



Vision of the Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape:

By 2020, Lehigh Valley communities are linked to greenways, trails, and outdoor experiences resulting in stronger local economies and improved public health, green infrastructure and natural resources

Goals:

Goal 1: **Land Conservation & Restoration** - Conserve critical landscapes, restore buffered stream corridors, and promote best management practices

Goal 2: **Outdoor Recreation & Trail Connections** - Connect people to greenway and trail opportunities to promote healthy living, recreation, and the region's green assets

Goal 3: **Community Revitalization** – Support community revitalization through green infrastructure that enhances the quality of life

Goal 4: **Local Education & Outreach** – Promote understanding of our natural environment and its benefits to our communities

2014 Partnership Workplan – Top 5 Work Items

1. Promote the Resources (Advances all the Goals)

- Capture success stories and post on D&L website and encourage partners to do same
- Create pamphlet similar to South Mountain Landscape
- Host Legislative Breakfast
- Hold 10th Anniversary Event
- Talk to Council of Governments to present Lehigh Valley Greenways and learn about their initiatives
- Invite DCNR Secretary Ferretti to key Lehigh Valley Greenways events; explore with Wildlands hosting the Governor on a Lehigh River kayak tour.

2. Conserve and Restore the Landscape (Advances Goal 1)

- Natural Lands Trust to add 44 acres to the Archibald Johnston Preserve
- The Nature Conservancy to preserve 160 acres on the Kittatinny Ridge and Greater Minsi Lake Corridor
- Wildlands Conservancy to advance preservation of 150 targeted acres on South Mountain and the Kittatinny Ridge
- Complete four riparian restoration and tree planting projects
- Collaborate on conservation landscaping projects led by Lehigh Gap Nature Center

3. **Advance Trail Opportunities** (Advances Goal 2)

- Advance Two Rivers Area Trail System (see below #6 Trail Priority)
- Host Eastern PA Greenways and Trails Summit
- Advance D&L Trail Gaps (environmental obstructions) in Northampton and North Catasauqua
- Work with D&L and Wildlands Conservancy to develop strategy to close trail gaps
- Coordinate efforts to negotiate trail gaps with Norfolk Southern
- Support partner efforts such as the start of construction of 3.5 mile section of Jordan Greenway, South Bethlehem Greenway, and Allentown Riverfront

4. **Plan for a Sustainable Lehigh Valley** (Advances Goal 3)

- Support planning and completion of the Northampton County Livable Landscapes Plan
- Support Lehigh Valley Planning Commission in the planning of Return on Environment Plan, and work together on events/workshops
- Update LVPC Natural Resource Plan using updated NHI data
- Collaborate with Wildlands Conservancy to develop Lehigh River Water Trail signage strategy at shared D&L Trail/Lehigh River Water Trail access points
- Explore opportunities to engage the health community

5. **Educate the Community** (Advances Goal 4)

- Partner with Lehigh Valley Nature Centers and conduct 5 Environmental Education programs
- Host outreach events such as National Trails Day (partner with Lehigh Gap Nature Center)
- Reconnect with Lehigh County Conservation District and request a designated person to be on the LVG Steering Committee
- Support partner education programs such as Color of Nature, Conservation Leadership Academy, and Master Watershed Steward program

Top Trail Priority – Two Rivers Area Trail System (Advances Goal 2) - nearly 18 miles complete of the 27 mile trail system

- Host meeting with Two Rivers Area Trail Team
- Work with City of Easton, Palmer Township, and Northampton County to close trail gap of Karl Stirner Arts Trail to Palmer Trail (LVPC trail gap #8)
- Determine route to connect Tatamy to Stockertown (LVPC trail gap #9)
- Negotiate trail easement with Hercules Cement in Bushkill Township to connect Stockertown to Jacobsburg (LVPC trail gap #9)
- Complete Stockertown Trail and two trailheads with native landscaping enhancements
- Figure out route to connect PPL Trail to the Kittatinny Ridge and Appalachian Trail working with NPS, Heritage Conservancy, and Bushkill Township (LVPC trail gap #10)
- Work with partners to advance pedestrian crossings in Palmer Township, Tatamy Borough, Plainfield Township, and complete crossing in Stockertown