

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape SUCCESS STORY

By: Lehigh Gap Nature Center
Lgnc.org

Color of Nature: Connecting LV's People of Color to Nature (2013)

SUMMARY

Color of Nature builds upon previous diversity work done by Lehigh Gap Nature Center, continuing a focus on training bilingual Latino nature leaders to conduct educational outdoor programs for their communities. This year adds an additional focus on developing an Ecology Club at Roberto Clemente Charter School for high school students, serving as a feeder for the next cohort of environmental program leaders. Combined with guided nature walks, parks programs, field trips, and education programs, this initiative connects urban residents with nature and provides new opportunities for engagement with the local community.



CHALLENGE

Previous aspects of this program have proven to be successful in the past. However, the inclusion of trained bilingual community leaders has led to increased input and new directions that emerge in response. Creating an Ecology Club for local students and an "Academy" program for training new recruits were identified as new priorities for this year's program. This also involves better use of marketing and ways of recruiting participants in the programs offered, which was focused on social media, Boys and Girls Clubs, churches, Spanish language media, and schools.

FUNDING

Grant Award:
\$5,000

Match:
\$6,761.23

Total Project Cost:
\$11,761.23

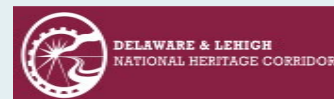
PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Roberto Clemente Charter
School

The Century Fund

Harry C. Trexler Trust

The Rider Pool Foundation



SOLUTION

The recruitment and training process involved visiting RCCS to recruit participants and referrals from existing leaders, with training completed in the field and through study materials. Programs such as nature walks, summer parks programs, educational trips to Beltzville State Park, club programs at RCCS, and Conservation Leadership Academy days helped increase the scope of this project. This benefited the target communities by increasing their exposure to outdoor activities and topics, which creates more support for conservation. This also provided low or no-cost recreation options for families with few resources.

RESULTS

- 5 leaders trained
- 4 family nature walks (28 participants total)
- 22 summer parks programs
- 3 Beltzville State Park programs
- 7 Club programs at RCCS (90 total attendance)
- 5 eight-hour Conservation Leadership Academy training days (10 students per day)

Contact



www.LVgreenways.org

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