

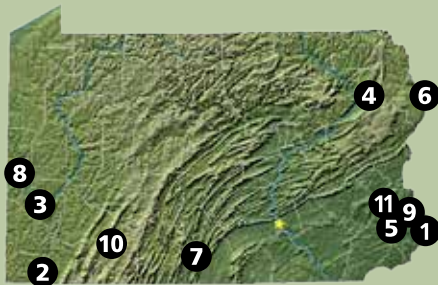


# Pennsylvania News



Mantua residents provide Philadelphia University landscape architecture students feedback on their master plans for the Mantua Trail. Photo: NPS

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



■ NPS Unit  
★ State Capital

### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership  
US Forest Service
2. Dunkard Creek Water Trail  
Greene County Watershed Alliance
3. Emerald View Park  
Mt Washington Community Development Corporation
4. Greater Wilkes-Barre Regional Trail Network  
Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor
5. Mantua Greenway  
Phila LISC and Mantua Beautification Committee
6. Milford Experimental Forest Public Trail Project  
Grey Towers Heritage Association
7. MPMC Connectivity- People, Trails, and Environment  
Mercerburg Peters Montgomery Connectivity
8. Ohio River Trails  
Ohio River Trail Council
9. Philadelphia Living Classrooms Partnership  
Urban Blazers
10. September 11th National Memorial Trail  
9/11 National Memorial Trail Alliance
11. Wissahickon Valley Watershed Assoc. Trail Stewards  
Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

## Recent Successes

### Ohio River Water Trail

The Ohio River Trail Council is keeping busy these days. In little over one year, they formed a water trail committee, applied for and received designation as a Pennsylvania State Water Trail, and completed a high quality map and guide! These tasks were completed in partnership with the NPS and funded through a Challenge Cost Share program grant of \$9,900.



Paddlers enjoy a calm day on the Ohio River Water Trail.  
Photo: Friends of the Riverfront

The Ohio River Trail Council land trail project also received a \$200,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration Transportation, Community, and System Preservation program (TCSP), and a \$200,000 grant from Pennsylvania's Act 13, to design, engineer, and start construction of Phase I of the South Shore Trail from Coraopolis to Moon Township, a 2.5-mile section that will link to the 46-mile Montour Rail-Trail.

# Current Projects

## 1. Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Project Partner: US Forest Service  
NPS Contact: Dave Lange  
Location: Camden, NJ; Philadelphia and Chester, PA; Wilmington, DE  
Congressional Districts: NJ - 1; PA - 1, 2, 8, 13; DE - 1

### Project Goal

Reconnect urban communities with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with community-led revitalization efforts to improve waterways and promote their economic, environmental, and social benefits.

### NPS Role

Act as a co-lead with the US Forest Service; assist the partnership with cataloging and directing federal resources to address locally-identified needs and priorities.

## 2. Dunkard Creek Water Trail

Project Partner: Greene County Watershed Alliance  
NPS Contact: Peggy Pings  
Location: Monongalia County WV; Greene County, PA  
Districts: WV - 1, PA - 12

### Project Goal

Create a 30-mile water trail with access points from Blacksville, West Virginia to Dilliner, Pennsylvania at the Monongahela River.

### NPS Role

Assist with the bi-state water trail planning and designation process, public involvement, the establishment of additional public access, and preparation of a map and guide for the trail.

## 3. Emerald View Park

Project Partner: Mt. Washington CDC  
NPS Contact: Peggy Pings  
Location: Pittsburgh  
Congressional District: PA - 14

### Project Goal

Expand the acreage of Pittsburgh's newest regional park from 257 acres to 280 acres, and host 20 miles of linking trails.

### NPS Role

Assist with identifying best practices for steep hillside trails, finding funding, developing a trail user survey strategy, community involvement, and consensus for a signage plan.

## 4. Greater Wilkes-Barre Regional Trail Network

Project Partner: Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor  
NPS Contact: Sherry Peck  
Location: Greater Wilkes-Barre  
Congressional District: PA - 11

### Project Goal

Make the regional trail network an asset for residents and a premier regional destination through shared

vision and goals, branding, promotion, and a lasting framework for trail coordination in the region.

### NPS Role

Assist with bringing together many partners to develop a regional vision, set goals, and develop a 3-year work plan.

## 5. Mantua Greenway

Project Partner: Philadelphia LISC, Mantua Beautification Committee  
NPS Contact: Sophie Sarkar  
Location: Philadelphia  
Congressional Districts: PA-2

### Project Goal

Help plan the renovation of a community greenway along Mantua Avenue from the Spring Garden bridge at 31st Street to the 40th Street bridge; add trees, permeable pavement, and other stormwater management infrastructure; murals and art installations; and a tribute to Mantua history and community leaders.

### NPS Role

Serve as a facilitator and advisor; bring together many partners to develop a project vision, trail concept plan, and a plan for project implementation.

## 6. Milford Experimental Forest Public Trail Project

Project Partner: Grey Towers Heritage Association  
NPS Contact: Sherry Peck  
Location: Milford  
Congressional District: PA - 10

### Project Goal

Develop a 3-mile trail connecting the McDade trail in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area with the Delaware State Forest trail system in Milford; provide educational and recreational experiences for school groups; provide a venue for guided hikes and other community events hosted by partner organizations.



Mantua residents and Philadelphia University students perform a walkability audit of the current trail route. Photo: NPS



# Current Projects



Philadelphia students explore the Schuylkill River in a Wilderness Inquiry Voyageur canoe. Photo: NPS

## NPS Role

Assist the Milford Experimental Forest trail committee with public outreach and consensus-building on trail location and planning; assist with developing a volunteer corps and engaging youth.

## 7. MPMC Connectivity- People, Trails, and Environment

Project Partner: Mercersburg Peters Montgomery Connectivity  
NPS Contact: Wink Hastings  
Location: Mercersburg Borough, Townships of Montgomery and Peters  
Congressional District: PA - 9

## Project Goal

Establish a healthy community through social, economic, and environmental actions including trail development,

restoration of Johnston Run, and environmental education programs.

## NPS Role

Facilitate collaborative action planning, recruit volunteers, design outreach and education programs, build organizational capacity, and leverage funding.

## 8. Ohio River Trails

Project Partner: Ohio River Trail Council  
NPS Contact: Peggy Pings  
Location: Along Ohio River in Allegheny and Beaver Counties  
Congressional Districts: PA - 4, 14, 18

## Project Goal

Develop 41 miles of bike trail and a 63-mile water trail along the Ohio River in Pennsylvania, from Coraopolis west (downstream) to the Point of

Beginning (the Pennsylvania-West Virginia-Ohio state line).

## NPS Role

Assist with the application process to designate the Ohio River Water Trail - Pennsylvania section as a National Recreation Trail and National Water Trail System trail.

## 9. Philadelphia Living Classrooms Program

Project Partner: Urban Blazers  
NPS Contact: Sophie Sarkar  
Location: Philadelphia  
Congressional District: PA - 2

## Project Goal

Expand and document the Living Classrooms Program and engage student participants in active learning and character development through recreation, conservation, and nature exploration in their communities and at nearby NPS sites.

## NPS Role

Assist with the design of the Living Classrooms Partnership program and outing schedule; act as liaison with local and regional national park sites; help connect students to potential service and employment opportunities.

## 10. September 11th National Memorial Trail

Project Partner: September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance  
NPS Contact: Peggy Pings  
Location: Shanksville, PA; other cities along the PA route  
Congressional Districts: PA - 1, 2, 4, 18

## Project Goal

Establish a 1,100-mile hiking, biking, and driving trail that provides a physical linkage connecting the 3 national memorials commemorating the tragic events that occurred in 2001.

## NPS Role

Assist with public involvement to scope alternative trail routes in Pennsylvania; provide project guidance and meeting coordination.



The Urban Blazers at the St. James School creatively document their adventures. Photo: NPS

## We're Here For You!

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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## 2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online at  
[www.nps.gov/rtda](http://www.nps.gov/rtda)



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## Recent Successes cont.

### Healthy People, Healthy Environment, Healthy Community

Founded in response to soaring local obesity rates and associated health concerns, the Mercersburg Area Council for Wellness (MACWell) has initiated a variety of programs to create a community environment that encourages physical activity, nutritious eating habits, and a balanced lifestyle. Add the collaborative leadership of the MACWell

*“Meandering through time and over ever-changing landscapes, Johnston Run has become polluted. By studying the watershed and talking with our citizens, my hope is that we, as a community, will one day be able to say, it is ours only briefly, but we took care of it along the way.”*

- Liz McClintick, President, Tuscarora Wildlife Education Project

subcommittee, Montgomery Peters Mercersburg Connectivity (MPMC), and the outcome is a sustainable community framework for balancing social, economic, and environmental goals.

MACWell's impressive accomplishments thus far include a feasibility study for a network of safe and scenic routes and trails throughout three municipalities, a watershed management plan, a restoration strategy for Johnston Run, and a concept design for the Johnston Run Waterway Trail.

The synergistic effect of the work on Johnston Run is a prime example of building a truly sustainable community. The Waterway Trail will support outdoor recreation,

provide users with a connection to nature, and attract visitors supporting the local economy. The watershed management plan will guide restoration to improve the health of Johnston Run and provide resource information for stream-side environmental education programs. When viewed holistically, these actions serve as a model of stewardship: caring for people through healthy exercise, sense of place, and respite from daily activities; caring for the environment through restoration and sound natural resource management; and caring for downstream neighbors along the Conococheague Creek, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay.



Board members of MACWell-Mercersburg Area Council for Wellness-walked the proposed route of Johnston Run Waterway Trail which is currently in the planning stages. Photo: NPS

### ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.