I love telling the story of the Lackawanna Valley. For those of us who were born and raised here, this is a very special place. Wherever I travel, I seem to meet others who feel the same way. They’re either from here, or have ties to this region, creating an unspoken, yet recognizable connection – a bond that’s forged from our shared heritage.

We are proud to tell the story of our ancestors who “came to build a new life and ended up building a new nation.” We have adopted this slogan for the Lackawanna Heritage Valley because it accurately summarizes the diverse stories of the immigrants who made this area so significant to America’s role in the Industrial Revolution.

By the mid-nineteenth century, far-sighted settlers began to develop our region’s rich natural resources, while early entrepreneurs created new industries that attracted waves of immigrants. Soon, towns and ethnic communities sprang up along the Lackawanna River, which provided power and links to the big cities of the Northeast.

By the early twentieth century, our area had been transformed into a hub of commerce, manufacturing, and transportation. With a population of 125,000, Scranton was the region’s largest city, boasting a vibrant community that would help give birth to the American labor movement.

Ultimately, a rich culture developed, reflecting a strong resourcefulness and work ethic, close family ties, ethnic and religious traditions, and community solidarity. Of course, these are the traits that have survived and are now recognized as our proud lineage.

Today, we are committed to preserving and educating the public about our heritage. We also are working to reclaim our resources, to conserve our historic and natural environment, to reconnect to the river running through our valley, and to communicate the stories and culture that unite us to each other.

Although we celebrate the past, we do not live in it. We will continue to welcome immigrants from other parts of the world, to revitalize our communities, to build new traditions, and to adopt new technologies.

As we honor our place in today’s world and continue to discover ourselves, we invite you to join us and to learn more about the Lackawanna Heritage Valley.

Sincerely,

Natalie Gelb Solfanelli
Executive Director
“We have identified how crucial it is to tell people our story. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority leads our effort to educate the people of this County and the world at large about our heritage and history.”

LACKAWANNA COUNTY COMMISSIONER ROBERT C. CORDARO

Our Story
Welcome to the Lackawanna Heritage Valley!

The Lackawanna Valley's story is both unique and distinctly American. Settled in 1820, the region grew from a rugged frontier village into the powerful engine that drove America's Industrial Revolution. Millions of years before, natural forces laid down rich, black beds of anthracite coal – a dense, compacted fuel source perfect for running machines and building empires. The huge coal industry was born.

But the area is about more than coal. Iron and steel production, railroading and railroad building, food processing, large-scale fabrication, printing, textiles, and mass education all played a significant role in the Lackawanna Valley's growth. Between 1860 and 1910 industrial activity in the Valley expanded dramatically. This drew waves of new immigrants who helped transform the Valley and created a rich cultural heritage.

In 1991, the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA) was named the first State Heritage Park in Pennsylvania, and in 2000, it was designated as a National Heritage Area by the United States Congress. A member of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, LHVA encompasses the watershed area of the Lackawanna River in Lackawanna, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Luzerne counties and includes the Steamtown National Historic Site.

LHVA, through assistance provided by the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, develops partnerships with local communities, organizations, and historical attractions through grants, event sponsorship, and technical assistance. These partnerships protect the region’s heritage and natural resources and strengthen the economic vitality of the Lackawanna Valley's diverse communities.

LHVA’s partnerships have also generated millions of dollars for the local economy by developing a visitors’ center, greenways, trails, festivals, environmental and cultural projects, educational initiatives, volunteer programs, and museums…all focused on celebrating the Lackawanna Valley's pivotal role in America's Industrial Revolution.

Photos at top of page:
1. Alliance of National Heritage Areas representatives meet with NPS Director Fran P. Mainella. From left: Alan Saches, Mainella, Natalie Gelb Solfanelli, Kurt Zwikl, John Cosgrove, Brenda Barrett.
2. Lackawanna Valley
3. An environmental fair draws plenty of happy faces.
4. Nay Aug Gorge
Our Mission

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA) is a partnership of government, business, civic, and non-profit 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.

Our Goals

- 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 to the Lackawanna River

“The story of Northeastern Pennsylvania is, in many ways, the story of our nation. It is important that the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority continue its nationally significant mission to protect and preserve our local heritage.”

U.S. CONGRESSMAN DON SHERWOOD
SHINING THE LIGHT ON OUR FUTURE

Celebrating Partnerships

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA) plays a vital role in promoting and preserving our region’s proud heritage and its important contributions to the history of the United States. We believe that success depends on building strong partnerships with local communities, organizations, and historical attractions to help them develop important projects and strengthen the capacity of their organizations. LHVA participates in projects that focus on four key areas:

- Conserving and interpreting Northeastern Pennsylvania’s industrial heritage
- Educating our young people about our heritage and natural resources
- Protecting and promoting the Lackawanna River and its watershed
- Improving the economic vitality of our diverse communities

Major Initiatives in 2005

THE SCRANTON RIVERFRONT GREENWAY

The Scranton Riverfront Greenway, a current phase of LHVA’s Lackawanna River Heritage Trail project, will lead to the development of a multi-purpose riverwalk adjacent to Scranton’s downtown business district. Future Greenway development efforts also include riverfront amenities, commercial establishments, parking, recreational facilities, outdoor gathering spaces, and ramps with direct access to the water for fishing, canoeing, and kayaking. With convenient public access from a variety of locations, the Greenway will physically connect Scranton High School, downtown Scranton, Steamtown National Historic Site, the Electric City Trolley Station & Museum, the Pennsylvania State Office Building, the Steamtown Mall, and the proposed Intermodal Transportation Center.

Photos at top of page:
1. Canoeists on the Lackawanna River
2. Heritage Valley Roundtable
3. New Lackawanna County Trolley Bus
4. Community Connections to the Watershed Program

Senator Robert Mellow presents Natalie Gelb Solfanelli and the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority with a $100,000 check to fund the Scranton Riverfront Greenway master plan.
LHVA worked closely with its design consultants in 2005 to develop a preliminary design report for the Greenway. This report was presented to the community at a public meeting in July at Scranton High School, and the meeting aired on Channel 61/Scranton Today numerous times following the live forum.

Final design of the Greenway is expected to be complete in spring 2006, with construction following soon after. In anticipation of this, LHVA is working with key regional partners to develop a Master Plan for the Lackawanna River corridor within the City of Scranton. This plan will recommend appropriate recreational and urban development for the area surrounding the riverfront, while focusing on the river as a catalyst for the ongoing revitalization of downtown Scranton. In October 2005, LHVA was awarded a $100,000 grant by Senator Robert Mellow to assist with these crucial planning efforts.

HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

One of LHVA’s major goals is to develop a Heritage Interpretive Center to tell the comprehensive story of our region’s industrial heritage and to promote and provide easy accessibility to its historic sites and tourist attractions. As a first step toward this goal, LHVA convened the Industrial Heritage Task Force (IHTF) in 2004 under the direction of William Withuhn, Senior Curator at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. The IHTF included historic site managers, members of community organizations and commissions, and representatives from local, state and federal government.

Throughout 2005, the IHTF provided a forum for monthly discussions of interpretation, marketing, project themes, and design. In the fall of 2005, having completed its initial mission, the task force was reconfigured into an advisory group of historic site managers, tourism representatives, county representatives, and community partners. Renamed the Heritage Interpretive Partnership, this group is assisting LHVA with the future phases of the project.

As the next major step toward development of the Heritage Interpretive Center, LHVA has generated a request for proposals to design and develop a top-quality, cutting edge interpretive exhibit. LHVA plans to locate the Heritage Interpretive Center in downtown Scranton along with offices for the LHVA staff and for the Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau. This central location will actively promote the Lackawanna Valley’s many heritage and tourism attractions to residents and visitors alike.
Heritage Partners

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA) works closely with historic sites, heritage organizations, and dedicated individuals to preserve and interpret the Lackawanna Valley’s industrial heritage. We do this through exhibits, programs, conservation and restoration programs, and heritage tourism initiatives.

**BOROUGH OF JESSUP**

The Mid-Valley Heritage Center Development Project will turn an historic building into an interpretation center for Jessup’s industrial history with support from the LHVA.

**CENTER FOR ANTI-SLAVERY STUDIES**

The Center for Anti-Slavery Studies is studying Northeastern Pennsylvania’s role in the Underground Railroad and Abolition movements of the 19th century. It will develop its findings into a traveling exhibit and website project called “The Place I Call Home.” Now in the research and planning phase, the project provides a unique opportunity for LHVA and the Endless Mountains Heritage Region to collaborate on a regional history initiative.

**COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY**

The Conservancy has been working for several years to develop and transform parts of a former trolley route into a non-motorized recreational trail. LHVA assisted the Conservancy in reprinting Norm Brauer’s book, “The Northern Electric: A Narrative of the Dalton Street Railway Company, Northern Electric Street Railway Co., Scranton & Binghamton Railway Company.” Proceeds from the book sales will be used for the trail project.

**ELECTRIC CITY TROLLEY STATION & MUSEUM**

LHVA helped the trolley station to reprint the book, “Laurel Line: An Anthracite Region Railway” as well as to continue with much needed restoration work on Trolley Car #8534. This will add another car to the station’s fleet for its trolley excursion program.

**EVERHART MUSEUM**

LHVA partnered with the Everhart Museum to develop a new Visible Storage Room, a unique behind-the-scenes look at how the museum stores and cares for its extensive collection of natural history artifacts.

Photos at top of page:
1. Blowing Steam
2. Countryside Conservancy celebrates the reprinting of “The Northern Electric.”
3. The Center for Anti-Slavery Studies
4. Lackawanna Historical Society members enjoy the Sheridan monument re-dedication ceremony
HERITAGE VALLEY ROUNDTABLE

A unique collaborative venture sponsored by LHVA, the Heritage Valley Roundtable is a monthly breakfast meeting of regional heritage site managers to share ideas and best practices. It includes the Albright Memorial Library, Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum and Scranton Iron Furnaces, Center for Anti-Slavery Studies, Electric City Trolley Station & Museum, Everhart Museum, Hope Horn Gallery at the University of Scranton, Lackawanna Coal Mine, Lackawanna College, Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Lackawanna Historical Society, Scranton Cultural Center, Steamtown National Historic Site, and other key community organizations.

HOPE HORN GALLERY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON


LACKAWANNA & WYOMING VALLEY RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LHVA continues to support the long-term restoration project of the Boston & Maine Locomotive No. 3713. This million-dollar project will bring the steam locomotive back to life and will provide Steamtown National Historic Site with an American-made working engine for their yard and for mainline excursions.

LACKAWANNA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society’s amateur theater group, the Past Players, made local history come alive in the Dunmore and Waverly cemeteries with the plays, “Under the Lackawanna Moon” and “Under the Abington Moon.” LHVA provided funding for this project, as well as, the rededication of the Sheridan Monument, complete with a regimental band and a 19th century costumed ball, the annual Historic House Tour, and the Olyphant Coal Miners Monument.

THE NORTHEAST THEATRE (TNT)

Education Partners

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA) is committed to connecting children and adults with the Lackawanna Valley’s rich history and beautiful natural resources through a variety of innovative heritage and environmental education projects. Many of these are developed in conjunction with our educational partner, the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit #19 (NEIU).

ALBRIGHT MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND LACKAWANNA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

LHVA offered the successful heritage education program, the Traveling Trunks, in nine area libraries during July 2005. This project was the result of a new partnership with the Albright Memorial Library, the Lackawanna County Library System, the NEIU, four regional artists, and heritage site partners.

A total of 481 children attended the program. Of that number, over 200 became Jr. Ambassadors for perfect attendance at all four sessions. They received a letter of congratulations, a certificate, and free or discounted coupons to area historic attractions and museums. The Traveling Trunks program was featured on WVIA-FM, WNEP-TV, and WNEP.com as well as in ten area newspapers including the Times-Tribune. The program will return to the libraries in July 2006.

EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCES

LHVA sponsors Education and Environmental Alliances to bring together people from diverse backgrounds and professions and to create a consistent forum for ideas in these program areas. These alliances allow LHVA to strategically engage our partners and the public, and to receive their input regarding existing and proposed projects and program.

EDUCATIONAL CLASSROOM DEVELOPMENT

LHVA is providing technical assistance and funding to Steamtown National Historic Site and to the Electric City Trolley Station & Museum to develop Education Centers at both facilities. These centers will provide each site with a dedicated space for educational activities.

GEOGRAPHY 21st CENTURY TEACHING AND LEARNING

This project created a template for the state of Pennsylvania to integrate geographical topics such as heritage, culture, and cartography into an established K-12 curriculum. It was developed by NEIU #19 and the National Geographic Society in partnership with LHVA.
Environmental Partners

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley is committed to regional environmental efforts. It works closely with the Lackawanna River Corridor Association, the Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and government agencies, municipalities, businesses, and individuals to restore, conserve, and promote the Lackawanna River and its watershed resources. This takes shape through a variety of educational programs, trail development projects, partnerships, and events.

KEystone College

The objective of this project was to enhance public access to water quality data and supporting educational materials for Keystone College’s water quality monitoring network. With LHVA’s assistance, the college was able to install computer equipment and to contract with researchers to place the data on the worldwide web.

Lackawanna College

In 2005, LHVA provided major support for the college’s feasibility study on the adaptive reuse of the Moffat Estate in Covington Township, and toward establishing the college’s new Environmental Institute at the Estate as a research and teaching resource.

Lackawanna River Corridor Association

LHVA works closely with the LRCA on many environmental projects, including developing sections for the forty mile alignment of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, funding a feasibility study for the Taylor/Old Forge section, and sponsoring the Lackawanna Riverfest 2005.

Lackawanna State Park/NEIU #19

LHVA, in partnership with the Lackawanna State Park, NEIU #19, and Pennsylvania American Water, participates in the Community Connections to the Watershed educational initiative for high school students. This year-long program of field trips and activities focuses on how local communities are connected to the Lackawanna and Susquehanna Rivers.

Lackawanna Valley Conservancy

In 2005, LHVA supported the organization’s Carbondale Riverfront Greenway Site Acquisition project. This project helped protect a key property for future open space work in Carbondale.

“HERITAGE CONNECTIONS” EDUCATIONAL MINI-GRANTS PROGRAM

New for the 2005/2006 school year, LHVA developed this grant program with the NEIU to encourage innovative educational projects in area schools. The process was open to preschool, elementary, or secondary teachers. Projects or activities must promote an understanding and appreciation of the heritage of our region, or develop an understanding of the students’ role as caretakers of the environment. Projects will take place during the 2006 spring semester.

Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley works with the Scranton Cultural Center on a community and cultural outreach program that educates students, adults, and seniors about Northeastern Pennsylvania’s cultural heritage.

Photos at top of page:
1. Fishing at Lackawanna State Park
2. Musician Doug Smith with Jr. Ambassadors at the Traveling Trunks Program
3. Lackawanna College
4. Community Connections to the Watershed Program
“In addition to educating local residents about our shared heritage, the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority helps foster economic development and environmental restoration of our area’s natural resources.”

U.S. SENATOR ARLEN SPECTER

Community Outreach

Connecting with the community is a vital part of the mission of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA). We constantly strive to reach out to partners, regional communities, and heritage area colleagues. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many individuals, we have achieved numerous important goals.

GRANT PROGRAM
The Partnership Grants Program is an important component of LHVA’s outreach to the community. For many years, the program has funded a diverse range of educational, historic preservation, environmental, cultural, and community economic development projects that have produced positive results in our communities.

HERITAGE AMBASSADORS PROGRAM
Created by the LHVA in conjunction with its heritage partners, this one-day rolling classroom takes guests to key heritage sites in the Lackawanna Valley. Stops include: the Electric City Trolley Station & Museum, Steamtown National Historic Site, Scranton’s Courthouse Square, the Scranton Cultural Center, the Lackawanna Historical Society, Everhart Museum, Nay Aug Park, the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour, and the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum. The 2005 LHVA Ambassadors Program hosted 122 guests on six tours, fostering pride and excitement about our area.

LHVA also hosted special tours for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Committee; DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis; Pennsylvania Director of Cultural and Heritage Tourism Lenwood Sloan; the Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program managers; and National Park Service Director Fran Mainella.

VISITOR SURVEY INFORMATION
In 2005, LHVA and its partners conducted an important visitor survey project. From July to October 2005, 523 visitor surveys were collected from the Lackawanna County Visitor Center at Montage, Steamtown National Historic Site, the Everhart Museum, the Electric City Trolley Station & Museum, and the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum. The final detailed report will be available in late 2006.

NEW PROMOTIONS
LHVA conducted a series of promotional advertisements on WNEP-TV 16 for the “All in a Day’s Drive” campaign. The three spots highlighted our area’s cultural, recreational, and heritage attractions, and aired a total of 672 commercials, making over 4.2 million impressions on viewers 18 years and older. WNEP-TV also aired a LHVA ad for the Santa Train project during the popular Jaycee’s Santa Parade in Scranton.
Economic Development Partners

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley is a community and economic development organization that promotes all of the Lackawanna Valley’s assets. As the second largest industry in Pennsylvania, tourism adds economic strength and great vitality to our communities.

SCRANTON TOMORROW

The LHVA supports the annual First Night Scranton celebration, a popular, family-oriented alternative to the usual festivities that are traditionally associated with ringing in the New Year. We also helped organize Scranton’s 2005 City Pride annual cleanup and beautification project, including a very successful clean-up of the Lackawanna River. LHVA staff member Jesse Ergott co-chaired the event.

Photos at top of page:
1. Spring at the Everhart Museum
2. Steamtown National Historic Site is the region’s most popular heritage tourist attraction.
3. First Night® Scranton Celebration
4. Steamtown National Historic Park ranger, Mark Muha, with LHVA’s Ambassadors Program

SCRANTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Leadership Lackawanna, an annual volunteer training forum for the area’s emerging leaders, partnered with LHVA on a new map, “Walk Scranton,” and signage project for downtown Scranton.

STEAMTOWN MARATHON

LHVA is a proud sponsor of the Steamtown Marathon, an official Boston Marathon qualifying race that is ranked as one of the nation’s ten fastest courses by Runner’s World Magazine. Held each October, a portion of the race is run over the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail.
Since 1916, the National Park Service (NPS) has been the federal agency responsible for preserving nationally significant natural and historic resources for present and future generations. Through the National Heritage Areas program, NPS fosters local stewardship to preserve and protect the historic and cultural landscapes that define our American experience. NPS provides valuable “seed” money for basic expenses, leverages money from other sources, and lends its expertise in historic preservation, interpretation and natural resource conservation.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

The Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program (PHPP) is an initiative administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). The program is a catalyst for diverse groups to join together to develop a unified strategy for protecting, preserving, and promoting their area’s unique industrial heritage. Over the last ten years, the Pennsylvania General Assembly has appropriated over $25 million to fund the PHPP.

Funding Partners

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Investing in Our Future

LHVA was involved in 59 active projects and programs during 2005. The total project cost for these initiatives was $4.9 million.

Out of the 59 initiatives, 37 (63%) were new projects and programs. LHVA committed $390,000 in grant funding toward these projects during 2005. LHVA also contributed significant technical assistance and staff time to over 25 new and ongoing projects.

All 59 projects took place in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Their total project cost of $4.9 million represents a powerful investment in the region’s economic development by LHVA and its community partners.

LHVA PROJECTS & PROGRAMS (2005)

Heritage & Historic Preservation ..................................31%
Environmental ..........................................................20%
Community & Economic Development ......................20%
Education ..............................................................15%
Regional Tourism Development ..............................10%
LHVA Outreach ..........................................................4%

Photos at top of page:
1. Lackawanna Heritage Valley reviews Lackawanna River Heritage Trail with PA DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. From left: Jesse Ergott, Bernard McGurl (Lackawanna River Corridor Association), DiBerardinis, Dennis DeMara (PA DCNR).
2. Community Connections to the Watershed Program.
A “National Heritage Area” is a place designated by the United States Congress where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These patterns make National Heritage Areas representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved in the areas.

— National Park Service
2005 PARTNERS

National Park Service
PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
PA Department of Community & Economic Development
PA Department of Transportation
Lackawanna County
Alliance of National Heritage Areas

Allbright Memorial Library/Lackawanna County Library System
Borough of Archbald
Borough of Jessup
The Center for Anti-Slavery Studies
City of Carbondale
City of Scranton
Coolbaugh Township Historical Association
The Countryside Conservancy
Dorflinger-Suydam Wildlife Sanctuary
The Electric City Trolley Station & Museum
Everhart Museum
Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce
Keystone College
LaFesta Italiana
Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society
Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour
Lackawanna College
Lackawanna County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Lackawanna Historical Society
Lackawanna River Corridor Association
Lackawanna Valley Conservancy
Marywood University
The Northeast Theatre
Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit #19
Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum
Pocono Mountain Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society
The Rail-Trail Council of NEPA
Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple
Scranton Tomorrow
Steamtown Marathon
Steamtown National Historic Site
UNICO Soccer Cup
University of Scranton
WNEP-TV 16