



## Calling outdoor enthusiasts

*LHVA seeks input for Greenway plans*

**By Natalie Gelb Solfanelli**

Are you a runner, walker, or bike rider? Do you like to fish? Do you visit parks or use fitness trails? Are you looking for outdoor recreation spots or a place to take your family?

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA) is looking for answers to these questions!

Survey forms will be distributed from August through October to identify current and potential users of the region's natural resources. It is seeking information on trails, lakes, and streams, as well as man-made facilities, such as parks, recreational facilities and playing fields.

LHVA is working to develop the Lackawanna Greenway and the entire Lackawanna River Heritage Trail (LRHT) as a cohesive unit to connect with major Greenway Corridors in the National Trail Network.

The Greenway, with the Lackawanna River as its spine, encompasses the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, as well as the lakes, streams, spur trails, parks, recreational facilities and open space from northern Susquehanna County, through Lackawanna County, to the confluence with the Susquehanna River at Duryea in Luzerne County.

Over the past 20 years, many studies, plans, and natural inventories have been prepared but not implemented for this region. LHVA has commissioned an ACTION plan. This study will not sit on a shelf. The plan not only will produce recommendations for the alignment and development of the entire LRHT, but it also will provide construction documents that will enable LHVA to build additional sections of the planned forty mile LRHT to connect Jermynto Archbald and Scranton to Taylor.

When completed, the LRHT will be suitable for non-motorized uses, including walking, jogging, cycling, and cross-country skiing. Most sections will be handicapped accessible. Several sections on the upper Delaware and Hudson Rail Trail north of Carbondale will allow equestrian and snowmobile use. The River will provide a parallel water trail for boating and fishing. Each improved section of the LRHT will have a trailhead with a parking lot and amenities.

The Project Description:

The overall goal of the project, "Lackawanna Greenway Plan, the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail (LRHT) Feasibility Study, and the CNJ Trail Extension Master Site Plan," is to compile all of the information

and resources that LHVA will need to establish the Lackawanna Greenway and to develop the entire Lackawanna River Heritage Trail. The final results will include an action plan outlining steps for immediate implementation.

The Greenway Plan is being prepared by a group of professional planners, engineers, landscape architects and economists who have wide experience in designing trail systems in urban areas. The first public meeting on the Greenway Plan was held in July at the Theatre at Steamtown National Historic Site. More than one hundred individuals participated in small group discussions regarding the plan. Each group then reported back to the full audience, outlining its ideas and recommendations. The planners were impressed by the wide range of interests and the high level of community engagement among the participants. They returned to their task with enthusiasm and optimism that the Lackawanna Greenway not only will provide connections and alternative transportation opportunities for residents, but it also will attract visitors and act as a catalyst for community and economic development.

Survey forms will be available at trail locations, as well as at various businesses. To date, the following members of the Scranton Business Association have agreed to distribute the forms: Anthology Book, COLTS, Duffy Accessories, Fanciful Fox, First Liberty Bank (North Washington Avenue), Green Being, Northern Light, PA Treasury and Vintage Theatre. Surveys also will be available at the Lackawanna County Libraries. If you would like to share your information and ideas, please go to [www.LHVA.org](http://www.LHVA.org). Think about amenities that you would like to see and the ways you would like to use the trail, such as signage, parking, dog stations, pocket parks for children, canoe launches, fitness tracks or a route to ride your bike to work. LHVA wants and needs your input!

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