

Your News from the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor
The 165-mile long Smithsonian Affiliate

FALL 2017



Message from our Executive Director

Josiah White combined genius, geology and geography in the early 1800s. He and Erskine Hazard saw a landscape of opportunities that, when integrated, would help fuel America's Industrial Revolution. It was 160 years later that a

different set of pioneers came together to transcend municipal, city and county lines and create the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

Our regional stories are intrinsically related. The Delaware Canal's distinctive sense of place exists because of the market for natural resources from the Anthracite Region and goods produced in the Lehigh Valley. Today we tell these stories and use their example to help revitalize and celebrate the Corridor.

We have a big-picture mission. The D&L develops programs that positively impact all of us, as well as preserve, interpret and leverage the history of the 165-mile transportation route between Wilkes-Barre and Bristol. Through public and private partnerships, we are steered by four tenets:

1. Connecting people to the enduring industrial heritage of the Corridor through education and preservation of historic sites and cultural resources.
2. Connecting people to health and wellness through outdoor recreation by reclaiming the historic transportation route, known as the D&L Trail.
3. Connecting towns and cities to opportunities for economic development.
4. Finally, we connect people to nature and the environment through conservation and education.

Today, by focusing on our incredible common landscape and erasing our man-made borders, White and Hazard's legacy reigns.

Elissa Garofalo, Executive Director

Geology, Geography, and Genius in the D&L National Heritage Corridor

One of the most significant developments in United States history happened in the D&L National Heritage Corridor. In fact, it was the fundamental reason for the establishment of the Corridor by Congress in 1988. In the five counties that make up the Corridor, geology and geography met human genius. Rivers and streams provided transportation routes and water power for mined anthracite coal and iron ore. Energetic, intelligent, creative and forward-thinking people harnessed that wealth and power to ignite the American Industrial Revolution.

Yet our local story and its significant impact on national history is often overlooked or barely mentioned in history books. The D&L and the National Canal Museum have been telling this story for many years. The discovery of anthracite coal in Luzerne and Carbon Counties, its transport from mine to market by way of the Lehigh and Delaware Canals, and the introduction of iron smelting with anthracite in place of charcoal have been recounted in exhibits, lectures, education programs, and publications and by the creation of the D&L Trail.

We're excited to learn that this story will be told in a book to be published for the D&L's 30th anniversary in 2018. *Geology, Geography, and Genius: The Industrial History of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor* draws on works by academic and local historians, oral histories, and the D&L's extensive photo archives. It describes the events and people in the past that helped to transform the United States from a farming nation to an industrial power, and shows how their enterprising and innovative spirits still drive our region today. We're hoping this book will enlighten even more people to the historic and cultural significance of the Corridor.

Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign

Effective wayfinding is important for people to make their way through public spaces. It improves efficiency, accessibility, and safety. Good signage makes visitors happier by decreasing frustration, stress, anxiety, late arrivals and time spent giving or looking for directions.

The D&L is pleased to assist the City of Easton as it continues making signage improvements near the National Canal Museum and our home offices.

Easton's Director of Public Services David Hopkins said, "As a part of the improvement project at Hugh Moore Park we felt that it would be important to implement wayfinding signage for vehicle/pedestrian circulation, as well as to show the locations of park attractions. Pat Stephens from the D&L Staff did a nice job on the sign design and we hope to have them installed this October."



EASTON
PENNSYLVANIA

HUGH MOORE PARK

MAP & INFORMATION





Map Legend

- 1 Bicycle Skills Park
- 2 Josiah White II Canal Boat
- 3 National Canal Museum Welcome Center
- 4 Mule Barn
- 5 National Canal Museum / D&L Headquarters
- 6 Shad Rehabilitation Center
- 7 Mule Stable
- 8 Locktender's House
- 9 Lehigh Canal Lock #8


Points of Interest



Hugh Moore Park 1864



Enjoy the Park



Sources

All D&L-related information provided by the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Road, Rail, and Place data provided by US Census, Lake and Stream data provided by USGS, Park data provided by PAHSA, 1864 Lehigh Canal & Navigation Map provided by Lehigh University Libraries.

This map was produced through a partnership between the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc. and The City of Easton.

Cartography & Design by Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc. (2017)

About the Park

Take a Trip Back To America's Age of Canals

Easton's Hugh Moore Park is a picturesque extension of the City of Easton where America's golden age of canals is on full display. With more than two miles of restored Lehigh Canal, a canal boat attraction unlike any other in Pennsylvania and the rest of the Northeast, and one of the country's largest canal heritage museums, the 520-acre park nestled between the Lehigh Canal and Lehigh River is a throwback to the years when mules pulling canal boats on narrow towpaths was a common sight in much of the United States east of the Mississippi River.



DELAWARE & LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

NATIONAL CANAL MUSEUM

Open Friday - Saturday in October!

New Partnerships for Old Freemansburg

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and Freemansburg Borough have embarked on a new relationship. We're focusing on the Borough's 1.5-mile section of the Lehigh Canal and its historic canal district at Lock 44, known as the Freemansburg Canal Education Center.

This year, the D&L facilitated the reorganization of a volunteer group called the Old Freemansburg Association. Back in the 1980s, the Association actively promoted the borough's canal history and rebuilt a mule barn adjacent to Lock 44. We are also partnering with Freemansburg on a recent Northampton County Hotel Tax Grant to rebuild a pedestrian bridge that crosses the canal at Monroe Street, redesign and reconstruct the adjacent parking and designate it as an official D&L Trailhead.

The Old Freemansburg Association has formed various committees, including a Public Relations Committee who developed a Facebook page, took part in the borough's annual National Night Out celebration in July, and purchased a domain name for the development of an OFA website. OFA submitted an application to become a chartered Pennsylvania nonprofit organization in July, and, after being approved, developed bylaws and a mission statement.

Old Freemansburg Association volunteers have attended more than 25 Wednesday and Saturday work sessions at the Education Center site since June, all geared toward preparing the site for 1,000 Bethlehem fourth-graders who will take part in October field trips as part of their Tales of the Towpath social studies curriculum.



Volunteers unearth a grain-grinding millstone at the Geissinger Grist Mill in Freemansburg.

Connecting Carbon County: Mansion House Bridge Project Nears Completion

We are thrilled to announce that Carbon County is very close to being the first of five counties with its section of D&L Trail fully connected. Following the completion of the Mansion House Bridge in Jim Thorpe, more improvements will follow to allow ADA access. Some of these improvements directly connect to the new bridge.

The Mansion House Bridge lands on the eastern bank of the Lehigh River roughly 15' above trail elevation. For everyone to be able to use and enjoy the Trail, we must meet universal access standards outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act. This means the slope of the connection between bridge and trail cannot be more than five percent. Hence, for about

800 linear feet there will be a gentle slope via a retaining wall that extends southward from the eastern bridge abutment. The wall will reinforce trail stability and offer flood protection for Jim Thorpe's Waste Water Treatment Plant.

This work, its revenue streams, and expenses became very complex so the project duties were split. With the bridge project moving along nicely, we turn our attention to the wall connector with an assist from Jim Thorpe Borough. Currently, our schedule has the adjacent retaining wall construction and trail improvement work to the south beginning in very early spring. This means

that, although the bridge will open upon completion, it must close again for construction on the west side of the river very soon after opening.

We appreciate your support and understanding as we continue this complex multi-phase project.



Progress is beautiful at the Mansion House Bridge construction when captured by Board Member, Mike Burnside.

On the Trail of Data

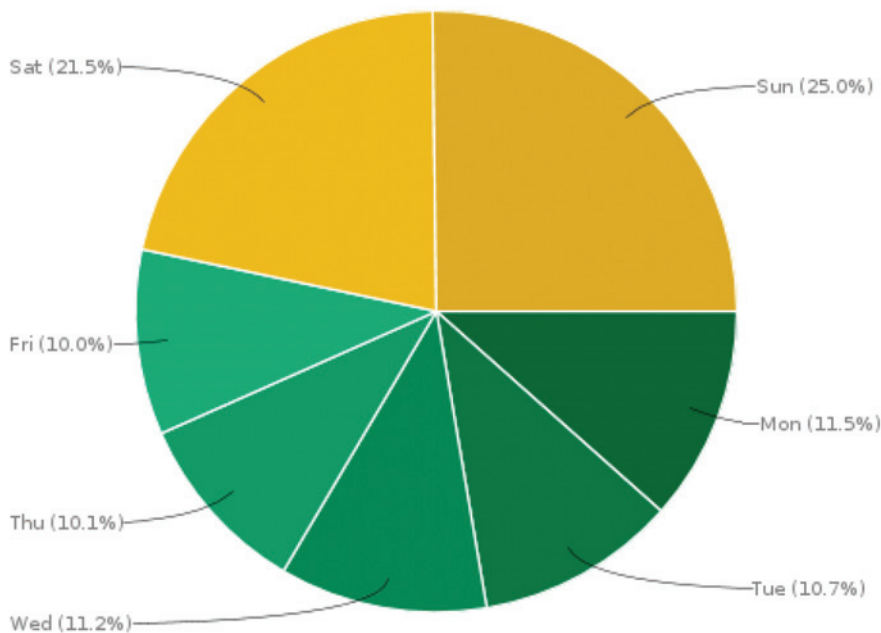
by Brian Greene

Data is a popular buzzword. You hear about data on the cloud, Big Data, and data breaches on the news and commercials. As a scientist, I'm thrilled that there is a growing interest in using data to make better decisions. Individuals are notoriously bad about making predictions because we have biases and poor memories. The great thing about data is that it can show new insights and challenge pre-conceived beliefs.

So what data can we gather from an almost 200-year-old trail? Actually, a lot. That's what Pat Stephens and I are working on as part of a William Penn Foundation grant about trail sustainability. One type of data that I'm very interested in is trail user visits. We have trail counters installed at several locations along the D&L Trail

that record a count of the number of people that pass it and the time. This allows us to see patterns of activity and record total users. This data is helpful for reporting how popular our trail is, economic analysis, maintenance, event planning and many other applications.

Remember, I mentioned above that people are bad at making predications? I asked 15 members of the D&L staff what was the most popular and least popular day of the week on the trail. Out of 30 guesses, only five were correct (that's 16%)! Not a single person correctly guessed the least popular day. This is why data can be so powerful. It can help you better understand things that you thought you knew. We are excited to share these insights with you.



D&L Trail daily trail user visits. Data from eight trail counters August 2016 to August 2017.

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New Donors & Members July & August

NEW MEMBERS

Amber Breiner & Josh Finsel
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 ShopRite
 Tom Harbin & Judi Roggie
 William Penn Foundation
 Yardley Carpet Cleaners

A Midsummer's Night Dream: Friend-Raising in Bucks County

The D&L spent a lovely summer evening in Bucks County along the Delaware Canal at the home of Bill and Sally Getchell. Bill, one of the D&L's Board Members and a longtime supporter, opened his home to roughly thirty of his friends and acquaintances so they could learn more about the organization, the merger with the National Canal Museum and becoming a Smithsonian Affiliate. Refreshments were generously provided by our Executive Director, Elissa Garofalo, and Board Members Nick Forte and

Bill Getchell. Others in attendance included Board Chair, Michael Drabenstott and staff, Martha Capwell Fox and Lauren Golden.

Bucks County is one of five counties that make up the D&L Heritage Corridor and includes over 50 miles of continuous D&L Trail. It was a pleasure to meet new friends and hear about their lives in Bucks County, while introducing them to the D&L's mission. We love connecting people to our organization and the Corridor!



If you would like to host an event in your community,
 please contact Danielle at
Danielle@delawareandlehigh.org
 or 610-923-3548 x 238.

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc.
2750 Hugh Moore Park Road
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Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that preserves the historic pathway that carried coal and iron from Wilkes-Barre to Philadelphia. Today, the D&L Trail connects people to nature, culture, communities, recreation and our industrial heritage. The National Canal Museum is the D&L's *Signature Program*.

Future issues of Along the Corridor will be available online and via email. The print version is a benefit of membership. If you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, please let us know by email info@delawareandlehigh.org or call 610 923 3548 x221.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- October 2 - 20 Freemansburg Field Trips
- October 7 Dinner Cruise: Italian Theme
- October 14 Dinner Cruise: Blues Cruise
- October 20,21,27,28 Haunted Hugh Moore Park
- October 28 Get Your Tail on the Trail Finale Event
- October 28 National Mule Day at the NCM
- October 29 Museum & Boat Close for the Season
- November 5 D&L Heritage Half Marathon
- December 2 "For Your Eyes Only" Members Archive Event
- December 9 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Need more inspiration?
Please visit delawareandlehigh.org

Contact Us:

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www.delawareandlehigh.org

National Canal Museum:
2750 Hugh Moore Park Rd, Easton, PA
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www.canals.org

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