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Overview.

As most trail supporters should be aware, Governor Rendell has proposed a Growing Greener II - Quality of Life Initiative that will significantly enhance recreation, park, conservation and environmental programs in Pennsylvania. A major component of the initiative is the provision of \$800 million in new grant funds that would include \$330 million for preserving farmland and open space, for improving state parks, for PA Fish and Boat Commission infrastructure, and for wildlife habitat; \$170 million for restoring communities and expanding affordable housing with \$80 million for community parks; and \$300 million for environmental clean-up and alternative energy investments. *Trail related projects will definitely benefit if this new initiative is approved.*

The Governor has proposed paying for the \$800 million in new grants with a bond initiative approved by the voters and paying for the interest on the bonds by increasing the landfill "tipping" or dumping fee that is charged to garbage haulers to deposit municipal waste.

There are other fee increases and other spending programs are expanded. Complete details are available at the Growing Greener II website, www.growinggreener2.com.

The GG2 initiative was part of the Governor's 2004-2005 State Budget proposal. Legislation was introduced to address the bond initiative (H.B. 2621) which will eventually need to be approved by the voters and to address other aspects of the GG2 proposal including the fees (H.B. 2010).

Unfortunately, GG2 was not included in budget package adopted in early July. Instead, the Governor's Office and legislative leaders in the General Assembly agreed to further study the issue through a "Green Ribbon Commission" with action anticipated this fall.

The "Green Ribbon Commission" has been appointed, and supporters of Growing Greener II are hoping for prompt action. Ideally, legislation will be passed this fall to allow a vote on a bond issue as part of the spring primary election unless other funding mechanisms are agreed to. There seems to be a general consensus that Growing Greener 2 funding will be adopted at some level, but the amount and funding mechanisms are still up for debate.



To keep the process moving and to develop the political support for full GG2 funding at \$800 million, it is important that all GG2 supporters continue to contact their legislators and urge prompt action this fall. The level of success to date has been the direct result of strong support for GG2, and we need to stay vigilant and active over the next couple of months!

Action Requested.

1. **We need to continue broad support so your individual action is important!** Even if you have written or communicated with your local state representative or state senator, do so again. Ask for there support for prompt action on the Growing Greener II Initiative. Provide examples of how local trail project may benefit. Make a personal visit, make a phone call, send an email, or write a letter. If you need help finding the contact information for your legislators, visit the PA General Assembly website, www.legis.state.pa.us, check your local telephone directory, or call the PRPS Office. **Please continue this effort until you hear that the GG2 has passed**
2. In your community, request resolutions of support from your local recreation and park board, your trail organization, and your local governing body—board of supervisors, borough council, etc. to be sent to your state legislators. Some communities did so in the spring, but the effort should continue.
3. Distribute GG2 fact sheets and brochures at meetings, mail to your constituents, and/or just spread them around town. PRPS and DCNR will soon have quantities of hard copies available on request and electronic copy is on the GG2 website: www.growinggreener2.com.
4. Send copies of letters and notes about information learned to the PRPS Office.

Thank you!

For more information.

Check out the latest information on the PRPS website, www.prps.org. Contact Bob Griffith at the PRPS Office. As of 9/24/04



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Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, Inc., 2131 Sandy Drive, State College PA 16803-2283
Phone: 814-234-4272, Fax: 814-234-5276, Web: www.prps.org Email: info@prps.org

Upcoming PRPS Trail Training:

- * **October 26, 2004
Historical Trail
Valley Forge, PA**
- * **October 28, 2004
Historical Trail
Altoona, PA**
- * **May 5 & 6, 2005
Save the Dates!
First Annual PA
Trail Summit
Mechanicsburg, PA**

To register or for more information on these workshops, please phone the PRPS Office at: 814-234-4272



By Dan Martin, PFBC & Hannah Ehrlich, PEC

What is a water trail? In its most basic form, a water trail is a boating trail with public access, points of interest, guides and signage to direct and promote use of the water. In other words, it's a "where-to" that shows boaters exactly where they can go to enjoy themselves. Let's face it; a designated water trail is not much good to anyone unless someone visits it. So the first thing a water trail must do is direct the boater to the resource. In Pennsylvania, that resource, or waterway, designated as a water trail is a river or stream, at least so far. In other states, lakes and coastal areas have been designated as water trails.

Water trails have many components. The most important part is the trail

Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society, Inc.

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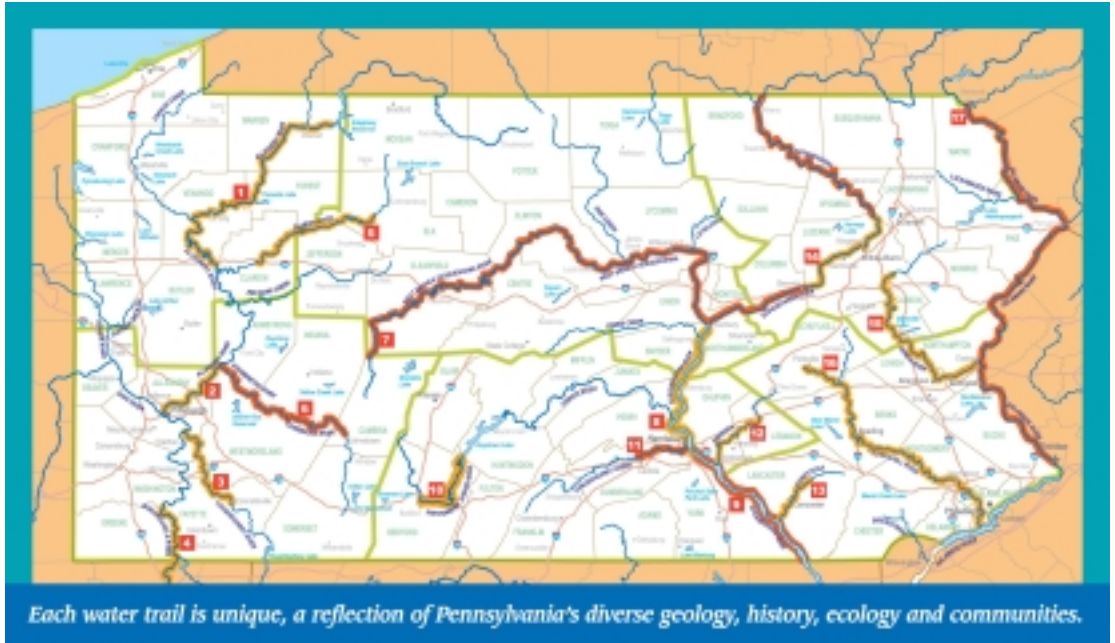
**PRPS
Attn: Lisa Litz
2131 Sandy Drive
State College PA 16803
llitz@prps.org**

What is a Water Trail?

guide. The guide can be output on paper and/or as a web-based product. Trail guides have a map showing boat accesses and distances

reminders for boating safety and other brief information. The amount of signage depends on the resources available to the agency or

PFBC and the DCNR joined together with the PA Environmental Council (PEC) to spearhead the *Pennsylvania Water Trails*



Each water trail is unique, a reflection of Pennsylvania's diverse geology, history, ecology and communities.

from point "A" to "B." Depending on which trail guide you study, you will see varying amounts of detail. Many guides show tributaries, major roads and water hazards like dams. There is information on where to portage, on boating laws and regulations, paddling tips, watchable wildlife, and often historical, geological, cultural and natural features along the way. Guides describe fishing opportunities, give emergency contact information and describe any camping opportunities available along the trail. Another important component of many water trails are the trailhead signs. These informational signs are placed at the trailheads, which are usually public boat ramps. They are in a "you are here" format and include

agencies sponsoring the water trail.

The first PA Water Trail was officially designated by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) in 1998. Since then Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) developed the State's Greenway's Program, which set a goal for the Commonwealth water trail development effort. It calls for development of 1,000 miles of water trails by 2005 and 2,000 miles of water trails by 2010. With 1468 miles of water trails either complete or in progress we are well on our way to surpassing the goal for 2010.

Promoting the Commonwealth's waterways as water trails is a fairly recent concept. In 2003 the

Program. The goals of this program are to encourage the development of additional water trails in the Commonwealth and to connect all of the water trails in PA as part of a statewide system. Through the *Pennsylvania Water Trails Program* local project managers can take advantage of the technical assistance that is provided by the PEC as well as the PFBC and also gain access to funding resources of the DCNR.

The whole point behind everyone's effort on water trails is to get people "out there." Most people are amazed when they travel a Commonwealth river or stream for the first time. Pennsylvania's aquatic resources are truly beautiful, and new users often

(Con't on pg. 3)

PRPS Educational Opportunities

Don't forget to register:

The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society in cooperation with the National Park Service is offering a unique and useful historic trail workshop, Maintaining and Preserving Historical Trails, on October 26th, 2004 at Valley Forge National Historic Park and on October 28th, 2004 at Allegheny National Historic Park.

Through presentations, case studies, facilitated discussions, and field sessions, the speakers will share their knowledge of historic trail preservation. The instructors have experience with historic trail rehabilitation projects at Acadia National Park, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Minuteman National Historical Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Big Bend National Park, and Weir Farm National Historic Site. The instructors have led numerous trainings across the Northeast and prepared several publications to share with participants.

Participants will:

- Gain an understanding and appreciation of historic trails, historic trail construction methods and materials, and maintenance
- Learn about several eras of trail construction (late 19th century, early 20th century, Civilian Conservation Corps era, Mission 66)
- Discuss challenges of historic preservation versus contemporary use, including increased use and compliance
- Identify appropriate solutions for historic trail issues (erosion, drainage, vista management, stone and log work, ironwork, signs, and route)
- Share case studies and participate in field sessions

To register or for more info, phone Lisa at 814-234-4272 or email llitz@prps.org

SAVE THESE DATES!
MARCH 19-23, 2005
PRPS 58TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
HERSHEY LODGE & CONVENTION CENTER

PRPS would like to thank
our Trail Training Partners:

Earth Conservancy
Rails To Trails-Northeast Regional Office
Valley Forge National Historic Park
For information on becoming a partner,
email Lisa at llitz@prps.org

Save These Dates!

May 5 & 6, 2005



First Annual PA Trail Summit

You will not want to miss this exciting opportunity to be a part of the First Annual PA Trail Summit. The two-day Summit will be held in Mechanicsburg at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg West. Both days will be filled with many interesting and valuable trail sessions including topics on all types of trails: hiking, biking, equestrian, rail trails, water, and ATV. Whether you are trail professional, volunteer, educator, vendor, this will be the trail summit to attend.

If you are on the Trails To You mailing list, you will receive information in the future on the Summit. If you would like to participate as a speaker or a vendor, please contact Lisa Litz by email at llitz@prps.org or by phone at 814-234-4272.

What is a Water Trail?... Con't from pg. 2

comment on the scenery along the way as seen for the first time from the water.

Local partners are essential for water trail development and maintenance. Local groups interested in starting a water trail are usually organized into a committee, but someone has to take the lead. Often it is another government agency like the U.S. Forest Service (Middle Allegheny River Water Trail) or Cumberland County (Conodoguin Creek Water Trail). It can be a non-profit agency, such as the Swatara Creek Watershed Association (Swatara Creek Water Trail) or Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (Middle Susquehanna River Water Trail). It can also be an agency interested in economic development, like the Northcentral PA Planning and Economic Development Commission (West Branch Susquehanna River Water Trail).

Paddle PA - In cooperation with DCNR and the American Canoe Association, the Commission has developed a new publication, *Paddle PA*. The objective of this colorful brochure is to serve as a statewide map of Pennsylvania's water trails. It also is a great source of information on streams and rivers in Pennsylvania that have established water trails. It identifies boat accesses, as well as providing paddlers with tips, laws and regulations, safety information and much more. The first draft of this publication has been printed by the Commission and is now available. We look forward to a larger format version, developed in partnership with the PEC, which should be ready in late 2004. The next version's map will have much greater detail and will be an even better resource for paddlers and small-boat operators.

If you are interested in more information about water trails generally or specifically the *Pennsylvania Water Trails Program* contact Hannah Ehrlich, Program Manager, at (412) 481-9400. You may also want to start at the PFBC's web site for up to date information about PA's water trails (www.fish.state.pa.us).

PA Recreation & Park Society, Inc.
2131 Sandy Drive
State College PA 16803-2283
Phone: 814-234-4272
Fax: 814-234-5276
Web: www.prps.org
Email: info@prps.org

Non-profit organization
US Postage
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Permit 99
State College, PA 16801



WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.PRPS.ORG

Swatara Creek Water Trail



The existing Swatara Water Trail runs 42 miles south to the Susquehanna River. An extension is planned north from Jonestown, through Swatara State Park, to Route 645 where the Lower Little Swatara empties into the main stem Swatara on the south end of Pine Grove. The trail extension will add approximately 18 miles. When completed, the entire Water Trail will run through 3 counties and 19 municipalities.

Schuylkill County: Pine Grove Borough, Pine Grove Township; **Lebanon County:** East Hanover Township, Union Township, Bethel Township, Swatara Township, Jonestown Borough, North Annville Township, North Londonderry Township, East Hanover Township; **Dauphin County:** East Hanover Township, Derry Township, South Hanover Township, Swatara Township, Lower Swatara Township, Hummelstown Borough, Londonderry Township, Royalton Borough, Middletown Borough.

Measurable outcomes include trail maps and signs marking public accesses. Water Trails were identified in SCWA's Swatara Rivers Conservation Plan, and supported by a study

including public participation completed by Simone, Jaffe & Collins on Swatara State Park. The trail enables the public to exercise, appreciate riparian buffers, understand the need to protect floodplains, wetlands, the natural and cultural heritage of the area as well as biodiversity of wildlife. Marking trail heads also helps users to respect private property rights.

To create the Water Trail, the Swatara Creek Watershed Association leveraged funds from Canaan Valley Institute, the PA Fish and Boat Commission, and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. SCWA's responsibility as project manager involves signing up willing property owners for access points, taking GIS readings of sites, writing script for features along the Swatara, purchasing, assembling, and installing signs, recruiting volunteers, storing and distributing maps. Because it requires minimal cost to develop numerous miles of water trail, there is minimal upkeep, and virtually no cost to maintain, the Swatara Water Trail is an effective means for making trail opportunities available to the public through public access points that are literally donated by cooperative land owners.

Free maps may be obtained by forwarding your request along with a stamped, self-addressed, legal sized envelope to SCWA, 2501 Cumberland St., Suite 4, Lebanon PA 17042. For more information on the Swatara Water Trail, visit www.mbcomp.com/swatara.