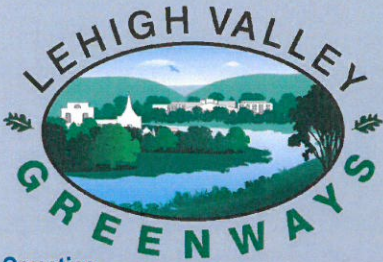


Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape Partnership 2015 Accomplishments

Fast Facts



Counties

Lehigh and Northampton

Vision

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Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

What has been accomplished?

- ✓ **D&L Trail** – designing of projects in preparation for a busy 2016 construction season!
 - ✓ Work has begun on the North Catasauqua portion of LV Trail Gap #5; Northampton and Catasauqua portions out for bid early 2016
 - ✓ Worked with partners in Walnutport to fund installation of pedestrian crossing and amenities signage to be installed in 2016
 - ✓ Worked with partners to gain permission to jointly sign the D&L and Lehigh River Water Trails
 - ✓ Worked with many partners to apply for multi-modal TIGER grant in Allentown
 - ✓ Currently working with Northampton to make the Nor-Bath to D&L connection. Construction should begin in the spring of 2016 (LV Trail Gap #4)
 - ✓ Worked with various partners to incorporate the D&L Trail into Catasauqua's brownfield revitalization project
 - ✓ With partners, moved several trail construction project forward beyond the LV – notably the pedestrian bridge and connectivity projects in Jim Thorpe and the Green Lane project in Bucks County
 - ✓ Explored the use of the Lehigh Canal as a stormwater management tool and means to stabilize the canal and the adjacent trail.
- ✓ **D&L Trail Alliance** hosted a summer workshop to share best practices for trail pedestrian crossings and to introduce partners to the proposed 9/11 Trail and share trail updates
- ✓ Third successful year for “**Get Your Tail on the Trail**” partnership with St. Luke's: All challenges to date attracted 5,300 participants and 1.1M total miles logged.
- ✓ 1,000 fourth graders participated in “**Tales of the Towpath**” field trips at Freemansburg Education Site and 2,080 students engaged in **Immersion Days** in Hugh Moore Park
- ✓ **Canal Boat and Museum** brought over 8,300 people to Hugh Moore Park

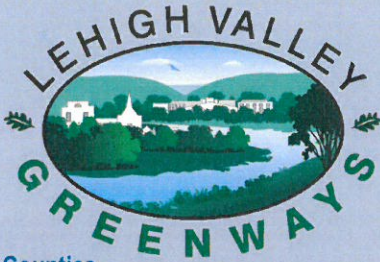


2016 Projected outcomes

- ✓ Close Trail Gap #5 from Northampton to Catasauqua
- ✓ Enhance educational opportunities at Canal Museum and Freemansburg
- ✓ Recruit additional volunteers for Trail Tender groups across Lehigh Valley
- ✓ D&L Alliance to host workshops, Eastern PA Greenways & Trails Conference and expand Lehigh Valley Trail Council
- ✓ Increase “Get Your Tail on the Trail” to more participants and corporations
- ✓ Provide improved, user-friendly trail mapping

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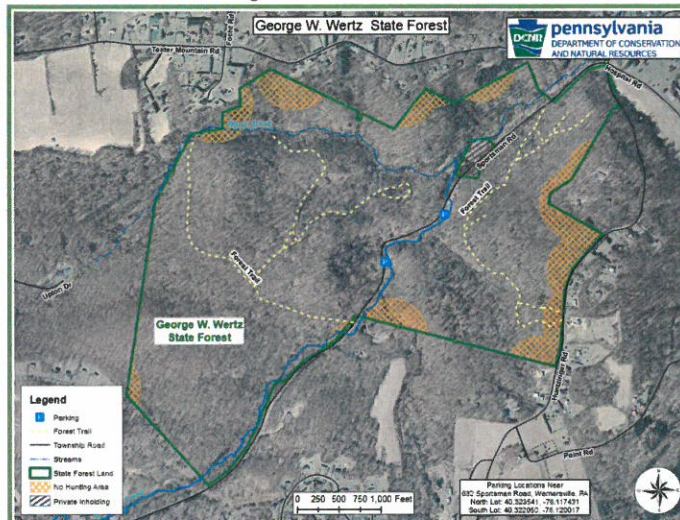
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DCNR - Bureau of Forestry

What has been accomplished?

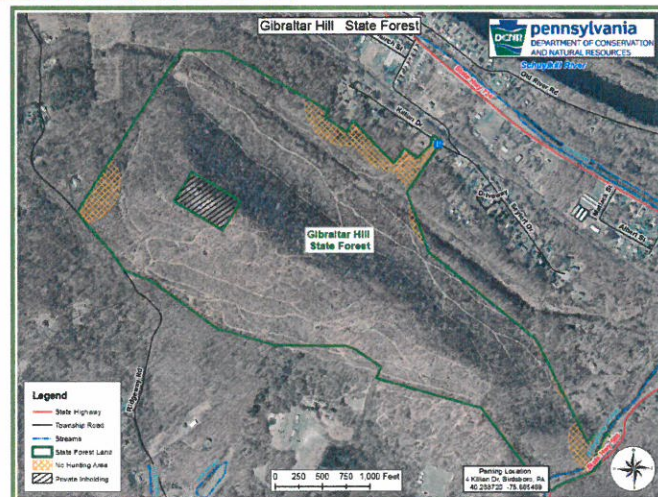
Land Acquisition in Berks County

- ✓ Gibraltar Hill Tract- 234 Acres
- ✓ George W Wertz Tract - 388 Acres



TreeVitalize

Because of lower levels of funding and greater number of TreeVitalize applications the number of funded projects were lower this year



Street Tree Planting

7 Submitted, 1 Funded

Borough of Bath – 22 Trees

Street Tree Inventory

1 Submitted, 0 Funded

Street Tree Pruning

3 Submitted, 0 Funded

2016 Projected Outcomes

- ✓ Continue TreeVitalize Street Tree Effort
- ✓ Continue Advocating Property Stewardship to Landowners

Jacobsville Environmental Education Center

Accomplishments in 2015:

- ✓ Jacobsville had direct programming contact with over 9500 students and visitors in 2015.
- ✓ Offered PA Songbirds teacher workshop and Watershed Education teacher workshop
- ✓ Hosted the 1st Lehigh Valley Greenways Festival
- ✓ Hosted the 1st Owl-O-Ween event in partnership with Lehigh Valley Audubon Society and Northampton County Junior Conservation School
- ✓ Hosted Native Landscape Community Bus Tour in partnership with Lehigh Gap Nature Center
- ✓ In partnership with Penn State Cooperative Extension, hosted 1 day of the Master Watershed Steward program
- ✓ In partnership with Wildlands Conservancy, hosted 2 Adventure Camps (one in Allentown and one in Bethlehem)
- ✓ In partnership with LGNC, offered 2nd Conservation Leadership Academy program for Latino students
- ✓ Partnered with Northampton County Junior Conservation School to host week long conservation camp
- ✓ Participated in the first Step Outdoors Lehigh Valley event at SteelStacks

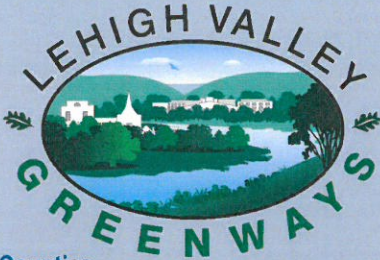


Goals for 2016:

- ✓ Host Project Learning Tree and Growing Up Wild Teacher workshop
- ✓ Host a clean-up day by canoe on the Lehigh River in partnership with Wildlands Conservancy
- ✓ Continue to offer the One Bird, Two Habitats Program for School Groups
- ✓ Continue all partnership work

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Delaware Canal State Park

What has been accomplished?

- ✓ Flood repairs complete.
- ✓ GPS/GIS survey of 50 miles of river walls.
- ✓ Eight race run series including the annual Bucks County Marathon.
- ✓ 14% increase in attendance at kayak programs led by park education staff. Total attendance of over 4700 people at 274 park programs.
- ✓ 18 charity walks, 5K's, 10K's and further race distances promoting health and fitness.
- ✓ Hiring of a full-time Environmental Educator.
- ✓ Received Capital funding of \$12 million to address infrastructure needs along the canal.
- ✓ Headway removing 4 obstructions in lower Bucks.
- ✓ Painting and repair of several bridges and canal structures.
- ✓ Unveiling of Master Plan for park.

Who are the partners?

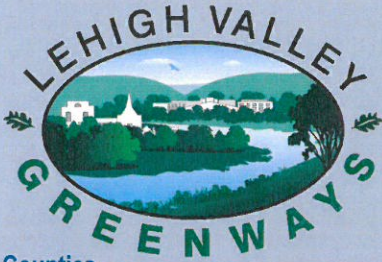
- ✓ Delaware & Lehigh (D&L) National Heritage Corridor
- ✓ Delaware River Greenway Partnership
- ✓ Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River (NPS)
- ✓ Racing Resources
- ✓ Easton Outdoor Company
- ✓ Multiple cities, towns, and boroughs along the park boundary
- ✓ Washington Crossing State Park
- ✓ Nurture Nature Center
- ✓ The Highlands Trail Network
- ✓ Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America
- ✓ Friends of the Delaware Canal
- ✓ Various schools in multiple school districts
- ✓ Delaware River Sojourn
- ✓ ATC, AMC, ACA, Delaware River Trail
- ✓ PADOT
- ✓ And many more!

2016 Projected outcomes

- ✓ A fully watered canal!
- ✓ Tyburn Rd. obstacle addressed.
- ✓ High Falls culvert repaired, thus opening canal to rewatering to Upper Black Eddy and south.
- ✓ Pedestrian tunnel under the Conrail embankment
- ✓ Culvert replacement at Airport Rd. (Levittown)
- ✓ Replacement of pump at Centre Bridge to provide water to New Hope.
- ✓ Additional re-lining of canal prism in Uhlerstown.
- ✓ Painting & general rehab to Tinicum Aqueduct and other structures.
- ✓ Replacement of 3 smaller vehicular bridges over canal & towpath.
- ✓ Continued success in hosting races and exploring bi/tri-athlons.

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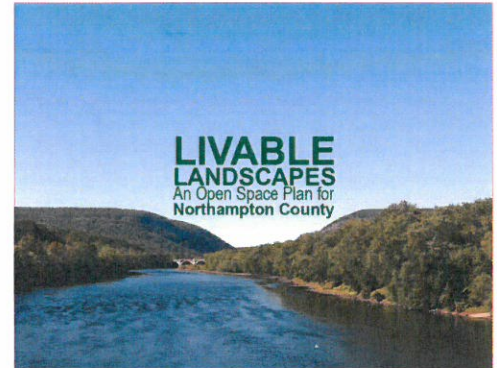
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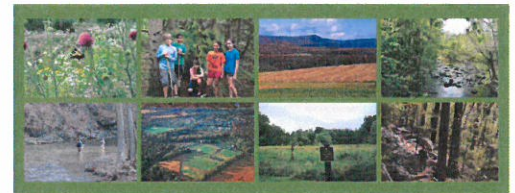
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

What has been accomplished?

- ✓ **Livable Landscapes An Open Space Plan for Northampton County** – In partnership with Northampton County, the plan was completed, and in November recommended by the LVPC to the County for adoption (adopted by County on January 7, 2016). The purpose of the plan is to guide the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of the County's open space resources and create linkages between natural resources; outdoor recreational facilities; greenways and blueways; farmland; and historic, cultural and scenic resources. The Plan includes a vision, goals, policies, implementation strategies, and recommendations; existing data mapping and analysis; health, economic and environmental benefits discussion; and county park assessments. The Plan was based on existing LVPC plans (Comprehensive Plan, Greenways Plan, 1LV) and input from a steering committee, key person interviews (county staff, four business owners) and public participation (two rounds of three meetings and a public opinion survey).
- ✓ **Return on Environment Outreach** – The project's intent was to promote and provide outreach for the *Lehigh Valley Return on Environment* (2014) study completed with funding from the HUD Sustainability Communities grant program. Results from the study include natural system services estimated at \$355.5 million each year; total annual avoided healthcare costs and damage to agriculture and buildings estimated to be \$54 million; outdoor recreation spending and total impact estimated at \$795.7 million annually; and the average premium afforded each home within ¼ mile of protected open space is \$14,600. The project and results were presented to various groups, organizations and the general public throughout the year – Northampton County Open Space Plan Steering Committee, Appalachian Trail meeting, Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center speaker series, PALTA conference, Step Outdoors Lehigh Valley, Lehigh Valley Greenways Festival, Lehigh Valley Planning Awards, Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference, Lehigh Valley Greenways Legislative Breakfast, American Planning Association – PA Chapter Annual Conference, Western Lehigh/East Penn Chamber of Commerce, Northampton EAC, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Half-Marathon, United Way of the Lehigh Valley, Governor's Advisory Board for Community Development. The information was well received at the local and state level, and positive comments from individual audience members demonstrates the success of the project. The project was presented over 7 times (5 additional presentations prior to this grant contract). The LVPC team also participated in 3 different events with signage and factsheets. Each time the information was very well received with overly positive feedback and inquires about the full report. The broad impact of the information makes it very appealing to many different sectors. Overall the project reached over 1,600 people statewide.



Lehigh Valley
Return on Environment



Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
2014

What has been accomplished? (continued)

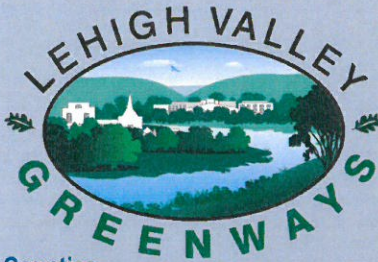
- ✓ **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)** – The TAP provides funding for programs and projects related to bicycle and pedestrian facilities and bicycle education, improvements to public transportation access, the creation of safe routes to schools, the preservation of historic transportation structures, and the creation of trail projects that serve a transportation purpose. The pre-application meeting was held in November for those seeking funding through this PennDOT Program administered by the Lehigh Valley Transportation Study, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Lehigh and Northampton Counties. The local TAP allocation amount available for the two counties is \$1,271,634; funding is also available through the statewide allocation. The funding will be awarded in April 2016.
 - ✓ **Northampton County 21st Century Open Space Program** – Reviewed and rated two Natural Areas & Open Space and eight Municipal Park Acquisition and Development applications.
-

2016 Goals

- ✓ Initiate Livable Landscapes An Open Space Plan for Lehigh County
- ✓ Complete the Southwest Lehigh County Comprehensive Plan update
- ✓ Integrated Water Resources Management Plan position paper
- ✓ Complete a sidewalk inventory as a lead into a bicycle/pedestrian plan
- ✓ Initiate the Lehigh Valley Comprehensive Plan update
- ✓ Initiate the Monocacy Creek Act 167 Plan update

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape Partnership 2015 Accomplishments

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Penn State Extension – Lehigh & Northampton Counties

What has been accomplished?

- ✓ Conducted a 2015 Master Watershed Steward class in partnership with the Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley, Northampton County Conservation District, Appalachian Mountain Club, Lehigh Gap Nature Center, and Wildlands Conservancy.
 - Training sessions were hosted and taught by LVG partners
 - 18 Master Watershed Stewards were trained and began their group projects
 - Arboretum Planting & Creation of Educational Materials at Lehigh Gap Nature Center
 - Watershed model creation for Lehigh Gap Nature Center
 - Children's pollinator program at Wildlands Conservancy
 - Green roof model for Wildlands Conservancy
 - Stream restoration project with Martins Jacoby Watershed Association
- ✓ 52 Master Watershed Stewards in the Lehigh Valley reported 1,067 volunteer hours, with an estimated value of \$24,146.21. During this period, they also reported making 1,610 educational contacts with the public.
- ✓ 138 Master Gardener volunteers in Lehigh & Northampton counties contributed 5,117 volunteer hours in 2015, reaching 15,157 people. They also assisted 16 community groups. The estimated value of their time is \$115,797.71 Master Gardeners promoted stewardship practices by teaching the public about IPM, native plants, habitat, and pollinators.
- ✓ Horticulture Department conducted 64 educational events, teaching best management practices to 2,716 green industry professionals and home gardeners.
- ✓ 3,123 youth from Lehigh and Northampton Counties participated in 4-H programs focused on agricultural and environmental education.



2016 Projected outcomes

- ✓ Train 2016 Master Watershed Steward class
- ✓ Connect Master Watershed Stewards and Master Gardeners to ongoing work of Lehigh Valley Greenways Partners

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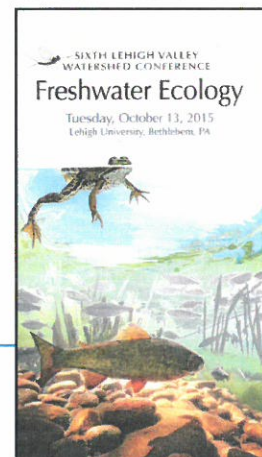
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Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley

What has been accomplished?

- ✓ Secured funding for and managed the 2015 Master Watershed Steward Program, including program oversight; added several annual program donors.
- ✓ Managed the Master Watershed Steward implementation grant, that included on-the-ground group projects for our 2014 & 2015 Stewards: park signage, rain gardens, and stream restoration projects.
- ✓ Carried out strategic planning and development for the statewide Master Watershed Steward program.
- ✓ Worked with project partners to create a standard Master Watershed Steward curriculum and test, and include greater agency representation in the program steering committee.
- ✓ Organized and put on the 2015 Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference, which showcased 19 talks on a wide variety of water resource issues. The conference included a student networking session, to connect college students with area environmental resource employers.
- ✓ Worked with the Pennsylvania Sea Grant to put on an aquatic invasive species presentation for the public.
- ✓ Provided ongoing input for implementation of watershed implementation plans and Rivers Conservation Management Plans.
- ✓ Coordinated conservation and restoration activities between watershed organizations in the Lehigh Valley.



2016 Projected outcomes

- ✓ Train 2016 Master Watershed Steward Class
- ✓ Host 5 educational presentations on water resource topics.
- ✓ Develop several table-top displays on the Master Watershed Steward program for use by Stewards presenting at public events.
- ✓ Expand involvement of the Master Watershed Stewards in WCLV governance.

Martins Jacoby Watershed Association 2015 Accomplishments

1. The planting of the Atlas Dam site over thirty volunteers from the Wildlands Conservancy, Hokendauqua Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley's Master Watershed Stewards Program, and PADCNr joined the MJWA on May 2nd. Four photos attached.
2. MJWA and Wildlands Conservancy combine forces to take on a 4000 foot stream restoration on the Oughoughton Creek in Lower Mount Bethel Township.
3. MJWA secures \$5,500 grant to promote the 2015 Delaware River Sojourn from the National Park Service. A portion of the grant provided funding for school groups to join the sojourn. Several photos will be attached to a second e-mail.



Lehigh Gap Nature Center

List at least 3 accomplishments in 2015:

- 1. Completed 13 new gardens in the Landscaping for Communities and Wildlife program plus planted 10 more front yards in Allentown with native perennials; hosted 5 educational workshops (one each at Easton, Bethlehem, and Allentown library plus Moravian Historical Society and Project Easton)**
- 2. Expanded Color of Nature program, which included the following in 2015: bilingual bird walks in Allentown's parks, second Conservation Leadership Academy (with Jacobsburg EEC), Allentown Summer School programs, Allentown Parks programs (with Wildlands Conservancy), after school programs at Roberto Clemente Charter and Elementary Charter Schools, one-week residential internships at LGNC for each Color of Nature Leader**
- 3. 5,000 students served with environmental education programs, mostly outdoor field trips**
- 4. Continued Leadership role in Kittatinny Coalition to help conserve the Kittatinny Ridge**
- 5. Hosted National Trails Day and Migration Fest events with support from D&L National Heritage Corridor and D&L Regional Trail Council**



List at least 2 goals for 2016:

- 1. Continue Landscaping for Communities and Wildlife Program and expand to include workshops for educators/schools**
- 2. Continue Color of Nature program, including Conservation Leadership Academy, after school clubs, summer school and parks programs, bilingual bird walks (expanding to Northampton County), expanding residential internships to two weeks, and supplying programming at Beltzville State Park.**
- 3. Complete student led and implemented riparian restoration project in Fountain Park with support from Allentown Parks Department**
- 4. Expand watershed education efforts as part of a William Penn Foundation sponsored network of nature centers in the Delaware River Watershed area.**

How many new miles of trail did your organization open in 2015? .25 miles

How many trees did your organization plant in 2015? 40 additional native trees and shrubs at arboretum in 2015.

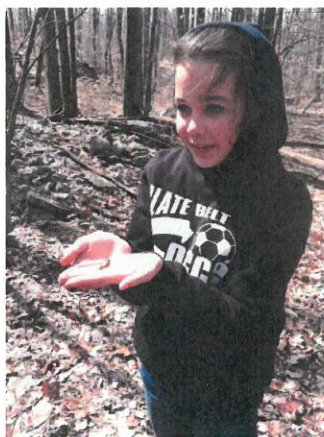
The Nature Conservancy 2015

The Nature Conservancy completed two protection projects in the LVGI this year, gained two DCNR grants and provided two outdoor programs. See below for more info:

25-acre conservation easement on the Joel and Naida Schwartz property
Minsi Lake Corridor and within Kittatinny Ridge Key Connector landscape
Upper Mount Bethel Township
Funding provided by Northampton County (\$54,375) and Upper Mount Bethel Township (\$63,170)
Great property, lots of healthy vernal pools, abuts Northampton County protected lands
Slateford Creek, an Exceptional Value stream, runs through it
Closed in October 2015

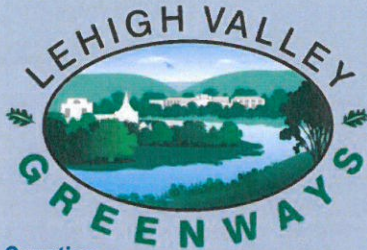
5.51 acre fee simple acquisition from the Estate of Dorothy Moyer
Upper Mount Bethel Township
In Minsi Lake Vernal Pools Corridor
Funding provided by Northampton County (\$11,853) and Upper Mount Bethel Township (\$16,053)
In-holding in the midst of The Nature Conservancy's Minsi Lake Vernal Pools Preserve
Has vernal pools and a small stream that drains into Minsi Lake
Closed in June 2015

TNC received a DCNR grant to match a Northampton County grant to purchase a conservation easement on the Transue Property, Upper Mount Bethel Fens, Upper Mount Bethel Township. This project is underway. TNC, along with several conservation partners, received a state-wide DCNR grant to do outreach to priority landowners along the Kittatinny Ridge, including, of course, Northampton and Lehigh Counties. We hosted two public programs: a daytime salamander hike and a night-time salamander talk, held at Totts Gap Arts Institute, followed an outdoor excursion to the vernal pools.



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Wildlands Conservancy

What has been accomplished?

- ✓ Expanded Wildlands Conservancy's South Mountain Preserve through 3 critical land acquisitions and creation of 0.6-mile Wilderness Trail
- ✓ Completed the Pool Wildlife Sanctuary Master Site Plan
- ✓ Continued conservation efforts on the Kittatinny Ridge through the permanent protection of 11 acres in partnership with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and launching of Kittatinny Ridge Outreach Project
- ✓ Furthered the development of the Jordan Creek Greenway with municipal partners and stakeholders through trail construction, landowner negotiations, and outreach
- ✓ Enhanced the Lehigh River Water Trail through the installation of signage and construction of Treichlers Bridge Boat Launch Facility
- ✓ Continued to enhance Lehigh Valley waterways through the removal of 3 dams and restoration of over 10 miles of stream.
- ✓ Continued ecological outreach and education through community project tours and events
- ✓ Began large scale grassland restoration project at Trexler Nature Preserve
- ✓ Conducted 367 nature-based education programs for 19,210 students
- ✓ Conducted 525 community programs for 39,424 people, including 57 Bike & Boat Adventures
- ✓ Expanded Summer Camp to include Bethlehem's Monocacy Park
- ✓ Collaborated with Lehigh Gap Nature Center and Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center to provide a multiple field trip program for two urban schools
- ✓ Led 18 GetOut! Lehigh Valley events on area trails and nature preserves
- ✓ Successfully conducted 1-week long Adventure Camps for youth in Allentown and Bethlehem



2016 Projected outcomes

- ✓ Continue to expand our South Mountain Preserve and community connections through land acquisition and trail development
- ✓ Complete additional land preservation projects on the Kittatinny Ridge
- ✓ Place additional focus on connecting the community to nature through Wildlands Conservancy Nature Preserves
- ✓ Complete the Lehigh Valley Trail Gap Acquisition Strategy while forwarding efforts to close gaps
- ✓ Further facilitate the development of the Jordan Creek Greenway with municipal partners
- ✓ Continue stream restoration efforts throughout the Lehigh Valley
- ✓ Continue grassland restoration at Trexler Nature Preserve
- ✓ Assist the City of Bethlehem in completing the Monocacy Creek Watershed Assessment
- ✓ Complete the Lehigh River Watershed Conservation Management Plan Update
- ✓ Conduct successful summer camps at Pool Wildlife Sanctuary, Monocacy Park in Bethlehem, and Hugh Moore Park in Easton
- ✓ Conduct successful 20th Anniversary edition of Lehigh River Sojourn
- ✓ Increase number of school students provided environmental education programs
- ✓ Expand and enhance the GetOut! Lehigh Valley program in participation and site locations

Natural Lands Trust

List at least 3 accomplishments in 2015:

- 1. Fee simple purchase of the Leckonby Estate portion of NLT's Archibald Johnston Preserve in March 2015.**
- 2. Continued work on potential conservation easement on Eastern Industries property in Upper Mount Bethel Township**
- 3. Continued work engaging municipalities along the AT in amending land use regulations through educational programs**



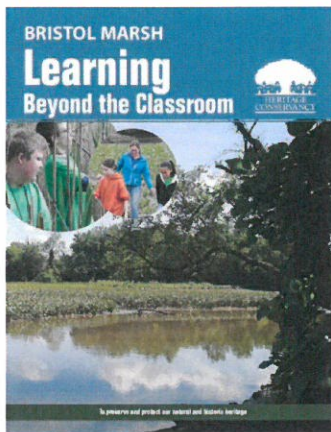
List at least 2 goals for 2016:

- 1. Settlement of the 26-acre Central Moravian Church portion of NLT's Archibald Johnston Preserve anticipated in January 2016**
- 2. Completion of conservation easement on Eastern Industries property**
- 3. Landowner outreach in Moore Township for TNC's Land Protection Opportunities for the Kittatinny Ridge Project (DCNR grant)**

Heritage Conservancy

List at least 3 accomplishments in 2015:

1. Assisted in the preservation of over 165 acres
2. Assisted Bushkill Township in connecting with key landowners to extend the Bushkill Township trail north of Route 512
3. Completed the Bristol Marsh Educator's Manual and release of accompanying Bristol Marsh video. Chosen by National Wildlife Federation to participate in early implementation of a network of existing and planned environmental centers at Bristol Marsh.



List at least 2 goals for 2016:

1. Protect critical lands near the Delaware Canal to minimize potential future stormwater issues
2. Build partnerships to help expand the Circuit throughout the Lehigh Valley

How many new acres of land did your organization preserve in 2015?

Heritage Conservancy assisted in the preservation of 165 acres 2015

How many new miles of trail did your organization open in 2015?

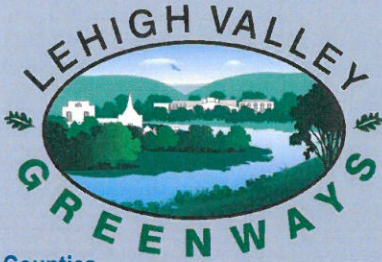
1 1/2 miles

How many trees did your organization plant in 2015?

We planted over 300 trees

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Northampton County Farmland Preservation

2015 Accomplishments:

14,291.41 Acres Preserved on 160 farms

2015 - 23 Applications reviewed and ranked for 2015

- ✓ 20 Qualified applicants – 19 approached
- ✓ 16 accepted and are being processed
- ✓ Closed 12 (2013-2014) farm easements in 2015 adding 508.82 acres to our total acres preserved.



- ✓ Reviewed and ranked 23 applications received for 2015
- ✓ Held two municipal workshops open to the public in Moore Township.
- ✓ Held 30 landowner meetings
- ✓ Attended PFPA Farmland Preservation Conferences
- ✓ Received PALTA Local Conservation Award
- ✓ Return on Environment Report
- ✓ Livable Landscapes Plan for Northampton County

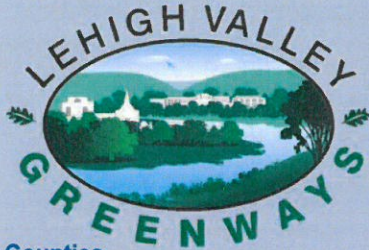
2016 Projected outcomes



- ❖ Anticipate closing 16 farms accepted in 2015
- ❖ Review and rank 19 Applications received for 2016
- ❖ Processing 19 new applications
- ❖ Holding additional workshops for municipalities

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Northampton County Open Space Program

2015 Government Conservation Leadership Award -

Northampton County was awarded the 2015 Government Conservation Leadership Award by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association.



21st Century Open Space Initiative Grants –

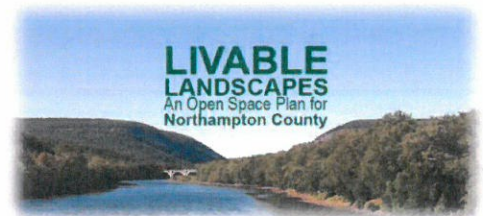
14 municipal park grant projects have been approved for 2015; nearly \$3million dollars have been provided to local municipalities since 2013, totaling 43 projects in 22 of 38 municipalities. Northampton County granted \$300,000 for the preservation of 1,477 within the Kittatinny Ridge and Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge; the project will total 4,600 acres within Northampton and Monroe Counties.

Trails

In 2015, prioritization was given to the identified trail gaps within the County. Three major gaps were funded for engineering, design and/or construction (D&L Trail, Nor-Bath / D&L Trail connection and Two Rivers Trail Gap 9A). In September, Northampton County and partners hosted the 9/11 National Memorial Trail ride over a 2-day period. Races, art galleries and educational programming were held along trails located within the County.

Livable Landscapes –

The Livable Landscapes report, Northampton County Open Space Plan was finalized in late 2015 and adopted on January 7, 2016 by County Council. The plan outlines goals and recommendations for land preservation, trails, greenways/blueways, farmland, cultural & heritage areas and recreation/parks.



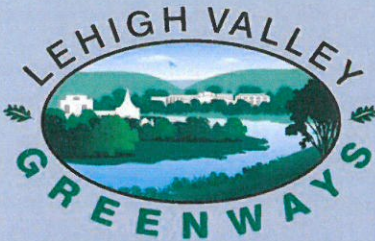
Scenic, Wild Delaware River –

Northampton County is one of nine counties located around the Delaware River to participate in a Geotourism project through National Geographic. Focusing on geotourists, the website and material is concentrated on local businesses, events, recreation and natural areas.

2015 Projected outcomes

- ✓ Design, engineering and permitting of five trail gaps, with the anticipated construction of 2 trail gaps!
- ✓ Scenic, Wild Delaware River Geotourism Project
- ✓ Environmental Restoration Program & Projects

Fast Facts



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Northampton County Conservation District

2015 Accomplishments

- ✓ Completed Fry's Run Riparian Buffer Planting Project in Williams Township with the Fry's Run Watershed Association, Lehigh Valley Master Watershed Stewards, Northampton County parks staff, and work release inmates from Northampton County Corrections Department. A total of 200 trees were planted in Fry's Run County Park.
- ✓ Developed & delivered third annual Lehigh Valley Master Watershed Steward Program with the Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley & Penn State Cooperative Extension.
- ✓ Developed & delivered the sixth Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference at Lehigh University with conference partners.
- ✓ Developed & delivered Annual Act 48 Teachers Workshop at the Lower Mount Bethel Township Welcome Center.
- ✓ Completed Dirt & Gravel Road Maintenance Project on Muschlitz Road in Bushkill Township (application of dust suppressant)
- ✓ Assisted Berstch-Hokendaqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association in acquiring road-stream crossing identification signs for locations in Northampton Borough.

2016 Projected Outcomes

- ✓ Develop & deliver fourth annual Lehigh Valley Master Watershed Steward Program with the Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley and Penn State Cooperative Extension.
- ✓ Develop & deliver Annual Act 48 Teachers Workshop.
- ✓ Develop & deliver Annual Envirothon
- ✓ Assist teachers from Governor Wolf Elementary in developing and presenting annual Conservation Week program.
- ✓ Research & pursue potential Chapter 93 stream classification upgrades in the Berstch-Hokendaqua-Catasauqua Watershed and other locations.
- ✓ Work with the six community watershed organizations in Northampton County & the Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley to help build capacity & plan & implement projects & programs.

Northampton County Parks Department

List at least 3 accomplishments in 2015:

1. Hired parks recreation specialist in May to replace that position employee, who retired in December 2014. Also ended the year hiring maintenance employees for a full complement of parks & recreation staff for the first time in several years.
2. Repaired 40-foot long fish habitat improvement/streambank stabilization structure at Fry's Run County Park in Williams Township in November, which was severely damaged in June flash flood.
3. Completed watershed restoration project at Fry's Run County Park in Williams Township & installed project sign; project was begun in July 2014 & completed in April (partnership project with NCCD & other orgs).



List at least 2 goals for 2016:

1. Expand outdoor recreation programming.
2. Secure PennDOT funding & begin road crossing improvements on the five-mile-long Nor-Bath Trail.

How many new acres of land did your organization preserve in 2015? None

How many new miles of trail did your organization open in 2015? None

How many trees did your organization plant in 2015? 190 at Fry's Run County Park (partnership project with NCCD & others).

Lehigh County Parks Department
2015 Accomplishments



-Jordan Creek Parkway- The last section of trail in Jordan Creek Parkway has been completed including the widening of a bridge to accommodate ADA & side by side walking and the addition of adequate side/safety rails. This section is Approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile.



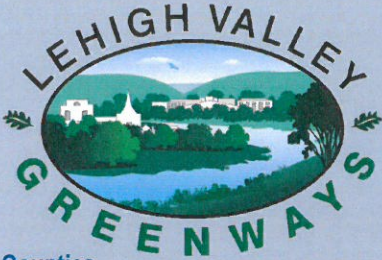
-Trexler Nature Preserve-Construction of the bridge over the Jordan Creek on the North Range Border Trail/ Jordan Greenway Trail is complete. This was the last creek crossing link needed to complete the Trexler trail system.

Leaser lake , The next to last connection of the Jordan Creek Greenway Trail short of connecting to the AT, construction of improvements at the West access include ADA pathways, ADA fishing pier ,canoe & kayak launch system. Soon to come is the install of a bridge over the Dam breast, this will complete the Liberty Bell loop trail



Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape Partnership 2015 Accomplishments

Fast Facts



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LEHIGH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

What has been accomplished?

- ✓ Conducted **rain barrel workshop** for Macungie Borough and Alburtis Borough for 70 residents
- ✓ Conducted Lehigh County High School and Middle School **ENVIROTHON** – 200 students
- ✓ Conducted interactive **watershed activities** for 100 3rd graders at Fountain Hill Elementary
- ✓ Planted 53 native shrubs, grasses, and perennials for DEP EE grant at Orefield Middle School **rain garden** – 1,200 students
- ✓ Completed Community Impact Grant for Springhouse Middle School **rain garden** – 1,200 students
- ✓ Planted 114 native shrubs, grasses, and perennials at Allentown Public Library **pollinator garden** with funds from Lehigh Gap Nature Center
- ✓ Conducted **Water Cycle** activity at Wildlands Conservancy Earth Day Festival to 200 people of all ages and at Lower Macungie Community Day for several hundred participants of all ages
- ✓ Conducted **macroinvertebrate studies** in an un-named tributary to the Little Lehigh Creek at Seven Generations Charter School with 45 students and in Switzer Creek for GGG at Wisser farm
- ✓ Conducted 3 **Enviroscape** presentations reaching over 100 people



2016 Projected outcomes

- ✓ Conduct rain barrel workshop for Salisbury Township and South Whitehall Township residents – March, 2016
- ✓ Present educational programs to reach 3,000+ people at Lower Macungie Community Day, Lehigh Valley Science Festival, Science Fun Night at East Hills Middle School, Lehigh County High School and Middle School Envirothon, Mosser Elementary School Outdoor Celebration and others
- ✓ Install environmental lab at Springfield Middle School through DEP EE grant \$3000
- ✓ Begin removing invasive plants and establishing native riparian buffer at Seven Generations Charter School with \$23,500 Growing Greener grant
- ✓ Acquire funding for invasive species removal, stream restoration and rehabilitation projects

Appalachian Mountain Club Accomplishments

- In 2016, the Appalachian Mountain Club partnered with Lehigh Valley Greenways and Northampton County to host the first-ever Lehigh Valley Greenways Legislative Breakfast, connecting our local and state representatives to the conservation work that we and our partners do in the Lehigh Valley Greenways landscape.
- AMC's Delaware Valley Chapter made much-needed repairs to the Leroy Smith Shelter on the Appalachian Trail.
- AMC partnered with Delaware Canal State Park to lead a National Get Outdoors Day hike and paddle in Easton, introducing new constituents to outdoor recreation in the Lehigh Valley Greenways.



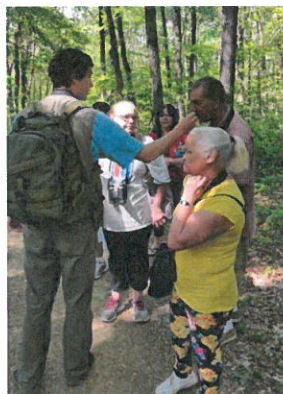
Kittatinny Coalition

List at least 3 accomplishments in 2015:

1. Kittatinny Ridge designated a Global Important Bird Area
2. Held first bilingual (English / Spanish) "Bird The Ridge" hike at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (picture attached, please credit Jeanne Ortiz, Audubon PA).
3. Updated the Kittatinny Ridge website at www.kittatinnyridge.org.
 4. Wind Gap designated as an A.T. Community (picture attached "Wind Gap Heritage Mural 'On the Appalachian Trail' ", please credit Slate Belt Community Partnership).
 5. Updated the Kittatinny bibliography (original had 500 entries; update added 250 entries)
 6. Held partner retreats (in East & Central / West Regions) to further refine project goals, objectives, and action items.
7. Held first-ever Ridge-wide Kittatinny partners meeting in December 2015.
8. Organized a herp workshop with the PA Amphibian & Reptile Survey.
9. Completed 2014 Pilot Habitat Survey Report (survey from Delaware Water Gap to Hawk Mountain).
10. Sponsored "Ridgena" as part of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's Broad-winged Hawk Project (picture attached - "Ridgena!" - please credit Hawk Mountain Sanctuary).
11. Completed two videos on the Kittatinny as a water resource and the Lehigh Gap Region.
12. Began expansion of Kittatinny Ridge Science Committee beyond the East Region to the Central / West Region. Recruitment will continue in 2016 - see 2016 Goal List below.
13. Held successful Conservation Design Workshop taught by Randall Arendt, FRTPI, ASLA (Hon.); and Ann Hutchinson, AICP, for municipal leaders, professional planners, county planners, and land trust staff at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. 28 professionals from all along the Ridge (including the Lehigh Valley) attended this well-received workshop. (picture attached - please credit Alicia E. Riegel-Kanth)
14. Published new edition of the State of the Kittatinny Report (download at www.kittatinnyridge.org).
15. Removed 83 pounds of the invasive Garlic Mustard plant from the Ridge with 20 volunteers from the Allentown Hiking Club, an Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.) maintaining club. This accomplishment was part of the hugely successful 2015 A.T. Garlic Mustard Challenge (picture attached with title, please credit Marian Orlousky, Appalachian Trail Conservancy).
16. Regraded and re-graveled the Fox Gap A.T. trail head parking lot along the Trail at Route 191 on top of the Ridge in Northampton County. Five volunteers from the Batona Hiking Club (an A.T. maintaining club) completed this project, which made the Fox Gap parking lot more attractive and increased access for A.T. / Kittatinny Ridge tourism (before and after pictures attached, please credit Batona Hiking Club).



Randall Arendt talk (credit: Alicia Riegel-Kanth)



Spanish "Bird the Ridge" hike (credit Jeanne Ortiz, Audubon PA)

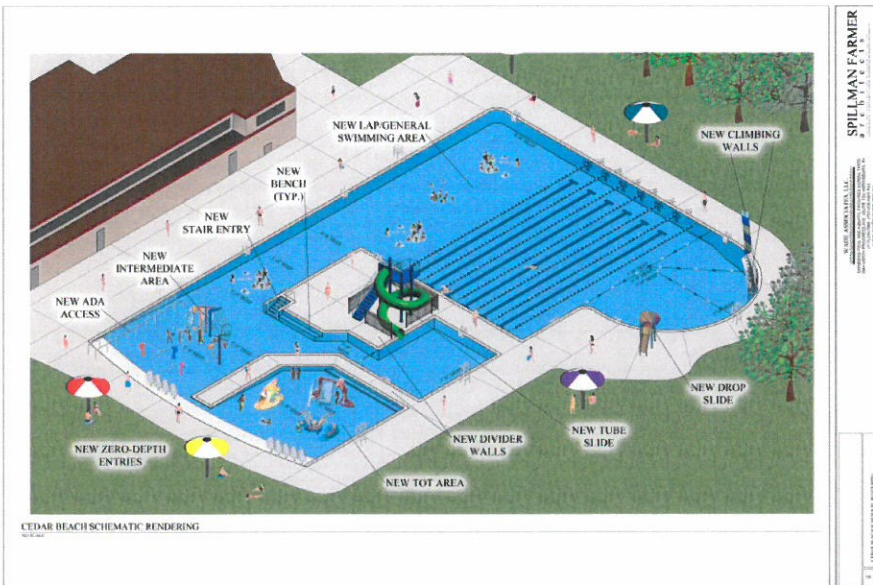
List at least 2 goals for 2016:

1. Continue expansion of Kittatinny Ridge Science Committee from East Region to Central / West Region.
2. Expand the "Bird The Ridge" hikes and include additional bilingual hikes.
3. Implement a new marketing and communication plan.
4. Further develop and implement water, science, and energy & climate goals.
5. Further implementation of Act 24 in at least one Lehigh Valley municipality.

Allentown Parks & Recreation Department

List at least 3 accomplishments in 2015:

1. Awarded bids to completely renovate Cedar Beach Pool and to replace the filtration system at Mack Pool.
2. Completed repair work on WPA structures in Fountain Park, Irving Park, Jordan Park and Union Terrace.
3. Completed design and secured bids to rebuild collapsed retaining wall along Lehigh Parkway.



Before



After



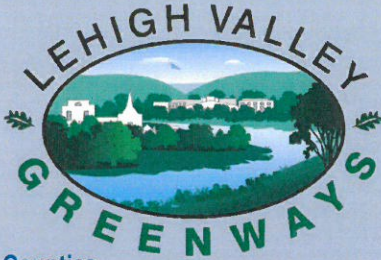
List at least 2 goals for 2016:

1. Complete design for Jordan Creek Greenway Trail from Jordin Basin to Sumner Avenue.
2. Begin design of MLK Trail Phase I from Cedar Beach Park to Lehigh Parkway.

How many trees did your organization plant in 2015? We planted over 250 trees in 2015.

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape Partnership 2015 Accomplishments

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City of Bethlehem

What has been accomplished?

- ✓ Completed Trail Feasibility Study in cooperation with local committee to assess trail connections between Monocacy Way, D & L trail and South Bethlehem Greenway to each other and to other nearby trails.
- ✓ Resurfaced Delaware & Lehigh Heritage Corridor from Sand Island east towards Freemansburg
- ✓ Restored historic stone walls in Johnston and Saucon Parks that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy.



- ✓ Finalized design for Monocacy Park restoration. Construction to be completed in 2016.
- ✓ Secured funding for new pedestrian bridge over Monocacy Creek in Johnston Park and for an additional shade canopy in the Skateplaza, both from Northampton County Open Space funds.

Goals for 2016

- ✓ Finalize acquisition of Norfolk Southern trail gap between South Bethlehem Greenway and Saucon Park.
- ✓ Initiate implementation of the Trail Feasibility recommendations, prioritizing the improved connection between the Delaware & Lehigh Heritage Corridor and Monocacy Way.

City of Easton

Some of our accomplishments for 2015:

1. Received a D&L mini grant. We used the grant money to purchase a race timing system. We were able to host a Halloween themed 5k on the trail in Hugh Moore Park.
2. At Halloween, we worked with the National Canal Museum to have a Haunted HMP event- 4 evenings of boat ride, a haunted walk, and hay ride. The event sold out each evening.
3. We completed a DCNR grant, converting several acres of scrub brush into a soccer and lacrosse field.

Goals for 2016

1. We would like to partner with other local municipalities to get uniform signage throughout the many miles of the local trail system.
2. We will complete the HMP project, funded through DNCR
3. We will utilize the race timing equipment to promote the D&L trail through a series of 5 & 10 K running events. The series of races will be free of charge and may be themed. The intention is to get current and new users out on the trail.

The city did not add to park acreage in 2015, though we did complete a DNCR project which was stated several years ago, converting 4.5 acres of scrub brush into a soccer/lacrosse field for our youth sports programs.

We did not add any new trails.

Our part-time city forester and parks department we planted between 65-80 trees.

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape Partnership 2015 Accomplishments

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Bushkill Township

What has been accomplished?

- ✓ 2015 LVPC Community of Distinction Award
- ✓ Completed two streambank restoration projects on Sobers Run which were funded through LVGI mini-grants.
- ✓ Constructed the DCNR funded perimeter trail around the Recreation Complex
- ✓ Purchased the 64 acre Heintzelman Farm and 87 acre Erhardt Farm
- ✓ Open Space Plan Update



2016 Projected outcomes

- ✓ Complete the Ballas Tract Trail system
- ✓ Heintzelman Farm Recreation Area
- ✓ Continue work to close Trail Gap #10 from Rt. 512 trailhead north to Appalachian Trail – Partner with St. Luke's
- ✓ Sobers Run EV Designation

Upper Mt. Bethel Township 2016 Accomplishments

This year several projects came together at the 90 acre UMBT Community Park.

The natural area playground for younger children was completed. Besides swings, slides, benches, merry-go-round, a pollinator garden and other playground apparatus, the major feature is a mounded grassy hill with large boulders for climbing.

A large parking area was constructed including stormwater structures and rain gardens.

The Landscaping for Communities and Wildlife grant for native plantings and signage was a big success incorporating many volunteer hours to plant and maintain the new plantings of trees, shrubs and perennials. UMBT EAC funded plant identification markers for each plant group or tree.

A LVG grant supported construction of an observation deck overlooking the wooded wetland and installation of a portion of the nature trail from the entrance road past the plantings and observation deck to the parking area near the barn and playground.

The township has increased Open Space by 25 acres bringing the total to 272 during the duration of the program. There are currently 1437 farm acres protected, with another 60 coming to close.

The township has begun trail development with ¼ mile trail at the park.

Nine trees were planted at the park.



Future projects include planting 30-40 Linden trees and installing a post and rail fence along Potomac Street. A formal entrance with signage and more of the trail system are in the 2016 planning phase.