

## Vision of the

### Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape:

Lehigh Valley communities are linked to greenways, trails, and outdoor experiences resulting in stronger local economies and improved public health, green infrastructure and natural resources



### Goals:

- 1: **Land Conservation & Restoration** - Conserve critical landscapes, restore degraded habitats including stream corridors, and promote best management practices
- 2: **Outdoor Recreation & Trail Connections** - Connect people to greenway and trail opportunities to promote healthy living, recreation, and the region's green assets
- 3: **Community Revitalization** – Support community revitalization through green infrastructure that enhances the quality of life
- 4: **Local Education & Outreach** – Promote understanding of our natural environment and its benefits to our communities

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## 2017 Lehigh Valley Greenways Work Plan

Note: D&L has an open application period for 2017 mini-grants until 3/3/17. Mini-grant requests often help advance our annual work plan.

### Promote Awareness of Greenways Partnership

- Create stronger branding through creation of “proud to be LVG partner” slide template, guidelines for using new logo, “partner” tabletop banners and an updated Lehigh Valley Greenways fact sheet and action brochure to distribute to the public.
- Hold Greenways Festival on July 22, 2017 at Covered Bridge Park, South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County to promote all partners and the connections formed.
- Led by LV Greenways partners, hold five strategic municipal-promoted trail Meet-Ups highlighting new or priority areas of trail to the public.
- The Partnership will support the planned LV Watershed Conference to be held at Lehigh University in October.

### Land Protection – preserve 350 more acres

- The Partnership will support the development and adoption of the Lehigh County Livable Landscapes Plan (summer 2017).
- The LVPC will work with the partners to develop conservation priority metrics for land protection to be integrated during the FutureLV Comprehensive Plan process.
- Partners will continue to promote the results/information from the LV Return on Environment using ROE signs at five public events and incorporating the findings into land protection prioritization and help secure conservation support.
- Partners participate in January 25<sup>th</sup> strategy lab on natural environment and follow-up events held by LVPC for the LV Comprehensive Plan Update.

### **Environmental Restoration – restore 100 acres and 3 miles of stream**

- Incentivize agriculture riparian buffers by taking inventory of farms open to restoration, creating a database of funding sources, and locating one farmer contact/ombudsman.
- Develop demonstration BMPs of stream restoration/riparian buffers with landowner engagement and to promote to public works/parks crews by taking inventory of existing projects, finding funding, identifying 2-6 sites to implement BMPs, and offering tours of three sites for outreach and securing commitment letters for projects.
- Assess the current state of riparian buffer ordinances and promote through available mini-grant funding. Promote riparian buffer municipal ordinances using storm water as keyword to encourage municipalities to adopt ordinances.

### **Trails and Bicycle/Pedestrian Connections – open 4 miles of trail and close 2 key trail gaps**

- Advance NS Acquisition Strategy by coordinating with the NS contact and discussing the Lehigh Valley trail and NS intersection points.
- Hire marketing consultant through D&L to begin one-year branding and marketing contract for Lehigh Valley Trail Network seeking input from Lehigh Valley Trail Council and other interested parties.
- Develop expanded and updated priority list of trail gaps based off LVPC 2013 Top 10 Trail Gaps.
- Add LANTA as engaged Lehigh Valley Greenways partner.
- Close Lehigh Valley Trail Gap #4 (Nor-Bath to D&L) and #5A (D&L: Dry Run Ped Bridge).
- Pursue funding for trail gap needs.

### **Education & Diversity – engage a more inclusive audience in the outdoors and environmental education**

- Host Coloring the Conservation Conversation event on April 12, 2017 to promote inclusion in conservation with a follow-up meeting to continue momentum toward fall workshop.
- Partners will hold three youth events and extend invitation to DCNR Secretary Dunn to participate. Proposed events include:
  - JEEC's PBS Daniel Tiger Event at Jacobsburg EEC scheduled for May 6, LVG Festival on July 22 and Wildlands' Make A Splash event on October 6.
- Continue to collaborative on watershed programming to include JEEC, LGNC and Wildlands Nitchman Middle School and Roberto Clemente partnership and plan for future expansion, conservation district programs, and PSU's Master Watershed Steward training and projects.
- The Partnership will help promote the Lehigh and Delaware Sojourns to get more students and their families experiencing the rivers.

**Trail Priority:** 1) D&L Trail - Allentown Trail Gap #6 – begin engineering and apply for construction funding and 2) D&L to IRT Trail Gap #3 - develop an acquisition strategy

**Youth Priority/Event:** 1) JEEC May 6 event or 2) LVG Festival planned for July 22.