

# River access

WILLIAMSPORT SUN GAZETTE

Saturday, November 7, 2015



MARK NANCE/Sun-Gazette

Bob Campbell, of the National Park Service, left, Jersey Shore Mayor Dennis Buttorff, middle, and Mike Piaskowski, of the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, inspect the new boat ramp and dock during the grand opening of the Jersey Shore Public River Access Friday. The new access dock, below, includes a paved road to the river, handicapped parking, an portable dock and paved ramp.

## Officials, business leaders open recreational dock

By MIKE REUTHER  
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**JERSEY SHORE** — At first glance, the Susquehanna River access project means a big boost for water recreation in this western Lycoming County community.

But municipal leaders, government officials and business leaders see the improved boat launch area as the very type of development that enhances not only recreation, but economic development and tourism as well.

On an overcast but warm November afternoon, they gathered for the project's official ribbon cutting on the east side of the borough along the banks of the river.

"Economic development, recreation and tourism are not separate," said



MARK NANCE/Sun-Gazette

Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce President Vince Matteo. "They are all part of economic development."

Matteo said the river access project is part of improving

the quality of life for residents.

"As you can see, you have a beautiful view of the Susquehanna River," said Jersey Shore Mayor Dennis Buttorff.

Buttorff noted how the

river already receives a lot of recreational use. But the access project will mean improved recreational opportunities in a community that already is tied into Pine Creek Rails to Trails, a walk and bike pathway.

Trish Carothers, executive director of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, said the project is a key component of the 500-mile greenway, an interconnected corridor of parks, trails, river access points, and communities along the Susquehanna. She explained the work involved in making the river access project happen, including acquiring property along the stream bank to put in parking and roadway to the stream.

"I want to congratulate all

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who made it happen," she said.

More than \$500,000 in grants were used to fund design, engineering and construction costs. Nearly \$50,000 came from individuals and businesses, and the borough of Jersey Shore contributed

\$100,000 in Act 13 impact fee funding.

The project includes a concrete boat launch, a handicapped-accessible overlook area along Front Street and signage.

Carothers noted that the neighborhood already has benefitted with new businesses, storefront

improvements and remodeled apartments.

"Your investment is attracting more investment in the community," she said.

Mike Piaskowski, educational services section chief, state Department of Conservation and

Natural Resources, agreed that the river access project can only benefit Jersey Shore.

Chesapeake Conservancy Project Manager Carly Dean said better access to the river helps with the long-term preservation of the Chesapeake Bay.