, SEDA-COG, and all participants for an inspiring evening discussing your local projects along the Susquehanna Greenway!



Paddle Trips: Save the Dates! Educational Trips Explore the River



Over 444 miles long, the Susquehanna River water trails are prime for exploration by kayak and canoe.

Paddling is a great way to meet new people, to get moving in the outdoors, and to discover the natural beauty of the Susquehanna River and Greenway!

Many organized trips have been planned by a number of our friends, partners, and local river outfitters. Be sure to save these dates:

- June 6: Roaring Bull Canoe, Kayak and Standup Paddleboard Races near Millersburg, PA.
- June 7: Children's Miracle Network River Day Paddle from Bloomsburg to Danville, PA.
- June 17-21, 2015: West Branch Paddle & Pedal Sojourn from Jersey Shore to Montgomery, PA.
- July 2015: Susquehanna Gateway Flatwater Challenge Lower Susquehanna River.
- September 20: Family Paddle & Picnic near Millersburg, PA.

Duncannon
Feb. 26

What is a Healthy Stream?
Webinar
Feb. 27

Idita-Trail Challenge
Lewisburg
Feb. 28

Maple Sugaring
Montour Preserve
Feb. 28

Winter Along the River
Wilkes-Barre
March 1

Union County Greenway & Open
Space Public Meeting
Mifflinburg
March 4

Union County Greenway & Open
Space Public Meeting
Winfield
March 5

Rivertown Coalition Meeting
Selinsgrove
March 7

Humdinger Trail Races
Danville
March 7

Water Blues Free Film
Bloomsburg
March 11

Heritage Lecture Series
Wrightsville
March 11

Rain Barrel Workshop
Sunbury
March 14

Wildwood Park Volunteer Day
Harrisburg
March 14

To see more events, or list your
event, visit our [Calendar of Events](#).

Year Round: [PA Assoc. of Canoeing & Kayaking](#) hosts many races.
Looking for other river activities? Check out our [Calendar of Events](#).
You can [share your event here](#).

Photo by Chuck Haupt

News from the North: New Recreation Site Planned in Luzerne County



There is something to be said for working with, and not against the unrelenting forces of nature. Jenkins Township residents and supervisors in Luzerne County should be commended for their recent decision to convert a portion of the township floodplain into a large community recreation site with natural conserved areas.

In 2011 flood waters inundated homes near the river and many owners accepted federal buyouts of their floodplain properties. Altogether, almost 20 acres of property was transferred to the township. Seeing opportunity in this new situation, the township has decided to apply for state funding to transform the empty lots into conserved, natural areas with trees and vegetation, as well as recreation fields, parking, and an area for seasonal uses like a farmer's market. Stay tuned! - we'll keep you updated on this exciting development along the Susquehanna Greenway, and you can [read more here](#).

Middle Susquehanna News: Grow Your Greenway During Raise the Region



Mark your calendar! The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania is excited to announce Raise the Region 2015, March 11-12, 2015 - an event to help the communities of Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union counties support local nonprofit organizations fundraising efforts.

This event is a great way to give your donation greater impact - Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships will match a portion of each donation.

Please consider supporting your Susquehanna Greenway Partnership during this event, and help us link and revitalize river communities through trails, parks, clean water, and vibrant community projects!

You can also mix and mingle with SGP Board Members, staff, and freinds at the free [Kick-Off Celebration](#) in Pennsdale, PA that evening. Spots are limited, so [register today!](#)

Shop at AmazonSmile
and Amazon will make
a donation to:
**Susquehanna Greenway
Partnership**

Get started

amazon smile

This 30-hour fundraising event will start on Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Visit www.raisethegreenway.org on that day to make your tax-deductible gift and help build the Greenway!

News from the West: Rain Gardens & Plantings Coming to Jersey Shore

New partnerships and exciting projects are sprouting along the West Branch in Jersey Shore, PA.

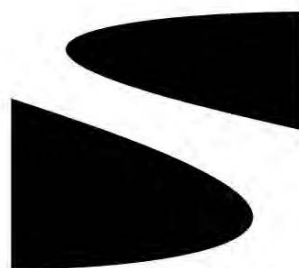
As part of the Susquehanna Greenway River Towns program, the community is improving its connection to the River with a new public river access. Looking to "green" its future, the local River Town

Team and Jersey Shore Borough have partnered with Penn State University Master Gardeners - Lycoming County to design and help plant two large rain gardens and a vegetated area, or "buffer strip" beside the river access area.

These natural areas will capture rainwater, sediment and play a role in keeping the West Branch clean by slowing erosion and lessening flooding.

[Read more and see photos here.](#)

Educational signage at the site will tell the story of green infrastructure and clean water.



SUSQUEHANNA ART MUSEUM

Lower Susquehanna News: Susquehanna Art Museum Opens

The arts have a new home along the river, as the Susquehanna Art Museum officially opened to the public on January 16, 2015 in midtown Harrisburg.

With a nod to recycling and reusing, the building is a mixture of old and new. The 20,000 square foot space includes the former Keystone Bank

Building, where the old bank vault has been repurposed into unique gallery space. The museum also includes other gallery spaces, a cafe, museum shop, and educational programming rooms. The museum is located at 1401 North Third St., Harrisburg. Learn more and [see construction photos here.](#)

Volunteers Needed!

Be a Greenway Ambassador

Here is a great way to meet new people and learn about the Susquehanna Greenway! We are looking for volunteers to help us spread the word about our organization at our outreach booth. Shifts are available for the following events:

- April 25, 10am-3pm - Williamsport Municipal Water Authority Open House



- April 25, 10am-5pm - Lewisburg Art Festival
- June 20, Wormleysburg River Day
- July 25, Ned Smith Center for Nature & Art Festival in Millersburg
- August TBA, Sunbury River Festival

To snag a shift, contact Bridget Kane at bkane@susquehannagreenway.org.



Resources for River Towns:

Parks and Trails Toolkit

Kids need 60 minutes of daily physical activity to maintain good health. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, less than 30% of youth achieve this goal. Additionally, more than 25% of adults report no leisure-time physical activity. Being physically active is one of the most important steps we can all take to improve our health!



To encourage outdoor activity today, the CDC developed a parks and trails toolkit that will help communities create parks with expanded health benefits. Parks and trails along the Susquehanna Greenway can improve health in several ways including:

- Increased physical activity- walkable access to appropriate sites motivates people to participate in physical activity and to do so more frequently;
- Improved mental health- parks can serve as a venue for stress reduction;
- Environmental benefits- parks can reduce air and water pollution, protect hazard areas (e.g., flood plains, unstable slopes) from inappropriate development, and mitigate urban heat islands;
- Community interaction- parks can provide meeting places for neighbors;
- Reduce injury- parks and trails can provide safe spaces for people to play and exercise, away from busy streets and commercial zones.

Joggers enjoy the Greenbelt Trail in Harrisburg, photo by [Chris Knight](#).



Fund Your Greenway Project: Grant Spotlight: New Public River Access



[Bitting Recreation, Inc.](#)

[Bonner Sports & RV](#)

[CNB Bank](#)

[Fairfield Auto Group](#)

[Jersey Shore Area Lioness Club](#)

[Jersey Shore Moose Lodge #214](#)

[Lundy Warehousing](#)

[Lycoming Mall](#)

[Norcen Industries, Inc.](#)

[Oakes Insurance, Inc.](#)

[Overhead Door Company of
Lycoming Co.](#)

[Service 1st Federal Credit Union](#)

[South Avis Realty](#)

[Wegmans](#)

[Woodlands Bank](#)



Is your community seeking to create new public river access for kayaks and canoes, or interested in improving swimming access, fishing access and/or, viewing access for water, wildlife, and shoreline areas? Check out this great source of funding and project ideas.

National Park Service - Chesapeake is accepting project proposals from partners for financial assistance awards. Awards range from \$10,000 to \$125,000, or potentially higher. The requested funds must be matched by an equal (1:1) or greater amount of non-Federal support dedicated to the project.

Applications must be submitted by Friday, April 10, 2015. Potential project applicants must carefully review the Program Guidelines & Application Instructions. [Read more here.](#)

See this and many other grant resources for your local projects at our [Susquehanna Greenway Project Funding webpage](#). As always, [let us know](#) if you'd like our letter of support for your Greenway project. Building the Susquehanna Greenway and citizen stewards one local project at a time!

River access in Renovo, PA photo by Chuck Haupt.

Faces of the Greenway Meet Brandon Walls

We've recently welcomed Brandon as our Communications Intern at our Lewisburg, PA offices. A native of Mifflinburg, Brandon attends Susquehanna University in pursuit of a degree in Strategic Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations. Brandon is also the Philanthropy Chairman for Tau Kappa Epsilon, a member of Sterling Communications, Public Relations Student Society of America, and the Marketing Club.



Here at the Greenway, Brandon has been critical in keeping our public [Calendar of Events](#) up to date and is developing new outreach materials. "I have always been very active and enjoy being outdoors, so I felt that I had a lot in common with the mission of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership," says Walls. Thank you Brandon for helping folks get involved in healthy, outdoor recreation along the Susquehanna Greenway!

Share the Love: Support the Greenway this Feb.



Linking over 500 miles of parks, trails, conserved areas, and river towns is no small task and we cannot do it without local partners and help from people like you. Here are different ways you can get involved:

Membership: Consider making a tax-deductible donation to show your love for the Susquehanna! [Click here to become a member](#) of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership or give the gift of membership to that special someone. Thank you!

Volunteer/Internships: Whether you're interested in volunteering in our Lewisburg office, or you'd like to hear about different volunteer opportunities (river clean-ups, photography, event volunteers, etc.) needed throughout the year along the river, we'd love to get to know you!



AmazonSmile: When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will make a donation to the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership! Same prices, same products, same service.

<https://smile.amazon.com>. Thank you!

Photo courtesy of [Flickr](#).

Banner photos, from left: Ice carving by Gabi Keizer; Thistle by Mike Philippe; Skiing by Geoff Goodenow; Snowy field by Cody Arnold.

Please visit our website at www.SusquehannaGreenway.org.

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