

## Lackawanna County Railroad Authority (LCRA)

Lackawanna County Railroad Authority's Excursion Improvement Program

Project Manager: Charlene Doyle

1998 Grant Award: \$350,000

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The Lackawanna County Railroad Authority works in partnership with Lackawanna County, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, and Steamtown National Historic Site to improve the natural and economic resources along all of the rail lines in the northeast region of Pennsylvania. The **LCRA's Excursion Improvement Program** focused on vista enhancements, forest management, and plantings along a section of a 13-mile excursion-line between Scranton and Moscow. Over 37,000 visitors experienced this excursion in 1997, which exemplified many degraded areas from dumping, industrial uses, and invasive plant infringements.

The Large Urban Forestry Grant funded soil enhancement, planting, vegetation management, and vista clearings to vastly improve the forest health and railway experience for visitors and residents of the county. Now riders can see and experience the many natural resources of this region.

### Significant Revisions to the Scope of Work

This project experienced delays and was extended until November 30, 2001.

### Project Accomplishments

- Planted 62 trees including 33 evergreen, 29 deciduous, 46 canopy, and 16 flowering;
- Planted 249 shrubs and 104 herbaceous plants;
- Placed 41 cubic yards of mulch;
- Thomas McLane Associates, landscape architects, created a plan for the project site;
- Cleared 11 miles of undesirable vegetation including sumac and Japanese knotweed; and
- Removed over 100,000 square feet of junk and dumped material.

### Project Value and Match

<b>Grant Award</b>	<b>\$350,000</b>
In-kind Contributions	\$ 65,347
<b>Total Project Value</b>	<b>\$415,347</b>

### Project Partnerships

Delaware Lackawanna Railroad – flagman and inspector

Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission – project overview

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority – project coordination and support

PA DCNR – project guidance

Steamtown National Historic Site – project coordination and support

