

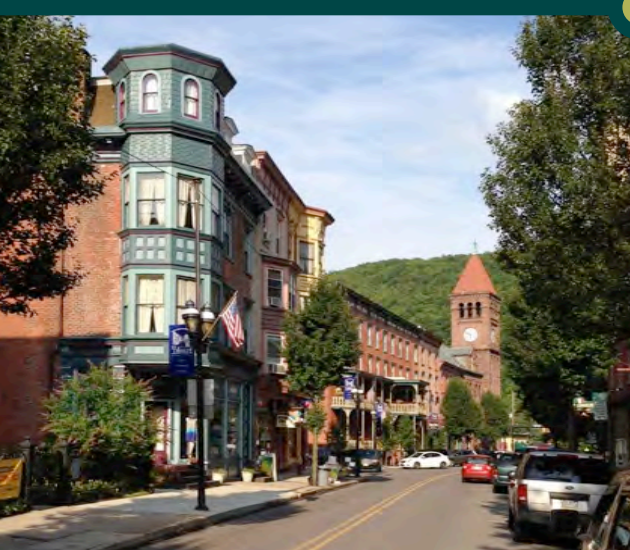
2013

ANNUAL REPORT



Inspiring

Connections



A Year of Inspiring Connections

Since our founding 25 years ago, there have been many milestones. But in 2013, the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor had a banner year helping you experience greater connections to our beautiful places, their stories and rich history.

Yes, there's the D&L Trail - now 85% complete and spanning 165 miles from the mountains of northeast Pennsylvania, along rivers, through the Lehigh Valley and Bucks County. We are also in your backyard, winding through towns, main streets and parks.

We are passionate about preserving the environment, sharing the culture of our region and positively impacting our communities.

The D&L is more than a trail. We are diverse. We have the ability to connect you to unique experiences in nature, community, health and recreation, history, preservation, and education. We reliably connect you to experiences you feel good about.

Connecting you to nature – When 9.7 miles of the Black Diamond section of the D&L Trail opened in Luzerne County, residents and visitors discovered a beautiful lake, forests and hillsides that replenish the soul and celebrate life.

Connecting you to communities – With the Landmark Towns of Bucks County program and signage and trailheads in Lehigh, new lasting relationships were developed that positively impact your local economy. When the Route 13 Passageway in Tullytown opened, a critical gap closed for users of the Delaware Canal Towpath section. The restoration of the Freemansburg section made “one of the most treacherous sections of the trail one of the most delightful...”

Connecting you to health and fitness – By joining forces with St. Luke's University Health Network for “Get Your Tail on the Trail”, the D&L spread the news of our accessible, safe, and exciting trail.

Connecting you to history – The alliance with the National Canal Museum opened a treasure trove. We play a key role in preserving and sharing the stories of our region. Our Tales of the Towpath curriculum continues to astound. Two thousand students participated in Immersion Days at Hugh Moore Park and hundreds more took part in the pilot project at Freemansburg.

We will continue listening to our community in order to create great experiences and programs that improve our quality of life. As we introduce our updated Management Action Plan, we promise inspiration – tangible results, great relationships, memorable experiences and meaningful connections.

We are the D&L.

Nicholas C. Forte

Chairman Nick Forte

connect

preserve

revitalize

celebrate

2

D&L Chairman Nick Forte and NCM Chairman Pete Marmaras signed a Strategic Alliance agreement on August 8, 2013



TO INSPIRE... CONSERVE, LEARN AND CELEBRATE!

Among the most significant successes of our mission occurred this past year when the National Canal Museum came under the management of D&L Heritage Corridor. This partnership is a natural fit, the most effective and contemporary way to develop and offer educational opportunities throughout the region.

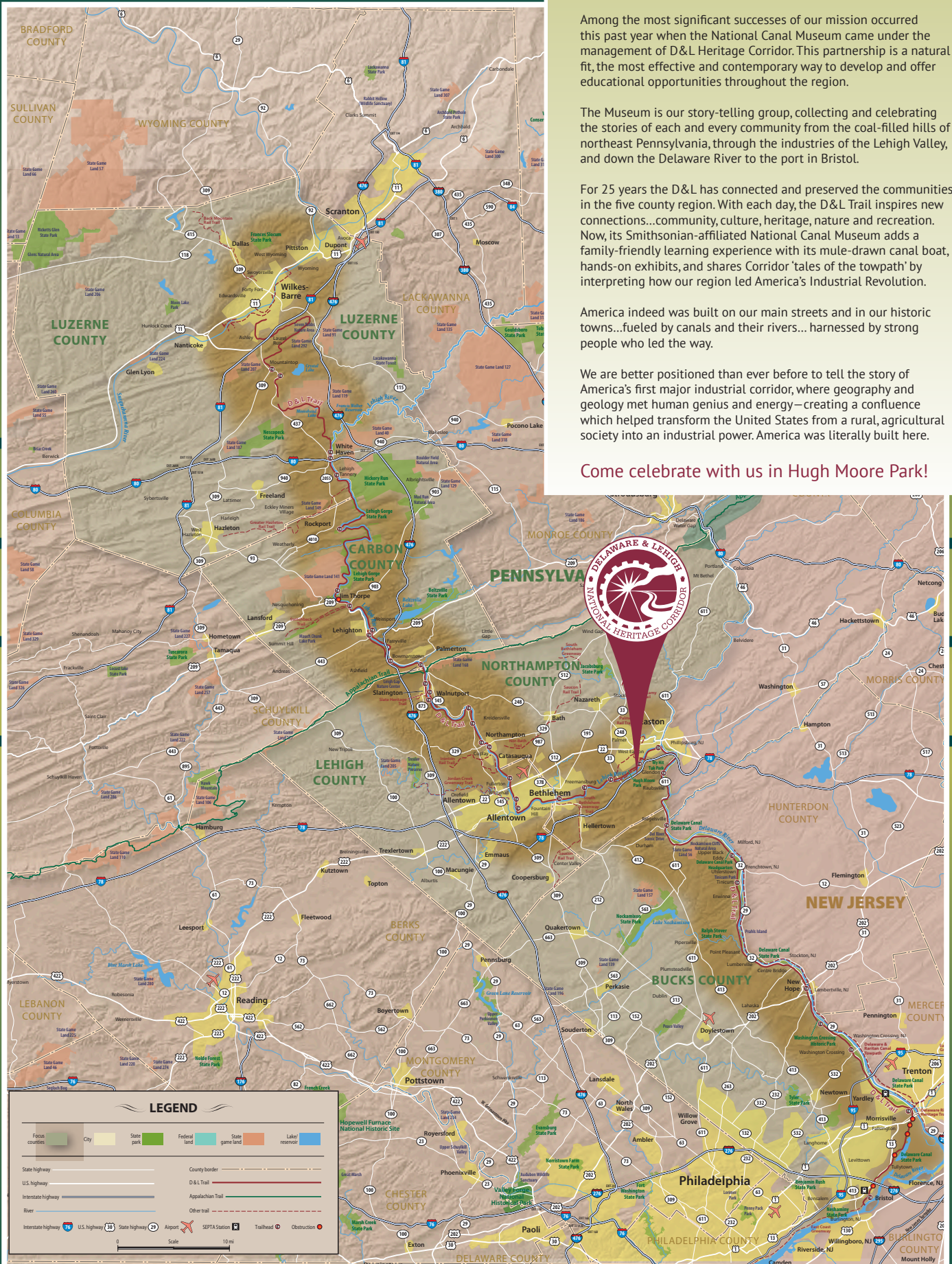
The Museum is our story-telling group, collecting and celebrating the stories of each and every community from the coal-filled hills of northeast Pennsylvania, through the industries of the Lehigh Valley, and down the Delaware River to the port in Bristol.

For 25 years the D&L has connected and preserved the communities in the five county region. With each day, the D&L Trail inspires new connections...community, culture, heritage, nature and recreation. Now, its Smithsonian-affiliated National Canal Museum adds a family-friendly learning experience with its mule-drawn canal boat, hands-on exhibits, and shares Corridor 'tales of the towpath' by interpreting how our region led America's Industrial Revolution.

America indeed was built on our main streets and in our historic towns...fueled by canals and their rivers...harnessed by strong people who led the way.

We are better positioned than ever before to tell the story of America's first major industrial corridor, where geography and geology met human genius and energy—creating a confluence which helped transform the United States from a rural, agricultural society into an industrial power. America was literally built here.

Come celebrate with us in Hugh Moore Park!



Connecting the 165 Mile D&L Trail

2013 was by far the most productive year of trail building in our 25 year history. The year saw major D&L Trail gaps eliminated as well as a variety of trail construction projects completed.

Three trailheads (Black Diamond Trailhead, White Haven North, and Lehighton) were constructed along with trail crossing improvements and signage installation.

In total, more than **twelve miles of trail** were completed. In excess of \$4,000,000 of federal and state funds were spent to complete the following projects:

Friends of the Delaware Canal were early visitors to the Route 13 Passageway in Bucks County.



connect

■ **D&L Trail, Black Diamond Section, Luzerne County** – Forging the D&L Trail north of Lehigh Gorge State Park, this major endeavor installed 10.2 miles of trail along the old Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad toward Mountain Top and Wilkes-Barre.

■ **Palmer Trail to Hugh Moore Park, Northampton County** – An ADA compatible trail connection was created between the Palmer and Hugh Moore Park sections of the D&L Trail.

■ **Freemansburg, Northampton County** – One and a half miles of the D&L Trail were repaired along a section of the Lehigh Canal that was ravaged by Hurricane Ivan. This project also included canal bank repairs that now serves as a template design to be used throughout the Corridor.

■ **Route 13 Trail Project, Tullytown Borough, Bucks County** – A long-awaited passageway was installed under this four-lane highway to create a safe crossing at this section of the D&L Trail within Delaware Canal State Park near Levittown.

■ On the design front, work continued in anticipation of several bid awards in 2014 and 2015. The next two years will see construction of the **Carbon County Pedestrian Bridge** at Jim Thorpe and **trail connectivity projects** in Carbon, Lehigh and Northampton Counties. To accomplish this we are working closely with PennDOT to coordinate with several bridge projects over the Lehigh River from Jim Thorpe to Allentown, hoping to keep trail disruptions to a minimum.

■ Working with local partners, a D&L Trail construction grant was awarded to the **Borough of Jim Thorpe** in order to link the D&L Trail between the proposed pedestrian bridge southward to Weissport.



DCNR Secretary Ellen Ferretti was a featured speaker at the opening of 9.7 miles of the Black Diamond Trail section in Luzerne County.

Trail Manager **Scott Everett** comes in contact with many trail users and often returns to the office with inspiring stories, here are three:

a case in point

"A gentleman I met, who is paralyzed from the waist down, uses his hand pedal bike on the trail. He especially appreciates the accessibility and smooth surface recent trail construction projects have provided."

"An elderly gentleman tends a small section of riverfront adjacent to the trail near Lehighton. He lives in the nearby elderly apartments, walks about a mile to the site and maintains benches, flowers beds and a display on local history. He spread the word of the wonderful new trail to his neighbors who have in turn purchased bikes of their own."

"An adjacent landowner proudly told me earlier this year of the Halloween display he was going to place in his back yard for the enjoyment of trail users. Sure enough, with the arrival of fall, a beautiful, animated display awaited everyone."



The National Canal Museum and the D&L's **Tales of the Towpath** program enjoyed continued growth.

Attendance at the museum and the **Josiah White II** canal boat ride totaled 6,220. In addition, 1,800 students participated in Immersion Days field trips in Hugh Moore Park and 670 students rode the canal boat or toured the museum. **Immersion Days** attendance has grown dramatically since 2012 when schools studying Tales of the Towpath began scheduling the field trip as an end-of-curriculum spring activity. Of 30 available Immersion Days dates, 24 were booked by Tales of the Towpath schools.

A new school district – **Bristol Borough School District** in Bucks County – enrolled in the program, bringing the total number of Tales school districts to 14. Two parochial schools and a private school also take part.



preserve

6





a living history classroom

- A “living history classroom” aligned to the Tales of the Towpath story opened in October at historic Lock 44 in Freemansburg, Northampton County. **Fourth-grade students from Bethlehem** took part in four-hour field trips that focused on everyday life of a locktender’s family. Volunteer guides provided eight different lessons on a rotational basis.
- The Freemansburg site was developed by D&L Trail Tenders, who invested more than **3,500 volunteer hours** over 13 months to landscape the site and build field trip enhancements.
- The locktender’s house at Lock 44 received a boost in December when Northampton County awarded a **\$50,000 hotel tax grant** to the D&L and Borough of Freemansburg to stabilize the building and begin the process of restoration.
- **The National Canal Museum** was staffed during its four-month season by a full-time docent – Martha Capwell-Fox - and five part-time volunteers. As museum archivist, Martha inventories and catalogues artifacts in the main archives at the Emrick Center and the Museum Support Center at Spruce and Raspberry streets in Easton.
- Among many 2013 inquiries was one from **Ancestry.com**, which requested access to Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company employment records. The NCM agreed to allow Ancestry.com to digitize the records and provide the museum with a digital copy and a permanent Ancestry.com membership. Ancestry.com received three years of exclusive access to LCNC records.
- The museum **donated artifacts** to the National Museum of Industrial History in Bethlehem and the No.9 Mine in Lansford, Carbon County. Temporary loans were made to the Lock 44 education site in Freemansburg, the ArtsQuest Visitors Center in Bethlehem, the Anthracite Heritage Museum in Scranton, Bristol’s Grundy Museum, the Borough of Lehigh, and the White Haven Visitors Center.



Putting more visitors on the D&L Trail and shoppers in adjacent business districts is a priority for the Landmark Towns of Bucks County program.

With generous support from the William Penn Foundation, 2013 witnessed an increase in special trail events, related marketing efforts and business retention and recruitment efforts in the Landmark Towns of Bristol, Morrisville, Yardley and New Hope.

revitalize



■ **National Trails Day** brought dog owners and canine companions to New Hope for a dog walk along the Delaware Canal towpath, followed by lunch and dog-related shopping with downtown businesses. More than half the attendees said it was their first time on the D&L Trail.

■ The annual **Delaware Canal Festival** in late June brought hundreds of residents and visitors to community events in Bristol and Morrisville. Bristol's Lagoon Park near the terminus of the Delaware Canal was the setting for an evening of live music, vendors, a Decorated Duck Contest full of brightly colored yellow plastic ducks, and an Illuminated Wish Boat Float on the lagoon. Morrisville conducted a variety of family-oriented activities adjacent to the D&L Trail that drew a crowd throughout the afternoon.

■ An **October bicycle tour** on Historic Bristol Day served two important goals: it celebrated the Delaware Canal's terminus in Bristol and attracted D&L Trail users from Philadelphia. Twenty Philadelphia cyclists toured the canal towpath and rode past significant downtown and residential sites, learning local history and gaining an understanding of the Delaware Canal's significant role in the community. They returned to Philadelphia via the Burlington Bristol Bridge but vowed to return again to enjoy the D&L Trail and the borough's shops and restaurants.

■ The **Landmark Towns program** also expanded its business assistance endeavors, primarily along the Delaware Canal from Centre Bridge to Easton. The new program will be called "Trail Towns of Bucks County." Program guidelines have been developed, a work plan is in place, and discussions with potential business centers are underway.



past present future

The D&L's present and future are being shaped by two events which occurred in the summer of 2013.

In July, our **Management Action Plan Update** was completed to address the 'new normal'. This vibrant new 74-page publication is a strategic road map for our future. It sets the stage for more balanced non-governmental support, for re-engaging regional stakeholders, transitioning our leadership, checking our progress and evaluating our results.



L-R Paul Fogal, Judy Borger, Mike Stershic, Elissa Garofalo, Carl VanHorn, Bethlehem Mayor John Callahan, Pam and Pat Reilly.



On August 8, the D&L signed a **Strategic Alliance Agreement** with the Smithsonian-affiliated National Canal Museum. The agreement uniquely combines our Congressionally-designated National Heritage Area with the archives, artifacts, and historic resources of the Museum. It brings together stakeholders and partners to connect, revitalize, preserve and celebrate the nationally significant cultural, historic and recreational aspects of our communities.

Our joint purpose and mission is to enrich the communities of five counties of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor through programs and partnerships that conserve the resources, preserve the history, revitalize our communities and celebrate the story. With this signing, we officially combined our assets to expand the telling of our nationally-acclaimed story: *Where America was Built!*



sustain

With the D&L Trail as our platform, the Heritage Corridor creates over **3300 jobs and \$240 million in annual revenues**. It is home to 1.6 million residents and welcomes untold visitors. So as the “new” organization prepares to shape the next 25 years, what’s needed next comes from you. Your continuing involvement – be it through leadership, membership or help in the field - to conserve and celebrate our community is a key to our future success. There is obviously much to do as we build on the foundations of 50 years of the Park and Museum, 35 years of the Canal Boat Ride, and 25 years of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

As a direct result of these actions, our partnership base has expanded, membership has increased and our sights are set on completing the D&L Trail, improving the Museum and building regional support for long-term success.

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor is now in its 25th year of service. We proudly conserve resources and preserve history as we enhance quality of life—inspiring the connections that make our community **a better place to live and visit**.

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Management Action Plan Update



Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc. July 2013

The newly updated Management Action Plan was published this year and offers us all a great roadmap for the future.

A Year to Celebrate!

On April 18th, friends, colleagues, partners and award recipients filled the Historic Hotel Bethlehem for our **fifth annual Heritage Partnership Celebration**. This year's honorees were: Susan Taylor, Lehigh County Parks and Recreation, Peter and Carol Kern, and, Bridge Street Foundation.

During the dinner, the impending **strategic alliance** with the National Canal Museum was announced. President Elissa Garofalo commented, "Today we enter a new era with enhanced resources and a thoughtfully crafted plan for the 'new normal.... we are aligning the efforts and assets of both organizations to conserve and celebrate the significant industrial heritage in the Corridor."

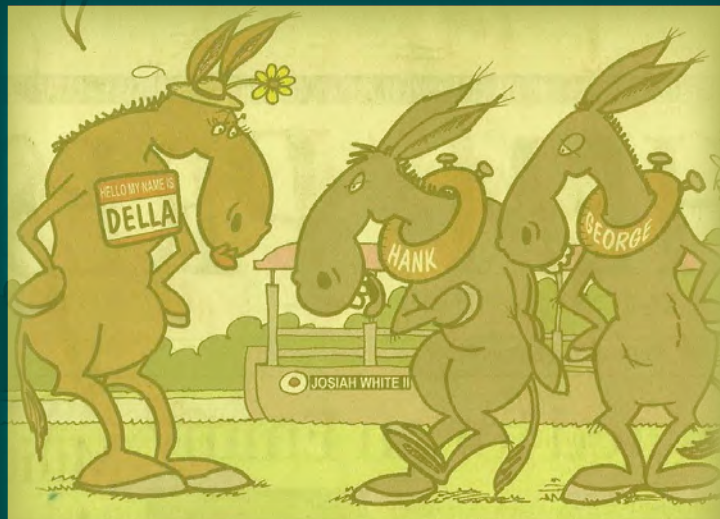
On Thursday, August 8th, the D&L and NCM Board of Directors celebrated the alliance signing and the "beginning of the next 25 years" as one entity.

As dedicated staff and board committees pursued their mission to upgrade, improve and connect the D&L Trail, three ribbon cuttings were celebrated – an accomplishment 10+ years in the making; and, each project adds recreational opportunities and connections to the towns, people and history along the trail.

November 3rd gave way to another successful year for the Delaware & Lehigh Heritage **Marathon and Half Marathon** with over 750 runners from 24 states registered. A major fundraiser, lead race sponsors include Air Products, PPL, Hanover Engineering, Wilson Consulting, St. Luke's University Health Network and Mauch Chunk Trust Company. The event would not be possible without hundreds of volunteers and the Boroughs of Northampton and Slatington, East Penn, Whitehall and Washington Townships, Lehigh County, PennDOT and Lehigh Gap Nature Center.

November also marked the conclusion of the inaugural wellness program, **Get Your Tail on the Trail**. In partnership with St. Luke's University Health Network, this 6-month challenge had participants walking, running and biking 165 miles. Excitement soared as over 2,500 people registered and a quarter million miles were logged. Twenty five percent of participants completed the full challenge, learned about the history of the region and received advice on staying active and healthy. www.tailonthetrail.org.

A new era began in 2013. But rest assured, we continue to preserve the historic pathway that carried coal and iron from Wilkes-Barre to Philadelphia. One difference... today, it's the D&L Trail that connects people to nature, culture, communities, recreation and our industrial heritage.



L-R Scott Everett (Trail Manager), Elissa Garofalo and State Rep. Doyle Heffley



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D&L Financial

Statement of Financial Position (For year ended December 31, 2012)

Assets

Current Assets	Operating Funds	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Cash	969,425	859,297	1,828,722
Receivables	177,181	-	177,181
Prepaid Expenses	5,897	-	5,897
Inventory	15,160	-	15,160
Other Assets			
Fixed Assets	6,206	-	6,206
Total Assets	1,173,869	859,297	2,033,166

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	Operating Funds	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Refundable Advances		694,297	694,297
Accounts Payable	-	-	-
Accruals	46,588	-	46,588
Total Current Liabilities	46,588	694,297	740,885

Net Assets (Reserve)

Unrestricted	1,127,281	-	1,127,281
Restricted		165,000	165,000
Total Net Assets	1,127,281	165,000	1,292,281
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,173,869	859,297	2,033,166

Statement of Activities

(For year ended December 31, 2012)

	Operating Funds	Temporarily Restricted Funds	Total
Revenue & Support			
Contributions	86,985	-	86,985
Grants	154,323	693,825	848,148
Program Income (NPS)	551,000	-	551,000
Interest	3,700	-	3,700
Miscellaneous	70,962	-	70,962
Total Revenue and Support Received	866,970	693,825	1,560,795
Expenses			
Administrative	300,332	-	300,332
Designated Programs	538,813	693,825	1,232,638
Depreciation	8,837	-	8,837
Total Expenditures	847,982	693,825	1,541,807
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	18,988	-	18,988
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets			
Contributions		165,000	165,000
Net Assets Released from Restrictions		-	-
Increase (Decrease) in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets		165,000	165,000
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	18,988	165,000	183,988

Grants Received 2013

D&L Projects	Source	Amount
Trail Tenders	Various local partners	4,985
Visually & Graphically Speaking	Match - federal/private/local	23,715
Tales of the Towpath	Quakertown School District	11,120
D&L Trail Projects	D&L/NPS	9,623
D&L Trail Projects	D&L/NPS	24,275
D&L Trail Alliance	William Penn Foundation	118,638
D&L Trail Alliance	Other local partners	153
FCEC Lock 44	D&L/NPS	12,297
Audubon	Audubon Auto Tour	495
D&L 25th Anniversary Celebration	D&L/NPS	193
Trail Alliance	William Penn Foundation	19,480
		224,974
Heritage Parks Area		
PHPP Implementation Grant	PHPP	73,512
	Match - federal/private/local	47,268
		120,780
PHMC ME 10709		
Bristol Borough Architecture Guidelines	Commonwealth of PA	4,178
	D&L/NPS	105
		4,283
DCNR -SR - Partnerships		
D&L Corridor Landscape/Greenways	DCNR	94,436
	Match - federal/private/local	22,410
		116,846
DCNR - PRD - Development		
D&L Trail Development	DCNR	26,076
C2P2-LVGI Projects		
D&L Coordination Mini-Grants	DCNR	91,280
	Match - federal/private/local	105,791
		197,070
DCED Projects		
Landmark Towns	DCED	67,466
	Match - federal/private/local	72,479
		139,945
TEA Projects		
Luzerne	PennDot	725,086
Freemansburg	PennDot	211,508
		936,593
TOTAL GRANT RECEIPTS		1,766,567



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