

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

2024 - 2025 Lehigh Valley Greenways Action Plan

Organizational Capacity Building: Engage stakeholders and position partnership to actively engage in 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

- Assemble EIT Open Space Support Team to assist interested municipalities
- o Establish Scope of Work and RFP review team for 2025-2030 Strategic Plan
- Conduct Strategic Planning meetings with stakeholders, led by consultant
- Supply park staff with workshops on maintenance techniques (included in mini grant project funding)
- Develop LV Greenways data dashboard for LV Greenways website
- Produce LV Greenways Rack Card to distribute at events, to municipalities, and potential partners
- o Promote LV Greenways volunteer opportunities across conservation landscape
- Celebrate LV Greenways Conservation Landscape Partnership's 20th Anniversary with collaborative events that recognize partners and increase public awareness of LV Greenways
- Secure sponsorships to support 2025 LV Greenways Annual Retreat
- Host Municipal Breakfast and Elected Officials Mixer in 2025 to connect municipal and regional leadership to the goals and resources of LV Greenways Partnership

Land Protection and Green Infrastructure: Preserve 1110 acres of Open Space and Farmland, convert 30 acres of turf grass with native plantings, and restore 1 mile of stream

- Preserve 1000 acres of farmland
- o Preserve 100 acres of open space
- Engage two landowners in lawn conversions/green campus conversion
- o Promote municipal adoption of official maps through mini grant funding
- o Engage two D&L Trail landowners in bioswale development along the D&L Trail
- Complete 9-10 riparian buffer plantings
- Advance Bushkill Stream Restoration Strategy through additional dam removal in Easton

Trails and Recreation: Open 4 miles of trail and improve ADA access of THE LINK Trail Network

- Hold Quarterly in-person meetings for THE LINK Steering Committee
- Advance the D&L Trail in the Lehigh Valley:
 - Advance engineering for the D&L Trail Hanover Canal Park to St. Luke's Center, in Hanover Township
 - City of Allentown- start and majorly progress engineering for the D&L Trail St. Luke's Center to Overlook Park in the City of Allentown
- Construct 1 mile of trail on Jordan Creek Greenway in South Whitehall Township in Covered Bridge Park
- Lead 2 branded LINK bike rides through Coalition for Appropriate Transportation (CAT)
- Complete two additional trail accessibility surveys through Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living and incorporate one training and presentation of findings
- Establish connection to LV Realtors Association to promote THE LINK Trail Network as a resource for homeowners and realtors
- Design and install three kiosks featuring map of THE LINK Trail Network with bilingual information panel, at three major hubs in The Network
- Expand digital resources and proactively engage more users to help drive trail usage among Lehigh Valley residents utilizing marketing consultant.
- Launch "Get Your Tail on the Trail" badge for THE LINK to encourage use of multiple trails in the network
- Implement first Waterways on Wheels program in Lehigh Valley, on THE LINK Trail
 Network.
- Elevate "Slow Down! Look Around!" pedestrian iterative, to improve pedestrian safety in the Lehigh Valley (CAT)
- o Increase inclusivity of tails and waterways through Take Action Campaign
- Promote THE LINK Trail Network at 10 outreach events

<u>Education and Engagement: Lead 5 collaborative events for target audiences, including municipalities, students, and educators</u>

- Implement LVG 20-year celebrations (success stories, partner highlights, tours, social, outreach) through the following events: PA Land Conservation Conference, Lehigh River Sojourn, Delaware River Sojourn, National Youth Bike Summit, MigrationFest
- o Host Education Providers Open House at Da Vinci Science Center's new facility
- o Encourage multi-site field experience with partners for two schools
- Implement Tap Talks, to connect adults to conservation topics with assistance from LV
 Greenways partners