

# PA Greenways Program ACTIVITIES 2003 - 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 activities of the PA Greenways Program - representing DCNR and its many greenways partners - are presented under each of the **12 Implementation Strategies** presented in the **Action Plan** and listed below.

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

## STRATEGIES & GOALS

## ACTIVITIES

## ORGANIZATIONS

### Strategy 1: A Statewide Network of Greenways

**Goal:** Establish a statewide greenways network of hubs/destinations and connecting linear corridors.

- Developing a Web-based Map of Major Greenway Corridors using GIS data.
- Developing strategies for incorporating county-level Greenways into Statewide Greenway Map; review county-level GIS data.

*Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
County Planning Agencies*

### Strategy 2: Greenway Planning

**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.

- Continuing to provide technical assistance and funding to Counties to undertake County Greenway Plans. Approximately 30 are actively engaged in the process.
- Actively supporting planning efforts for two multi-county, major greenway corridors; Susquehanna Greenway and the Mainline Canal (Harrisburg to Pittsburgh) Greenway.

*Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
County Planning Agencies  
Susquehanna Greenway Partnership  
Allegheny Ridge Corporation*

### Strategy 3: Places for All People

**Goal:** Increase opportunities for diverse populations to enjoy greenways.

- Developing a web site for ATV riders, and completing a strategy to increase ATV riding opportunities.
- Upgrading a web site for snowmobile riders to highlight riding opportunities in PA.
- Pennsylvania Water Trails Program is developing technical assistance materials and water trail map/guides, including the Paddle PA map.

*Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee  
PA Fish and Boat Commission  
Pennsylvania Environmental Council*

### Strategy 4: PA Wellness

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

- Building a measurable statewide program to promote active living by working through schools and other partners on a Keystone Active Zone Recreation Campaign.
- Conducting Healthy Community Design workshops for local government officials.

*Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Department of Health  
Department of Community and Economic Development  
PA Advocates for Nutrition and Activity  
PA Rec and Parks Society*

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#### Strategy 5: Alternative Transportation

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

- Developing the PA Mobility Plan – this planning process has the potential to reinforce the alternative transportation benefits of greenways and connectivity between greenway corridors and other transportation modes.
- Implementing the new Safe Routes to School/Home Town Streets Program.

*Department of Transportation  
Rails to Trails Conservancy*

#### Strategy 6: Resource Protection

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

- Establishing a new program to protect riparian corridors through use of conservation easements.
- Supporting conservation planning tools such as Smart Conservation and Nature Infrastructure that can be used during county and regional planning to identify biodiversity needs and natural resources as part of greenways networks.
- Supporting two demonstration projects to develop conservation plans for large land areas with high natural resource value. These include the Highlands and Kittatinny Ridge.

*Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Natural Lands Trust  
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy  
The Nature Conservancy  
PA Audubon  
The Highlands Coalition*

#### Strategy 7: Organizational Structure

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

- Holding meetings of the Secretary's Greenway Program Advisory Committee and Interagency Coordination Team.

*Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
State Agency Partners*

#### Strategy 8: Funding

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

- Providing funding (\$38 million) for Round 11 of DCNR's Community Conservation and Partnerships Grant program for recreation and conservation projects; includes funds for greenways planning, acquisition, design and construction projects statewide.
  - Instituting an additional grant cycle in spring 2005 for acquisition and planning projects.
- Providing funding for greenway initiatives through Transportation Enhancement Program.
- Providing funding (\$200 million/4 years) for "Safe Routes to School/Home Town Streets Program"

*Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Department of Transportation  
Department of Community and Economic Development*

#### Strategy 9: Greenways Toolbox

**Goal:** Develop a "toolbox" for those involved in greenways planning and implementation.

- Updating the PA Greenways Clearinghouse Web site to include new information and database function.
- Developing a Trail Maintenance Survey/Guide to help trail groups evaluate the costs and requirements of maintaining existing and planned

*Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Rails to Trails Conservancy  
Department of Transportation  
The Conservation Fund  
The PA Recreation and Parks*

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	<p>greenways, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing Transportation Enhancements Trail Design Manual.</li> <li>• Developing “Better Development Models for Pennsylvania” publication.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Society Allegheny Trail Alliance</i></p>
<p><b>Strategy 10: Greenways Education and Training</b></p> <p><b>Goal:</b> Incorporate greenways training into existing education programs and school coursework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing programming for May 2005 Greenways and Trails Summit</li> <li>• Developing programming for June 2005 Susquehanna Riverfront Symposium</li> </ul>	<p><i>PA Recreation and Parks Society Susquehanna River Basin Commission Susquehanna Greenway Partnership Department of Conservation and Natural Resources</i></p>
<p><b>Strategy 11: Promotional Campaign</b></p> <p><b>Goal:</b> Enhance Pennsylvania’s economy and tourism by showcasing greenways in a promotional campaign.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting and disseminating Trail Towns Handbook and Assessment Tool.</li> <li>• Highlighting the greenway network that exists in Northcentral PA as part of the PA Wilds nature tourism initiative.</li> <li>• Developing and implementing the Susquehanna Wildlife and Birding Trail.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Allegheny Trail Alliance PA Downtown Center PA Audubon</i></p>
<p><b>Strategy 12: Volunteer Network</b></p> <p><b>Goal:</b> Establish a corps of volunteers to maintain and promote local greenways through an “Adopt-a-Greenway” Program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying groups interested in “adopting” specific greenway corridors.</li> <li>• Conducting cleanups at 10 greenway locations in 2005.</li> </ul>	<p><i>PA Cleanways Inc.</i></p>