

**D&H Rail-Trail**  
**Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc.**  
**Susquehanna County, PA**

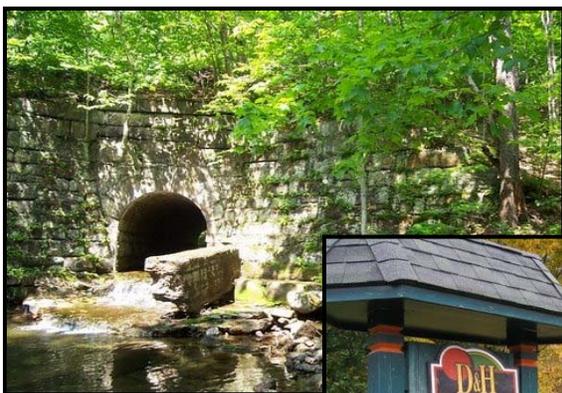
**Project Description:**

Since it was purchased in 1995, bikers and hikers used the 38 miles of trail along the Delaware and Hudson rail bed but the path was far from

smooth. Thanks in part to an \$84,300 Keystone grant from DCNR, the Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania has worked to improve a ten-mile stretch of trail by adding a crushed stone surface, fencing, signage, drainage and ADA accessibility.

The trail runs two miles to the south and eight miles to the north from main trailhead in Forest City. Its flat grade and crushed stone cater to dog walkers, bikers and joggers who enjoy Pennsylvania's natural forests. Users won't just see trees on the path, though. Along the ten mile passage, the trail passes through former coal mining territory and showcases unique views of black culm banks and acid mine outfalls with orange precipitate.

Other parts of the trail curve around streams, lakes, farms and stone walls. As users move between sunny and shady areas, they have noted seeing deer, turkey and, on occasion, bear. Sporadic wildlife spotting is not the only event trail users can anticipate. The trail has



**Quote:** Lynn Conrad, Project Coordinator, Rail Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania

"Two or three times a month we'll have an organized hike or bike ride or wildflower walk. We call it 'Discover the D&H' and it's geared toward different groups – bikers, fitness walkers, different ages, different abilities, families."

been, and will continue to be, a center for organized events.

"We have the Steamtown Marathon in our area in the fall. Since there have been so many people out on the trail to train we decided to have a half marathon," said Lynn Conrad, Project Coordinator from the Rail Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania. According to Conrad, the 13.1 mile race will be held a few weeks prior to the full marathon.

Other organized activities include planned hiking or biking trips, some of which include a focus on topics such as wildflowers.

With growing interest in the trail, Conrad sees the

potential for the trail's positive impact on the local economy, especially since plans for developing more of the trail, hopefully by the spring of 2009, are in the works.

"Most trail users are local now, when we're done with the next ten miles, that's when we'll see more effects [on the community]. That's when people from outside the community will come stay and spend dollars here," she said. "Hopefully this will reenergize some little towns along

the path."



**Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:**

2005: \$84,300

Local Match: \$84,300