

# A Year in the Life of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail

The Lackawanna River Heritage Trail (LRHT) flourished in 2015 with projects to improve the experience for trail users. Plenty of activities were held throughout the year. Highlights include:

## *Heritage Explorer Bike Tour & Festival:*

In June, hundreds of bicyclists of all ages participated in the annual bike tour and festival at the Blakely Borough Recreation Complex. This family-friendly event featured four out-and-back routes along the trail, followed by a festival promoting health, wellness and outdoor recreation. In the fall, the bike tour won the Hometown Hero SAGE Award, presented by the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce.

**Nay Aug Avenue Natural Play Area:** The Heritage Valley celebrated the opening of Pennsylvania's first natural play area in July. The Nay Aug Avenue Natural Play Area is a new trailhead park located in the Green Ridge section of Scranton, adjacent to the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail and the levee of the Lackawanna River.

**Mid Valley Section Paving Project:** To help maintain optimal conditions for trail users in the Mid Valley, the section between Blakely and Archbald was paved in the fall. The new surface allows more people to enjoy this beautiful section of trail, including those using wheelchairs. It also enhances the experience for parents pushing strollers, and children riding tricycles or bikes with training wheels. In addition, the paved surface can be plowed following snow, allowing the trail to stay open year-round.

**New Fishing Pier in Archbald:** Lackawanna Heritage Valley (LHV) partnered with Aylesworth Creek Reservoir Park Authority to build the Nick Staback Veterans Fishing Pier at Archbald Borough Gravity Slope Recreation Park. The new fishing pier, which opened in November, is located near the Laurel Street Trailhead, at the southern end of Laurel Street in Archbald. Adjacent to the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, the pier is ADA compliant, providing greater access and increased opportunities for fishing in this stretch of the Lackawanna River.

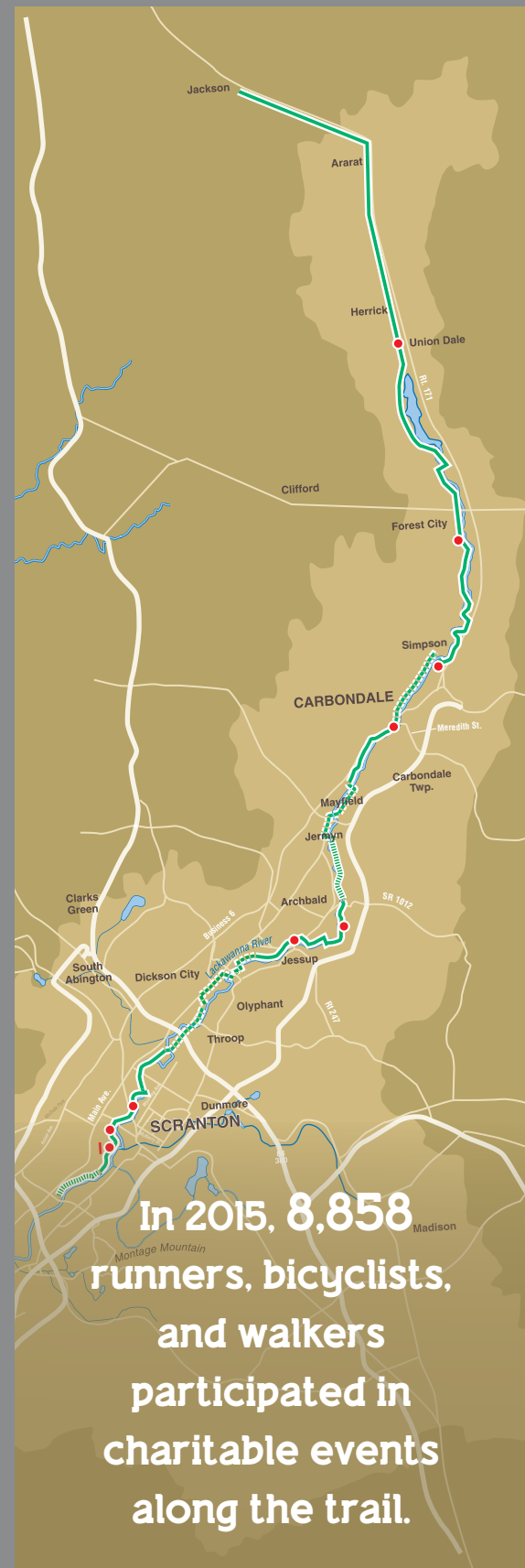
**Interpretive Signs:** Designed to share the story of the region's land, people and industry, the first group in a series of interpretive signs along the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail was installed along sections of trail between Archbald and Jermyan in the fall. The new signs aid in navigation of the trail system while providing information about the region's heritage.

**S'mores Party on the Trail:** In October, families enjoyed a special day along the CNJ Extension of the Trail in Taylor. The event featured music by Pat Quinn and the Heritage Trailblazers, Spooky Stories with Taylor Community Library, Pumpkin Painting, a Scarecrow-Making Party, and s'mores by the campfire. More than 200 children participated in the festivities.

## Thousands of Charitable Steps Forward.

In addition to serving as a popular venue for running, walking and bicycling groups, the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail is utilized by dozens of non-profit and charitable organizations to host fundraising races and walks.

70 Miles of Trail.

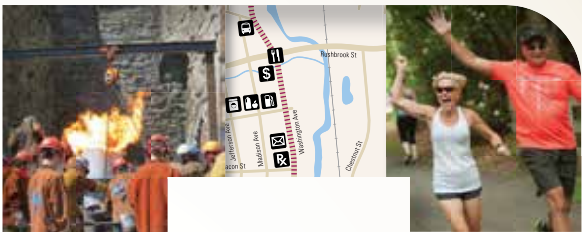


In 2015, 8,858 runners, bicyclists, and walkers participated in charitable events along the trail.

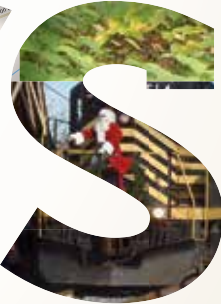
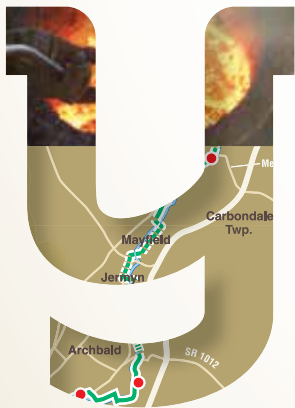
# LHV Partners and Supporters 2015

American Water Charitable Foundation  
Anthracite Bicycle Coalition  
Anthracite Heritage Museum & Iron Furnaces Associates  
Anthracite Scenic Trails Association  
Archbald Borough  
Architectural Heritage Association  
Archbald Borough Historical Society  
Artists for Art (AFA) Gallery  
Aylesworth Creek Reservoir Park Authority  
Baker Tilly, Clarks Summit office  
Barry Isett & Associates  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Blakely Borough  
Boy Scouts of America  
Capezio Realty  
Carbondale Chamber of Commerce  
Carbondale Public Library  
CECO Associates, Inc.  
Cedar Bike and Paddle  
Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation  
Cigna, Moosic Office  
City of Carbondale  
City of Scranton  
City of Scranton, Department of Parks & Recreation  
Clifford Township Historical Society  
Community Bank, N.A.  
Countryside Conservancy  
Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor  
Delaware Lackawanna Railroad Co., Inc.  
Dickson City Borough  
DxDempsey Architecture  
Dunmore Candy Kitchen  
EdVentures Consulting Inc.  
Edge of the Woods Outfitters  
Electric City Trolley Museum  
Elm Street Revitalization Project  
Endeavor Audio and Lighting  
Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Inc.  
Endless Mountains Nature Center  
ESC Design, Inc.  
Everhart Museum  
Fell Charter School  
Fell Township  
Ferrario Agency  
Fidelity Deposit & Discount Bank  
Forest City Area Historical Society  
Geisinger Community Medical Center  
Gentex Corporation  
Gertrude Hawk Chocolates  
Girl Scouts of America  
Greater Carbondale Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce  
Haas Landscape Architects  
Hilton Scranton & Conference Center  
Home Depot  
Jaworski Sign Company  
Jermyn Borough  
Jessup 21st Century Association  
Jessup Borough  
JHA Companies  
Jim's Farm Produce  
Johnson College  
Keystone Iron Works  
Krispy Kreme Doughnuts  
L.T. Verrastro, Inc.  
La Festa Italiana  
Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour  
Lackawanna College Environmental Education Center  
Lackawanna County Commissioners  
Lackawanna County Conservation District  
Lackawanna County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Lackawanna County Department of Arts & Culture  
Lackawanna County Department of Parks & Recreation  
Lackawanna County Library System  
Lackawanna County Office of Environmental Sustainability  
Lackawanna Historical Society  
Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society  
Lackawanna River Corridor Association  
Lamar Advertising  
Leadership Lackawanna  
Linde Corporation  
Lou and Kay Danzico  
Lowe's Distribution Center  
Lowe's Hometown Heroes Program  
Luzerne County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
M&T Bank  
MTL, Inc.  
Margaret Briggs Foundation  
Marywood University, School of Architecture  
Mayfield Borough  
McGrail Merkel Quinn & Associates  
McTish Kunkel & Associates  
Montage Mountain Ski Patrol  
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management  
Munley Law  
National Park Service  
National Park Service, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area  
National Recreation and Park Association  
Neil Armstrong Elementary School  
NEPA Alliance  
North Branch Land Trust  
Northeast Business Journal  
Northeast Pennsylvania Conservation Partners  
Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit #19  
Northeastern Pennsylvania Health Care Foundation  
Old Forge School District  
Olyphant Borough  
Pat Quinn and the Heritage Trailblazers  
Penn Foster Career School  
Penn Future  
Pennoni Associates, Inc.  
Peoples Security Bank & Trust Co.  
Penn State Cooperative Extension  
Penn State Master Gardeners  
Pennsylvania American Water  
Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development  
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources  
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Lackawanna State Park Complex  
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Promised Land State Park  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 4-0  
Pennsylvania Environmental Council  
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority  
Pioneer Construction  
Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau  
PNC Bank  
Price Chopper  
Propst Transportation  
Purple Pepper Farms  
Rail-Trail Council of NEPA, Inc.  
Reilly Associates  
Richard Mellow Corporation  
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeastern Pennsylvania  
Santarelli & Sons Oil  
Schiff's Cash and Carry  
Scranton Area Foundation  
Scranton Cooperative Farmer's Market  
Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple  
Scranton Half Marathon  
Scranton High School  
Scranton Jazz Festival  
Scranton Public Library  
Scranton Running Company  
Scranton Sewer Authority  
Scranton Shakespeare Festival  
Scranton Times-Tribune  
Scranton Tomorrow  
Sheetz  
Sickler's Bike Shop  
South Side Farmers' Market  
Steamtown Marathon  
Steamtown National Historic Site  
Stone Bridge Inn & Restaurant  
Strauss and Associates/Planners  
Taylor Borough  
Taylor Community Library  
The Greenhouse Project  
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation  
The University of Scranton  
The University of Scranton, Center for Health Education and Wellness  
The University of Scranton, Weinberg Library  
The University of Scranton, Office of Sustainability  
Thomas J. McLane Associates  
Time-Shamrock Community Newspaper Group  
Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.  
Trout Unlimited, Lackawanna Valley Chapter  
United Neighborhood Centers  
Urban Partners  
Valley Community Library  
Viewmont Mall  
Wal-Mart  
Wallenpaupack South Elementary School  
Walt Disney World Company  
Waverly Community House  
Waymart Area Historical Society  
Wayne County Historical Society  
Weis Markets  
Western Wayne High School  
Willary Foundation  
William G. McGowan Charitable Fund  
WNEP  
WVIA

# Home is Where Our Heritage Is



*Community Update 2015*



*in the Lackawanna Heritage Valley*



[www.LHVA.ORG](http://www.LHVA.ORG)



*"It's not about what it is, it's about what it can become." Dr. Seuss, The Lorax.*

**Right here in Lackawanna County  
25 years ago, Lackawanna Heritage Valley  
was established!**

The mission of Lackawanna Heritage Valley has always boiled down to improving the quality of life for our region. That is why I started this letter with a quote from one of my favorite childhood authors, Dr. Seuss. He takes a simplistic concept and uses it to convey a life lesson that helps to keep us grounded. I think it really applies to Lackawanna Heritage Valley in 2016 as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary. For it is not about what the Heritage Valley was in 1991, in 2001, in 2011 or even what it is at this moment. Rather, it is all the accomplishments along the way - all the progress; all the miles of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail that have been completed; and all the growth we will experience in the future. I am truly excited and honored to serve on a Board and work with LHV Staff who are all so positively driven and so forward thinking.

We must keep in mind the great importance of the beginning of our organization; those who made it possible at its inception; and those who continue to fulfill its mission to this day. Lackawanna Heritage Valley was the first heritage park in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and it started right here in our own backyard - a testament to the fiery spirit that is prevalent in Lackawanna County. We can never forget where we came from, or who we came from, because all of that drives us forward to make our home the best it can possibly be.

In 2015, there were several exciting accomplishments in the heritage

area, including the launch of BikeScranton, our free bike share program, and the development of the Nay Aug Avenue Natural Play Area in lower Green Ridge. Three crucial easements were granted by the DeNaples family that will enable us to fill in major trail gaps in Scranton, Dickson City and Carbondale Township. This gift will aid in achieving LHV's goal of linking thirty communities from Pittston to Fell Township and north to the D&H Rail-Trail and the New York State border.

Many exciting events and programs are in store for the 25th Anniversary of Lackawanna Heritage Valley, from the inaugural Heritage Explorer Golf Tournament presented by Munley Law at Pine Hills Country Club in June to our gala 25th Anniversary Celebration on the trail in September, and much more!

Without the generous support from residents and community volunteers in Lackawanna County, our Local, County, State and Federal officials, and the businesses and individuals who sponsor these events and programs and promote our mission, none of these wonderful things would be possible. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley relies on all of us to continue its journey and to survive as the keeper of our heritage and the catalyst enhancing the quality of life in the area. We are the storytellers, the dreamers, and the builders knowing that there is so much that LHV can become!

Julia K. Munley, Esq.

*Board President, Lackawanna Heritage Valley  
National and State Heritage Area*

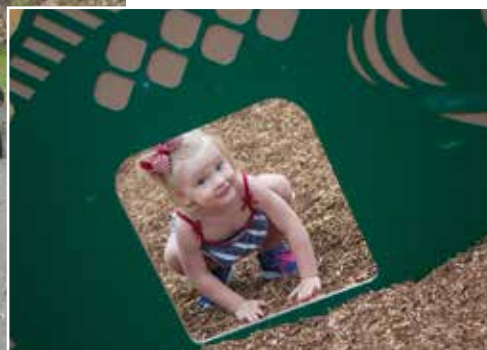


**Heritage Explorer  
Bike Tour Festival**

Hundreds of cycling enthusiasts toured the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail at the annual Heritage Explorer Bike Tour & Festival in June. This event earned the 2015 Hometown Hero SAGE Award!

**Nay Aug Avenue  
Natural Play  
Area**

Pennsylvania's first natural play area opened on July 27, 2015, on Nay Aug Avenue in Scranton.



**Santa Train**

More than 2,000 people welcomed Santa to town at Steamtown National Historic Site as part of the 19th annual Christmas in a Small Town: the Santa Train. The annual event attracted large crowds at six stops in Lackawanna County.



**Heritage  
Explorer Train**

Families enjoyed a day of old-fashioned fun in August with a special excursion on the Heritage Explorer Train from Scranton to Carbondale's Pioneer Days - Ethnic Heritage Festival.

**1991** • Governor Robert P. Casey designates Lackawanna Heritage Valley as the first Pennsylvania State Heritage Area

**1996** • Bob Durkin named Executive Director  
• Environmental Fair at Heritage Valley Center for hundreds of eighth graders

**1998** • Lackawanna River Heritage Trail opens from 7th Avenue to Elm Street in Scranton  
• Christmas in a Small Town: Santa Train travels from Carbondale, Archbald and Jessup

## Funding Partners

In 2015, Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area and Heritage Valley Partners received corporate and grant funding from:

National Park Service (NPS)  
 PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR)  
 Department of Community and Economic Development  
 Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP)  
 Heritage Valley Partners, Inc.  
 Scranton Half-Marathon  
 Lackawanna County Community Re-Invest  
 Fidelity Deposit & Discount Bank  
 National Recreation & Park Association  
 American Water Charitable Foundation  
 The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation  
 Willary Foundation  
 Margaret Briggs Foundation  
 Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
 Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC)  
 Scranton Area Foundation  
 Walmart

## Economic Investment

Lackawanna Heritage Valley requires a dollar-for-dollar (1:1) match for all of its grant awards. Organizations bring additional matching funds to a project, building on LHV's initial investment. For example, when LHV awards \$5,000 to a project that has a total project cost of \$15,000, the leverage ratio is 1:3.

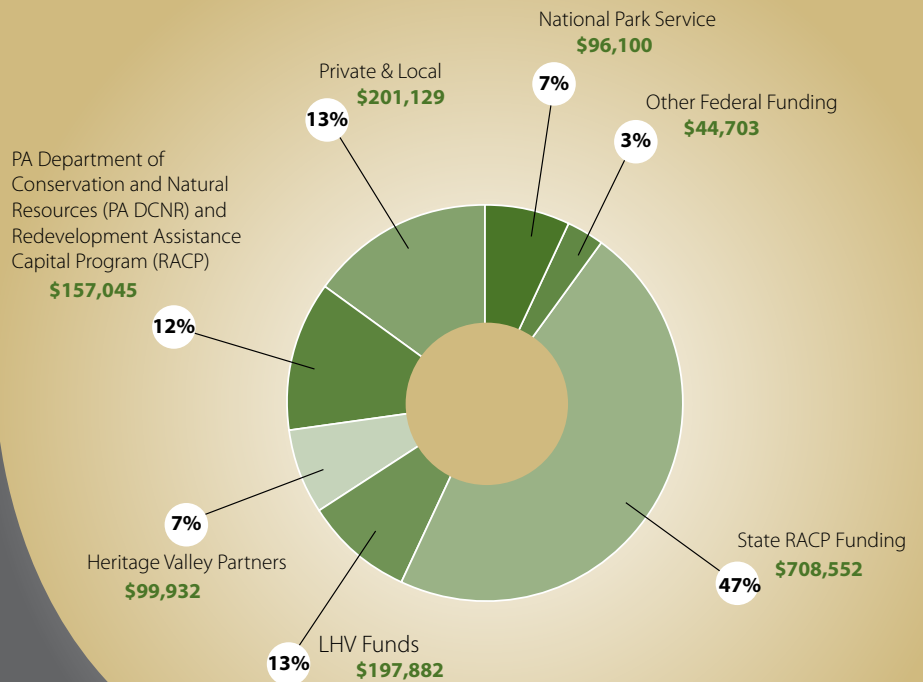
In 2015, LHV granted \$17,420 to local organizations to support projects, programs and events. The total cost of 2015 partner projects was \$295,562 creating a leveraging ratio of 1:17.

## Project Support

Lackawanna Heritage Valley funds projects that fulfill its mission and goals as outlined in the *Plan for the Lackawanna Heritage Valley* (1991), the *LHV Management Plan Update* (2001), and the *Management Action Plan and Environmental Impact Study* (2004). These projects stimulate the region's economic development, enhance tourism initiatives, strengthen the capacity of community organizations and increase the quality of life for area residents.

In 2015, Lackawanna Heritage Valley expended \$1,508,842 in total funding for 35 new and ongoing initiatives. Of this, LHV awarded \$17,420 through 24 grants to partner organizations.

LHV allocated \$1,487,925 to support 11 Heritage Area projects. Of this, \$1,426,563 funded the planning, development, improvement and maintenance of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail. The total cost for all 35 projects, including matching funds raised by partners, was \$1,883,487.



**In 2015,**  
**Lackawanna Heritage Valley**  
**expended \$1,508,842**  
**in total funding for**  
**35 new and**  
**ongoing initiatives.**

- 2011**
- Survey results show that the trail has a \$28 million impact on local economy
  - LHV celebrates 20th anniversary with production of "Legacy" video
  - Trail Tenders program established

- 2012**
- Iron District Task Force is established and LHV funds Feasibility Study
  - Downtown Scranton Walking Guidebook is published
  - Groundbreaking on 3-mile Mid Valley extension of trail

## 2015 Project Support by Funding Amount Lackawanna Heritage Valley Projects

Ambassador Tours .....	\$3,177
BikeScranton.....	\$16,955
Confluence Art on the Trail.....	\$3,800
Christmas in a Small Town: The Santa Train .....	\$2,447
Educational Materials.....	\$1,578
Heritage Explorer Bike Tour & Festival .....	\$9,036
Heritage Explorer Train .....	\$950
Heritage Valley Roundtable.....	\$745
Lackawanna River Heritage Trail and Trailhead Construction .....	\$999,314
Lackawanna River Heritage Trail Maintenance.....	\$35,115
Lackawanna River Heritage Trail Signage .....	\$117,653
Lackawanna River Heritage Trail Development .....	\$270,680
Lackawanna Heritage Valley Events.....	\$9,477
Strategic Planning .....	\$7,500
Videography.....	\$4,445
Web Design.....	\$5,050

## 2015 Lackawanna Heritage Valley Funding to Partners

Anthracite Heritage Museum & Iron Furnaces Associates, Arts on Fire .....	\$1,500
Anthracite Heritage Museum, Bonfire at The Iron Furnaces.....	\$300
Artists for Art (AFA) Gallery, Second Saturday Community Art Workshops .....	\$500
Clifford Township Historical Society, Canoe Exhibit Lighting and Rack Cards .....	\$1,100
Clifford Township Historical Society, Frank Little Bear Audio Narrative .....	\$250
Keystone College, Keystone Iron Works: Creating Sculptures that Connect to our Past .....	\$1,000
Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society, New Boiler Side Sheets.....	\$2,000
La Festa Italiana di Lackawanna County & Railfest.....	\$1,500
Lackawanna College Environmental Education Center, Wilderness Camp at LCEEC.....	\$1,500
Lackawanna Historical Society, A Tribute to Scranton's Mayors.....	\$1,500
Lackawanna Historical Society, You Live Here, You Should Know This! Local History Game Show.....	\$1,000
Lackawanna River Corridor Association, Riverfest 2015 .....	\$300
Rail-Trail Council of NEPA, D&H Distance Run.....	\$1,000
Steamtown National Historic Site, Ticket to Ride Program .....	\$1,470
Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple, History Mystery Tours.....	\$1,000
Scranton Jazz Festival .....	\$1,000
Scranton Shakespeare Festival, Romeo and Juliet.....	\$500
Scranton Tomorrow, Sesquicentennial Celebration of the City of Scranton .....	\$500

## Lackawanna Heritage Valley Educational Mini-Grants

Fell Charter School, Wondrous Worms: Farming our Way to Sustainability .....	\$500
Neil Armstrong Elementary, Steamtown U.S.A. ....	\$500
NEIU #19, Multicultural Dixieland Music Performance .....	\$500
The Greenhouse Project .....	\$500
Valley Community Library, Environmental Education along the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail .....	\$500
Wallenpaupack South Elementary, Farm to Table Community Service Project .....	\$500
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$1,508,842</b>

2013

- Heritage Valley redecks three bridges on D&H Extension of LRHT
- Keystone Iron Works and LHV develop "Confluence Sculpture Park" on the trail
- CNJ Extension of LRHT opens from Scranton to Taylor

2014

- 6.5 miles of Scranton Half Marathon is run on Lackawanna River Heritage Trail
- Economic impact study reports LHV programs and partnerships generate \$31 million annually in Northeastern Pennsylvania
- Trails to Prosperity Conference connects trails, health, and wellness and economy for local businesses

2015

- BikeScranton launches
- Nay Aug Avenue Natural Play Area opens in Scranton
- Heritage Explorer Bike Tour wins Hometown Hero and Natalie Gelb is named Woman of Excellence at SAGE Awards

# Ongoing Projects

Heritage Valley Partners, Inc., DX Dempsey and members of the Iron District Steering Committee unveiled plans to create a cultural destination at the historic Scranton Iron Furnaces site, and to develop adjoining properties to create an Iron Arts District in South Scranton. Highlights of the plan include:

- Creation of formal gateways to the historic area on Cedar Avenue in South Scranton, including signage and improved bicycle and walking paths.
- Improvements to the sidewalks and beautification of the area.
- Rehabilitation of the Iron Furnaces and upgrades to the site's greenspace to create a venue for community and social events.
- Architectural enhancements and streetscape improvements on Cedar Avenue.



DxDempsey's vision for the Scranton Iron Furnaces.

# Projects & Programs

*In honor of the 25th anniversary of Lackawanna Heritage Valley, a series of special projects and programs will commemorate this milestone in the Heritage Area's history. Highlights include:*

## June

### **Heritage Explorer Golf Tournament:**

Sunday, June 26, at 8 a.m., at Pine Hills Country Club in Taylor. A major fundraiser for LHV, organizers aspire to make this event an annual tradition in the heritage area.



## July

### **First Anniversary of Nay Aug Avenue Natural Play**

**Area:** Sunday, July 24, from 1 to 3 p.m. The celebration will include nature-themed Miniature Golf hosted by Penn State Master Gardeners, miniature ice cream cones and more!

## August

**Heritage Explorer Train:** Saturday, August 20. This special excursion will take passengers from Scranton to Carbondale's Pioneer Days!

## September

**25th Anniversary Gala:** Thursday, September 8, at the Olive Street Trailhead in Scranton. The event will feature food, beverages and live entertainment. Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn will be honored with the Founder's Award.

### **Heritage Explore Bike Tour & Festival:**

Sunday, September 25, at Blakely Borough Recreation Complex, Peckville.

## October

### **Eco-Friendly Scarecrows on the Trail:**

Saturday, October 8, 1 to 3 p.m., at Nay Aug Avenue Natural Play Area. Children will build scarecrows using eco-friendly materials.



**Stories & S'mores on the Trail:** Sunday, October 23, 1 to 3 p.m., at the Olive Street Trailhead. This event will feature spooky stories by the campfire, S'mores and a costume parade along the trail.

## December

**Christmas in a Small Town: The Santa Train:** Saturday, December 3, will bring Santa to six communities in the heritage area on a special train provided by Steamtown National Historic Site. The 2016 event will mark the 20th anniversary of this holiday tradition in the heritage area.

*For a complete schedule and the most up-to-date calendar, visit [www.lhva.org](http://www.lhva.org).*

**2008** • LHV funds feasibility study to restore Gravity Slope Colliery buildings

**2009** • LHV launches "Ambassadors in Action" volunteer program  
• Conservation Alliance hosts First Great NEPA Cleanup

**2010** • Leadership Lackawanna launches Heritage Explorer Bike Tour  
• Scranton Riverwalk opens  
• LHV hosts NEPA Trails Forum

## Who We Are

### **Lackawanna Heritage Valley Staff**

Natalie Gelb, *Executive Director*

Linda Mlodzienski, *CPA, Director of Operations*

Leo Danylak, *Fiscal Director*

Owen Worozbyt, *Trail Manager &*

*Environmental Projects Manager*

Julie Imel, *Public Relations & Programs Manager*

Beverlyann Liuzzo, *Assistant Fiscal Director*

April Rogato, *Executive Assistant*

### **The Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area**

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area (LHV) is a partnership of government, business, civic organizations, and individuals dedicated to the development of the region's historic, cultural, economic, and natural resources through preservation, education, and promotion of our heritage. LHV is managed by the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA), a municipal authority of Lackawanna County. In 2007, Heritage Valley Partners, Inc. was created as

the non-profit support entity to diversify funding and to attract additional public awareness to the mission and programs of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley. The mission of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley is to facilitate community action in the preservation, promotion and development of the region's history, cultural heritage, and natural resources. The goals of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley are to:

- Tell the region's story.
- Facilitate partnerships.
- Preserve and enhance the physical character and economic vitality of the communities in the Lackawanna Valley.
- Improve the visitor experience.
- Reconnect people and communities to the Lackawanna River.

### **National Heritage Areas**

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley is one of forty-nine National Heritage Areas recognized by Congress for their important contributions to the American experience. In partnership with the National Park Service, LHV celebrates the

nationally significant history of the Lackawanna Valley, preserving it for the benefit of current and future generations.

### **Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program**

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley was designated as Pennsylvania's first heritage area in April 1991. Administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program provides a catalyst for diverse groups within a region to protect, preserve, develop, and promote its heritage and natural resources. There are twelve heritage areas in the Commonwealth.

### **How to Reach Us**

Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area  
213 South 7th Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505  
570.963.6730 ext. 8200  
arogato@LHVA.org  
[www.LHVA.org](http://www.LHVA.org), [www.facebook.com/LackawannaHeritageValley](http://www.facebook.com/LackawannaHeritageValley)

## Our Friends

### **United States of America**

Barack H. Obama, *President*

### **United States Legislators**

US Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. (D-PA)

US Senator Patrick J. Toomey (R-PA)

US Representative Matt Cartwright (D-PA17)

US Representative Tom Marino (R-PA10)

### **National Park Service**

Jonathan B. Jarvis, *Director*

### **Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

Tom Wolf, *Governor*

### **Pennsylvania Legislators**

PA Senator Lisa Baker (R-20)

PA Senator John T. Yudichak (D-14)

PA Senator John P. Blake (D-22)

PA Representative Michael B. Carroll (D-118)

PA Representative Sid Michaels Kavulich (D-114)

PA Representative Sandra Major (R-111)

PA Representative Marty Flynn (D-113)

PA Representative Frank Farina (D-112)

### **PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**

Cindy Adams Dunn, *Secretary*

### **Lackawanna County**

#### **Commissioners**

Jim Wansacz, *Chair*

Patrick M. O'Malley

Edward G. Staback

### **Lackawanna Heritage Valley**

#### **Board of Directors 2015**

Julia Munley, Esq., *Chair*

Dominic Keating, Esq., *Vice-Chair*

Mark Matylewicz, *Treasurer*

Robert Savakinus, *Secretary*

Raymond Angeli, *Assistant Secretary/Treasurer*

Thom Welby

Joseph O. Haggerty, Esq., *Solicitor*

### **Heritage Valley Partners, Board of Directors**

Ellen Q. Bush, *Chair*

John Wiercinski, *Vice-Chair*

John Monnier, *Secretary/Treasurer*

David Bosley

Brian Cali, Esq.

L.P. Frieder

Fafi Karam

Grace McGregor Kramer

Eugene E. McDonough

Julia Munley

Robert Tamburro

Thom Welby



- 1999**
- Traveling Trunks in elementary schools
  - Mid-Valley section of trail opens from Blakely to Archbald

- 2000**
- John Cosgrove named Executive Director
  - LRHT becomes part of Steamtown Marathon course
  - Volunteers form Educational Alliance

- 2001**
- Lackawanna Heritage Valley designated a National Heritage Area



# New Projects

## Pedal Power

In May 2015, Heritage Valley Partners and Lackawanna Heritage Valley

launched BikeScranton, a free bike share program. BikeScranton was made possible through a \$15,000 grant from Northeastern Pennsylvania Healthcare Foundation.



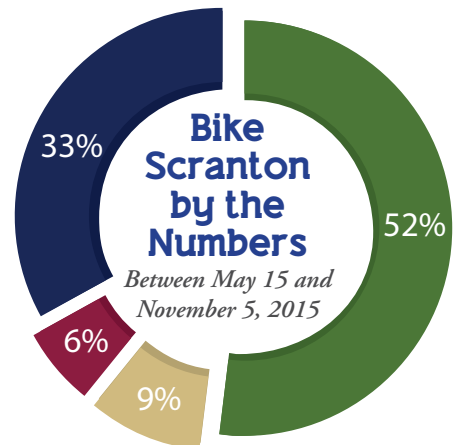
The program enjoyed immediate success, with bicycles available at four locations: The Weinberg Library at The University of Scranton, Hilton Scranton & Conference Center, Cedar Bike & Paddle and Lackawanna Heritage Valley Headquarters. With a photo ID, adults age 18 and older may borrow a bicycle for a short time, or for an entire day for free! The program is popular with a wide variety of people, from local riders to tourists; from college students to senior citizens.

**80%** (538) of the bicycles were borrowed from The University of Scranton and the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center

**63%** (422) of the bicycles shared were used by people under the age of 30

**52%** (347) of the bikes were borrowed by Scranton residents

On average, there was a total of **5 shares per day** over the course of 143 days, leading to **672 total shares**



Scranton	52%	Pennsylvania	6%
Lackawanna	9%	(excluding Lackawanna)	
(excluding Scranton)		Other State	33%

## Railroads, Rivers and You!

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, the Every Kid in a Park initiative was launched in 2015. The program offers free admission for all fourth graders and their families to more than 2,000 federally managed land and water sites nationwide through August 31, 2016. Steamtown National Historic Site and Lackawanna

Heritage Valley participated in this program by creating Railroads, Rivers, and You! (RRY!). Students spend the morning at Steamtown learning about trains and the significance of the railroad industry in Northeastern Pennsylvania. After enjoying hands-on activities with park rangers, the students visit the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail where they are introduced to the Lackawanna River and the natural resources in their own backyard. This program is continuing through 2016.



Above; Fourth grade students from across the region enjoy lessons in history, math, science and environmental studies through Railroads, Rivers and You! Left; Ranger Dan Kahl, of the National Park Service, leads students through a series of workshops at Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton.

# 100 years



## Reason to Celebrate!

The National Park Service turns 100 on August 25, 2016. Learn more about centennial celebrations: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

Steamtown National Historic Site will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2016. Learn more about special events and excursions: [www.nps.gov/stea](http://www.nps.gov/stea)

**2002** • WIA releases Stories from the Mines

**2003** • LHV hosts first Ambassador Tour  
• Conservation Alliance is created  
• Heritage Explorer Train travels to Carbondale for Pioneer Days

**2004** • Heritage Valley Roundtable convenes  
• LHVA receives Preserve America Presidential Award  
• Natalie Gelb named Executive Director

# Communing With Nature in the Heart of Scranton

The Nay Aug Avenue Natural Play Area in the Green Ridge section of Scranton opened on July 27, 2015. Located on Nay Aug Avenue, between Green Ridge Street and East Market Street, the park is situated on land adjacent to the levee of the Lackawanna River and the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail. The project began with a grant from the American Water Charitable Foundation, which led to generous donations from DCNR and other public and private entities. Designed by McLane Associates, the play area is built with natural and recycled materials. Funders and supporters include: American Water Charitable Foundation, PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (PA DCNR), The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Fidelity Deposit & Discount Bank, National Park Service (NPS), Lackawanna County, Willary Foundation, Margaret Briggs Foundation, Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), and the City of Scranton.



In November, officers of Fidelity Deposit & Discount Bank, community leaders and public officials celebrated the opening of the Fidelity Fishing Shack.



Funders, public officials and community leaders gathered at the play area for its official grand opening.

**190 volunteers**  
**provided 885**  
**service hours**  
**to build the Nay Aug**  
**Avenue Natural**  
**Play Area**



The design of the new trailhead park inspires creative play, and encourages children to unplug and commune with nature.



As part of the Lowe's Hometown Heroes program, volunteers helped to landscape and beautify the Nay Aug Avenue Natural Play Area.



The AeroGlider was added to the play area in November. It can accommodate up to two individuals using wheelchairs. The Honorable Cindy Dunn, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (PA DCNR); Keith Williams, Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator, and Christian Budney, both representing the Northeast Pennsylvania Center for Independent Living; and Michael Manganiello, Christopher and Dana Reeves Foundation, attended the ribbon cutting ceremony.



Paul Bechtel, an environmental scientist and landscape architect, helped design and build the Natural Play Area, including the simulated Beaver Dam shown here.

- 2005**
- LHV introduces Educational Mini-Grant program
  - Center for Anti-Slavery Studies features exhibit titled "The Place I Call Home"

- 2007**
- Heritage Valley Partners is established
  - WVIA works with LHV to produce "The Extraordinary Journey" film series