

Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area

1706 Long Level Road, Wrightsville, PA 17358

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE ANNOUNCES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARD TO SUSQUEHANNA GATEWAY HERITAGE AREA

\$100,000 Awarded to fund construction design and permitting work for Visitor Welcome, Interpretation & Water Trail Access Facilities at the Zimmerman Center for Heritage.

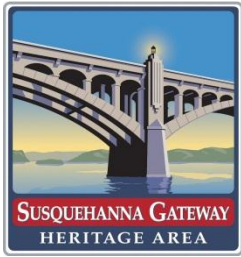
Wrightsville, PA - The National Park Service (NPS) Chesapeake Bay Office recently made a financial award of \$100,000 to the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area (SGHA) in support of a Visitor Welcome, Interpretation & Water Trail Access Project at the Zimmerman Center for Heritage, SGHA's historic 18th century homestead on the Susquehanna River waterfront south of Wrightsville, PA. SGHA is a participating partner in the NPS Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network. Each year, Gateway partners have an opportunity to compete for funding for projects that advance the development of Gateways sites and water trails. These awards enhance the public's ability to access and explore the Chesapeake Bay's natural and cultural resources, learn about and enjoy the Bay's special stories and significance, and become involved in Chesapeake stewardship. NPS awards require a 1:1 local/non-federal funding match, which will be provided for this project through a pending grant from the PA Fish and Boat Commission and SGHA in-kind services. Approximately \$500,000 of previously awarded federal Transportation Enhancement funding will be used for project construction costs.

The award to SGHA will fund construction design and permitting costs for the new visitor facilities at the Zimmerman Center. According to SGHA President Mark Platts, "This grant allows us to move forward with this important project, including development of a new landing facility for the Susquehanna River Water Trail and a new trailhead for the Native Lands County Park and Heritage Trail, which are part of the Susquehanna Heritage Park and Mason-Dixon Trail system." The project includes a floating dock, canoe and kayak launch, riverside access and interpretive pavilion, boardwalk, shorefront garden, pedestrian road crossing, pathway network, access drive and parking lot enhancements, and a trailhead interpretive pavilion. "We are very excited about the opportunity for the Zimmerman Center to provide a key public connection point between the Mason-Dixon Trail and the water trail, both of which are now designated as National Recreation Trails," Platts stated.

"The Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network is pleased to assist the Heritage Area with this project to expand access and interpretation of the water trail and Native Lands County Park and Heritage Trail," said John Maounis, Superintendent of the NPS Chesapeake Bay Office. "Linking the places people value to an understanding of the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers as a watershed system is an integral part of the effort to protect and restore the treasured landscapes of the Chesapeake."

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Our mission is to enhance our region's quality of life and economic vitality by promoting the preservation, conservation and interpretation of the Susquehanna River's cultural and natural heritage.



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To learn more about this project, the public is invited to an open house at the Zimmerman Center for Heritage, 1706 Long Level Road, Wrightsville, PA, on Saturday, August 7th, 4-6 p.m. Additional information about the site improvements will be available during this event, as well as opportunities to tour the facility and view the *Visions of the Susquehanna* river art collection. Please contact info@susquehannaheritage.org or 717-252-0229 with any questions.

The Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area is a not for profit organization serving Lancaster and York Counties. SGHA raises awareness and appreciation of the cultural & economic value of the Susquehanna Gateway region and preserves, enhances, and celebrates its most significant heritage assets as economically vital attractions for residents and visitors alike. The Zimmerman Center for Heritage at Historic Pleasant Garden serves as headquarters for the Heritage Area's work and provides a community facility for education and interpretation of our region's rich cultural and natural heritage. Please visit our website www.SusquehannaHeritage.org for more information.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network connects citizens with the Chesapeake and its rivers through more than 170 parks, refuges, museums, historic communities and 1,500 miles of water trails in the Bay watershed. Gateways sites and water trails are located throughout the 64,000 square mile watershed in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, West Virginia and New York. These Gateway partners provide meaningful Chesapeake experiences, interpret their Chesapeake connections, and promote citizen stewardship. For more detailed information about the Gateways Network, visit www.baygateways.net.

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