

**Trail/Greenway
Feasibility/Master Plan
Key Person Interview Questions**

NAME: _____

TITLE _____

ORGANIZATION _____

1. What does your organization/business do (mission of the organization)?

2. Do you think a trail/greenway will benefit your organization/business? How or Why?

3. Do you regularly use or promote the use of bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

4. What is your opinion on the current state of bicycle and pedestrian mobility in the region?

5. Do you think the area is in need of a trail/greenway? Why or Why not?

6. What facilities/amenities or linkages should be included for a trail/greenway?

7. What concerns do you have about a trail/greenway?

8. Would you or your organization/business be interested in participating in the long-term management and maintenance of the trail (either through volunteering your time or cash/materials donations)?

9. Any other comments or concerns?

Thank you for taking the time to assist the Pennsylvania Environmental Council on this
Trail/Greenway Master Plan Project

**Trail/Greenway
Feasibility/Master Plan
Key Person Interview Questions**

NAME: Mike Dziak
TITLE President/CEO
ORGANIZATION Earth Conservancy

- 1. What does your organization/business do (mission of the organization)?**
EC will lead our communities in the reclamation of mine-scarred lands and streams, returning strong economic, environmental and social value by creating a well-planned vibrant valley, protected by green ridge tops.
- 2. Do you think a trail/greenway will benefit your organization/business? How or Why?**
It is part of our mission to preserve 10,000 acres of EC's lands as green/recreational space. We believe preserving the pristine lands in the Wyoming Valley enhances the beauty of the area and improves quality of life by offering outdoor area for passive recreational uses. When we see use of the recreational spaces we have created, we consider that an asset to our business of reclaiming and reutilizing mine scarred lands.
- 3. Do you regularly use or promote the use of bicycle and pedestrian facilities?**
Yes, via our website and through promotional opportunities that periodically come about.
- 4. What is your opinion on the current state of bicycle and pedestrian mobility in the region?**
We find bicycle mobility to be lacking in the Wyoming Valley. There are few trails or paths along roadways that would be easy to cycle to work or use for recreational purposes. Pedestrians only have appropriate accessibility in more urban setting where sidewalks exist. In the more suburban or rural areas, the lack of sidewalks or connection of trail systems makes it difficult for hikers/runners to safely move about.
- 5. Do you think the area is in need of a trail/greenway? Why or Why not?**
As it is part of our mission to dedicate 10,000 acres of green space, yes, we do believe greenways are important. In our work with EPA and its consultants, it was shown that having alternative routes (trails, greenways, etc.) to work or play provides people with opportunities to get outside more often so promotes a healthier lifestyle.
- 6. What facilities/amenities or linkages should be included for a trail/greenway?**
Linking all existing trails would be ideal, understanding that this process would take significant planning, time and dollars to implement. Short of that, having easy access to existing trails, i.e. parking, signage would be beneficial to users.
- 7. What concerns do you have about a trail/greenway?**
Safety of trail/greenway user is a primary concern. Also, we consider use of the trail systems by ATVs to be a serious problem, which is not easily addressed.
- 8. Would you or your organization/business be interested in participating in the long-term management and maintenance of the trail (either through volunteering your time or cash/materials donations)?**

Yes. We also maintain the trails/recreational spaces we currently own.

9. Any other comments or concerns

No

**Thank you for taking the time to assist the Pennsylvania Environmental Council on this
Trail/Greenway Master Plan Project**

**Trail/Greenway
Feasibility/Master Plan
Key Person Interview Questions**

NAME: Carol Husa
TITLE Program Manager
ORGANIZATION Steps to a HealthierPA Luzerne County

1. What does your organization/business do (mission of the organization)?

Steps was the first federal program (CDC) to fund an integrated approach to evidence-based chronic disease prevention and health promotion at a community level focused on bringing together all different sectors of the community; schools, workplaces, recreation, health care/insurance, local government, etc. to implement sustainable program and policy change in order to improve health.

2. Do you think a trail/greenway will benefit your organization/business? How or Why?

The development and maintenance of an interconnected trail/greenway system will improve overall community health, broaden our local transportation options, improve use of outdoor spaces that are connected thru system and benefit our region economically.

3. Do you regularly use or promote the use of bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

Steps advocates for complete street design, safe routes to schools, traffic calming, road diets, etc.

4. What is your opinion on the current state of bicycle and pedestrian mobility in the region?

I think people are really supportive of this and local and state survey data supports this. We need the LCTA busses to put bike racks on their busses, improve auto driver education on bike and pedestrian safety, and encourage schools to let kids walk and bike to school. Safety needs to be improved.

5. Do you think the area is in need of a trail/greenway? Why or Why not?

Yes, we already have great parks and trails – they need to be connected, promoted and programmed for.

6. What facilities/amenities or linkages should be included for a trail/greenway?

Good signage, improved safety, promotion, benches, lighting, barrier-free for “differently-abled” people to use. Connect trails and greenways to schools, existing parks, shopping centers and places where lots of people work (so they can use trails/greenways for transportation and physical activity). More kids/people could walk/bike to school or on errands and workplaces could incorporate their use into employee wellness programs.

7. What concerns do you have about a trail/greenway?

Maintaining them and programming/promotion so people know to use. Safety always.

- 8. Would you or your organization/business be interested in participating in the long-term management and maintenance of the trail (either through volunteering your time or cash/materials donations)?**

My church annually does a clean-up day on the Back Mountain Trail. This could be something that other churches, Scouts and service learning for area students.

- 9. Any other comments or concerns?**

**Thank you for taking the time to assist the Pennsylvania Environmental Council on this
Trail/Greenway Master Plan Project**

**Trail/Greenway
Feasibility/Master Plan
Key Person Interview Questions**

NAME: Lance Kittelson
TITLE Vice - President
ORGANIZATION Susquehanna Warrior Trail

1. What does your organization/business do (mission of the organization)?

Build, and maintain an 18 ½ mile hiking and biking trail in Luzerne and Salem counties for the benefit of the public.

2. Do you think a trail/greenway will benefit your organization/business? How or Why?

Assuming a trail/greenway is a designated improved/unimproved path for non motorized travel, this is of course what the Susquehanna Warrior Trail Council is all about. Yes a trail/greenway will benefit our efforts. A coordinated effort (Master Plan) toward a defined goal is always a better path toward success. Linking trails together greatly magnifies the benefit of the individual trail. Another major need is shared trail maintenance resources.

3. Do you regularly use or promote the use of bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

We, the Susquehanna Warrior Trail Council actively promote our trail by organizing events and reaching out to scouting groups to provide them with project opportunities. Each event and contribution is publicized via local newspapers.

4. What is your opinion on the current state of bicycle and pedestrian mobility in the region?

Improving, but as stated earlier a master plan and a coordinated effort is the best and easiest path (pun intended) to success.

5. Do you think the area is in need of a trail/greenway? Why or Why not?

This is a redundant question. Yes.

6. What facilities/amenities or linkages should be included for a trail/greenway?

Safe, clearly marked connections from one trail to the next.

7. What concerns do you have about a trail/greenway?

None

8. Would you or your organization/business be interested in participating in the long-term management and maintenance of the trail (either through volunteering your time or cash/materials donations)?

Yes

9. Any other comments or concerns?

None

**Thank you for taking the time to assist the Pennsylvania Environmental Council on this
Trail/Greenway Master Plan Project**

**Trail/Greenway
Feasibility/Master Plan
Key Person Interview Questions**

NAME: Karen Szwest
TITLE West Side Trail Project Manager
ORGANIZATION WST Commission

1. What does your organization/business do (mission of the organization)?

The West Side Trail Commission provides for operation and administration of the West Side Trail and future recreational programming as the participating entities may agree.

2. Do you think a trail/greenway will benefit your organization/business? How or Why?

Yes, because the connection needs to be made between all local trails and the proposed Kingston Trails will provide the missing link. With this linking trail all West Side Trails will connect and through the usage of all bridges crossing the Susquehanna River, all West Side Trails will be connected to East Side Trails. The proposed trails will complete the trail connections in the Wyoming Valley.

3. Do you regularly use or promote the use of bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

The West Side Trail promoted the use of pedestrian usage of the trail by sponsoring an annual National Trails Day walk. WST is a Safe Routes to School Grant recipient and will have three local elementary schools participating in a walking school bus this year. There is much cycling activity along the trail sponsored by the privately owned Sickler's Bike Shop located on the WST.

4. What is your opinion on the current state of bicycle and pedestrian mobility in the region?

I believe the bicycling and pedestrian mobility in the region is increasing as people become more aware of the need for adequate exercise. There is a need to have a unified connection between the trails and an umbrella organization to promote the regional trail usage.

5. Do you think the area is in need of a trail/greenway? Why or Why not?

Yes, the area is in need of a connecting trail as previously explained.

6. What facilities/amenities or linkages should be included for a trail/greenway?

Trail heads, benches, bike racks, signage, trees

7. What concerns do you have about a trail/greenway?

None

8. Would you or your organization/business be interested in participating in the long-term management and maintenance of the trail (either through volunteering your time or cash/materials donations)?

The WST Commission may be interested in extending its Scope of Work towards Kingston if the municipalities involved agree to assist and join the West Side Trail Commission. The newly joining municipalities must also be agreeable to waiting until the currently

developed WST Master Plan construction is completed before any construction can take place in their towns.

9. Any other comments or concerns?

Education is a key component that needs to be continual to see consistent improvement in the active and healthy lifestyles of our families.

**Thank you for taking the time to assist the Pennsylvania Environmental Council on this
Trail/Greenway Master Plan Project**

**Trail/Greenway
Feasibility/Master Plan
Key Person Interview Questions**

NAME: Dale Freudenberger
TITLE Heritage Projects Manager / Anthracite Heritage Alliance Coordinator
ORGANIZATION Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

1. What does your organization/business do (mission of the organization)?

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that is building the D&L Trail and fosters stewardship of historical, cultural and natural resources along the historic canals and railroads that transported anthracite coal from mine to market in eastern Pennsylvania.

2. Do you think a trail/greenway will benefit your organization/business? How or Why?

It will benefit our organization greatly since it will eventually link with the 165 mile long D&L Trail which will extend from the Wilkes Barre / Kingston area south to Bristol, near Philadelphia. This trail system will also serve to connect communities, provide recreation, conserve natural areas, and preserve and interpret the rich history along the way which are goals shared by our both organizations.

3. Do you regularly use or promote the use of bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

YES – we routinely use and promote use of the D&L trail by bicyclists, walkers, hikers, joggers, pet walkers, etc., and in some areas, equestrian use of the trail.

4. What is your opinion on the current state of bicycle and pedestrian mobility in the region?

I think there is a need for many more areas where bicyclists and walkers can connect from town to town without the use of an automobile.

5. Do you think the area is in need of a trail/greenway? Why or Why not?

Absolutely! It encourages good health to users, conservation of natural and historical areas along the way, and provides alternative ways to beat the growing traffic congestion in the region. Development of the greenway and trail fosters more of an appreciation for the natural resources and beauty that exist in our region and are often taken for granted. It creates an important link between the waterways and natural areas and the core of our communities.

6. What facilities/amenities or linkages should be included for a trail/greenway?

It should be linked with other trails systems and greenways being planned or already constructed in the region, it should include interpretive signage all along the way, preservation of natural and historic resources found along the route, public access points that are properly signed, information kiosks at entry points, identified parking areas for users, bike racks, rules for use signage, handicapped accessibility, waterway access and should be designed for safe use by all.

7. What concerns do you have about a trail/greenway?

Finding funding to construct it.

8. **Would you or your organization/business be interested in participating in the long-term management and maintenance of the trail (either through volunteering your time or cash/materials donations)?**

If it is an area that we are able to do that, we would certainly do what we can to help or partner with others

9. **Any other comments or concerns?**

Thank you and keep up the good work!!!

Thank you for taking the time to assist the Pennsylvania Environmental Council on this Trail/Greenway Master Plan Project