

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape SUCCESS STORY

By: Community Bike Works
www.communitybikeworks.org
610-434-1140
hannah@communitybikeworks.org

Make the Trail (Awarded 2018)

SUMMARY

Community Bike Works teaches life lessons through bicycles to the students of Allentown and the Lehigh Valley who could benefit most. With support from Lehigh Valley Greenways, Community Bike Works collaborated with the Lehigh Gap Nature Center and other conservation partners to provide hands-on environmental education to our students. Through Make the Trail, students were introduced to local natural resources and conservation career opportunities, while spending time with role models of color.



CHALLENGE

Make the Trail addressed two major needs for Community Bike Works by providing more time outdoors on bikes with mentors, as well as increasing our capacity to provide outdoor and environmental education to our students. Outside of CBW, our students rarely have the opportunity to spend time in natural areas, but when they do they show deep enjoyment and appreciation. Nearly all Community Bike Works students live in the City of Allentown, and all students come from families with low incomes, who may not have access to regional parks and environmental education opportunities. This project also supported the further development of our mountain bike trail in East Allentown's Keck Park, with the removal of several invasive species on the public trail.

FUNDING

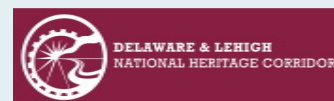
Grant Award:
\$6,126.37

Match:
\$7,709.37

Total Project Cost:
\$13,835.74

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Key partners for Make the Trail include the Lehigh Gap Nature Center's Color of Nature program and Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center. The City of Allentown Parks and Recreation Department, Muhlenberg College, and Edge of the Woods Native Plant Nursery supported the trail work day element of this project.



SOLUTION

Through conservation bike rides, a trail work day, and our youth leadership program, Make the Trail supported our mission to teach life lessons to the students who could benefit most. These lessons included environmental education and appreciation, hands-on learning, and conservation careers. Bike rides led by LGNC's Color of Nature leaders provided more time with mentors and bikes. Muhlenberg College and Allentown's Parks and Recreation volunteers assisted our students in trail work, including the removal of many invasive species. Our fall Youth Leadership program focused on careers in environmental sustainability, in which students learned about the variety of conservation careers and the need for racial diversity in the field.

RESULTS

Eight students participated in each of the three conservation bike rides. These bike rides took place at the Lehigh Gap Nature Center, the D+L trail at Canal Park, and Jacobsburg State Park. 12 students participated in the Clear the Trail work day on .3 miles of public mountain bike trail and removing invasive species along the way. Eight students participated in the eight week conservation career Youth Leadership program, taking four field trips to local sites. A favorite field trip for our students was a trip to the Good Farm in Germansville. While there, students learned about sustainable agriculture and the importance of small farms, and got to work with their hands picking potatoes and carrots. "We need something like this back in Allentown," Avery, 14, shared on the drive back to the bike shop. Our teens were intrigued by and excited about farming, and many were ready to come back and volunteer during the harvest. Community Bike Works was thrilled to work with Lehigh Valley Greenways partners in meaningful ways that contributed to our students' ability to experience more time with mentors in the outdoors.

Contact



www.LVgreenways.org

Claire Sadler, Dir. Trails & Conservation

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage

Corridor

2750 Hugh Moore Park Road

Easton, PA 18042

610-923-3548 ext. 226

Claire@delawareandlehigh.org

www.delawareandlehigh.org

Diane Kripas, Division Chief

PA DCNR Bureau of Recreation and

Conservation

717-772-1282

dkripas@pa.gov

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cli

