

The Nature Conservancy

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Project Manager: Nancy Clupper

Grant Amount: \$5,000

The Lackawanna County Natural Areas Inventory was compiled and written by the Pennsylvania Science Office of the Nature Conservancy under contract to the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority. Its purpose is to help plan development while ensuring protection of critical natural areas throughout the county. The Inventory contains information on the locations of rare, threatened, and endangered species and the highest quality natural areas in the 458 square-miles of Lackawanna County. Each site description is accompanied by general management recommendations that ensure the protection of rare plants, animals, and natural communities.

The inventory provides the foundation for a regional conservation agenda and will provide the citizens of Lackawanna County, county and municipal governments, and developers with the information they need to make informed decisions on how to create a balance between protecting the area's cultural and physical heritage with its need for economic development. This knowledge is expected to help prevent conflicts over land use, direct protection efforts and target limited conservation dollars to the most vulnerable areas. Maps accompanying the document aid in the identification of these important areas. Managed areas such as federal, state, county and township lands, private preserves, and conservation easements are identified. This information is useful in determining where gaps occur in protection of land with rare species, natural communities, and locally significant habitats. Not all the information on protected lands was available at the time of this inventory and it is expected that new sites will be added.

Project Value and Match

Grant Award	\$5,000
Cash Contributions	\$60,000
Total Project Cost	\$65,000



Project Accomplishments

- Inventoried approximately 70 sites in Lackawanna County.
- Located and documented 48 sites having species of special concern or exemplary natural communities in Lackawanna County.
- Identified and located rare, threatened, and endangered species.
- Documented 7 areas of significance in Lackawanna County.
- Classified 98 natural community types found in Pennsylvania.
- Documented 29 plants and 14 animals of special concern countywide.
- Made conservation recommendations for natural area community types.
- Accumulated 136 volunteer hours from 48 individuals who attended planning meetings or reviewed the final draft.
- Promoted biodiversity through preservation.
- Updated Pennsylvania's historical species lists.
- Enlightened local landowners about their property.
- Promoted sustainable economic development.



Partners' Contributions

Department of Community Affairs – Financial assistance
Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce – Financial assistance
Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority – Financial assistance
National Park Service – Financial assistance
Neighborhood Development Trust Fund – Financial assistance
PA Heritage Parks Program – Financial assistance
University of Scranton – Public meeting space