

## Lower Susquehanna Conservation Landscape Initiative 2011 Workplan

The Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area (SGHA) and the Lancaster County Conservancy (LCC) will advance the following goals, priority strategies and outcomes in our roles as Co-External Lead Organizations for the Lower Susquehanna Conservation Landscape Initiative (LSCLI). The goals and strategies are derived from the 2007 Draft Susquehanna River Landscape Conservation Plan (referenced in italics) and presented at the LSCLI stakeholders meeting in November 2010. The LSCLI Workplan also includes outcomes to be achieved under the leadership of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Lancaster and York County Planning Commissions (LCPC/YCPC) in partnership with SGHA, LCC and other community partners.

Goal	Priority Strategy	Outcomes	Lead
<b>I. Stewardship</b>	<b>A. Permanently protect significant natural and scenic lands</b> through acquisition or easements ( <i>1.1.1 / 1.3.1</i> ) .	Negotiate and work with private land owners of high quality lands within the LSCLI boundaries with conservation in mind.	LCC
		Work with Agricultural Preserve Board, Lancaster Farmland Trust and Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County to conserve natural and agricultural lands along the Susquehanna River.	LCC
		Work towards acquisition of private lands within CLI boundaries.	LCC
	<b>B. Work with power companies and other key landowners</b> to conserve significant natural lands ( <i>1.1.3</i> ) .	Protect important lands through phases 1 & 2 of the PPL land acquisition, which encompasses 1,979.4 acres.	LCC
		Work with PPL to finalize phase 3 of the PPL land acquisition, which encompasses 188 acres of conservation easements.	LCC
	<b>C. Manage conserved natural lands</b> to sustain and restore resource values and functions ( <i>1.1.4</i> ) .	Continue to steward and manage LCC's existing nature preserves in the river hills (LSCLI) and incorporate new properties as they become available.	LCC
		Continue to provide public access to existing preserves and expand access if required (not to exceed carrying capacity).	LCC
		Continue to update stewardship plans for existing preserves and create new plans where needed.	LCC
<b>D. Inventory and prioritize historic resources</b> for stewardship ( <i>1.2.1</i> ) .	Work with DCNR and PA Historical & Museum Commission to overlay a map of the CLI area, with a map of identified culturally important areas.	LCC	
	Identify and inventory cultural resources in PPL land acquisition phases 1 & 2, through use of a guided checklist and final report with recommendations.	LCC	

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I. Stewardship (continued)	E. <b>Initiate outreach and education programs</b> about stewardship of cultural and natural resources (1.2.7).	Expand scope of SGHA <i>Heritage Lecture Series</i> to include key LSCLI cultural/natural resource stewardship topics and river heritage programs.	SGHA
		Add feature to SGHA <i>Susquehanna Currents</i> e-newsletter focused on key cultural and natural resource stewardship messages for the river corridor.	SGHA
		Incorporate key cultural and natural resource stewardship messages for the river corridor into annual SGHA <i>River Experience</i> event.	SGHA
		Enhance SGHA website and social media tools to promote river heritage and outdoor recreation sites, experiences, projects and stewardship messages.	SGHA
		Continue to provide conservation/environmental education opportunities in Lancaster County and the CLI area. Utilize preserves as demonstration sites, field research facilities and field trips.	LCC
		Expand education program to include American Chestnut Foundation educators using House Rock Chestnut Nursery in 2011 (in collaboration with local Intermediate Unit).	LCC

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II. Connections	<p><b>A. Create a recreational trail network</b> along the river (2.1.3) .</p>	<p>Inventory and identify all current access trails within CLI and provide recommendations for connectors/linkages to existing trail systems. Using existing GIS trail data, LCC will supplement data with GPS point locations in order to create a master trail system map.</p> <p>Plan and locate an extension from existing LCC Turkey Hill trail into Safe Harbor area and connect with Manor Township low grade rail trail to form continuous loop in Manor Township.</p> <p>Identify and inventory required lands that offer a connection between the Conestoga Trail in Pequea and the Turkey Hill trail – Safe Harbor.</p> <p>Negotiate easements for the above Turkey Hill trail extension and work with municipalities and landowners concerning access.</p>	<p>LCC</p> <p>LCC</p> <p>LCC</p> <p>LCC</p>
	<p><b>B. Develop and connect interpretive sites, programs and materials</b> about the river corridor’s heritage (2.2.1) .</p>	<p>Work with Turkey Hill Dairy to develop and install heritage exhibit at <i>Turkey Hill Experience</i> project that highlights the river and the river towns.</p> <p>Work with Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority to develop interpretive panels for a new <i>Turkey Hill Trail</i> scenic overlook.</p>	<p>SGHA</p> <p>SGHA</p>
	<p><b>C. Improve destination, orientation and interpretive signage</b> for sites and experiences along the river (2.1.5) .</p>	<p>Work with Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority to enhance orientation and interpretation for the <i>Northwest Lancaster County Trail</i>.</p> <p>Convene and coordinate LSCLI Work Group to develop a unified system of destination, orientation and interpretive signage for the river corridor.</p>	<p>SGHA</p> <p>SGHA</p>
	<p><b>D. Provide public access along the river</b> at locations and in a manner that local conditions can support (2.1.2) .</p>	<p>Review current available access, trails, trailheads, and parking, while consulting with CLI partners, planning, and the public in support of comprehensive access plan. Adjust access as necessary and where feasible.</p> <p>Advance site improvements at Zimmerman Center/Klines Run Park to provide public access/interpretative facilities that serve as models for other river sites.</p> <p>Provide support to the York County Parks &amp; Recreation Department in developing a Master Site Plan for the <i>Susquehanna Heritage Park</i>.</p> <p>Work with local municipalities along the river to implement public access improvement projects already planned or in progress.</p> <p>Identify priority sites for public access and interpretive improvements along the river corridor based on recommendations of the <i>Susquehanna River Landscape Conservation Plan</i>.</p>	<p>LCC</p> <p>SGHA</p> <p>SGHA</p> <p>LCPC YCPC DCNR</p> <p>LCPC YCPC DCNR</p>

Goal	Priority Strategy	Outcomes	Lead
III. Sustainable Economic Development	<p><b>A. Provide infrastructure to support visitation</b> that is appropriate to local conditions and carrying capacity (3.3.3) .</p>	<p>Work with local municipalities along the river to plan for public infrastructure that supports appropriate types and levels of visitation to heritage and outdoor recreation sites and experiences along the river.</p> <p>Begin process of determining appropriate level of restoration and/or construction of park facilities at future State Park sites along the river corridor.</p>	<p>LCPC YCPC DCNR</p> <p>DCNR</p>
	<p><b>B. Focus visitor product development and marketing efforts</b> on heritage tourism, ecotourism and agritourism (3.3.1) .</p>	<p>Enhance SGHA website and social media tools to promote niche markets of heritage tourism, ecotourism and agritourism.</p>	<p>SGHA</p>
	<p><b>C. Promote the river towns</b> by highlighting their quality of life and roles as gateways to the river experience (3.2.3) .</p>	<p>Work with Penndot, local partners, municipalities, and consultants to finalize design and installation of historic lighting on <i>Veterans Memorial Bridge</i> .</p> <p>Convene and coordinate LSCLI Work Group to identify and advance key components of <i>River Towns Heritage Development Strategy</i>.</p>	<p>SGHA</p> <p>SGHA</p>
IV. Support Work	<p><b>A. Coordinate completion of the 2007 Draft Susquehanna River Landscape Conservation Plan</b> with CLI partners and consultants.</p>		<p>SGHA LCPC YCPC</p>
	<p><b>B. Provide ongoing grant funding and technical assistance</b> to municipalities, land trusts and other not-for-profit organizations that are involved in recreation and conservation work along the river corridor.</p>		<p>DCNR</p>
	<p><b>C. Initiate plans for increasing State Park personnel</b> presence along the river corridor.</p>		<p>DCNR</p>
	<p><b>D. Provide administrative support</b> to LSCLI work groups, document activities and products, participate in external lead meetings, manage media work to increase visibility, and coordinate other support activities as needed.</p>		<p>SGHA LCC</p>