

# **WAYNE COUNTY RECREATION, PARKS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Wayne County, Pennsylvania, located in the northeast corner of the Commonwealth of PA with a total land area of just over 750 square miles, is the longest County north to south and contains more bodies of water than any of the other 66 counties in the State. These public and private lakes and ponds with their inter-connecting drainage of rivers and streams provide an abundance of water related recreational activities for both year-round residents and seasonal visitors to Wayne County.

The County-wide Recreation, Parks, and Natural Resources Plan was developed and prepared through grant funding support by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Professional services for the report were provided by the private consulting firm, Woodland Design Associates, Inc., in conjunction with local background resource information and technical review assistance from the Wayne County Planning/GIS Department.

Through the two-year development and study of this County-wide Plan, a total of nearly 300 existing and potential recreational sites were identified throughout the County's 22 townships and 6 boroughs under guidance received from the advisory committee, key community stakeholders, and local municipal outreach. The sites identified include existing municipal parks, County owned recreational land, State Forest, Game and Park lands, federal designated waterways as well as cultural, historic, and scenic waterfall locations.

The County Recreation, Parks, and Natural Resources Plan clearly defines 'Goals and Objectives', identifies County recreational planning needs, and recommends local, County, and State level opportunities to enhance recreation, natural resource access, and outdoor connections with the greater region.

When reviewing and utilizing this Plan for existing and potential future recreational opportunities, we encourage the reader to locate their area of interest within the 28 municipal detailed inventories. State funded grant opportunities and a clear, achievable Implementation Matrix have been compiled and listed on Pgs. 33 through 34.

### **WAYNE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

Brian W. Smith, Chairman

Joseph W. Adams

Jocelyn Cramer

WOODLAND DESIGN ASSOCIATES, INC. – Consultant

WAYNE COUNTY PLANNING / GIS DEPARTMENT

COUNTY RECREATION, PARKS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN STUDY COMMITTEE

#	Recommendation	Potential Partners	Implementation Schedule	Approximate Cost	Potential Funding Source(s)
I.	Pursue agreements, conversations, and the development of a pedestrian and water trail (with accesses) connecting the Boroughs of Hawley and Honesdale.	PA Fish and Boat Commission, Honesdale Borough, Texas Township, Palmyra Township, Hawley Borough, and Lackawanna River Trails (LRT).	5-10 Years	\$1,000,000 +	Var. Multi-modal and trail funds, including those from: PA DCNR, PA DCED, PennDOT, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC, and donations and matching from LRT/local shares.
II.	Support the designation of Bucks Cove Road in Texas Township as a pedestrian friendly, multi-modal trail; including possible ADA parking offerings.	Texas Township and LRT.	1-3 Years	\$0-500,000	Various Multi-modal and trail funds, including those from: PA DCNR, PA DCED, PennDOT, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC, and donations and matching from LRT/local shares.
III.	Consider forming a County Level Group or position to oversee existing recreational spaces and regularly review maintenance and funding needs.	Honesdale Borough, Hawley Borough, and all other willing municipalities; Lackawanna River Trails.	1-3 Years	\$0-250,000 (Annually)	County and Municipal Capital Improvement Budgets, PA DCNR Park Rehabilitation Grants, etc.
IV.	Pursue agreement, draft plans, and develop the 73 acres surrounding Hankins Pond into a Public Recreation Area or Park.	Mt. Pleasant Township, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and PA DCNR.	5-10 Years	\$1,000,000 +	PA Fish and Boat Commission, Municipal Funds; Various Multi-modal and trail funds, including those from: PA DCNR, PA DCED, PennDOT, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC; and donations and matching from LRT/local shares.
V.	Support a partnership between PA Fish and Boat and Lebanon Township to offer the publicly requested trail and amenities at Lower Woods Pond.	Lebanon Township, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and the Local Scout Troop.	3-5 Years	\$250,000-1,000,000	PA Fish and Boat Commission, Municipal Funds, Local Scout Troop; Various multi-modal and trail funds, including those from: PA DCNR, PA DCED, PennDOT, LSA (Statewide), the PEC, and donations and matching from LRT/local shares.
VI.	Encourage the construction of the Gorge Trail in Pike County to connect to Wayne County's public Lackawaxen River Trail network.	Palmyra Township, Hawley Borough, and LRT.	1-3 Years	\$0-500,000	Various Multi-modal and trail funds, including those from: PA DCNR, PA DCED, PennDOT, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC, and donations and matching from LRT/local shares.
VII.	Support the pursuit of the trail system proposed in Canaan Township to connect the greater D&H Regional Trail System through the existing Gravity Rail right of way to Waymart Borough.	Canaan Township, Waymart Borough, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, Lackawaxen River Trails, and the Rail-Trail Council of NEPA.	5-10 Years	\$0-1,000,000	Various Multi-modal and trail funds, including those from: PA DCNR, PA DCED, PennDOT, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC, and donations and matching from LRT/local shares.
VIII.	Support NEP SNO Trails and Ace Snowmobile clubs to connect their trail systems through PA State Game Lands 159.	Bethany Township, Lebanon Township, Mt. Pleasant Township, NEP SNO Trails and Ace Snowmobile Club.	3-5 Years	\$0-500,000	Various Multi-modal and motorized trail funds, including those from: PA DCNR, PA DCED, PennDOT, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC, and donations and matching from LRT/local shares.
IX.	Support conversations with partners, agreements, and ultimately the development of Stockport Fishing Access located on the Upper Delaware River to provide safe parking and access, meeting public demand.	Buckingham Township, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Upper Delaware Council, and the National Park Service	5-10 Years	\$0-500,000	Various river access and park grants, including those from: PA DCNR, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC, and the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

X.	Support the designation of portions of River Road (T-651, T-653, and T-672) as a pedestrian friendly, multi-modal trail; including re-opening of portions of T-672 that have washed out which traverse through the Nature Conservancy Property. Also, engage in conversations, agreements, and ultimately the development of a public Delaware River Access in this area.	Manchester Township, the Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, PA Fish and boat Commission, and the National Park Service.	1-3 Years	\$0-500,000	Various multi-modal and trail funds, including those from: PA DCNR, PA DCED, PennDOT, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC, and donations and matching from LRT/local shares; the County Dirt and Gravel Road Program.
XI.	Support the designation Penn-York Road in Scott Township as a pedestrian friendly, multi-modal trail adjacent to State Game Lands 299; including possible ADA parking offerings.	Scott Township, PA Game Commission, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, PA Fish and boat Commission, and the National Park Service.	1-3 Years	\$0-500,000	Various Multi-modal and trail funds, including those from: PA DCNR, PA DCED, PennDOT, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC, and donations and matching from LRT/local shares; the Wayne County Dirt and Gravel Road Program.
XII.	Support lease agreements between the PA Fish and Boat Commission and either Wayne County or Cherry Ridge Township to development Reining Pond Marsh into a public Recreation Area or Park	Cherry Ridge Township, PA Fish and Boat Commission	3-5 Years	\$250,000-1,000,000	Various water access and park grants, including those from: PA DCNR, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC, and the PA Fish and Boat Commission.
XIII.	Support the creation of an Upper Delaware River Public Boat and Fishing access in Manchester Township.	Manchester Township, PA Fish and Boat Commission	3-5 Years	\$0-500,000	Various river access and park grants, including those from: PA DCNR, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC, and the PA Fish and Boat Commission.
XIV.	Continue to support the development of broad band internet and/or cellular infrastructure throughout the County.	All Municipalities.	5-10 Years	\$1,000,000 +	Various Broadband Grants available through Commonwealth CFA.
XV.	Provide additional, clear signage and information for acceptable activities, throughout parks County-wide. Consider matching signage and QR Code connections.	All Municipalities, applicable agencies, and non-profits.	1-3 Years	\$250,000-500,000	Various wayfinding and signage grants, including those from: PA DCNR, PA DCED, PennDOT, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC, and donations and matching from LRT/local shares; municipal capital improvement budgets.
XVI.	Maintain existing sites in a safe, working, and contemporary level as funding is made available.	All Municipalities, applicable agencies, and non-profits.	5-10 Years	\$1,000,000 +	Various wayfinding and signage grants, including those from: PA DCNR, PA DCED, PennDOT, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC, and donations and matching from LRT/local shares; municipal capital improvement budgets.
XVII.	Support NEP SNO Trails, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, Rail Trail Council of NEPA, and citizens pursing connecting trail systems along the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania into New York.	Buckingham Township, Manchester Township, Scott Township, NEP SNO Trails, Friends of the Upper Delaware River, and the Rail Trail Council of NEPA.	3-5 Years	\$0-500,000	Various Motorized trail funds for planning and construction, including those from: PA DCNR, PA DCED, PennDOT, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC, and donations and matching from LRT/local shares.
XVIII.	Encourage pedestrian and bicycle accommodations within existing street networks to better connect parks.	All Municipalities, applicable agencies, and non-profits.	1-3 Years	\$0-250,000	Various wayfinding and signage grants and multimodal grants including those from: PA DCNR, PA DCED, PennDOT, LSA (Statewide and Monroe), the PEC, municipal capital budgets, and donations and matching from LRT/local shares.
XIX.	Create a digital map application for smart phone use to provide key information about sites throughout Wayne County.	All Municipalities, PA DCNR, applicable organizations.	1-3 Years	\$0-250,000	Various planning grants including those from: PA DCNR, PA DCED, LSA (Statewide and Monroe) and pilot programs.