

PA Greenways Program

ACHIEVEMENTS 2001/2005



Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has moved forward on many fronts to implement the Statewide Greenways Plan, "**An Action Plan for Creating Connections.**" The Plan identifies DCNR as a lead state agency to coordinate and support the many government and non-profit organizations that, collectively, are establishing Pennsylvania's greenways network.

Highlights of the achievements of the PA Greenways Program - representing DCNR and its many greenways partners - are presented under each of the **12 Implementation Strategies** listed below.

For more information, visit the **PA Greenways Clearinghouse Web Site** at <http://www.pagreenways.org> or contact Meredith Hill at 717-705-8533.

STRATEGIES & GOALS	ACHIEVEMENTS	ORGANIZATIONS
<p>Strategy 1: A Statewide Network of Greenways</p> <p>Goal: Establish a statewide greenways network of hubs/destinations and connecting linear corridors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapped "Major" Greenway Corridors as the backbone of a statewide network. Major Corridors are 50 miles or more in length, pass through two or more counties, and are recognized in official planning documents by counties. 	<p><i>PA DCNR</i></p>
<p>Strategy 2: Greenway Planning</p> <p>Goal: Promote the development of greenway plans as an integral part of comprehensive planning and implementation, complementing land use, community revitalization, and sustainable community design approaches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched County Greenway and Open Space Network Planning Program (02). Four counties have adopted plans; 36 in process. • Held 2 Greenway Planning Workshops for counties – East (04), West(05). • Supported planning for several MEGA-greenway efforts including Kittatinny Ridge, Mainline Canal, Susquehanna, PA Highlands. 	<p><i>PA DCNR</i> <i>County Planning Agencies</i> <i>PA DCED</i></p> <p><i>PA DCNR</i></p> <p><i>PA Audubon</i> <i>Allegheny Ridge Corp.</i> <i>Susquehanna Gway Partnership</i> <i>PA Highlands Coalition</i></p>
<p>Strategy 3: Places for All People</p> <p>Goal: Increase opportunities for diverse populations to enjoy greenways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to identify recreational needs and to plan for meeting these needs through improvements to Pennsylvania's recreation environment, including greenways and trails. • Completed a survey of ATV users in PA. • Established a PA Water Trail Program <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Conducted state water trails workshop. 2 Completed Paddle PA publication, water trail program brochure and assistance fact sheets. 	<p><i>PA DCNR</i></p> <p><i>Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee</i> <i>PA Fish and Boat Commission</i> <i>Pennsylvania Environmental Council</i></p>

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Strategy 4: PA Wellness

Goal: Actively involve the health community in greenway development to support and promote physical activity and wellness.

- Integrated greenways into the *State Health Improvement Plan*. (01)
- “Hike for Health,” a pilot program to promote outdoor recreation for physical activity.(02)
- Keystone Active Zone Program -- county-based coalitions for outreach to schools & communities to promote close-to-home recreation. Five mini-grants awarded 9/05.

*PA Department of Health
PA DCNR
Wildlands Conservancy*

*PA DCNR
PA Advocates for Nutrition and Activity
PA Recreation and Parks Society*

Strategy 5: Alternative Transportation

Goal: Develop a trails system that provides opportunities for alternative transportation.

- Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) Program guidance, training and web site.
- Hometown Streets /Safe Routes to School Program – link to community trail efforts
- New Scenic Byways Brochure and Map (04).

PA DOT

Strategy 6: Resource Protection

Goal: Promote greenways that protect natural resources and environmental quality.

- Protected 1,200 flood prone areas through acquisition.
- Completed 476 miles of riparian restoration efforts (statewide).
- Completed or in process 62 County Natural Area Inventories. Developed County Natural Areas Inventory Fact Sheet and Map.

*PA Emergency Management Agency
PA DEP*

*Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy*

Strategy 7: Organizational Structure

Goal: Issue Executive Order 1998-3 to establish lead agency and mechanism for state agency coordination and external stakeholder support.

- DCNR established as state lead agency for PA Greenways by Governor’s Executive Order 1998-3. One full-time coordinator with support from DCNR’s Greenways and Partnership Division in the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.
- Established Interagency Coordination Team; lead by DCNR and includes 17 other state agencies.
- Established the Secretary’s Greenways Program Advisory Committee; engaged Committee in DCNR Action Planning process.
- Created two Advisory Committee Workgroups to focus attention on two priorities -- Economic Benefits and Conservation Greenways.

PA DCNR

Strategy 8: Funding

Goal: Assemble public and private funds to assist in planning, building and maintaining greenways.

- \$16.4 million provided for Greenway projects between 2001-2005:
 - \$3.7 million for MEGA & Major Corridors
 - \$1.4 million for County Greenways Planning
 - \$5.6 million for motorized trails.
 - \$6.2 million for Rail trails/Recreational trails.
- \$10.3 million for Heritage Park grants (a portion supports greenway projects in Heritage regions).
- \$96 million for Home Town Streets/Safe Routes

*PA DCNR
PA DOT*

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Strategy 9: Greenways Toolbox

Goal: Develop a “toolbox” for those involved in greenways planning and implementation.

- PA Greenways Clearinghouse Web site (02).
- Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Design Standards Manual (04).
- Rail-Trail Maintenance & Operation Guide(05)
- Better Models for Development publication (05) – makes link to broader sustainable communities and smart growth principles.
- Trail Towns Guide (05)

*PA DCNR
Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee
Rails to Trails Conservancy*

*PA DCNR
The Conservation Fund*

Allegheny Trail Alliance

Strategy 10: Greenways Education and Training

Goal: Incorporate greenways training into existing education programs and school coursework.

- Outreach to all local government and planning associations (annually).
- Curriculum for grades 6-12, “Pennsylvania Land Choices – A Workshop for Teachers” and conducted teacher workshops.(04)
- Annual Trail Development and Maintenance Workshops
- Greenways and Trail Summit (05)

*PA DCNR
PA Planning Association
Local and County Government Associations*

PA Recreation and Parks Society

Strategy 11: Promotional Campaign

Goal: Enhance Pennsylvania’s economy and tourism by showcasing greenways in a promotional campaign.

- Annual PA Greenway Sojourn – Bicycle Tour to promote benefits of a state greenway system.
- Annual PA River Sojourn to highlight river trails in the state.
- Filmed PA Greenways Documentary for Public Television – “Greenways: The Way To Go.” (04)

*PA DCNR
Rails to Trails Conservancy*

*Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers
PA DCNR
GreenTrek, Inc.*

Strategy 12: Volunteer Network

Goal: Establish a corps of volunteers to maintain and promote local greenways through an “Adopt-a-Greenway” Program.

- “Adopt-a-Greenway” outreach and education program to encourage stewardship of greenway corridors through a litter cleanup program by volunteers; conduct annual greenway cleanups.
- Prepared volunteer information packet and other educational materials about greenways.

*PA Cleanways Inc.
PA DCNR*