



CONNECTING YOUR STORIES  
**2019 Annual Report**



## OUR MISSION

The Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor preserves, interprets and leverages the nationally significant history of the 165-mile transportation route between Wilkes-Barre and Bristol, Pennsylvania. By building and maintaining public and private partnerships, we create four vital connections.

1.

We connect people to the enduring **industrial heritage** of the Corridor through education and preservation of historic sites and cultural resources.

2.

We connect people to **health and wellness** through outdoor recreation by reclaiming the historic transportation route as the D&L Trail.

3.

We connect towns and cities to opportunities for **economic development** along the D&L Trail and Corridor.

4.

We connect people to **nature and the environment** through conservation and education.





## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

### To Our D&L Community,

The D&L National Heritage Corridor means so many things to so many people. For some it's a chance to reconnect with nature or get in a healthful workout on the D&L Trail. For others it's an opportunity to step back into time and learn about the origins of America's Industrial Revolution. And for our towns and cities along the corridor, it's a catalyst for economic development.

In this annual report, we bring you five stories that illustrate the real, sustainable impact that our corridor – and your support – has on thousands of individuals from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol. Rest assured: everyone who benefits from the corridor is grateful for your contribution to our progress.

In 2019, that progress included closing three D&L Trail gaps – including the Mansion House Bridge in Jim Thorpe in Carbon County and a passageway under railroad tracks in Bucks County. We continue to make strides toward connecting the D&L Trail through the Lehigh Valley north of Allentown and to our northern terminus in Wilkes-Barre. And we published *Geography, Geology and Genius: How Coal and Canals Ignited the American Industrial Revolution*, the first comprehensive account of the storied industrial history of our corridor.

That's on top of welcoming thousands of children and adults to the National Canal Museum and our cruises on the Josiah White II, not to mention the tens of thousands of people who enjoy the D&L Trail each year.

We also added 181 new members in 2019. This tells us that the public understands and values the contributions we make to the quality of life in our five-county region. None of which would be possible without your support. We're thankful for the opportunity to preserve our history and connect you to the riches that our corridor has provided for centuries.

See you on the trail!

*Michael Drabenstott, Chair*



**D&L Trail  
Gaps Closed**



***Geography,  
Geology and  
Genius*  
Published**

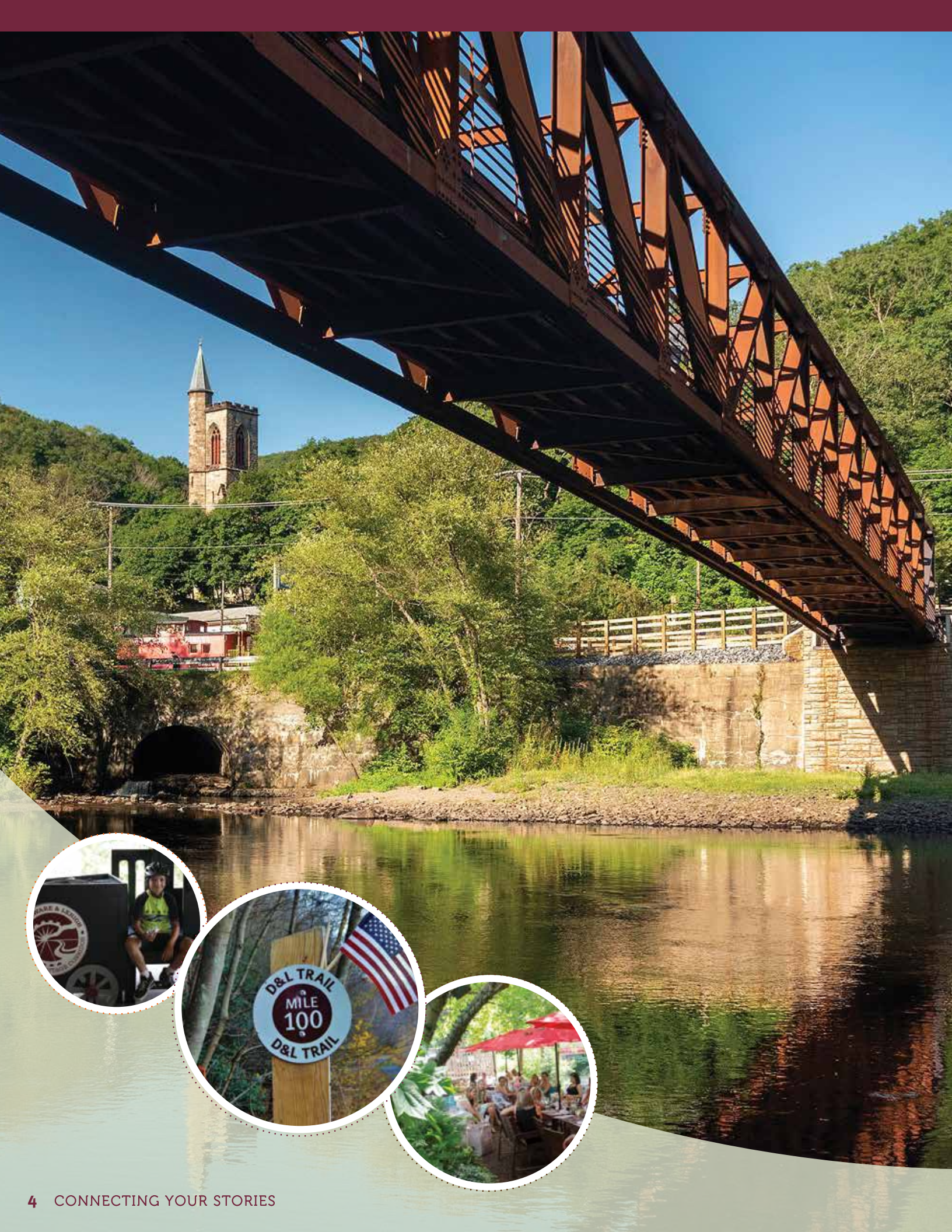


**11,881  
Visitors to  
National Canal  
Museum**



**180+  
New Members**







## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The next time you take a walk on the D&L Trail with a loved one, imagine for a second if the trails beneath you were gone. Alex Michaels, President & CEO of Discover Lehigh Valley (DLV), on a walk with his wife and dog, took the time to imagine just that. The Lehigh Valley without its beautiful, green spaces. Inconceivable.

If you had asked him just a year or two ago what the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor was you may have gotten a bewildered look. Today, returning to the Lehigh Valley after nearly 30 years, it's hard to imagine someone who more fully embraces the D&L mission and its impact on economic development.

Much like the D&L, Discover Lehigh Valley looks to connect people both in the community and beyond to the wealth of resources in the Lehigh Valley.

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**"The mission of the D&L aligns itself with the growth of the Lehigh Valley and we see ourselves [Discover Lehigh Valley] as a part of that," said Michaels. "You [the D&L] give us a tremendous asset to market."**

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**This "biker" is actually  
our very own Elissa!**

DLV partners with the D&L to mutually tell the story of the heritage corridor. This partnership led to D&L's first ever billboard. The digital billboard displayed the ultimate intersection of the organization's mission and programs by featuring a bicyclist zipping past the Josiah White II, the D&L's mule-drawn canal boat.

With the continual partnership with destination marketing organizations, like Discover Lehigh Valley, the D&L proudly works to fulfill its mission of serving as an economic driver along the Corridor.

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**29**  
**D&L Trail-Friendly**  
**Businesses**



**39% of their Business**  
**Comes from D&L**  
**Trail Users**



*Alex Michaels*





## HEALTH & WELLNESS

As Director of Economic Development at the Carbon County Chamber, the D&L has had the privilege of working with Kathy Henderson on various projects. Including, most recently, the connection of the D&L Trail through Carbon County with the opening of the Mansion House Bridge. Her engagement with the D&L goes beyond her job description as a *Get Your Tail on the Trail* challenge participant and trail user.

When asked about her participation in the program, she noted that the competitive nature of the program drives her to get moving.

“I am very competitive, especially against myself,” she said. “Logging my miles lets me keep track of how well I am doing and gives me a sense of pride.”

Kathy believes that biking, especially outdoors, contributes to her overall well-being, and credits her increased confidence, clear mind, work performance, and even weight loss to her habit of getting on the trail.

Her own completion of the 165-mile challenge while exclaiming the benefits she has personally experienced make her an advocate for the program. Beyond her personal life, she sees the regional benefits of the D&L’s dedication to health and wellness.

“We all need ‘blue sky’ time and walking or biking along any portion of the trail gives you that and more,” she said. “When I see kids and adults together enjoying each other’s company as well as the outdoors, it makes me happy.”

Her job may connect her to the economic benefits of the trail, but her own use connects her to the health and wellness benefits, too.



Kathy Henderson



**4.3 million**

**Get Your Tail on the Trail  
Miles Logged in 2019**

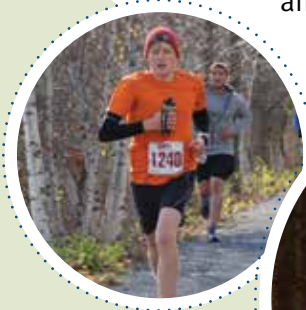


**191.7 million**

**Calories Burned (2017-19) by  
GYTOT Participants; Equal to**

**162,776**

**Pints of Ice Cream**





*Dan Kunkle*

## NATURE & ENVIRONMENT

It makes sense that former Executive Director of Lehigh Gap Nature Center (LGNC), Dan Kunkle, has been a loyal supporter and partner of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. Though continually involved with the organization, his favorite memory with the D&L dates back nearly two decades. In 2002, he met with the then D&L Trail & Stewardship Manager, Bill Mineo, to cast a seemingly wild vision for the Lehigh Gap.

“Bill was stunned that someone actually wanted to help take on the biggest environmental challenge along the entire D&L Corridor,” said Kunkle.

From that day, Dan Kunkle, in his leadership role at LGNC, would team up with the organization to revive the Lehigh Gap. Today, the Lehigh Gap features approximately 400 acres of restored Superfund site and promotes conservation through education, research, and outdoor recreation. The D&L Trail serves as a critical resource for LGNC’s programming by providing education and recreation opportunities.

Dan Kunkle and Lehigh Gap Nature Center’s engagement with the organization exemplifies the endless potential of partnerships. Inspired by common interests, the D&L provided support for the nature center’s strategic planning, site re-vegetation, and signage. More recently, the two organizations work closely on Lehigh Valley Greenways, improving the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley through the conservation landscape.

“D&L has done so much, to create a network of partnerships throughout the Corridor,” said Dan Kunkle. “Together [we] accomplish so much more than we all could have accomplished working alone.”



**\$1.6M+**

**Lehigh Valley Greenways  
Mini Grants**

**640K**



**D&L Trail Users**



**146.4**

**D&L Trail Miles Built**



## D&L NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

### Luzerne County D&L Trail Facts

**250+**  
Get Your Tail  
on The Trail  
Users



**55K+** Miles  
Logged  
Since 2017



**~130**  
Average  
Daily D&L  
Trail Count



The D&L Trail  
Connects  
**4 Parks**



**34 Sites**  
Listed on the  
National Register  
of Historic Places



**1 School**  
Participates in D&L  
Educational  
Programs

### Carbon County D&L Trail Facts

**540+**  
Get Your Tail  
on The Trail  
Users



**148K+** Miles  
Logged  
Since 2017



**~566**  
Average  
Daily D&L  
Trail Count



The D&L Trail  
Connects  
**8 Parks**



**13 Sites**  
Listed on the  
National Register  
of Historic Places



**1 School**  
Participates in D&L  
Educational  
Programs

### Lehigh County D&L Trail Facts



**~259**  
Average  
Daily D&L  
Trail Count



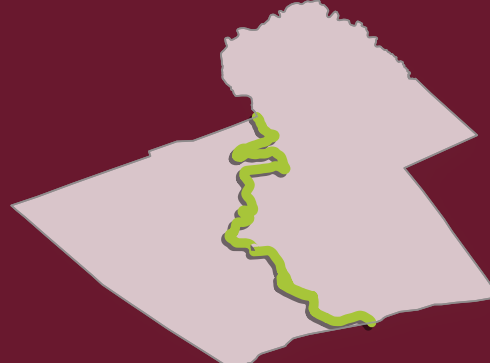
The D&L Trail  
Connects  
**6 Parks**

### LUZERNE COUNTY



- **16.2** Miles of Open D&L Trail
- **20.9** Miles of Future D&L Trail
- 6** Trailheads

### CARBON COUNTY



- **33.3** Miles of Open D&L Trail
- **0** Miles of Future D&L Trail
- 8** Trailheads

### LEHIGH COUNTY



- **18.0** Miles of Open D&L Trail
- **10.3** Miles of Future D&L Trail
- 9** Trailheads



**2,400+**  
Get Your Tail  
on The Trail  
Users



**567K+** Miles  
Logged  
Since 2017



**59 Sites**  
Listed on the  
National Register  
of Historic Places



**26 Schools**  
Participate in D&L  
Educational  
Programs

## Northampton County D&L Trail Facts



**~245**  
Average  
Daily D&L  
Trail Count



The D&L Trail  
Connects  
**16 Parks**



**26 Schools**  
Participate in D&L  
Educational  
Programs

**2,590+**  
Get Your Tail  
on The Trail  
Users



**780K+** Miles  
Logged  
Since 2017



**55 Sites**  
Listed on the  
National Register  
of Historic Places

## Bucks County D&L Trail Facts



**~553**  
Average  
Daily D&L  
Trail Count



The D&L Trail  
Connects  
**21 Parks**



**16 Schools**  
Participate in D&L  
Educational  
Programs

**200+**  
Get Your Tail  
on The Trail  
Users

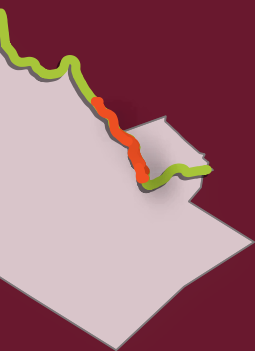


**57K+** Miles  
Logged  
Since 2017



**163 Sites**  
Listed on the  
National Register  
of Historic Places

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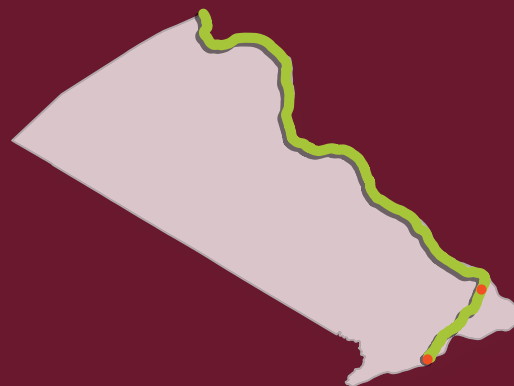
Open D&L Trail  
Future D&L Trail

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY



**27.3** Miles of Open D&L Trail  
**1.3** Miles of Future D&L Trail  
**14** Trailheads

BUCKS COUNTY



**51.7** Miles of Open D&L Trail  
**0.7** Miles of Future D&L Trail  
**17** Trailheads



## INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

Before he became an accomplished historian and author, Roy Ziegler was just a young boy picnicking on the banks of the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers. There, his father would take his family cruising on a 16-foot Chris-Craft boat. Having grown up in Allentown and later Upper Black Eddy, Ziegler enjoyed the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor before the inception of the organization.

As life would have it, Ziegler migrated north post-graduation with a job that sent him to other Trail Towns like Jim Thorpe, Palmerton and Lehigh. It was in this period that he came to appreciate the region's industrial history. Consequently, he serves as a witness to early degradation and later to the regeneration of the Anthracite Region.

"I was so astounded by the transformation of that blighted area into a green and blue landscape with clear running water and fresh air," said Ziegler. "I was compelled to pull my car off the road and get out and enjoy the miraculous transformation."

A long-time member, Ziegler's upbringing in the Corridor and his career have led him to engage with the D&L. He was active in the D&L's Landmark Towns of Bucks County program and the New Hope Historical Society. He continues to lead walking tours in New Hope, keen for the chance to surprise someone with the lesser known history of canals.

No longer the young boy spending careless days on the river banks, Ziegler has authored three books about early American history.



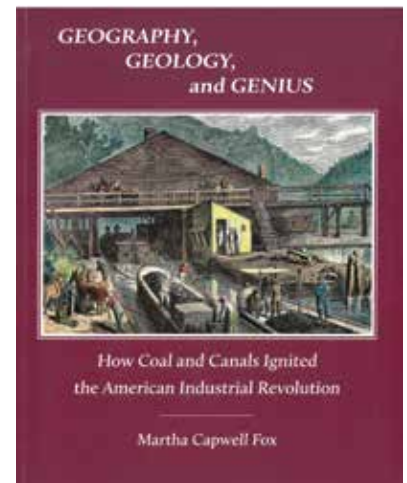
Roy Ziegler

**"I enjoy sharing the knowledge that I have gained about this great resource, and hope to create an interest among those who participate."**



**324 Sites**  
**Listed on the**  
**National Register of**  
**Historic Places**

**70 Schools**   
**Participate in Field**  
**Trips and Curriculum**



**The first book to tell the story of how a small slice of eastern Pennsylvania became the cradle of the American Industrial Revolution.**





## SUSTAINING

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor could not have accomplished all that it has without the overwhelming generosity of the individuals who share their time and resources with the organization. Pat and Sandy Corpora are just one shining example of the generosity that daily makes a difference.

Offering unrestricted support through membership and sharing their time through volunteer work, Pat and Sandy are concerned with one thing: making sure the D&L Trail is easily accessible, safe and enjoyable for all.

“I don’t take it for granted that this resource is available,” said Pat Corpora. “If it wasn’t, it would diminish my enjoyment and I’m willing to volunteer and donate for that reason.”

The Corporas don’t just talk the talk either, but show their support regularly. Pat makes it a point to get on the trail at least once a week. In addition to their membership, Pat serves as a member of Trail Patrol. Spending as much time as he does on the D&L, to Pat it made sense to give back while riding along his favorite sections.

“I carry maps with me and I’ll stop when I see someone a little lost or unsure,” said Corpora. “I’m a big fan of Trail Patrol because it allows me to enjoy myself while at the same time having a tangible hands on contribution.”

Not only do Pat and Sandy see their giving as an acknowledgment of what the D&L has been able to do, but also as an investment in what they hope to see the organization achieve.



 **5,160**  
**Volunteer Hours**  
**Worth \$129,000**

**67%**  
**More**  
**First-Time**  
**Supporters** 

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**“Personally, we really feel very strongly about protecting and enjoying our natural resources and supporting the conservation of wildlands, and the D&L aligns with that.”**

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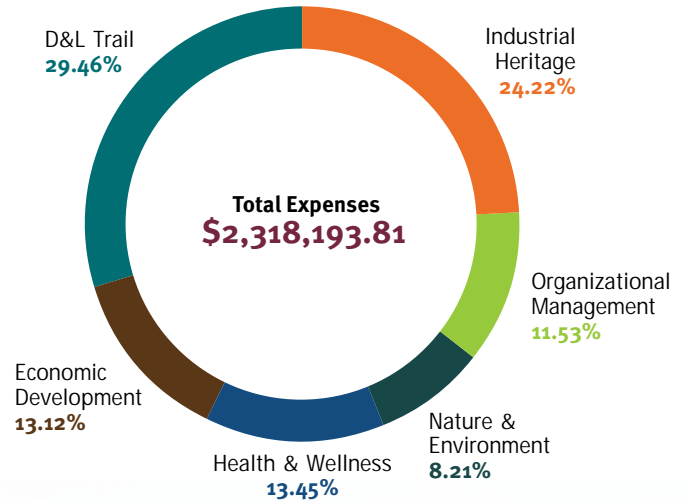
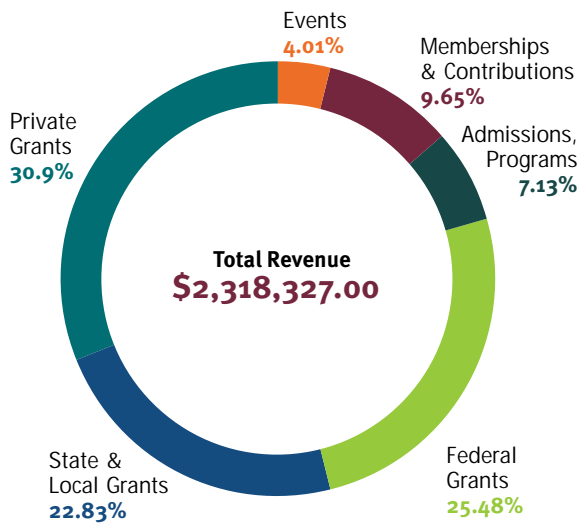
*Pat and Sandy Corpora*



## D&L FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position (For year ended December 31, 2019)

### A Summary of 2019 Financial Activity



*\*Expenses above do not include depreciation of fixed assets.*



# MEMBERS



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Blue Mountain Resort  
Discover Lehigh Valley  
Mauch Chunk Trust Company  
Pocono Whitewater, Ltd.  
PPL Service Corporation  
Viciaulic Company

## Patron

Anonymous  
Hank & Joanne Barnette  
Pat & Sandy Corpora  
L. Anderson & Carolyn Daub  
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Lon & Karen Snowden

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Christopher Hoffman  
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Michael Steigerwalt  
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## Non-Profit/Educational

Friends of the Delaware Canal  
Jim Thorpe Tourism Agency  
White Haven Area Community  
Library

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Nicole & Kenneth Woolley

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Robert Ott  
Yvonne Ott  
Ralph R. Padfield  
Jean & Jim Parker  
Michael Pasaro



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### \$20,000 or More

Buehler Memorial Trust  
County of Northampton  
Elaine Emrick  
Geisinger Health Plan  
The Dowd Family Charitable Fund  
of the Luzerne Foundation  
William Penn Foundation

### \$5,000 to \$19,999

Air Products  
Luzerne County  
PA Historical & Museum Commission  
Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau  
Sordoni Family Foundation  
St. Luke's University Health Network

### \$4,999 to \$1,000

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BB&T Wealth  
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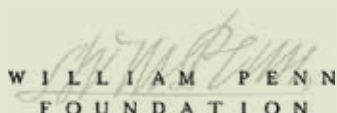
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