

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission

Phone: (717) 939-9551 x 3521

Project Managers: Carmen Rodia and James Kaiser

Grant Award: \$150,000

Northern Gateway Enhancement improved the landscape areas along a 6.75-mile section of the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike between the Wyoming Valley Interchange (Exit #37) and the Clark Summit Interchange (Exit #39). The plantings enhanced the experience and perception of this major thoroughfare for almost three million commuters and tourists by improving roadside views. The approach used in planting this project differed from the Turnpike's usual approach to roadside plantings by mixing trees, shrubs and perennials in beds. The mixed beds resulted in more naturalistic plantings, seasonal interest, and lower maintenance.

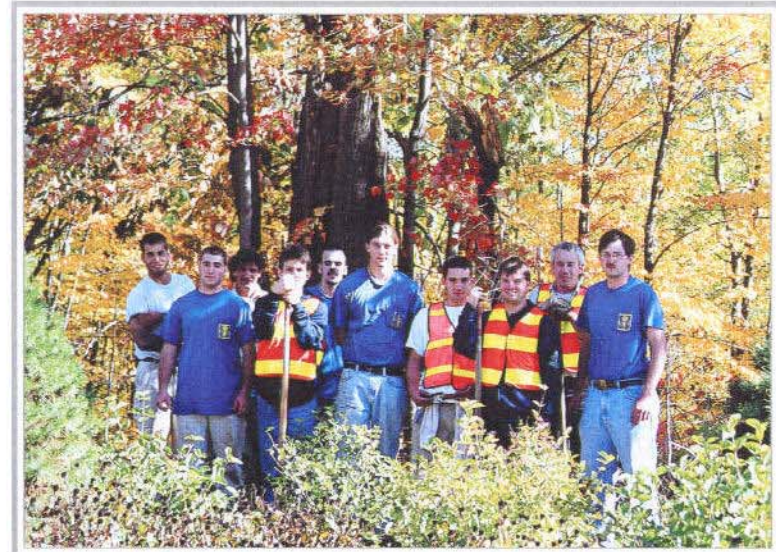
Two roadside signs were erected that give credit to the program and its partners. Congressman McDade attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the project in April 1998.

Significant Revisions to the Scope of Work

The approved bid for landscape plantings was lower than expected, allowing for additional plantings at the South Abington Interchange.

Project Value and Match

Grant Award	\$150,000
In-kind Contributions	\$146,734
Total Project Cost	\$296,734



Project Accomplishments

- Planted 11 canopy trees, 233 evergreen trees, 131 flowering trees, 1,258 shrubs, and 7,048 herbaceous plants.
- The project added 12 evergreen trees, 3 flowering trees and 86 shrubs to the South Abington project along Routes 6 and 11.
- Enhanced 2,680-l.ft. of existing wooded edge with plantings.
- Improved 6.75-miles (approximately 50-acres) of roadside and three interchanges with plantings.
- First occasion the Turnpike partnered with an outside organization for technical assistance with roadside design.
- Involved 6 partners in completion of the Northern Gateway Enhancement Project.
- Held a groundbreaking ceremony attended by Congressman McDade.
- Achieved a 1 to .98 cost share ratio for the grant.

Partners' Contributions

Empire Landfill – Trash cleanup

Pannier Corporation – Graphics

Pennsylvania Conservation Corps – Plant care

South Abington Township – Design review

Taylor Borough – Design review

