

Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc.



Trail use is free and open to the public dawn to dusk.

*Incorporated April 1991 -- Non-profit 501 (c) (3) -- Bureau of Charitable Organizations
36-member board, 1700 members. Full-time Executive Director and Part-time Program Manager*

38 mile Delaware & Hudson Railbed (D&H) acquired with Transportation Enhancement funds
Master Plan complete -- Construction plans complete for first 32 miles

10 miles complete Vandling to Herrick Center; TE funds in place for next 7 miles, need match

NEPA Tri-County area of Lackawanna, Wayne and Susquehanna Counties

Municipalities: Lackawanna Co.: Fell Twp., Vandling Borough

Wayne Co.: Clinton Twp., Starrucca Borough

Susquehanna Co.: Forest City Borough, Clifford Twp., Union Dale Borough,

Herrick Twp., Ararat Twp., Thompson Twp., Thompson Borough,

Starrucca Borough, Harmony Twp, Lanesboro Borough

Progress:

- Up-to-date website www.nepa-rail-trails.org and quarterly newsletter; e-mail trails@nep.net
- Trailheads at Simpson, Forest City, Union Dale, Thompson, Starrucca, Lanesboro
- Office at Cables Store 948 N. Main Street, Union Dale
- Over 260 trees and 100 shrubs & perennials planted; Tree Trail map available
- Over 30 dump-trucks loads of trash removed, yearly spring cleanup
- Worked 5 years with Susquehanna Summer Youth Service Corps; 2 years VISTA volunteer
- Historical interpretive signage at 3 areas
- 5 Railroad bridges decked with side rails; plans to redeck all bridges with concrete
- Routine maintenance: brush removal, grading, wash-out repair; active maintenance team
- Easement on adjacent 8 mile O&W railbed for access to D&H and loop trips
- Upper Lackawanna River Watershed Conservation Plan
- Two riverbank restoration projects, saving trail and preventing coal fines siltation
- "Discover the D&H" series of trail events every year: biking, hiking, walking, educational
- Annual D&H Distance Run – a half-marathon – Sunday after Labor Day Weekend
- 3 "Trails for Tomorrow" American Hiking Society national recognition awards
- Working partnership with NEP Sno-Trails snowmobile club
- Assisting with Waymart D&H trail plan, exploring linkages to Simpson
- Working on feasibility study for Bridgewater-Endless Mountain Trail, Montrose
- Completed a trail maintenance & management plan

Linkages:

- Links to D&H Susquehanna River Trail, New York, 14 miles to Ninevah, NY possible
- D&H links to the south through Carbondale, Upper Valley, Scranton, Old Forge as part of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail
- Lackawanna Heritage Trail has potential to link to Delaware & Lehigh Heritage Trail system with linkages to Philadelphia area
- Potential linkages east, D&H Gravity and Honesdale Branch, through Waymart to Honesdale

Future Plans:

- Complete trail improvements on entire 38 miles of D&H
- Make connections to Lackawanna Heritage Trail system and Waymart D&H Trails
- Start a Montrose Trail chapter to oversee Endless Mountains Rail-Trail
- Maintain & manage trails for public use
- Continue group hikes & bike rides, encourage benefit trail events