

## Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA)

Phone: (570) 207-7608

Project Manager: Bernie McGurl

Grant Amount: \$86,502

**LRCA Providence Reach, Heritage Trail, Phase I** restored 5.5-acres of river woodland sites to protect the water quality of the Lackawanna River. LRCA improved sites in North Scranton along Nay Aug Avenue, the historic Silkman House and along a one-mile section of the former New York Ontario and Western Railroad right-of-way.

The project successfully evolved to meet the program objectives by integrating its restoration goals with stewardship opportunities involving hundreds of local citizens. These opportunities reaffirmed awareness and understanding of community forestry and contributed to the largest community based restoration project in the Lackawanna River Valley.

The scope of work was amended several times in response to problems and opportunities that evolved over a course of two years. With acquisition of land behind the historic Silkman House, a one-mile section along the Lackawanna River became focus for work.

In North Scranton, the steep backyards that drop off abruptly to the river were used as dumping grounds. Brush, construction materials, ashes, and household garbage have been deposited over the hillsides for decades. The LRCA used education and stewardship to address the negative impacts that residential neighborhoods have had on the river. Through hard work and perseverance, the LRCA mitigated erosion, opened up an important section of the Heritage River Trail, and involved the community in these improvements.

### Project Value and Match

<b>Grant Award</b>	<b>\$86,502</b>
Cash Contributions	\$3,418
In-kind Contributions	\$31,145
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$121,065</b>



*during*

### Significant Revisions to the Scope of Work

Four sites were deleted from the scope due to ownership issues and the Nay Aug Avenue Volunteer Planting was added to the project. Additionally, LRCA's assessment of succession at the Roaring Brook site determined it was not prudent to spend federal dollars on restoring a natural process that was well underway. A research component of the project was retained from the original proposal for Roaring Brook and

will be monitored yearly by University of Scranton students.

**Project Accomplishments**

- Planted 26 canopy trees, 83 evergreen trees, 32 understory trees, 205 shrubs, and 2500 herbaceous plants.
- Restored 2,640-l.ft. of railroad right of way.
- Developed a site access plan and biotic inventory for the Roaring Brook burn site.
- Eradicated 4 established stands (10,000-sq.ft.) of Japanese knotweed along the Lackawanna River.
- Enhanced 2,640-l.ft. of trail edge with native plantings.
- Removed more than 100 car hoods, doors, and other auto parts from along the Lackawanna River.
- Removed approximately 200-cubic yards of household garbage and debris from along the Lackawanna River.
- Cleared and mulched 1,200-l.ft. of a once-impassable section of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail.

- Worked with 167 volunteers who committed 2,381 hours of service.
- Formed partnerships with 4 community organizations to implement and maintain the Nay Aug Avenue site.
- Designed, constructed, and installed 17 interpretive panels.
- Restored 6 blocks of degraded river slopes behind residential properties in North Scranton.
- Received a \$20,000 land donation.

**Partners' Contributions**

- Bulls Head/Weston Field Neighborhood Assoc. – Volunteers
- Chilewski Contracting – Machinery and labor
- City of Scranton, Dept. of Public Works – Services
- City of Scranton Shade Tree Commission – Trees
- DeNaples Auto Parts – Materials and machinery
- Green Ridge Neighborhood Association – Volunteers
- Lackawanna County Conservation District – Technical assistance
- Lackawanna County Recycling Center – Mulch
- Lackawanna Valley Heritage Authority – Technical assistance
- Lackawanna Valley Conservancy – Land
- Mulberry Bush Nursery – Services and plants
- North Scranton Rotary Club – Volunteers
- PA American Water Company – Services
- PA Department of Environmental Protection – Technical assistance
- PG Energy – Technical assistance



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