

**Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority**

Phone: (570) 876-6188

Project Manager: Annette Schultz

Grant Award: \$120,000

---

**The Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, CNJ Forestry** project improved two sites along the river and trail. Restoration focused on key 1.5-mile segments of abandoned railroad right-of-ways in Scranton and Carbondale. Improvements included invasive species removal, forest layer restoration, increased native plant diversity, and soil remediation using strategies developed from the 1995 forestry grant. Grant funds were used to improve 9-acres of degraded urban rail corridor along the CNJ Railroad trail. This trail is adjacent to the previously improved William Schmidt Recreation Facility in Scranton. In addition, improvements were made on 3-acres of degraded railroad corridor near the newly-built Pioneer Train Station in the heart of the Carbondale Downtown Business District.

To develop community interest in the trail and raise awareness of the importance of protecting natural resources, a number of community-based projects were organized. The 1995 "hands-on" environmental education program that provided environmental opportunities for troubled youngsters was again successfully implemented. Ecology and special education students from the Carbondale Area High School planted the corridor along the Carbondale Pioneer City Station. The planting was prefaced by classroom study. In addition, Boy Scouts, community groups, fire departments, AT&T employees, the Lackawanna River Corridor Association and United Neighborhood Center volunteers participated in volunteer-based activities that supported this project. These contributions resulted in 192 volunteers contributing 1,420 hours of in-kind service to community forestry efforts along the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail.

**Project Value and Match**

<b>Grant Award Expended</b>	<b>\$117,289</b>
Cash Contributions	\$56,742
In-kind Contributions	\$21,640
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$195,671</b>

**Project Accomplishments**

- Planted 83 canopy trees, 86 evergreen trees, 58 flowering trees, 258 shrubs, and 1,208 herbaceous plants.
- Planted along 15,840-l.ft. of new trail.
- Improved 7,920-sq.ft. of degraded urban trail corridor.
- Improved 1,700-l.ft. of trail corridor directly adjacent to the Lackawanna River.
- Managed 1.1-acres of existing woodland through selective and exotic species removal, trash cleanup, and understory plantings.
- Increased plant diversity by planting 25 species of native plants.
- Eradicated approximately 9,600-sq.ft. of Japanese knotweed.
- Implemented recommendations made in "*Ecological Restoration Plan for Two Sections of Proposed Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, 1996.*"
- Implemented the model environmental education program developed in the 1995 grant.
- Provided environmental education and hands-on activities to 40 high school students and 70 special-needs students.
- Involved 7 community groups in forestry related activities.
- Constructed an interpretive sign highlighting site history and urban forestry initiatives.



Lackawanna River Corridor Association – Watered plantings  
National Park Service – Technical assistance  
NEIU Unit #19 – Coordinated hands-on learning  
PA Dept. of Cons. & Natural Resources – Financial assistance  
PA Heritage Parks Program (DCNR) – Financial assistance  
Padula & Sons, Inc. – Labor and equipment  
Penn State Cooperative Extension – Educational services  
PennDOT District 4-0 – Safety control  
Scranton Sewer Authority – Site work  
Simpson Cub Scout Pack #17 – Site cleanup  
State Correctional Institute Waymart – Labor  
United Neighborhood Center – Plant care

### Partners' Contributions

AT&T – Plant care  
BBNS – Donated land valued at \$53,000  
Carbondale 2000 – Pioneer Station cleanup  
Carbondale Area High School – Planting  
Carbondale Business Association – Train station improvements  
Carbondale Department of Public Works – Site work  
Carbondale Fire Company – Watering  
Carbondale Chamber of Commerce – Volunteers  
City of Carbondale – Administrative assistance  
City of Scranton, Parks and Recreation – Waste services  
Delaware & Lackawanna Railroad – Equipment and labor  
Dickson Center School – Planting by students  
Keystone Sanitary Landfill – Dumpsters

