

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA)
 Lackawanna River Heritage Trail Head Improvements
 Project Manager: Jack Carling
 1998 Grant Award: \$88,000

The Lackawanna River Heritage Trail was part of a regional plan to conserve natural resources throughout the Lackawanna Valley. Abandoned rail lines, existing paths, and roads were linked to create a trail system that allows diverse communities to enjoy the Lackawanna River. The trail is heavily used despite a degraded environment from past coal mining and development. In 1995, LHVA, a leader in economic and community development, created a restoration plan for the trail system with the support of this Program.

Lackawanna River Heritage Trail Head Improvements improved trailheads and restored the riparian habitat of the Lackawanna River at the Laurel Street Park in Archbald, the Jessup Segment near Decker Bridge, and the Scranton Segment through Schmidt Field Sports Complex. LHVA partnered with the Lackawanna River Corridor Association to coordinate volunteer days, which became opportunities to teach about revitalizing waterways.

Significant Revisions to the Scope of Work

Bids for construction were lower than expected. Jack Carling replaced Annette Schultz as project manager.

Project Accomplishments

- Planted 123 trees including 20 evergreens, 103 deciduous, 70 canopy, and 53 flowering;
- Planted 243 shrubs and 1,133 herbaceous plants;
- Used 125 cubic yards of recycled mulch, 62 cubic yards of standard mulch and chemical and organic amendments;
- Thomas McLane Associates, landscape architects, created a plan for the project site;
- Removed Japanese knotweed and cleared 6 cubic yards of dumped material and debris;
- Regraded 500 linear feet of streambank with 200 cubic yards of top soil;



- Restored 3,650 linear feet of riparian buffer;
- Installed 4 site identification and project credit signs; and
- Planted 1.7 acres of the project site.

Project Value and Match

Grant Award	\$ 88,000
Cash Contributions	\$217,457
In-kind Contributions	\$ 15,753
Total Project Value	\$321,210

Project Partnerships

- Boy Scouts of America – trail markers
- Dickson Center School of NEIU 19 – student volunteers
- Lackawanna County Recycling Center – materials and mulch
- Lackawanna River Corridor Association – river information and volunteer coordination
- Mulberry Bush – landscape contracting services
- PA DCNR, Bureau of Forestry – technical assistance
- PA Department of Labor and Industry – media advisory
- Pennsylvania Conservation Corp – construction labor
- Thomas McLane Associates – project design