

BEECH CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

Beech Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) Mission Statement

The mission of the BCWA is to protect the quality and the beauty of the Beech Creek and to enhance life in the Beech Creek Watershed by:

- reclaiming and controlling areas of the Watershed affected by Acid Mine Drainage
- promoting wise land use and management of natural resources in the Watershed, especially when dealing with property owners and issues which affect the water quality of the Beech Creek
- protecting and enhancing open space and natural areas in the Watershed and providing opportunities for the enjoyment of these natural areas
- promoting awareness and appreciation of environmental issues through education so that the community can make sound choices for a sustainable, ecologically healthy future
- organizing exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.



Brook Trout found in healthy sections of the stream

Beech Creek Watershed Association Vision Statement

The Beech Creek Watershed can be restored to the "original quality of life" by undoing the harmful effects of factors such as acid mine drainage (AMD), chemicals, leachate and siltation. The entire Watershed can be "cleaned up" so that an informed, knowledgeable public can enjoy a multi-variable land use and activities while preserving, monitoring and protecting natural reproduction. This should include a sustainable, Class A, wild trout fishery, as well as habitat for a stronghold of wild birds, mammals, and diversified plant life.



Tributary of Beech Creek

The Beech Creek Watershed Association
P.O. Box 286
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THE BRICK TOWN TRAIL *Backbone of the* BEECH CREEK GREENWAY PLAN



Former Brick Refractory in Beech Creek, PA



Former Brick Refractory in Howard, PA

*An Initiative of
The Beech Creek Watershed Association
-and supported by-
Centre County Planning &
Community Development Office
Clinton County Planning Office
PA Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources*

Brick Town Trail

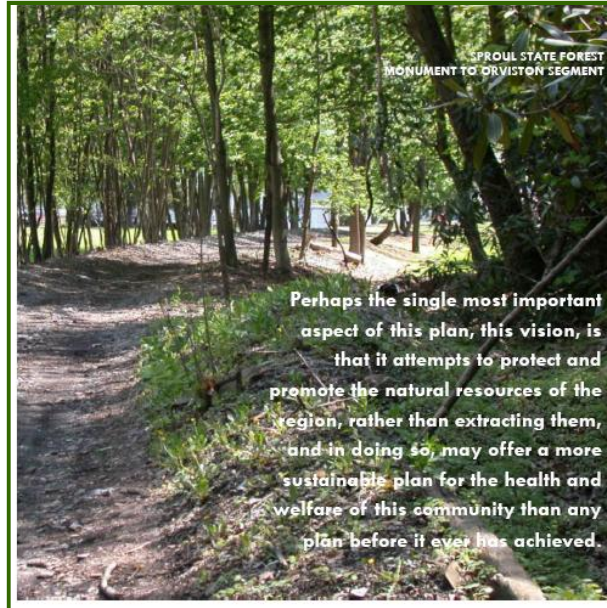
Brick Town Trail

What is The Brick Town Trail?

The Brick Town Trail is the signature project of the Beech Creek Greenway Plan, an effort to leverage the recreational, historical, cultural, and environmental assets of the Beech Creek area in such a way that distinguishes this greenway plan from every other greenway plan in America. The resources the plan proposes to leverage are Bald Eagle State Park and its 1,700 acre Sayers Lake, 2 million acre Sproul State Forest, historic Curtin Village and reconstructed Eagle Ironworks, and the unique and fascinating stories in every brickyard town between them, all linked together by a network of trails and bike paths that not only serve the health and fitness needs of the local community, but entice and invite the weary urban dweller or the bored suburbanite to this wondrous place of refuge and renewal on the southern edge of the region known as the Pennsylvania Wilds.



Historic Train Station—Beech Creek



Perhaps the single most important aspect of this plan, this vision, is that it attempts to protect and promote the natural resources of the region, rather than extracting them, and in doing so, may offer a more sustainable plan for the health and welfare of this community than any plan before it ever has achieved.

"In addition to offering recreational, educational, health and fitness benefits, the Brick Town Trail is expected to help revitalize the economies of the towns along and near it's route ~ Glenn Vernon"



Red-winged Blackbird—Photo taken at Bald Eagle State Park—One of the best locations for birding in Central Pennsylvania

The Beech Creek Watershed Association is the sponsoring agency for this project and is actively building collaboration among residents, local municipalities, and state agencies to achieve success.

There are a lot of reasons that the greenways and trails movement has taken off with such velocity in America, but most people agree that it was the vision of "connectedness" that captured the hearts and minds of Americans. As Charles Little recounts, the report's* authors "describe fingers of green that reach out from and around communities all across America."

**1987 report by the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors*

Trails promote healthier lifestyles by providing opportunities for walking, hiking, and bicycling.

During the past twenty years, obesity among adults and children has risen significantly in the United States ~ Trails help reduce stress and create a balance between work and play.