

PA Greenway Action Plan, 12 Strategies for Implementation – September 2008 UPDATE

STRATEGIES & GOALS	ORIGINAL COMPLETION DATE	STATUS	EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE	ACCOMPLISHMENTS/NEEDS
PROGRAM GOAL #1: Plan and Establish Greenway Connections				
1. “Hubs and Spokes” – A Statewide Network of Greenways				
Map of Statewide Significant Greenways presented.	2002	Completed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continually updated. Last updated in September 2008. Will the use of the term Mega-Greenways continue?
Greenway GIS comes online.	2003	Underway	Early 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIS complete for all rail/trails, August 2008. System testing scheduled for summer of 2009. Integrate completed county greenway plans with trail layer (<i>statewide trail GIS data</i>) by spring of 2009.
25% of the Statewide Significant Greenways completed.	2010	Underway		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported planning for several MEGA Greenways (>100 miles and 4 counties) including Kittatinny Ridge, Mainline Canal, Susquehanna, PA Highlands and GAP. Need to agree on how to define 25% completed.
A greenway demonstration project selected and underway in every county.	2007	Underway	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to agree on what is a <i>county</i> greenway demonstration project. Work with 10 counties by summer 2009 to select demonstration projects.
Establish local greenways in 1,000 communities.	2010	Underway		Greenway GIS is needed to more accurately evaluate this goal.
Establish a local greenway in every community.	2020	Underway		Greenway GIS is needed to more accurately evaluate this goal.
2. Greenway Plans – Greenprints for Growth				
All 67 counties complete and adopt Greenway Plans.	2007	Underway	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 62 of 67 counties are engaged in completing plans. Supported development of approximately 61 sub-county greenway planning efforts (municipal or multi-municipal).
3. Places for All People				
Complete a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.	2003	Completed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First plan completed in 2004. 2009-2013 plan to be completed in summer of 2009 with a major focus on trails.
Complete a Motorized Recreation Study.	2004	Not currently being considered		Statewide ATV and snowmobile users’ survey completed 2004 and 2006 respectively. Used to develop DCNR’s implementation strategy for expanding their use on private lands.
Designate 1,000 miles of water trails.	2005	Completed		
Designate 2,000 miles of water trails.	2010	Underway		1,931 miles as of August 2008.

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4. Pennsylvania Wellness				
Integrate greenways into the State Health Improvement Plan.	2002	Completed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated greenways into the <i>State Health Improvement Plan</i>, 2001-2005. Need to work with Dept of Health on 2011-2015 plan.
Undertake the Greenways and Healthy Communities initiative.	2003	Postponed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration with Dept of Health to offer technical assistance to the Keystone Healthy Community Initiative in developing and expanding greenways and trails. Need the CDC to release funding to support this initiative.
Work with community-based health improvement partnerships to support and promote greenways with a physical activity focus.	Annually	Underway		<p>PA Advocates for Nutrition & Activity (PANA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keystone Active Zone Program -- county-based coalitions for outreach to schools & communities to promote close-to-home recreation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 counties participating in the 2007-2008 program. 34 counties expected to participate in the 2008-2009 program. NRG Outdoors program launched in 2008 to improve outdoor recreation skills, promote the use of parks and trails, and improve conservation practices among youth and families.
5. Alternative Transportation				
Construct or enhance 100 miles of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.	Annually	Underway		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of summer 2008, there are 126 open rail-trails totaling 1,300 miles. This needs to be compared to 2001 rail-trail statistics. PennDOT's Smart Transportation Guidebook published in March 2008. Safe Routes to School Program funding applications submitted. Work with PennDOT to track number of miles of enhanced sidewalks.
Increase bicycle accessibility of transit systems by 5%.	Annually	Underway		Need to evaluate through GIS how many trails connect to transit/bus stops.
6. Natural Resource Protection				
Add 600 miles of riparian buffers and work to conserve all existing buffers.	2010	Underway		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 2008, 300 acres in Philadelphia area were added through DCNR's TreeVitalize program. As of 3/31/2008 DEP and USDA's CREP program have added 20,674 acres throughout PA. Need to evaluate the buffer projects in terms of linear miles of stream banks and tie to the statewide Tree Vitalize program.

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Incorporate green opportunities into 20 brownfields and integrate the sites into local greenway networks.	2010	Underway		At least 3 greenways have been integrated with brownfield sites.
PROGRAM GOAL #2: Create a Greenways Organizational Framework				
7. Greenway Organizational Structure				
Issue or amend the Greenways Executive Order.	2001	Completed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCNR lead agency for PA Greenways by Governor’s Executive Order 1998-3. The Greenways and Conservation Partnership Division has assumed program responsibility. • Established the Secretary’s Greenways Program Advisory Committee, which has been absorbed by the PA State Recreation Plan Technical Advisory Committee.
PROGRAM GOAL #3: Provide Funding for Greenways				
8. Greenways Funding				
Create the Pennsylvania Greenways Funding Guide.	2002	Completed		“Creating Connections: The Pennsylvania Greenways and Trails How-To Manual,” completed in 1998, is scheduled to be updated in 2009.
Complete a feasibility Study to create a Pennsylvania Greenways Trust for assembling private dollars to leverage public funds on a 1:1 match ratio.	2003	Not currently being considered		
Identify a long-term funding stream that ensures the sustainability of the Greenways Program.	2004	Underway		Redirecting current DCNR Keystone and Growing Greener funds. Approximately \$35 million awarded for Greenway projects between 2001-2007: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$7 million for MEGA & Major Corridors • \$3 million for Greenways planning • \$6 million for motorized trails • \$19 million for land & water trails (non-motorized)

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PROGRAM GOAL #4: Provide Technical Assistance & Outreach				
9. Greenways Toolbox				
A Greenways Toolbox is assembled and online.	2002	Completed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAgreenways.org has been online since 2002. Will be periodically updated over 2009. Includes greenway, trail, and open space related documents. • Completed Rail-Trail Maintenance Handbook. Proposal to update in 2009. • PALTA is developing conservationtools.org, a web-based guide on conservation tool due out in 2009.
10. Greenways Education and Training				
Integrate greenways training with Growing Smarter education and training programs.	2002	Underway		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach to all local government and planning associations (annually). • Annual Trail Development and Maintenance Workshops. • Annual Statewide Greenways and Trail Summits, 2005-2008. • Northwest PA Regional Trail Symposium in 2006. • Southeast PA Creating Connections Workshop in 2007.
Initiate a strategy to integrate greenways concepts into the instruction and assessment related to existing environment and ecology standards for grades K-12.	2003	Underway		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum for grades 6-12, “Pennsylvania Land Choices – A Workshop for Teachers” and conducted teacher workshops, 2004-2007.
Launch a basic Greenways Information Clearinghouse.	2003	Completed		PAgreenways.org has been online since 2002. Will be periodically updated over 2009.
Encourage incorporation of greenway concepts as part of teacher preparation curriculum or basic environmental science courses in all state-owned universities.	2004	Not currently being considered		

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11. Greenways Promotional Campaign				
75% of Pennsylvanians know the definition and benefits of greenways.	2006	Underway		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual PA Greenway Sojourn to highlight PA rail-trails. • Annual PA River Sojourn to highlight PA water trails. • Filmed PA Greenways Documentary for Public Television – “Greenways: The Way To Go,” 2004 • Filmed “Expedition Susquehanna,” connecting public to outdoor and the Susquehanna Greenway, 2005. • Need to identify how to measure this.
Pennsylvania becomes the #1 state in greenways-based tourism.	2010	No longer being considered		
Increase inquiries at the Pennsylvania greenways website and 800-number by 10%.	Annually	Underway		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to update information on pagreenways.org website throughout 2009 and monitor hits. • 800-number no longer being considered.
12. The Greenways Volunteer Network				
Establish and implement the Pennsylvania Adopt-A-Greenways Program.	2004	Completed		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through PA CleanWays 8 greenways have been officially adopted and 32 illegal dump sites within greenways have been cleaned since 2003. • 1,200 volunteers committed 9,600 hours to these projects. • Need to gauge interest in a statewide adoption program.