
Rotary told of river town rec projects

By NICO SALVATORI

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Jerry Walls, board chairman of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, said Monday the goal of the nonprofit organization is to facilitate the creation of safe and environmentally friendly spaces for outdoor recreation.

The SGP has had a hand in developing several projects over the years to help link residents of Lycoming County to the natural environment, including the Susquehanna Riverwalk and an ongoing river access project in Jersey Shore.

Walls told members of the Williamsport Rotary Club at a Genetti Hotel luncheon that improved access to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River and surrounding trails is economically advantageous for river towns wishing to attract more business and tourism.

He also focused on the health benefits of outdoor recreation.

"It's isn't just about kids, but we have to put an increased emphasis on them," he said, adding young people are more inclined to spend their time indoors.

Older people need to take advantage of outdoor opportunities as well to stave off illness, he said.

Walls, a former director of the Lycoming County department of planning and community development, said more recreation opportunities in the county would allow tourists to discover its "cultural richness."