

Delaware River Water Trail Bucks County, PA

Project Description:

The vision of the Delaware River Water Trail is to create trail from Hancock, NY to Trenton, NJ that runs along the Delaware River. A Water Trail, which is defined by North American Water Trails as “a recreational waterway...containing access points and day use and/or camping sites for the boating public,” would only add to the amount of people that already use the Delaware for pleasure. Imagine traveling down the river under a clear day, then camping right along the banks under the stars. The Delaware is the main waterway in the Philadelphia area but is undervalued in what it can offer recreationally. The Trail will be 224 miles, and include multiple campsite and access points with parking lots, not to mention ADA accessible areas. The trail will



Quote: Celeste Tracy, Executive Director, Delaware River Greenway Partnership

“We expect the water trail and the tasks to implement the trail management plan will have a tremendous impact on the amount of usage on the river and the quality of the river experience.”

help to protect the river corridor and limit the effects of any further anthropogenic damage. The plan will link small towns and tourist amenities, thus providing an economic stimulus more rural areas. Additionally, any projects needed to keep the

trail in the best shape will try to implement sustainable restoration methods.

The Delaware River Greenway Partnership worked with many government (National Park Service, DCNR, Fish and Boat Commission, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Delaware River Basin Commission) and non-government organizations to help develop the plan. According to Celeste Tracy, the plan has garnered tremendous support from all groups. The Partnership included local governments and the public in the planning process to assure local support and help steer the project in the best interest of the users. The Partnership actions to implement this management plan include an education and marketing plan to publicize the trail and also the resources and towns found along the river.



Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:

- 2002: \$75,000 Growing Greener Grant
- Matching Funds - \$85,997
- PPL Corporation - \$5,000
- NJDEP - \$4,000
- Steering committee value of time - \$69,877
- Volunteers' value of time - \$7,120