

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Susquehanna Greenway Partnership Awards \$60,000 in Mini-Grants**

*Connecting Susquehanna Greenway River Towns* is the theme of a new mini-grant program by the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership (SGP). The mini-grant program was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (DCNR).

The purpose of the mini-grant program is to advance public and private efforts to connect people with the natural and cultural resources of the Susquehanna and promote a sustainable and healthy environment. Award of the mini-grants is focused on projects that create or improve the following: trail connections with the Susquehanna River, riverfront parks, river access, or water quality. A maximum of \$10,000 was available for implementation grants, \$5,000 for planning grants and \$2,500 for signage grants.

"The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership is pleased to partner with the DCNR to award \$60,000 in mini-grants to community partners along the Susquehanna," said SGP Executive Director Trish Carothers. "SGP is dedicated to creating and sustaining the Susquehanna Greenway, an interconnected corridor of parks, trails, river access points, conserved areas along the 500 miles of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania. The Susquehanna Greenway is taking shape thanks to efforts of many local partners and volunteers, and funding assistance from state and federal agencies, individual and business donors. The projects that are being funded today, may be small in scale, but they are building critical connections that will spur further trail, park and conservation projects which will make our region one of the most desirable places to live in the country. The grant recipients not only share our vision for 500 miles of interconnected river towns, trails and parks, they are helping us to plan it and build it."

A total of fifteen grants are being awarded ranging from \$500 to \$8,000. The project partners are leveraging the \$60,000 in awards with an additional \$203,000 in cash and in-kind contributions.

The projects that will receive grants are:

**Armstrong Township Greenway, Recreation and Open Space Plan: \$5,000** to define an open space network, potential for conservation development and recreation areas for the

Sylvan Dell area that will connect residents with the River Walk, South Williamsport Recreation Area, the West Branch Susquehanna River and Bald Eagle Ridge.

Grantee: Armstrong Township in Lycoming County. Partners: Bucknell University, Lycoming County.

**Berwick Test Track Trail Enhancement Project: \$7,000**, for picnic tables, trail improvements and mile markers along the North Branch Susquehanna River.

Grantee: Berwick Borough in Columbia County.

**Buffalo Creek Water Trail Map: \$500** for development of a map to promote the new water trail connecting with the West Branch Susquehanna River.

Grantee: Buffalo Creek Watershed Alliance in Union County. Partners: Merrill Linn Conservancy, Union County Conservation District, Canoe Susquehanna.

**Buffalo Valley Rail Trail Conceptual Design to Connect Trail to West Branch**

**Susquehanna River: \$5,000** for developing a conceptual plan for the remaining portion of the trail through Lewisburg east of 5<sup>th</sup> Street to the West Branch, including the railroad bridge.

Grantee: Lewisburg Area Recreation Authority in Union County. Partners: Lewisburg Borough, East Buffalo Township, Union County Planning Commission.

**Curwensville – Irvin Park Enhancements: \$2,000** for new picnic tables and benches along the West Branch Susquehanna River.

Grantee: Curwensville Borough in Clearfield County. Partners: Curwensville Merchants Association, Clearfield County Tourist and Recreation Planning Commission, Curwensville Area School District, Clearfield County Planning Commission, Curwensville Rotary Club.

**Danville River Town Signage Implementation Plan: \$2,500** for creating a sign implementation plan in Danville. Identify sign types needed, map sign locations and create design templates for levee trail signage, sidewalk trail signage and point of interest signage within the Borough of Danville using the Susquehanna Greenway Sign Design Guidelines.

Grantee: Montour Area Recreation Authority in Montour County. Partners: Danville Borough, Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau, Montour County Historical Society, Friends of Riverfront Park, Danville Area Community Center, SEDA-COG.

**Danville Riverfront Trail Kiosk: \$2,500** for implementation of the Danville Riverfront Plan for Creating an Active and Connected Community. The kiosk will consist of three panels: 1) A trail orientation map showing the trail route, trail heads and trail access points in relation to the immediate region and the proposed North Branch Canal Trail, 2) a self-guided walking tour map of Danville's National Historic District, and 3) a map showing the Danville business district, public building and services.

Grantee: Danville Business Alliance in Montour County. Partners: Borough of Danville, Montour County, Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau, SEDA-COG.

**Millersburg River Bank Protection Study: \$2,500** for a feasibility study to be completed by a professional engineer to examine the erosion problems in Riverfront Park caused by the Susquehanna River and identify alternatives to protect the river bank and the park.

Grantee: Millersburg Borough in Dauphin County.

**Montgomery Gateway Tree Plantings: \$5,000** for tree plantings within the floodplain of the West Branch Susquehanna River and at gateways into the community and along pedestrian walkways that connect downtown to the River.

Grantee: Montgomery Borough in Lycoming County. Partners: Construction Specialties, Riverside Campground, Koppers, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Black Hole Watershed Association, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, SEDA-COG.

**Muncy Heritage Park & Nature Trail: \$5,000** for designing and constructing the last section of the Nature Trail to connect the tow path with Muncy's residential area to provide residents with the Heritage Park and the West Branch Susquehanna River.

Grantee: Muncy Creek Township in Lycoming County. Partners: Muncy Bank & Trust Company, Bill and Linda Poulton, Muncy Historical Society and Museum.

**Ned Smith Center Trails Erosion Control Improvements: \$6,000** for redesign and reconstruction of ADA accessible trails to prevent erosion and sediment loads to Wiconisco Creek near its confluence with the Susquehanna River.

Grantee: Ned Smith Center in Dauphin County. Partners: Judith Kennerdell, Pennsylvania Game Commission.

**Pineknotted Park Signage: \$2,500** for a park entrance sign using the Susquehanna Greenway Sign Design Guidelines.

Grantee: Northumberland Borough in Northumberland County. Partners: Boy Scout Troop 342.

**Tozer's Landing Riverfront Trail Improvement Project: \$8,000** for implementing Bradford County Open Space, Greenways, and Outdoor Recreation Plan. This project will improve public access to the Chemung River at its confluence with the North Branch Susquehanna River near the communities of Athens, Sayre and South Waverly.

Grantee: Athens Township Park and Recreation Commission in Bradford County. Partners: Promoting Healthier Communities, Endless Mountains Heritage Region.

**Watsontown Susquehanna Greenway Gateway: \$5,000** for developing a conceptual master plan for the Greenway Gateway Park and streetscape between the West Branch Susquehanna River and Main Street, and along Canal Street. The concept plan will include site and landscape design of the gateway park, green enhancements to commercial parking lots, sidewalks, street trees, lighting, and improvements to the existing boat access.

Grantee: Watsontown Borough, Northumberland County. Partners: Watsontown Area Business Association, Warrior Run Womans Club, Watsontown Guild, and Warrior Run Community Corporation.

**Wilkes-Barre Bike Share Brochure: \$1,500** for promoting the free bike share program managed by the Gennetti Hotel in downtown Wilkes-Barre, and to provide people with information about the Susquehanna River Levee Trail and the larger Susquehanna River Greenway by enhancing and reprinting the Bike Share brochure.

Grantee: Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA in Luzerne County. Partners: Luzerne County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Persona Photography, Luzerne County Bikes and Walks.

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