

Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA)

Phone: (570) 207-7608

Project Manager: Bernard McGurl

Grant Award: \$78,000

Providence Reach Heritage Trail Improvements by LRCA continued work initiated in 1995 along a 4.5-acre portion of Lackawanna River Corridor between the 2000th and 2100th block of North Main Avenue in the Providence section of Scranton. The project site, part of the abandoned Ontario & Western Railway, has been used for recreation and education purposes by the LRCA since Phase I of the forestry project was completed. The site is expected to become a component of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail by year 2002. The project focus was on planting native species and the continued removal of trash, control of invasive vegetation, and stabilization of slopes impacted by urban dumping. Phase II of the project continued to build upon the initial efforts that transformed 2,120-l.ft. of once impassible rail corridor into a scenic riverside trail.

The project addressed community needs for recreation, urban safety, and natural resource improvements as stated in the “*Lackawanna River Citizens’ Master Plan,*” “*Plan for the Lackawanna Heritage Valley,*” and “*Lackawanna Heritage Valley Rails to Trails Summary of Inventory and Recommendations.*”

The involvement of local residents in the restoration process increased community awareness of the benefits of reestablishing native plant communities, controlling invasive exotics, the functions of riparian habitat, and the importance of water quality monitoring. In addition, the LRCA collaborated with the University of Scranton to enlist AmeriCorps volunteers for a two-month period. The twelve-member team provided \$16,000 of in-kind labor to the project.

Project Value and Match

Grant Award	\$78,000
Cash Contributions	\$5,497
In-kind Contributions	\$28,666
Total Project Cost	\$112,163



Project Accomplishments

- Improved 3.3-acres of degraded urban forest.
- Planted 10 canopy trees, 20 evergreen trees, 23 understory trees, 154 shrubs, and 59 herbaceous plants.
- Regraded 8,000-sq.ft. of the site and amended soils.

- Improved 1,620-l.ft. of riparian forest through cleanup, selective removals, and invasive control.
- Eradicated 3,600-sq.ft. of invasive Japanese knotweed.
- Hydro-seeded 34,000-sq.ft. to stabilize steep banks.
- Improved degraded urban lands adjacent to 50 homes, 9 businesses, 2 churches and 1 public library.
- Replanted trees from the native plant nursery (started during the 1995 project) into restored areas.
- Used 24 yards of composted pallet mulch from the Lackawanna County Recycling Center.
- Opened up 2,210-l.ft. section of the Heritage Trail to a riverside community without previous access.
- Designed, constructed, and installed signs for 12 interpretation stations.
- Completed the first riparian restoration along the Lackawanna River.



- Worked with 300 volunteers who completed 4,304 hours of service.
- Regraded 1,800-l.ft. of trail surface with volunteer labor.

Partners' Contributions

AmeriCorps Team – Volunteer labor
Boy Scouts of America – Eagle Scout project
Boys and Girls Club of Scranton – Volunteer labor
Dickson Center – Volunteer labor
NEIU #19 – Volunteer student labor
East Scranton Intermediate School – Volunteer labor
Elm Park Methodist Church – Volunteer labor
Lackawanna County Conservation District – Technical assistance
Lackawanna County Recycling Center – Mulch
Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority – Technical assistance
Lackawanna Housing Development – AmeriCorps housing
Mulberry Central Development – AmeriCorps housing
Robert Morris Elementary School – Volunteer labor
Scranton Public Library – Meeting & office space
State Correctional Institute Waymart – Volunteer labor
University of Scranton – AmeriCorps Volunteers