

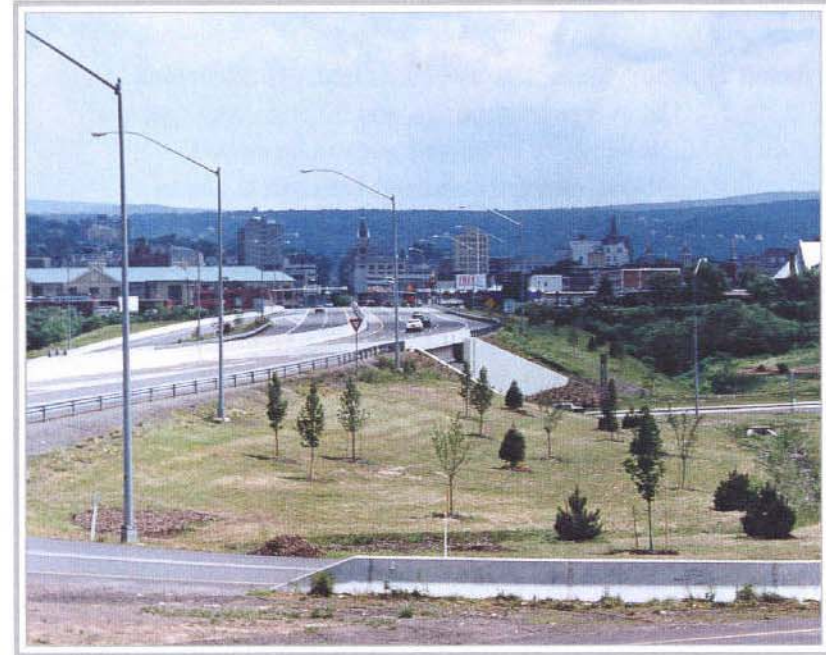
Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (570) 342-7711
Project Manager: Karl Pfeiffenberger
Grant Amount: \$150,000

Greenway Enhancement Project, Phase I focused on 80-acres along the North Scranton Expressway that were once strip-mined for surface coal. A hundred years later this parcel appeared barren and desolate to visitors and commuters. A thin culm-based soil supported little or no vegetation throughout the year. Sparse tufts of grass seemed lifeless in the spring and burned in summer. Fall offered less, and winter-like tundra of barren land and broken windswept gray birch only highlighted the industrial scars and abandoned buildings as you entered the City of Scranton.

The Greenway Enhancement Project achieved community development objectives and addressed environmental, social and economic development issues. Objectives included increased habitat and diversity, linkages to the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail and improved conditions for sustainable commercial development. The plantings restored aesthetics and enhanced the ecological vitality of lands along this principal highway route to the city.

Local residents, commuters, and businesses in the city were positively impacted by the changes. In addition, master planning efforts enhanced the atmosphere for commercial development that is expected to create 550 local jobs and increase development in the adjacent business district.



Project Value and Match

Grant Award	\$150,000
Cash Contributions	\$80,000
In-kind Contributions	\$52,682
Total Project Cost	\$282,682

Project Accomplishments

- Restored 80-acres of strip-mined lands by planting 178 canopy trees, 301 evergreen trees, 391 understory or flowering trees, 959 shrubs, and 810 herbaceous plants.
- Worked with 14 diverse partnerships.
- Preserved historic views, framed attractive views and buffered unattractive views into the city of Scranton.
- Developed a master plan that addresses long term sustainability.
- Expanded management objectives for the Heritage River Trail.
- Raised \$80,000 in private contributions.
- Saved \$10,000 by using recycled oak pallet mulch and compost.
- Received a 1996 Environmental Partnership Award from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.
- Contributed to the creation of 550 future jobs in the adjacent business district.
- Achieved a 1 to 1.88 cost share ratio on the grant.



Partners' Contributions

CECO Associates, Inc. – Technical assistance
Lackawanna Conservation District – Technical assistance
Lackawanna Recycling Center – Provided mulch
Lackawanna Planning Commission – Technical assistance
Lackawanna Regional Cultural Council – Financial assistance
Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority – Technical assistance
Metro Action – Technical assistance
PennDOT, District 4-0 – Highway permit, traffic control
Scranton Shade Tree Commission – Tree plantings
Steamtown National Historic Site – Technical assistance
Governor William Scranton – Support of public relations activities