

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Landis Valley Museum Studies *River Ride*

Have you ever taken a ride along the river? Say, about 60 miles from Columbia to Holtwood and back north again to Wrightsville—on a bicycle? That’s just what Landis Valley Museum, in cooperation with the Lancaster-York Heritage Region and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) studied recently.

The Lancaster-York Heritage Region (LYHR) funded a feasibility study by Landis Valley Museum called “River Ride” with grant money from DCNR and several private donors. The feasibility study began three years ago when the staff at Landis Valley wanted to find ways to connect its own historic bicycle route to the York County Heritage Rail Trail. State Bicycle Route S, which roughly connects the Landis Valley historic trail to the York County trail, needed a heritage “side trip” to assure it added significantly to the overall Lancaster –York destination’s appeal.

“River Ride” is a feasibility study and is now complete. “The Lancaster-York Heritage Region, with funding from Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, was pleased to support the River Ride initiative – a regional effort to connect residents and visitors with the scenic beauty of the Susquehanna River while providing recreational opportunities. We recognize the value of developing heritage products that respect our environment, encourage economic development and promote healthy lifestyles through outdoor tourism,” said Mark Platts, President of the Lancaster-York Heritage Region.

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Numerous individuals representing townships and boroughs were consulted along with folks on behalf of history and heritage throughout the region. While there was not perfect consensus some of the findings included: the area around the river is both scenic and filled with heritage sites and opportunities; the ride was full of opportunities to convey LYHR themes of *Natural Wonders, Bounty, Ingenuity, Towns and Countrysides and Freedom*; that there are issues with steep hills, tight turns, and visitor amenities.

Landis Valley Museum is a nationally significant living history village dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting the history & culture of the Pennsylvania German community from 1740-1940. Landis Valley Museum is one of 26 historic sites and museums on the Pennsylvania Trail of History, administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. For more information on the Pennsylvania Trail of History or to request a free 24-page visitor guide, visit www.phmc.state.pa.us or phone toll free 1-866-PA TRAIL. Landis Valley is located off Route 272/Oregon Pike, a marked exit off both Route 30 and Route 222. For more information on the museum, call 569-0401 or visit www.landisvalleymuseum.org.