

Susquehanna Greenway eConnections

February 2011



Susquehanna



GREENWAY

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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America's Great Outdoor Report Released "A Promise to Future Generations"

President Barack Obama announced yesterday the Administration's action plan for the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to achieve lasting conservation of the outdoor spaces that power our nation's economy, shape our culture, and build our outdoor traditions.

The action plan was shaped by more than 10,000 participants at 51 listening sessions and more than 105,000 written comments. The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership provided written comments to the plan and attended one of the listening sessions. "We are pleased that the plan focuses on helping local initiatives to create parks and trails, as well as river restoration and land conservation," said Trish Carothers, SGP Program Director. "Connecting people to our natural resources helps to create healthy, sustainable communities."

When implemented the plan will result in:

- Accessible parks or green spaces for our children.
- A new generation of great urban parks and community green spaces.
- Newly-restored river restorations and recreational "blueways" that power economic revitalization in communities.
- Stronger support for farmers, ranchers, and private landowners that help protect rural landscapes and provide access for recreation.
- The reinvestment of revenues from oil and gas extraction into the permanent protection of parks, open spaces, wildlife habitat, and access for recreational activities.
- A 21st century conservation ethic that builds on local ideas and solutions for environmental stewardship and connecting to our historic, cultural, and natural heritage.

A video and transcript of the President's remarks can be found [here](#). The full report and recommendations can be found at [here](#).

[Email Us](#)



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

[Nature in Winter](#)
Berwick
February 20

River Towns Race Series Schedule Released

The River Towns Race Series (RTRS) is the ultimate season-long, cross-discipline, race experience along the Susquehanna. Coordinated by a group of race organizers working together, the races in the series range from



relatively flat 5K running races to 75 mile road biking epics. RTRS not only provides recreational opportunities, but also generates funds for the Montour Area Recreation Commission to design, install and maintain all sorts of recreational features and programs. Funds have been used for swing sets at the PPL Montour Preserve, new fencing for the Anthony Township pool, creation of a concrete skate park at Danville's Hess Field, and to expand the trail network in and around the Danville area. Bob Stoudt, Director of Montour Area Recreation Commission, says "If people come out they have a good time, while benefiting recreation in our area."

For a complete race schedule for 2011 and more information about individual races [click here](#), or contact Bob Stoudt at (570) 336-2060.

Volunteers Needed!

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) is looking for volunteers for the following two upcoming events.

- The **34th Annual Trout Kickoff** at YMCA Pickelner Arena in Williamsport, March 5-6
- **PA Outdoor Life Expo 2011** sponsored by WNEP at the Lycoming Mall in Pennsdale, March 24-27.

SGP needs help staffing a booth at these events. This is a great chance to reach new people with our message about creating trails and parks, and protecting our natural resources.

If you are interested in volunteering at either event, please contact [Bridget Kane](#) (570) 522-7275, SGP Communications & Outreach Coordinator.

PPL Supports Susquehanna Greenway Programs

PA Wilds Artisan 'Meet & Greet'

Williamsport
February 23

First Annual Environmental Awareness Conference

Mansfield
February 26

PATU Conservation Corps Training Session

Lock Haven
February 26

American Indian Artifact Exhibit

Berwick
February 26

PA's United States Colored Troops

Lewisburg
February 27

Visions of the Susquehanna River Art Collection

York County
March 4

34th Annual Trout Kickoff

Williamsport
March 5-6

Humdinger Trail Run

Danville
March 5

Basic Boating Safety Course

PPL Brunner Island
March 5

PA German Architecture

Lancaster
March 9

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



On February 10, Teri MacBride, Regional Community Relations Director at PPL Corporation presented the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) Board Chair, Jerry Walls and Board Member, Cindy Bower with a check for \$10,000 in support of SGP's future program development.

PPL frequently contributes to the quality of life in communities where they do business. Their philanthropy efforts direct corporate resources to programs that improve our communities and make business sense. With the help of corporate contributions like this one, SGP can continue to serve your community in developing and sustaining the Susquehanna Greenway.

Renew Growing Greener Capitol Day

After a decade of successful projects that empower communities through protecting and restoring our land and water resources, enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities and preserving our historic assets; the funding sources that support Growing Greener are nearly gone.



On January 24 Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) participated in Renew Growing Greener Day at the Pennsylvania Capitol. SGP Board Members and Staff met legislators to explain how important Growing Greener funding has been in helping Susquehanna communities help themselves to clean up streams, create parks and trails, and revitalize their economies, as well as the need for renewal of Growing Greener funding. SGP joins over 200 organizations, businesses, and government entities in the efforts to plan a renewal program for Growing Greener.

The day concluded with a reception in the Rotunda of the Main Capitol Building and a brief presentation by Andrew Heath, Executive Director of the Renew Growing Greener Coalition,



stressing the importance of renewed funding.

To watch an interview with Andrew Heath, Executive Director of Renew Growing Greener [click here](#). For more information on Renew Growing Greener and how to contact your State Representative or State Senator [click here](#).

To see Williamsport Sun Gazette, February 13 coverage of Growing Greener with SGP Board Chair Jerry Walls [click here](#).

Access Improvements - North Branch Water Trail

Project partners are making good progress on access improvements on the Susquehanna River North Branch Water Trail with grant funding support from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways & Watertrails Network to the Endless Mountain Heritage Region (EMHR).

The oxbow at Vosburg Neck in Wyoming County includes a vibrant nature center, historic rail tunnel, camp and intact canal path. Now it also includes a restored river access area at Howland Preserve, thanks to the work of the North Branch Land Trust. Access site signage is being designed currently and an overall management plan is being developed for the historic river access with riparian buffer improvements, walking trails, and parking area development.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission and Wyalusing Area School District are partnering with EMHR in restoring and enhancing a river access at the State Game Lands 237 in Terry Township in Bradford County. Gary Stevens, water trail volunteer, coordinates the work being done with students in re-establishing the river access area on the state game lands, as well as removing invasive plants, planting native plants and riparian buffers, constructing benches, adding wildlife habitat elements and designing and developing a parking area.

Projects are also planned along the water trail in Laceyville Borough and Tunkhannock Borough in Wyoming County and in Susquehanna County. Each project features its own set of implementation volunteers. All planned river access enhancements are scheduled for completion this summer.



Preserving a Native American Camp at Shickshinny

The site of an original Native American Indian camp along the Susquehanna River in the Borough of Shickshinny is carefully being cleaned up and preserved by local

historian Richard Kuchta. Several years ago Kuchta located and identified the site of the camp and has since acquired the site from another property owner who wanted to see the important historic place preserved.

The original camp is located near the mouth of the Shickshinny Creek as it flows into the Susquehanna and was used by the Lenni Lenape people. In the 1920s the history of the site was documented in the annals of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society. Original Native American tools and artifacts were found on the site as early as 1890, some which are believed to be more than 800 years old.

For many years, the site was heavily overgrown and a popular dumping spot. Kuchta began educating local officials and the public about its historic significance and posted signs to warn against dumping. In 2010, Kuchta, local volunteers and a scout group, began the process of cleaning up and hauling away the debris, and removing heavy brush and dead trees to open up the view. What was previously a little regarded overgrown site along the edge of the river is quickly turning into a park-like setting beneath a canopy of tall trees with a previously unseen view of the Susquehanna River. The well hidden historic gem is finally being rediscovered thanks to Kuchta and other volunteers.

[Read more...](#)

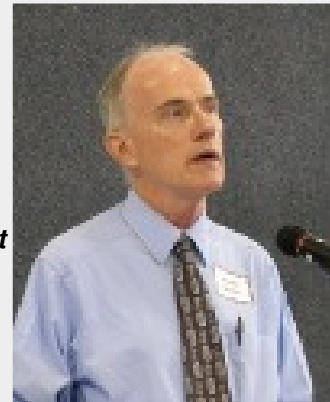
Summit on Heritage, Greenways and Byways

On October 14 and 15 the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) hosted two major events, a **Historic Preservation Tour & Roundtable Discussion**, and a **Regional Summit on Heritage, Greenways & Byways**.

EMHR staff acted as guides for the Preservation Tour attended by officials from Preservation Pennsylvania, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. There were featured introductions to historic sites and districts and scenic byways of the Susquehanna River, Pennsylvania Route 6, and Route 92 Viaduct Valley Way.

The Roundtable Discussion at the Bradford County Museum had thirty attendees representing local and regional entities involved in heritage tourism, historic preservation and interpretation, greenways, research and cultural programs. Attendees discussed the many challenges and impacts associated with Marcellus Shale natural gas exploration, changes in our rural and agricultural landscapes, limitations and availability of funding through corporate, state and federal agencies, identification of new areas for preservation and interpretation of local history and culture.

The 2010 Regional Summit on Heritage, Greenways and Byways held in Laceyville was a tremendous success due to the participation of many talented and dedicated people amongst sixty-five attendees. Plenary speaker, Walter Gallas of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, gave a presentation that



was inspiring and educational, offering valuable information about emerging models of historic preservation throughout America and the integrated approach of land conservation and historic preservation. Dynamic break-out sessions included topics on treasured towns and landscapes, local archaeology, new trail building, cooperative and collaborative opportunities for museums, scenic byways and corridors, and more.

[Read more...](#)

West Branch OSM/VISTAs Complete Year of Service

Rebecca Holler and Sarah Koontz, two young women with a strong environmental ethic, have just completed a year of service as OSM/VISTA Watershed Development



Coordinators on the West Branch Susquehanna through a special program of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and AmeriCorp VISTA. Rebecca served with Trout Unlimited's (TU) Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program and Sarah served with the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP). They both worked tirelessly on education and outreach programs to foster citizen stewardship of the West Branch and its tributaries, and to build the capacity of their respective organizations.

Thanks to the generous support from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and the Appalachian Coal Country Team, Rebecca and Sarah were able to assist numerous watershed organizations with fundraising, remediation work and clean-up projects. Together they organized and conducted a six-day educational sojourn on the West Branch, and assisted with two regional symposia. They have engaged volunteers and gone beyond the call of duty on many occasions to help the staff at TU and SGP.

"When we (OSM/VISTAs) look back at a year we tend to see the big projects and successes, but in the end I think the everyday assistance we provided is the longest lasting.," sais Rebecca. "Our work to help improve watershed groups will last for years."

Thanks Rebecca and Sarah! See you on the river.

Researcher's on the River Dr. Mel Zimmerman

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP) will be starting a new eConnections series, *Researcher's on the River*, that will



highlight a local scientist who is doing research on the Susquehanna River and its tributaries. This month we chose Dr. Mel Zimmerman.

Dr. Mel Zimmerman is a Professor of Biology and Director of the Lycoming College Clean Water Institute (CWI) in Williamsport, PA and Chair, of the PA Keystone Stream Team.

PA Fish and Boat Commission is developing a fish-population survey for sensitive streams with the help of CWI interns and faculty, which includes Dr. Zimmerman. Researchers are identifying brook trout, brown trout, and other species, counting and measuring them, and releasing them unharmed. The amount and types of fish found in a stream can help determine the water quality and can be used to classify the various classes of stream ranging from Class A- 'streams with high numbers of reproducing trout of various ages' and Class E- 'streams without trout'.

Dr. Zimmerman and his students at CWI are also benefiting from a grant from the Degenstein Foundation. Lycoming College, Bucknell University, Susquehanna University, and Bloomsburg University are part of a long-term water monitoring project on the lower West Branch of the Susquehanna River. Interns collect surface water samples from a boat between Lock Haven and Sunbury. Samples are then tested for nitrogen, phosphorous, pH, alkalinity, conductivity, total dissolved solids, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and coliform bacteria. Interns also collect macroinvertebrates or water bugs. The presence of these bugs can indicate water quality, because depending on how clean the water is, only certain bugs will show up in the sample.

[Read more...](#)

Walkable Communities Success Stories



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. The project will identify community priorities and work with local communities to secure funding for project implementation.

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership is beginning a new monthly series in *eConnections* that will highlight a principle of walkable and bikeable communities. We would like communities that are already implementing those principles to share their success stories with us. If your community has a walkable/bikeable community success story please send it to [Bridget Kane](#), Communications & Outreach Coordinator.

The principles of the Walkable Communities Plan that will be highlighted include:

- The downtown should remain the center of community activity;
- Create attractive public spaces where people can meet and socialize;
- Important community destinations should be accessible to the young, the old, and disabled individuals;
- Safe sidewalks and trails should inter connect residential neighborhoods, the downtown, schools, parks, and natural areas;
- Public transit bus stops should be easily recognizable. Plans should be developed for housing and adjacent land use that complements bus stop locations;
- A sidewalk repair and replacement program should be implemented;
- Safe speed limits should be enforced and designated truck routes established.

Consideration and potential adoption of the principles will be among the first steps in implementing the plan. To learn more or get involved contact: [Amy Davis](#)

Please visit our website at <http://www.susquehannagreenway.org/>
[Click here to donate to our cause](#)

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