

Lackawanna River Heritage Trail



Rediscover the scenic Lackawanna River Heritage Trail.

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DISCOVER THE HISTORIC LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY

The Lackawanna River Heritage Trail is a storied route that stretches more than 70 miles, passing through the heart of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area. The trail is tied together with mining, rail, and Native American history, a sculpture park, and accessibility to Class-A Trout waters and attracts more than 450,000 annual visitors. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley is located amid the mountains of Northeastern Pennsylvania where the waters of the Lackawanna River flow.

The trail is an artery that connects more than 30 communities through Luzerne, Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wayne Counties. The trail begins at the river's confluence with the Susquehanna River at Duryea and Pittston in Luzerne County. It travels through Lackawanna County and joins the Delaware and Hudson (D&H) Rail-Trail in Simpson, managed by the Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. From that point, the D&H Rail-Trail extends north to the New York State border. With each new mile of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, forgotten portions of our watershed have been revived, now rich in family-friendly activities and environmental education that will ensure it continues to thrive.

Lackawanna Heritage Valley National & State Heritage Area
The Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area is located in Northeastern Pennsylvania and encompasses the watershed of the Lackawanna River in Lackawanna, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Luzerne Counties. The organization is uniquely positioned as a government authority of Lackawanna County, a National Heritage Area designated by the United States Department of the Interior and the National Park Service, and as Pennsylvania's first State Heritage Area, under the oversight of Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

The organization was established as a Pennsylvania Heritage Area in 1991 to capture the story of the Lackawanna Valley and to promote the stewardship of the region's founding and fundamental resources -- its land, its historic Anthracite coal and rail industries, and its resilient people. Since its inception, LHVA has continued to support and coordinate a diverse array of projects that preserve, promote, celebrate, and enhance the historic, cultural, and natural resources of northeastern Pennsylvania. While we aim to promote our region's history and heritage and foster a brighter future through many projects and programs, we are best known as the developer and caretaker of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail system.

TRAIL GUIDELINES AND USAGE

To ensure the enjoyment of all trail users, please obey these guidelines:

- YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS**
Pedestrians always have the right-of-way.
- KEEP RIGHT AND PASS ON LEFT**
Treat the trail like it is a highway.
- ANNOUNCE YOURSELF**
Example: "On Your Left"
- IF YOU'RE STOPPING, MOVE OFF THE TRAIL**
Allow other trail users room to pass on your left.
- PROPERLY CARE FOR YOUR ANIMALS**
All dogs must be kept on a 6' leash & waste must be picked up and properly disposed.
- RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY**
Follow all posted signage and access the trail using designated or public parking areas, trailheads, and access points.
- BE SAFE AND HAVE FUN**
Be kind to others and leave the trail as you found it.

STANDARD TRAIL ACTIVITIES

- On All Sections Of Trail:**
 - Walking
 - Running
 - Cycling
 - E-Bikes (under 20 mph)
 - Snowshoes
 - Cross-Country Skiing
 - On Paved Sections Of Trail:**
 - Roller-blading
 - North of Simpson:**
 - Horseback Riding
 - Snowmobiling (with permit)
- Please note that dogs are not currently permitted within the Blakely Borough Recreation Complex.



THE LOWER VALLEY: A TRAIL OF NATIVE AMERICAN DIPLOMACY

The southernmost section of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail connects Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties through Pittston, Duryea, Old Forge and Taylor. The trail winds through small towns in the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys where industrial activity and industrious people shaped the region you see today. Breakers, bore holes, and culm piles left from mines long since closed share the landscape with green space and wildlife that is reclaiming the future.

Just south of the City of Scranton, the Lower Valley corridor of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail is home to "Ohn Te Oak" ("Where They Fish"), which was once a Native American fishing village and Haudenosaunee diplomacy trail from the Wyoming Valley, through the Lackawanna Valley, and north to Syracuse. This corridor is now a popular section of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail that pays homage to the indigenous peoples who long ago recognized the site's natural beauty and potential as a travel route.

18th Century Peace Ambassador Timothy Pickering on the Wyoming Valley:
"THE MOST BEAUTIFUL TRAIL OF LAND MY EYES HAVE EVER BEHELD."

THE OQUAGA TRAIL A NATIVE AMERICAN DIPLOMACY TRAIL

The Oquaga trail, a Haudenosaunee diplomacy trail leading to Syracuse, once passed through the Lackawanna Heritage Valley. The Six Nations Amphitheater, a sculpture of a Haudenosaunee chief, traditional Native American lacrosse playing fields, carvings and tributes to Native American culture and the six Iroquois Nations can be found along the 2-mile section of trail between Elm Street in Scranton and the borough of Taylor.



THE MID VALLEY: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES AND THE OUTDOORS

The Mid Valley section runs more than twelve miles from the northern border of the Marvine Colliery in Scranton to the town of Jermyrn, leading trail users through Dickson City, Throop, Olyphant, Blakely, Jessup, and Archbald. Much of this area, once dominated by industry, has been reclaimed by nature and returned to the public for recreation. Old culm banks and bridge abutments offer testimony to the industrious past of the Olyphant Colliery while a Shifting Shanty, Fan House, and Oil House stand proud in Archbald marking the site of the Gravity Slope Colliery. Between both sites of a proud past, trail users can find historic town centers lined with elaborate churches and coveted eateries. This stretch of the Lackawanna River is part of the Exceptional Value Watershed.

The Laurel Street Trailhead in Archbald features an accessible fishing pier and a self-guided historic walking tour of this corridor adds to the recreational opportunities found in the Mid Valley. This corridor is also a popular launch point for those wishing to kayak the scenic Lackawanna River. It isn't unusual to see freight trains or steam-run passenger excursions running alongside nature as one of the oldest continuously running rail lines in the nation follows its way along the Lackawanna River between Scranton and Carbondale.

EXCEPTIONAL WATERS FROM HISTORIC MINES TO FISHING LINES

Fly fishermen and river otters share the Lackawanna's revitalized and green banks, beavers dam incoming streams, and bald eagles scout trout from lofty perches above the Class-A Wild Trout Waters, especially below Mayfield, where constant 55-degree water emerges from mine outflows offering the perfect habitat for trophy trout.

TRAIL RESOURCES

- CURRENT TRAILHEADS AND PARKING**
- LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY'S WEBSITE**
- ONLINE MOBILE TRAIL GUIDE**
- OFFICIAL TRAIL FACEBOOK PAGE**
- MAKE A CONTRIBUTION FOR TRAIL MAINTENANCE**

#BIKELACKAWANNA Lackawanna Heritage Valley's Free Bikeshare Program

Lackawanna Heritage Valley's Free Bikeshare Program offers anyone age 16 or older (with a valid Driver's License or state-issued photo I.D.) the opportunity to borrow a bike, ride anywhere they wish throughout the historic Lackawanna Heritage Valley, and return their bicycle when their ride is finished. Visit LHVA.org for the most up-to-date list of participating bikeshare locations throughout each section of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail.

Lackawanna Heritage Valley has also launched an Adaptive Bikeshare Program, in an effort to ensure the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail is enjoyable and accessible to all. We're proud to offer a fleet of free-to-use handcycles and recumbent bikes to wheelchair-bound riders and those with impaired balance or mobility. Currently, the fleet of adaptive bikes includes two recumbent bicycles and three handcycles, which allow riders to pedal with their arms. Anyone is welcome to borrow an adaptive bike by visiting the LHVA office from April through October to enjoy the sport of cycling on and off of the trail. The adaptive bicycles are also available through a number of special events and group rides.



HISTORY & HERITAGE SITES

Steamtown National Historic Site is a National Park Service site dedicated to the history of steam railroading, and the people who made it happen. Steamtown NHS showcases steam locomotives, restored cabooses, freight cars and passenger coaches dating from the early 20th century. The 52-acre site boasts an active Locomotive Repair Shop and Roundhouse with an operational turntable and a museum complex that includes a Visitor Center, History and Technology museums, and a 250-seat HD Surround-Sound theater.

The Lackawanna County Coal Mine Tour brings visitors 300 feet beneath the surface of the earth in a once abandoned, but now restored hard coal mine. See where and how men and boys worked to heat a nation and fuel the conversion of our nation's economy from agriculture to industry. The temperature in the mine is 53° year-round.

Located on the Steamtown National Historic Site grounds, downtown Scranton, in a splendidly restored late 19th-century mill building, Lackawanna County's Electric City Trolley Museum features interactive exhibits and displays including vintage trolleys. Climb aboard an authentic 1926 or 1932 antique trolley for a 5 1/2 mile trip over Roaring Brook through the mile-long tunnel and along the original "Laurel Line" up to PNC Field on Montage Mountain.

The Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum focuses on the history of hard coal mining, its related industries, and the immigrant culture of northeastern PA. The Museum tells the story of the people who came from Europe to work in the anthracite mining and textile industries. As you tour the facility, you will experience the lives of proud people who endured harsh working conditions, provided a better future for their families, and carved out communities steeped in tradition.

The Scranton Iron Furnaces, four massive stone blast furnace stacks built between 1848 and 1857, recall the titan Lackawanna Iron and Steel Company. The furnaces ranked as the second largest iron producer in the US by the 1880s, the mills producing T-Rails for America's railroads until 1902.

The Electric City Sign is perhaps the most recognizable part of the Scranton skyline. This historic sign shines from on top of the



Scranton Electric Building on Linden Street, right across from Courthouse Square. The Electric City Sign was created in the 1930s to honor the city's history. Thanks to careful restoration, it remains one of the country's oldest original electric signs still in existence.

The Lackawanna Historical Society was founded in 1886 to preserve the history of Lackawanna County, for the benefit of future generations. It is the oldest cultural institution in the county. Through the support of its members, the Society has collected significant published works, manuscripts, maps and atlases, documents, and artifacts capturing the area's rich and historical resources. Since 1942, the Society has operated from its present location, the Catlin House, built in 1912, in the city of Scranton. Over the sixteen-room residence of George H. Catlin, an early financier in the city, and his wife Helen, the turn-of-the-century home now serves as the organization's headquarters - accommodating exhibits, lectures, and research activities.

THE CITY OF SCRANTON: A PROUD PAST AND BRIGHTER FUTURE MEET

Spanning more than five miles, the Scranton sections of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail offer a number of different experiences. Following the flow of the Lackawanna River, trail users can journey from a serene natural setting, through an exciting urban environment, and ultimately to a reclaimed mining site now rich in history and recreational opportunity. Between Elm Street and Seventh Avenue, the sounds and sights of the nearby city are muted by birdcalls and glimpses of abundant wildlife. The Scranton Riverwalk follows for about one mile, offering a lit pathway perfect for taking the Lackawanna Avenue Connector to downtown Scranton or staying the course along the river where magnificent murals and the views and sounds of city life are separated by the flowing waters of the Lackawanna.

The Levee corridor runs atop a portion of Scranton's flood control levee for three miles, showcasing interesting perspectives of the city and sites of its proud industrial past. Sweeney's Beach recreational site offers a respite from the urban bustle and the latest Parker Street Landfill recreational site offers a canoe and kayak launch and rehabilitated fish habitat as part of Lackawanna Heritage Valley's mission to make outdoor recreation as accessible as possible. The Scranton section ends with a one-mile section of trail at the site of the former Marvine Colliery. This formerly abandoned mining site has been reclaimed, once again reconnecting people to the Lackawanna River and remaining relics of history.

TRAIL USER AFTER CYCLING ACROSS THE COUNTRY

"I truly believe the Scranton area can be on the short list of best bike-tour destinations in the U.S."

THE ELECTRIC CITY SCRANTON'S PERSEVERANCE AND INGENUITY

Scranton and its surrounding communities and coal-patch towns helped to write America's story through the mining of Anthracite coal, contributions to the textile industry, advancements in the iron industry, and major contributions to America's rail history. The nation's first successful, continuously operating electrified streetcar (trolley) system was also established in the city in 1886, inspiring the nickname "The Electric City".



THE UPPER VALLEY: YOUR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE, UNINTERRUPTED

This section of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail provides an interesting transition from the urban character and small town charm of the trail corridors to the south to a more rural and uninterrupted outdoor experience heading north. Beginning in Jermyrn, the trail travels through Mayfield, Carbondale and Simpson before meeting with the D&H Rail-Trail and continuing north for an additional 38 miles toward the New York State Border.

Much of the trail between Jermyrn and Mayfield includes on-street routes that wind through shaded avenues and vibrant downtowns before becoming increasingly rural. The Carbondale Riverwalk begins in the historic downtown of the Pioneer City, before continuing north to Simpson where it meets the D&H Rail-Trail.

The D&H Rail-Trail, managed by the Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, meanders northward out of the industrialized Lackawanna Valley and through the many rolling hills and quiet farming communities between Susquehanna and Wayne Counties. From the headwaters of the Lackawanna to the towering arches of the Starucca Viaduct, the D&H offers beautiful views and amazing sites.

SHAPING HISTORY A VALLEY OF 'FIRSTS' LEADS NATION FORWARD

Much of the history of the Upper Lackawanna Valley reflects the stories of anthracite railroading, industry and immigration that are common across the Northern Coal Field, but the Upper Valley is home to many 'firsts' for the nation, including the discovery of anthracite coal, first deep underground mine, and first anthracite breaker near Carbondale and the development of "First Aid" taught to miners at the Windsor Hotel in Jermyrn.

TRAVEL DISTANCE CALCULATOR

USE THIS CHART TO DETERMINE DISTANCES (IN MILES) BETWEEN KEY SECTIONS ALONG THE LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL.

		Simpson: Morse Avenue	Carbondale: John Street	Mayfield: Meredith Street	Jermyrn: Delaware Street	Archbald: Laurel Street	Blakely: Depot Street	Olyphant: Heritage Valley Crossing	Dickson City: Railroad Street	Scranton: Parker Street	Scranton: Market Street	Scranton: Green Ridge Street	Scranton: Albright Avenue	Scranton: Olive Street	Scranton: 7th Avenue	Scranton: Broadway	Scranton: Elm Street	Taylor: Keyser Creek	Pittston: Waterfront
Upper Valley	Simpson: Morse Avenue	1.4	2.4	6.1	8.9	10.6	11.9	14.1	17.1	18.4	18.8	19.3	20.2	20.8	21.3	21.7	23.7	30.4	
	Carbondale: John Street	1.4	3.8	4.7	7.5	9.2	10.5	12.7	15.7	17.0	17.4	17.9	19.2	19.4	19.9	20.3	22.3	29.0	
	Mayfield: Meredith Street	2.4	2.4	7.0	5.1	7.4	8.1	10.3	13.3	14.6	15.0	15.5	16.4	17.0	17.5	17.9	19.9	26.6	
	Jermyrn: Delaware Street	6.1	3.7	7.3	2.8	5.1	5.8	8.0	11.0	12.3	12.7	13.2	14.1	14.7	15.2	15.6	17.6	24.3	
Mid Valley	Archbald: Laurel Street	8.5	6.1	5.1	2.8	2.3	3.0	5.2	8.2	9.5	9.9	10.4	11.3	11.9	12.4	12.8	14.8	21.5	
	Blakely: Depot Street	10.2	7.8	7.4	5.1	2.3	0.7	2.9	5.9	7.2	7.6	8.1	9.0	9.6	10.1	10.5	12.5	19.2	
	Olyphant: Heritage Valley Crossing	11.9	9.5	8.1	5.8	3.0	0.7	2.2	5.2	6.5	6.9	7.4	8.3	8.9	9.4	9.8	11.8	18.5	
	Dickson City: Railroad Street	14.1	11.7	10.3	8.0	5.2	2.9	2.2	3.0	4.3	4.7	5.2	6.1	6.7	7.2	7.6	9.6	16.3	
Scranton	Parker Street	18.4	16.4	14.8	12.3	9.5	7.2	6.0	4.3	1.3	0.4	0.9	1.8	2.4	2.9	3.3	5.3	12.0	
	Market Street	18.8	16.8	15.0	12.7	9.9	7.6	6.9	4.7	1.7	0.4	0.5	1.4	2.0	2.5	2.9	4.9	11.6	
	Green Ridge Street	19.3	17.2	15.5	13.2	10.4	8.1	7.4	5.2	2.2	0.9	0.5	0.9	1.5	2.0	2.4	4.4	11.1	
	Albright Avenue	20.2	18.2	16.4	14.1	11.3	9.0	8.3	6.1	3.1	1.8	1.4	0.9	0.6	1.4	1.5	3.5	10.2	
Lower Valley	Olive Street	20.8	19.0	17.0	14.7	11.9	9.6	8.8	6.7	3.7	2.4	2.0	1.5	0.6	0.5	0.9	2.8	9.6	
	7th Avenue	21.7	19.6	17.5	15.1	12.4	10.1	9.4	7.2	4.2	2.9	2.5	2.0	1.1	0.6	0.4	2.4	9.1	
	Broadway	22.2	20.2	17.9	15.6	12.8	10.5	9.8	7.6	4.6	3.3	2.9	2.4	1.5	1.1	0.5	2.0	8.7	
	Elm Street	23.7	22.2	19.9	17.6	14.8	12.5	11.8	9.6	6.6	5.3	4.9	4.4	3.5	3.1	2.5	2.0	6.7	
Pittston: Waterfront	30.4	29.0	26.6	24.3	21.5	19.2	18.5	16.3	13.3	12.0	11.6	11.1	10.2	9.6	9.1	8.7	6.7		

*D&H Trail
Continues North*

Lackawanna River Heritage Trail



lhva.org

- Multi-use Trail
- Unpaved surface
- On-road route
- Trail parking



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*Luzerne Co.
Nat'l Rec. Trail
Continues South*

Exeter

Hughestown

Dupont

Pittston Twp

State Game
Land No. 91