



Lackawanna River Heritage Trail

FACT SHEET



BENEFITS OF TRAILS

Trails are important community assets that spur new business development, revitalize neighborhoods, and increase property values for residents.

Trails offer recreation, health and wellness, and social benefits to residents. They provide safe alternative transportation routes for people traveling between their homes and school or work.

Trails stimulate tourism and recreation spending, and they create and retain jobs.

Trails turn abandoned land, brownfields, and blighted properties into superior recreational assets for the public.



The Lackawanna River Heritage Trail (LRHT)

- The LRHT and its companion trail, the Delaware and Hudson (D&H) Rail-Trail, form a 70+ mile multi-use trail system along the Lackawanna River from New York State through Susquehanna, Wayne, Lackawanna, and Luzerne counties to the Susquehanna River in Pittston, Pennsylvania.
- The LRHT system is a critical link between Pennsylvania's and New York State's trail networks, as well as a connection to the Appalachian Trail.
- Currently, the LRHT system has 56 miles open to the public; 17 miles have improved surfaces, and the remainder are natural footpaths or local roads.
- Open sections of the trail system include Union Dale to Simpson, Carbondale Township to Mayfield Borough, Archbald to Blakely, and Downtown Scranton to South Scranton.
- In 2012, it is anticipated that three trail sections (approximately six miles) will go to construction, and two additional trail sections will be in the design phase.
- 128,000 trail users visited the LRHT system in 2009.

Economic Impact

- In 2009, the direct economic impact of the LRHT was \$28.3 million. This includes purchases of hard goods (bikes, footwear, clothing, etc.), soft goods (beverages, food, etc.), and overnight accommodations. 69% of trail users purchased hard goods, and they spent an average of \$313 per person per year. 21% of trail users purchased soft goods. They spent an average of \$8.87 per visit to the trail.
- 8% of the trail users incorporated an overnight visit, with 3% staying in local accommodations (campgrounds, hotels, or bed and breakfasts) for an average of 2.43 nights. They spent an average of \$55.75 per night.
- The direct economic impact of the trail has created or retained more than 1,250 full-time jobs with an average annual wage of \$22,432.

Trail Users

- 82% of trail users were from Lackawanna County. 11% came from adjacent counties, and 6% reside in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Ohio.
- 56% of trail users are 46 years of age or older. 23% of all trail users were in the 46-55 age group, and 22% in the 56-65 age group.
- 66% of trail users say they enjoy the LRHT for health and exercise. Most use the trail for walking/hiking, bicycling, running, and walking with a pet or child.
- 84% of trail users have visited another trail or park in the region in the last year.
- Number of trail users is projected to increase by 35% in 2012 as a result of new trail development, enhanced marketing initiatives, and new public programs on the trail.

Information cited from the "Lackawanna Greenway Economic and Market Analysis," Lackawanna Greenway Plan, 2010. Data prepared by Urban Partners, Philadelphia, PA. Funding for the LRHT is provided by NPS, DCNR, and PennDOT.

Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area

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