

NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA GREENWAYS

Forest County, Pennsylvania

DCNR Project No. BRC-I2.5.2



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*A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE
FOREST COUNTY GREENWAYS PLAN BY THE COUNTY
OF FOREST*

Whereas, the Forest County Planning Office with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, at the request of and on behalf of the Forest County Commissioners, undertook the task of creating a countywide Greenways Plan, and

Whereas, the Greenways Plan covers every Municipality within Forest County, and

Whereas, the Forest County Greenways Plan addresses land use planning, management and promotion of one of our most valuable resources, the natural environment on our land, and

Whereas, the Forest County Greenways Plan was created utilizing input from the Citizens of Forest County, elected County and Municipal officials of Forest County, and from County agency staff, and

Whereas, the Forest County Greenways Plan development utilized a private consultant, of which the Plan consequently produced, was reviewed by the Forest County Conservation District & Planning Office staff that has determined that the Plan adequately addresses pertinent State requirements for such a Plan as well as reflects the needs and values held by the citizens of Forest County, and

Whereas, that the adoption of the Forest County Greenways Plan is understood to not affect private property rights of landowners within designated corridors identified within the Plan, and

Whereas, the final completed Forest County Greenways Plan has been submitted for adoption by the Forest County Commissioners,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioners of Forest County do hereby accept and adopt the Forest County Greenways Plan on behalf of Forest County and its citizens, on this date

Signed:
Commissioners:

R. James Parrett _____ Chairman

Robert J. Snyder _____

Basil D. Huffman _____

_____, Secretary

Attested this date: _____

FOREWORD
BY
DOUGLAS E. CARLSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOREST COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT & PLANNING
DEPARTMENT
(ON BEHALF OF THE FCCD&P BOARD)

As has been stated before, Forest County is unique. It is unique due to its people, its land, its commitment to rural life, its singular approach to land use planning and its philosophy about rural life. As a county with less than 5000 residents (not counting the over 2000 inmates at the State Correctional Institution in Marienville) and over 50% of the land in government ownership, we face some difficult challenges. Survival is in the forefront of concerns, financial health of our public institutions a major concern and employment for our citizens remains in crisis mode. Given all the foregoing conditions, life in Forest County is one intimately entwined with the land, nature, climate and human impact.

The very idea of Greenway Planning for Forest County seems a little oxymoronic since on the surface the whole of Forest County is by many definitions a Greenway. Over 90% of the land surface is forested, and much of the land is under public ownership and management. The County is bracketed on the south and on the west by two rivers, both under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Designation. We have the Allegheny National Forest and Cornplanter State Forest, as well as a portion of Cook Forest State Park. We have the Tionesta Army Corps Dam with a swath of property on both sides of Tionesta Creek through the middle of the County. Much of the remaining land that is within private ownership is held as large tracks of forests by timber companies. Given all the various entities that own the County, there is little that local government can do to exert much substantive influence on land use management practices and policies.

The Greenways Plan in a way simply declares and states the obvious. There is much in Forest County that qualifies under the Greenways concept. Many outside observers may lament the lack of public recreational facilities such as trails, but as the Plan points out there are a few old abandoned railroad beds that could be utilized for those purposes. Regardless of the possibilities or the availabilities, funding the renovations of these old rail beds is extremely expensive. The funds projected within this plan preclude the possibilities of meeting the timeframes outlined and do not factor in the political fallout that would occur should a Forest County elected official support the expenditure of millions of dollars for any recreation project. Currently, there are funding sources from state and federal programs but the issue of local match far exceeds the reality of actually securing even the match amounts necessary. The reality is this, greenways in Forest County have existed for many years in a primitive state, upgrades for these greenways or excessive governmental control

over private lands within designated greenways will not be popular or acceptable within the current political and economic conditions.

The Forest County Conservation District and Planning Board views this Plan as a concept, or as a useful tool, but not as a mandate. The Greenways Plan is not an ordinance which forces upon the citizens of Forest County any further draconian governmental controls or outside influence. While there is a desire of certain Commonwealth agencies that this Plan be totally incorporated within the Forest County Comprehensive Plan, there is no mandate forcing that action. The Planning Board for Forest County will incorporate elements of the Plan into the Comprehensive Plan, but does not desire for an all inclusive inclusion. Forest Countians view the Greenways Plan as a tool, not something that must be used, but something that could be used when appropriate. Primary or unique issues identified within this Greenways Plan will be seriously considered for inclusion within the next Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update.

Many of the elements discussed in this plan are already standard practice for Forest County, so it must be stated that for the most part this plan does not identify issues that are unique, new, or in different directions from where Forest County decision makers have been moving for the past few decades. What is new is found in phraseology. For instance, the Plan identifies Natural Systems Greenways as corridors where nature does what nature does. Forest Countians would call those corridors woods and streams. It is within the Natural Systems Greenways corridors that there is private property, a basic American right which Forest County has no intentions of usurping. Forest County does not desire to affect the rights of those owners in any way.

With the little development of lands in Forest County, nature is able to exist with minimal disturbance, and given all the various conditions that dominate our land and our use of that land, much of the County remains in a very natural condition. Low-impact is a fair term that describes most of the land use in Forest County for the past fifty years. Incorporated within the Forest County Comprehensive Land Use Plan are a variety of elements that recognize issues and conditions restated within this Greenways Plan.

Given the amount of public land within the County, there is little desire to expand that particular land use as there is already enough. The detrimental affect on the tax base of the County has already been too much. Better use of portions of the land for recreational purposes is appropriate and development of tourism infrastructure is advantageous, but only if the possible economic benefits will be realized by Forest Countians.

If there is any element within this Greenways Plan that is barely acceptable it is the advocacy for trail expansion. Unless the advocacy for creation and expansion of recreational trails is 'home-grown', trails may have little chance of existing. In other words, if what is seen as 'outside' advocacy attempts to put forth a trail idea, it is probable that the idea will be still-born. Engaging local citizens and residents is the only way that a new trail idea may meet with any kind of success.

One issue of concern to the leaders in Forest County is how this Greenways Plan will or may affect private property rights. Private property is included in several areas of the Plan where designations are made, such as natural greenways corridors. Private property is the backbone of revenue generation at the local level via land tax. Many laws already affect how a private property owner may use or enjoy their property, all without just compensation due to a loss or limitation of their use of their property. At the State and Federal level, it appears that there is little recognition of the importance of private property to local government, nor to the rights enjoyed by the private property landowner. Laws are passed that directly affect some property owners through limits placed on usage of the property.

The Constitution of the United States addresses private property in a clear and profound manner. Usurped by Federal Court and State Court decisions, landowners continue, however, to face an erosion of their private property rights. Given this situation, Forest County raises a concern in regards to the ultimate affect upon private property identified within the Greenways Plan. Unless locally driven, ordinances affecting private property (in response to the Greenways Plan) may harm the private property rights of landowners. Forest County will continue to strive to assure that private property rights are respected. In keeping with that stance, Forest County will accept this Greenways Plan with one proviso, this plan will be considered to be our Greenways Plan until which time the State or the Federal Government passes legislation that will drag private property landowners into further loss of their property rights due to being designated within this Plan. Should further laws be passed in such a manner, Forest County will view this current document null and void and will revise the Forest County Greenways Plan in such a manner so as to protect the rights of the private property landowners.

The last idea that should be addressed in this forward is simply this, as rural people, Forest Countians are proud of this place. Urban and suburban ideas of protection of land do not translate locally. As Forest Countians view places like Pittsburgh or Philadelphia, they see land that has been over-run, over-used, miss-used and abused. As edicts from Harrisburg are passed down, the influence of urban/suburban thinking is obvious. Rural people in Forest County have taken care of their land because it provided employment, enjoyment and a place to live. It is our home, not just a weekend playground. Life in Forest County has always been intimately linked with nature, concepts of protection of that world, brewed in the caldron of urban/suburban Pennsylvania, remain hypocritical and alien. Rural citizens of Forest County protect nature out of a sense of protecting their home and their way of life. This Greenways Plan defines the obvious rather than discovers a new land. Forest Countians have always known this is a special place of nature, forests and hardy souls.

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INTRODUCTION

The Forest County Greenways Plan is part of the larger Northwest Pennsylvania greenways planning effort undertaken by the Northwest Regional Planning and Development Commission. The Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways planning process was a multi-county effort completed for the Commission's eight counties, and individual plans for six counties, including:

- Erie County
- Clarion County
- Crawford County
- Forest County
- Venango County
- Warren County

Before the start of this plan individual plans for Lawrence and Mercer Counties were completed. Their results were synthesized into the Northwest Region Greenways Plan.

The purpose of this introduction is to introduce the concept of Greenways, present the benefits of establishing a greenway network in Forest County, and establish the goals and objectives for creating the network.

Forest County is rich in recreation opportunities and natural resources. Many of these resources are unique and special to the northwest Pennsylvania region and beyond. They include:

- Allegheny National Forest (ANF): The only National Forest in Pennsylvania covers more than 513,000 acres in McKean, Warren, Elk and Forest Counties. Within the ANF there are over 1,000 miles of hiking, biking, ATV riding, and horseback riding trails. Swimming, boating and fishing opportunities also exist in the Allegheny, Clarion, and Tionesta Rivers.
- Allegheny River: The Allegheny River flows approximately 325 miles from its headwaters in central Potter County to the point in Pittsburgh where it joins with the Monongahela to form the Ohio River. One hundred and seven miles of the Allegheny River has been officially recognized as the Middle Allegheny River Water Trail, presenting non-motorized canoeing and kayaking opportunities.

More than eighty-six miles of the Allegheny River has been designated as a Wild and Scenic River. A portion of this designated section of the River is located in Forest County from the northern boundary of Forest County running southerly to the Boundary of Venango County.

- Clarion River, Clarion River Water Trail and Clarion River Wild and Scenic designation: One Hundred miles of the Clarion River is officially designated by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission as a water trail. The Clarion River carries this designation from the confluence of east and west branches of the Clarion Rivers to Parker Bridge in Armstrong County. A portion of this water trail flows through Forest County, along its southern border, east of Clarington to Cooksburg.

Approximately fifty-two miles of the Clarion River has been designated as a Wild and Scenic River. In Forest County the Wild and Scenic Clarion River forms a portion of the County's southern border in southern Barnett Township. This segment of the River generally stretches from the intersection of the Forest, Elk, and Jefferson County borders to Cooksburg.

Forest County Greenways Plan

- North Country National Scenic Trail: This nationally recognized hiking trail stretches for about four thousand six hundred miles from North Dakota to New York. This trail cuts through Forest County within the Allegheny National Forest.
- Tionesta Lake: This lake offers a unique setting for a diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy boating, camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, water-skiing, sightseeing, and wildlife watching.
- Twenty-six High Quality Streams
- Two Exceptional Value Streams
- One Important Bird Area and one Important Mammal Area

Forest County is rich in natural resource systems, hiking, and motorized trail opportunities. Forest County encompasses approximately 275,840 acres. Of that, over 130,950 acres, forty-seven and one half percent, are managed by a public agency for recreation and conservation purposes.

Forest County Public Lands Acreage	Public Land Acres	Percent Public Land
Allegheny National Forest	119,837	43.44%
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	3,184	1.15%
State Park	1,435	0.52%
State Forest	2,276	0.83%
State Game Land	7,410	2.69%
Public Lands Acreage Total	134,142	48.63%

The Forest County Comprehensive Plan of 1998 indicates the natural resources of Forest County should be identified and critical areas signified for conservation; exceptional areas should be considered for protection, where warranted, by means of local citizen consensus.

That said, the Comprehensive Plan also indicates the following:

- Forest County should continue to seek out and adopt necessary development controls and guidelines in order to insure future development will occur in such a manner as to be an asset to the County.
- Forest County should continue to seek ways to control and mitigate the effects which occur through the conversion of private lands to public.
- Forest County should continue to explore, and adopt, appropriate policy measure which result in a No Net Loss of Private Property standard within the County.

The continued conversion of private lands to publicly held lands has had a negative impact on the real estate values, and corresponding revenue generated from real estate to adequately sustain municipal and county services within Forest County. Further, this has created an unbalanced situation on the County where public acquisitions have taken away other beneficial land uses such as prime farm lands. Therefore, any approach to the conservation of natural systems greenway corridors within Forest County must be done in a manner which does not further burden the County and its municipalities.

At issue is the lack of communication between Federal, State, and County agencies. Therefore, before any further conservation efforts take place all agencies must come together and reach a consensus on how to best achieve conservation, recreation, and forestry goals in a manner that promotes the sustainability of Forest County's future.

Therefore, the majority of the County's efforts toward implementing greenways should focus on conserving agricultural lands for agricultural purposes; economic development efforts through marketing and promotion; trail town business development; expansion of ecotourism services and opportunities; and connecting existing trails to nearby facilities and amenities.

WHAT IS A GREENWAY?

The term "Greenway" was first coined in the 19th century, and since that time greenways have been defined in many ways. Some people think of greenways as primarily recreational, namely trails for hiking, jogging, biking, or canoeing/kayaking (often called water trails or "blueways"). For them, greenways are places that offer opportunities to experience the outdoors. For others, the purpose of greenways is primarily for conservation (2) of undeveloped land containing important natural resources like forests, wetlands, and stream banks, along with the plants and animals that live there. Still others see greenways in aesthetic (3) terms, conserving the pastoral countryside setting in rural areas..

All three of these ideas (recreation, conservation, and aesthetic) are embraced by the following all-encompassing definition, which is adapted from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Greenways Plan: ***Pennsylvania Greenways - An Action Plan for Creating Connections***, and is embraced by this Greenways Plan:

A greenway is a corridor of open space, varying greatly in scale, and incorporating or linking diverse natural, cultural, and scenic resources. Some greenways are recreational corridors or scenic byways accommodating pedestrian and non-motorized vehicle traffic on both land and water; while others function almost exclusively for environmental protection and are not designed for human passage.

The movement to establish greenways was given a significant boost in 1987 when the President's Commission on American Outdoors recommended that an interconnected greenways network be established throughout the nation. Many states, including the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, took up the task of promoting greenways. *Pennsylvania's Greenways – An Action Plan for Creating Connections* was published in 2001. This report established a strategy for creating a comprehensive, statewide greenway network by the year 2020. The Governor appointed the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to oversee the Commonwealth's greenways program. The DCNR, in partnership with county and municipal officials, supports greenways planning and implementation through education, technical assistance, and grant making programs.

Through the Northwest Pennsylvania greenways planning process the following definition was developed to define greenways for the northwest region's participating counties:

Greenways of Northwestern Pennsylvania

A greenway is a corridor of open space. Greenways vary greatly in scale, from narrow ribbons of green that run through urban, suburban, and rural areas to wider corridors that incorporate diverse natural, cultural and scenic features. They may follow old railways, canals, or ridge tops, or they may follow stream corridors, shorelines, or wetlands, and include water trails.

Some greenways are for human activity and may accommodate motorized and non-motorized recreation and transportation uses. Other greenways conserve natural infrastructure for the benefit of community, economy, and environment and are not designed for human passage.

WHY A GREENWAYS PLAN FOR FOREST COUNTY?

Wherever greenways are developed, they provide numerous and diverse benefits to local municipalities and their residents. Such benefits include:

- promotes environmentally-sound land development
- promotes land and water restoration
- encourages a network of non-motorized land and water transportation corridors to connect people to our resources
- explores opportunities to expand motorized off highway vehicle and snowmobile trail opportunities
- conserves natural resource infrastructure resources
- Builds capacity at the local level for implementation
- encourages economic development
- promotes healthy living
- enhances the quality of life

For example, greenway corridors may be established to conserve contiguous forest or open space conserve habitat for wildlife, and in certain instances, habitat for threatened or endangered species. Greenways along rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs may have multiple advantages such as habitat conservation, flood control, and drinking water protection. And corridors linking areas of farmland and open space help to conserve the rural landscape and way of life. Many of these benefits are interrelated and work together to bolster quality of life in the region. For example, providing transportation alternatives in the form of trails, shared use paths or safe routes to school, leads to better health and fitness. Similarly, conserving historic and cultural resources supports economic prosperity by attracting visitors from outside and inside the region.

Northwest Pennsylvania contains a diversity of environmental, cultural, and historic resources. Municipalities, counties, and regional partnership organizations are committed to plan for the future of the

region by promoting and conserving our resources utilizing a natural infrastructure planning approach. Further, these entities are also committed to connecting our residents to our resources by expanding existing and establishing new recreation greenways throughout Forest County to connect residents to each other and the County's resources.

The process of establishing greenway network in Northwest Pennsylvania will not take away the rights of property owners, nor will it restrict development in the region. The greenway network will promote sustainable development, reduce development costs, and reduce the burden of providing public services on local, county, and state governments.

CONSERVING FOREST COUNTY'S DEFINING CHARACTERISTICS

Maintaining and conserving Forest County's open spaces and natural resources is now of greater importance than ever. Conservation of these assets can play a key role in establishing a high quality of life for current and future generations. Residents enjoy the natural and recreational resources that set their community or region apart from everywhere else.

Forest County has many recreational assets, including the Allegheny National, which includes Beaver Meadow Lake, Kelly Pines Recreation Area and Buzzard Swamp; Tionesta Lake; Cornplanter State Forest, Clear Creek State Forest, and Cook Forest State Park; two state game lands; and many existing trail opportunities including a section of the North Country National Scenic Trail. All of these resources provide a variety of opportunities for biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, boating, snowmobiling, wildlife viewing, and other pastimes.

EXPANDING THE ECONOMY

Over the years economic growth has been limited, and in fact has it has declined in Forest County. However, recent emphasis on tourism based activities, such as interpreting the Pennsylvania Wilds and Lumber Heritage Regions, along with the existing recreation opportunities, provides new hope.

- **Pennsylvania Wilds:** The Pennsylvania Wilds covers more than two million acres of public land within areas such as state forests and state game lands and includes twelve northern Pennsylvania Counties. The five hundred thousand acre Allegheny National Forest is part of the Pennsylvania Wilds. The Pennsylvania Wilds offers a wide range of recreational activities from hiking and biking to hunting and fishing. Forest County is completely contained within the Pennsylvania Wilds.
- **Lumber Heritage Region:** The Lumber Heritage Region promotes the history and heritage of the lumber industry and its importance to Pennsylvania's development. The Region boasts a wide variety of natural, cultural, and historic resources. While celebrating the past, the grassroots effort works to build the region's economy and quality of life through education, conservation, and tourism promotion.

A study conducted in 2002 indicated that over 36,000 people visited the pristine wilderness areas of the Allegheny National Forest. Additionally, other surveys indicate that between 29 and 44% of all Pennsylvania residents, 2.8M to 5M, visit a wilderness area. Thus, if the goods and services that visitors desire can be provided there is the potential to attract more visitors to the Allegheny National Forest region.

Over half, 287,000 acres, of the Allegheny National Forest is allocated to even-aged timber management for the purpose of timber production. However, timber production from the ANF only represents one and

one half percent of Pennsylvania's timber, which means the bulk of Pennsylvania timber production occurs on private lands. Forest County is rich in forest cover and private timber production.

Tourism/Eco-Tourism

National surveys suggest that outdoor recreation participation continues to increase with the five fastest growing pursuits being: birding, hiking, backpacking, snowmobiling, and walking (Cordell and Herbert 2002). 97% of all Americans over 16 years of age participate in some sort of outdoor recreation, with 33% of Americans reporting that they go bird-watching (Cordell and Herbert 2002).

According to the DCNR, tourism is the second largest industry in the Commonwealth and nearly one-fifth of Pennsylvania's tourists travel to enjoy its outdoor amenities. Forest County contains numerous natural and recreational resources that are important assets for providing the potential for substantial growth in the travel and tourism sector.

Hunting & Fishing

Hunting, fishing, and trapping activities account for \$9.6 billion dollars in annual value and create 88,000 jobs within Pennsylvania (Shafer et al. 2000). The 9.6 billion dollars is more than half of the entire state budget in 1997, the year of the study. Between 25 and 50% of all hunting and fishing trips involve state-owned land and water, while up to 40% involve private non-posted lands (Shafer et al. 2000).

Forest County provides excellent hunting opportunities within any of its State Game Lands and in the Allegheny National Forest. State wide, hunters spent over \$1.33 billion dollars on hunting trips in 1996.

According to recent studies, fishing is the most popular water based recreation activity in Pennsylvania, with nearly twenty-eight percent (27.9%) of residents participating, for an estimated 3.2 million participants across the Commonwealth.

Fishing is a great economic asset in the county. Pennsylvania residents sixteen years and older spent \$800 million on fishing in the state and elsewhere in 2001. The average angler spent approximately \$632 on fishing in 2001, creating an economic output of \$1.62 in the state. Within the northwest region there were 71,768 anglers in 2006, based on the numbers from this study these anglers contributed more than \$45 million to the local economy.

In 2008, there were sixteen trout stocked streams in Forest County listed by the PA Fish and Boat Commission. The PA Fish and Boat Commission report on *Angler Use, Harvest and Economic Assessment on Trout Stocked Streams in Pennsylvania* found that angling on stocked trout streams contributed over \$65.7 million dollars to Pennsylvania's economy during the first eight weeks of the regular trout season in 2005. Additionally, angling on stocked trout streams also supported 1,119 jobs in the state.

Boating

The PA Fish and Boat Commission boating facts found that Pennsylvania residents spend \$1.7 billion on boating annually, including boat fishing. The average expenditure per recreational boater is \$274. The average recreational boater spends \$113 a year in direct boating expenses including purchasing or renting of boats, fuel, boating supplies, maintenance and repairs, storage and registration.

Water Trails

Case Studies of Water Trail Impacts on Rural Communities, Lindsay Johnson, 2002

Water trails are a rapidly growing element of the marine recreation and tourism industry. They are beneficial components of rural communities. In water trail communities a sense of stewardship is fostered and the number and success of retail and service businesses increase as the community builds a reputation as a paddling destination.

The water trails reviewed for this case study have impressive paddler profiles (well educated, high income), increasing use rates and paddlers desiring a quality natural environment. Communities can capture profits from paddlers by offering overnight lodging opportunities and access to main streets, from the water trail, that provide the goods and services desired by paddlers. A shared vision for the water trail and existing tourism support facilities are important community considerations. Events, regional and state level coordination and the quality of local support including strong volunteer groups and management partnerships influence a water trail's success.

A water trail offers economic development potential for a small rural community, but highly specialized recreation can have serious impacts. A local water trail will play a role in community life. Rural residents will have to share their outdoor experiences with visitors, and land values may increase. Landowners along the trails in this case study are unaffected and trespassing has not become an issue because legal access points and public land is designated and clearly signed and mapped. A water trail must be advocated and maintained locally if the community will reap economic and social benefits. With no retail, service or lodging sites accessible canoeists will not spend much money. As facilities emerge, more people will opt to use the available bed and breakfasts, restaurants, shops and campgrounds.

Communities can provide the good and services desired by paddlers can be rewarded. User surveys conducted along the water trails being studied indicated paddlers are spending between \$27 and \$63 per day. A destination paddler on a multiple day water trail trip will spend about \$88 in a community. Eating and drinking establishments, lodging and camping businesses, retail sales and recreational service industries will see direct economic impacts from water trail paddlers.

Wildlife Watching

The average bird watcher spends more than \$350 each year on travel and paraphernalia related to bird watching, while committed birdwatchers spend \$2000 or more annually, around half of which is on travel (USDI survey, 1993).

The total economic effect of non-consumptive bird and waterfowl recreation alone is estimated to be more than \$450 million per year in the state of Pennsylvania. Like other forms of outdoor recreation, non-consumptive wildlife recreation creates significant benefits for communities surrounding the recreation site.

2001 Economic Benefits of Watchable Wildlife Recreation in Pennsylvania, Southwick. Associates, Inc.

- In 2001, watchable wildlife recreation generated twice the value produced by Pennsylvania's farms and three times the total movie goers spent to see 2001's top-grossing film, "Harry Potter."
- Watchable wildlife generated \$70 million in state sales federal taxes; and \$962 million in retail sales, including food, travel and lodging, in 2001.
- Watchable wildlife recreation supports almost 19,000 employees with total wages of more than \$509 million.
- Wildlife viewing expenditures in Pennsylvania, during 2001, exceeded all of the money spent nationally on skiing and snow-boarding.

Forest County Greenways Plan

- Watchable wildlife recreation overwhelmingly benefits times of the year when other income sources are low.

Many hunters and fishermen participate in non-consumptive wildlife activities. Sportsmen report spending \$93 million to observe and attract wildlife to their homes. They spend \$860 million in wildlife-associated trips away from the home, spending on average \$33 per wildlife viewing trip.

Trails

The economic benefits of trail development are well-documented by several studies that have been completed along developed trail systems in Pennsylvania.

In 2007, the Oil Region Alliance and Allegheny Valley Trails Association published a study of the trail system within the Oil Heritage Region. The study, *Trail Utilization Study: Analysis of the Trail Systems within the Oil Heritage Region 2006* concluded that trail users were having a measurable, positive impact on the Oil Region's economy. Specifically, the report concluded:

- It is estimated that 160,792 trail users frequented the trail system, within the Oil Heritage Region in 2006, creating an overall estimated economic impact of roughly \$4.31 million.
- Approximately seventy-five percent of surveyed trail users cited the trails as their main reason for visiting the Region. The majority of the trail users visit the trails a few times a year. Seventy-seven percent of the users are day trip users who prefer to visit in the autumn and summer seasons. The users who do stay overnight tend to stay for two nights on average and often in campgrounds.
- Trail users surveyed were predominantly from Pennsylvania. Twenty-three percent of in-state users were categorized as living in the Oil Heritage Region and twenty-two percent of trail users traveled from other states such as Ohio, New York, and Florida to visit the trails.
- Non-local trail users spent an average of \$32.93 per person per day, while those users categorized as living in the Oil Heritage region spent an average of \$3.71 per person per day.
- During the time period of this study, between July and October of 2006, trail users created an economic benefit of \$2.22 million within the Oil Heritage Region.

This study, along with other similar studies completed, including: Heritage Rail Trail County Park 2007 User Survey and Economic Impact Analysis; Pine Creek Trail 2006 User Survey and Economic Impact Analysis; and, the 2002 User Survey for the Allegheny Trail Alliance confirm there are positive economic impacts associated with the development of these trails.

Moreover, greenways can encourage new residents to settle in an area. Young people and families are attracted to places that provide opportunities for easy access to outdoor recreation. Greenway trails provide such accessibility since they connect population centers to parks and other natural amenities. Furthermore, to cater to the needs of recreational users, new service businesses, such as bike shops, canoe & kayak rentals, outdoor equipment stores, restaurants, campsites, and bed and breakfasts often spring up around recreational greenways. These new businesses bring new jobs and additional tax dollars to the host municipalities.

In *Benefits of Greenways*, DCNR noted that in 2002, recreational tourism accounted for 459,000 jobs statewide, an increase of 100,000 from 1998. Moreover, the report noted that “there is also evidence to

demonstrate that communities with recreational greenways have witnessed significant increases in real estate values.”

Proximity to nature increases the desirability and value of residential property, a factor that increases the profitability of real estate development and the attractiveness of towns, cities, and regions. People have become increasingly willing to pay more to live near natural areas.

Economic Benefits of Being Physically Fit

Many studies have concluded that there are economic benefits associated with being physically fit, such as:

- ✓ Lower medical costs, fewer insurance claims
- ✓ Increased job productivity
- ✓ Decreased absenteeism, depression, and job turnover
- ✓ Prevention of disability

Greenways and trails provide opportunities for maintaining a physically fit lifestyle.

Transportation Benefits

One quarter of all trips taken by Americans are under a mile, but seventy-five percent of those trips are done by car, and only one third of school children who live less than a mile from school now walk to school.

On-road bicycle facilities, sidewalks, and trails encourage:

- ✓ The use of non-polluting transportation alternatives to the automobile for those short trips to work, school, or the local store
- ✓ The use of non-consumptive transportation alternatives to expending fossil fuels
- ✓ Reducing congestion
- ✓ Improving air quality
- ✓ Providing safe alternatives to residents
- ✓ Provides cost savings in car and road maintenance
- ✓ Enhances quality of life

According to the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics:

- The average pedestrian’s trip for recreation purposes is 1.9 miles
- The average pedestrian’s trip for non-recreation purposes is 0.8 miles
- The average bicyclist’s trip for recreation purposes is 5.6 miles
- The average bicyclist’s trip for non-recreation purposes is 2.2 miles

There are many opportunities to expand choices for alternate modes of transportation such as expanding the roadway network to include bicycle facilities.

Trails offer opportunities for recreation, health, and fitness. Many studies have shown that as little as 30 minutes a day of moderate to intense exercise can improve a person's mental and physical health and prevent certain diseases. Studies also support the premise that Americans place a high priority on having trails and open space in their community for recreation purposes. Trails:

- ## Health and Wellness Benefits

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Disease Control has been tracking obesity rates in the United States since 1985. Between now and then there has been a dramatic increase in obesity in the United States.

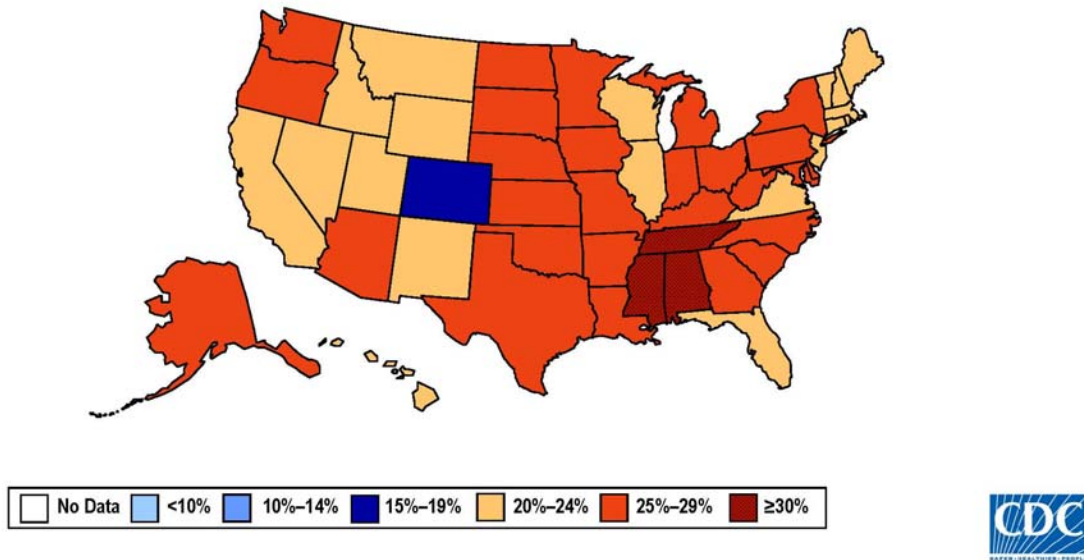
(*BMI ≥ 30 , or ~ 30 lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



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Obesity Trends* Among U.S. Adults BRFSS, 2007

(*BMI ≥ 30 , or ~ 30 lbs. overweight for 5' 4" person)



In 2007, only one state had a prevalence of obesity less than 20%. Thirty-two states had prevalence equal or greater than 25%; six of these states had a prevalence of obesity equal to or greater than 30%.

The Rails to Trails Conservancy's fact sheet "Health and Wellness Benefits," provides the following facts on how greenways and trails benefit health and wellness:

- ✓ In addition to helping control weight, opportunities for physical activity help to prevent heart disease, helps control cholesterol levels and diabetes, slows bone loss associated with advancing age, lowers the risk of certain cancers and helps reduce anxiety and depression. The power of physical activity to improve mood and prevent disabilities and chronic diseases is especially pronounced for older adults.
- ✓ Trails connect people with places, enabling them to walk or cycle to run errands or commute to work. A majority of the daily trips people make are short, providing an opportunity for physical activity that can be built in to the daily routine.
- ✓ Trails connect neighborhoods and schools so children can cycle or walk to their friend's homes or to school, especially in communities that lack sidewalks.
- ✓ Trails and greenways provide natural, scenic areas that cause people to actually want to be outside and physically active.

Ecological Benefits

The ecological benefits of greenways are most likely some of the most important benefits provided to humankind. However, they generally are the least understood and valued. These ecological benefits are expensive to replace with artificial means to achieve their functions. Ecological benefits include:

- ✓ Preserving vital habitat corridors
- ✓ Promoting plant and animal species diversity
- ✓ Absorbing contaminants of surface runoff
- ✓ Cleansing and replenishing the air
- ✓ Buffering the negative effects of development
- ✓ Mitigating noise, water, thermal and air pollution
- ✓ Controlling property damage due to flooding

Educational Benefits

Greenways and trails provide educational benefits from a variety of perspectives including cultural and historical, and environmental interpretation.

Our best link to our future can be by examining our past. Greenways serve to promote the unique history and culture of towns, cities and villages all across Pennsylvania by providing:

- ✓ Access to buildings of historic and architectural significance in a community
- ✓ A look back at the events and people that shaped the present
- ✓ An opportunity to conserve historic assets and archeological artifacts

Natural areas that are set aside for educational purposes provide immeasurable opportunities for people of all ages to learn and interact with their natural surroundings. Greenways:

- ✓ Act as living museums, outdoor classrooms and laboratories
- ✓ Provide scenic excursions along water trails or wildlife preserves
- ✓ Assist students, both young and old, in developing concepts and skills by helping them become effective stewards and decision makers concerning our natural resources
- ✓ Promote and encourage interaction with our natural surroundings

Conserving Pennsylvania's Rural Legacy

Pennsylvania's rural landscape is an inextricable link to its history, as well as a demonstration of the success that continues to be achieved by its farming community. Studies demonstrate that Pennsylvania has lost much of its agricultural land over the last twenty-five years to urban areas. This rate of loss has a sizeable economic impact, but it also threatens the unique characteristics that encompass Pennsylvania such as its rural legacy. Development without preservation of this rural character significantly impacts the future course of the Commonwealth. Greenways help to preserve the rural character of a community by:

- ✓ Conserving farmland, small country settlements, and surrounding open space
- ✓ Maintaining the character of place
- ✓ Conserving ridge lines, river corridors, and scenic resources
- ✓ Providing visual relief by framing and distinguishing neighborhoods in the face of sprawl

Economic Benefits of Natural System Greenways

Probably the least understood and least quantified aspect of greenways is the impact of natural resource greenways to the economy. There are tourism dollars generated from County residents and visitors to the County that otherwise would not be realized if it weren't for the natural resources that support them.

The natural resources along Forest County's waterways cleanse water, provide for the temporary storage of flood waters, and provide ground water recharge zones. Without these resources a significant cost would be realized to build infrastructure to continue these functions.

Conserving Priority Habitats

Forest County contains a variety of forests, wetlands, rivers, natural areas, and streams, as well numerous conservation holdings. All of these features provide habitat for a wide array of plants and animals.

Within the Forest County Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program will be identifying natural areas that serve as critical habitat for species of special concern or that host a variety of habitats and landscape features warranting conservation. Additionally, the Pennsylvania Audubon Society has identified one Important Bird Area (IBA), or areas essential to sustaining wild bird populations in Forest County.

Sound Land Use and Sustainable Growth

It is important to note that a thoughtfully-developed Greenway Plan does not oppose development, but rather identifies ways to integrate it with conservation practices. Thus, economic growth will occur in planned areas and will result in healthier communities, economically, socially, and environmentally.

GREENWAY PLANNING PROCESS

Sound Greenway planning uses a three-step process that answers three basic questions:

1. *Where are we now?* - This is the inventory phase. In this phase, information was gathered on the natural and cultural assets of the County that may form the building blocks of conservation or recreation corridors. For example, information was obtained about important habitat areas warranting protection, as well as abandoned rail corridors that could be converted to recreational trails.
2. *Where do we want to be?* - In this phase, "vision" was developed. Specifically, the plan synthesizes the information gathered during the inventory phase into a proposed network of greenways and trails linking important destinations throughout the County.
3. *How do we get there?* - This step provides information about how the plan can be implemented. It includes concrete tools such as a recommended management structure, prioritized trail and greenway segments, and potential funding sources.

Public Participation

Greenway planning also involves an intensive public participation process that solicits knowledge and expertise from local residents and officials - those who know Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Venango, and Warren County's best. During this process, input is obtained by the following methods:

- Study Committee Meetings
- Public Meetings
- Key Person Interviews
- Field Visits

PURPOSE OF THE GREENWAYS PLAN

With the aforementioned benefits and planning process in mind, this plan examines the various methods by which a greenway network can be developed for Forest County. Once developed, this network will help conserve the region's essential natural resources and, in turn, its unique character, while enhancing the quality of life for its residents by developing a network of connections among the diverse natural areas; various cultural, historic, and recreational resources; and local population centers.

Goals and Objectives

Conserving and enhancing Forest County's character and quality of life is the main goal of the Greenway Plan, and these specific objectives support this main goal:

- Promote the conservation of agricultural land for agricultural production;
- Promote economic growth via recreational or eco-tourism;
- Encourage local municipalities to work in unison to help conserve resources by encouraging the conservation of natural infrastructure;
- Provide recreational opportunities for County residents by connecting resources;
- Conserving existing natural areas primarily for ecological health and conservation of wildlife habitat.

These goals and objectives support the two general functions that define proposed Greenways and trails in Forest County:

1. Recreation and Transportation Greenways are corridors in which trail development is recommended or trails already exist. These greenways connect population centers and points of interest. They bring people in contact with the outdoors and engender an appreciation of the natural world. These trails also provide alternative, environmentally-friendly transportation opportunity for commuters and visitors. In some cases, recreation and transportation trails overlay areas where conservation of natural assets is also an objective. To avoid conflicts, recreation and transportation uses should be planned to minimize impacts. For example, a biking trail along a river or stream corridor should be designed to conserve steep slopes, wetlands, and other sensitive areas.
2. Natural Systems Greenways are corridors whose primary function is to conserve unique Natural Infrastructure, including habitats such as wetlands, steep slopes, floodplains; exceptional value water-quality streams; high-value natural areas identified by the County Natural Heritage Inventory; Interior Forests; Important Bird Areas; and Important Mammal Areas. They are linear tracts of essentially undevelopable open space. Some low-impact activity, like hiking or wildlife observation, is acceptable in these corridors, but intense development and motorized vehicle use are not recommended.

THE GREENWAY AND OPEN SPACE PLAN AS A DECISION-MAKING TOOL

Once finalized and approved the Greenway Plan will serve as a flexible tool for making decisions regarding the protection natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources. By encompassing a variety of issues pertinent to these resources, the plan will lay the foundation for the continued success of open space conservation and increased quality of life in Forest County. Specific policy details and greenway locations may be adjusted as needed throughout the planning process and implementation.

Sound Greenway Planning includes inventory and analysis of natural features, cultural and historic sites, and open spaces such as parks or nature reserves; along with collaboration with local government agencies, private groups, and interested citizens to form policies for development and/or conservation. This multi-layered approach, involving Forest County and its decision-makers, yields short-, medium-, and long-term strategies for natural resource conservation and greenway development in harmony with any potential economic development.

How Do We Get There?

THE FOREST COUNTY GREENWAYS PLAN

For many, the term greenway evokes visions of recreational and outdoor pursuits. For others, the term greenway evokes concern over restrictions to development and loss of property rights. Throughout the planning process By taking the recommendations presented herein to heart, Forest County has the opportunity to:

- ✓ Guide growth and development in a sustainable manner
- ✓ Improve the economy in Forest County by enhancing tourism opportunities, venues, and by providing goods and services to meet the needs of our residents and tourists
- ✓ Provide alternate forms of transportation to improve air and water quality
- ✓ Connect residents to one another, its parks, schools, and cultural and natural resources
- ✓ Conserve natural resources, which provide life sustaining functions and create the character of place, for current and future generations of Forest County residents

This chapter presents the recommendations and defines the implementation strategies that must be completed in order to work towards establishing the vision for greenways in Forest County and the Northwest Pennsylvania region.

As a working document, it is expected and encouraged that the recommendations included in this plan be reviewed from time to time to determine whether any adjustments need to be made to reflect and acknowledge positive changes in greenway planning efforts. Before significant changes are adopted, a careful review of the entire document should be conducted to gain a thorough understanding of the process which leads to the recommendations outlined in this plan. Only upon completing this review, can prudent decisions be made related to the future of greenways in Forest County.

In their report “Back to Prosperity: A Competitive Agenda for Renewing Pennsylvania”, published in 2003, the Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy identified many concerns related to Pennsylvania’s growth, and lack thereof, over the past two decades. These issues include population migration; urban sprawl; and the consumption of land despite a stagnant population. They are concerned these trends are damaging to Pennsylvania’s economy. Further, the report goes on to recommend solutions to reversing these trends and rebuilding Pennsylvania. Some of the strategies recommended include planning and collaboration at the regional level; conserving our resources; and reinvesting in our main streets and downtowns, in lieu of consuming more land.

By its very nature, greenway planning and implementation can begin to positively address the concerns raised and implement some of the strategies recommended in the Brookings Institute’s report. It is important to realize that greenways are much more than conservation of our natural resources and trails for recreation. As discussed in the Introduction of this plan, greenways provide many benefits that are considered by many to be more significant.

Plan Organization

The Forest County Greenways Plan is organized in a logical format that follows the structure proposed for implementing the recommendations contained herein.

1. Management Structure
2. The Vision for Forest County’s Greenway Corridors
3. Implementation Strategies

Forest County Greenways Plan

Management Structure

There are many successful management structure models that are available to facilitate the implementation and development of greenways. These include:

- County Parks and / or Greenways and Trails Department
- County Parks and / or Greenways and Trails Advisory Board
- Greenways and Trails Authority
- County Planning Office
- Greenways and Trails Organization
- Regional Multi-County Greenway Coordinator

Each model has its strengths and weaknesses. To facilitate the discussion and decision-making process, the strengths and weaknesses were summarized and presented to the study committee for consideration. That analysis is presented on the following pages.

Analysis of Potential Management Structures

Type of Organization	Strengths	Weaknesses	Examples
<i>County Parks and/or Greenways / Trails Department</i>			
The County Department is responsible for aspects of planning, development, management, and maintenance. Volunteer groups may be used to assist or support the County on specific projects.	• Able to apply for state grants	• Relies mostly on paid staff to accomplish almost all work	Indiana County Parks and Trails
	• The County sets the standards for all aspects of trail management	• Volunteers usually play a limited role	York County Parks
	• Paid staff are usually more reliable and are accountable to the County	• The County funds all aspects of planning, development, management, and maintenance	Westmoreland County
	• The County has control over priorities and how they are accomplished	• Staff may have many responsibilities other than trails and greenways therefore trails may not be the primary focus of the department or staff.	
	• The County manages quality control	• Not able to apply for grants that are only available to non-profit organizations	

Forest County Greenways Plan

Type of Organization	Strengths	Weaknesses	Examples
<i>County Parks and Recreation or Greenways / Trails Board</i>			
A volunteer board appointed by the County Commissioners. The Commissioners determine the purpose and responsibilities of the Board. Some Boards are permitted to hire staff through the County to assist with necessary tasks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprised of volunteers who have special interests in parks and recreation or trails and greenways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rely mostly on volunteers to accomplish all work 	Somerset County Recreation Board manages the Allegheny Passage Trail within the County
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operates in conjunction with the County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often end up with just a few people doing most of the work 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could provide a good balance of workers between volunteers and County paid staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited interest in on-going maintenance and upkeep tasks 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to apply for state grants with the County as the legal applicant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising often accounts for more of the volunteers time than trail work 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County sets the standards for how the Board will operate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not able to apply for grants only available to non-profit organizations 	

Type of Organization	Strengths	Weaknesses	Examples
<i>Greenways, Trails, Recreation and/or Conservation Authority</i>			
An organization created by the County Commissioners for the expressed purpose of trail and greenway planning, development, maintenance and management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate from the political subdivision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apart from County or municipal funding, an Authority has limited ability for revenue production 	Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can operate independently of the governmental unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically do not have volunteer groups associated with them 	Centre Region Park and Recreation Authority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to apply for state grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not able to apply for grants that are only available to non-profit organizations 	Clearfield County Recreation and Tourism Authority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can borrow funds for major development projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relies mostly on paid staff to accomplish almost all work 	Lewisburg Area Recreation Authority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set their own standards for quality and accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The trail organizations' goals may not always match those of the County 	Tri-Area Recreation Authority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically think and plan for the long-term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board of Commissioners has little control over the decisions or actions of the Authority 	Montour County Recreation Authority Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Cameron County Recreation Authority

Forest County Greenways Plan

Type of Organization	Strengths	Weaknesses	Examples
<i>County Planning Office</i>			
The Office manages the planning and supervision of trails and greenways, coordinating with local municipalities and volunteer organizations for implementation and operation. A full-time Trail and Greenways coordinator may be needed. In the future this may also require some support staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to apply for state grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires a County-paid management position in the Planning Office 	Pike County
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Planning Office sets the standards for all aspects of trail management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires a tremendous amount of coordination by the Planning Office 	Cumberland County
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid staff are usually more reliable and are accountable to the County 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County has control over priorities and how they are accomplished 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality control comes from the Planning Office 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with local municipalities and volunteer organizations spreads the workload and funding among many agencies 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer groups can apply for funding that is only available to non-profits 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assures compliance with the County Trail and Greenway Plan 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assures greater accountability of all those working on projects 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows all the benefits of both volunteer non-profit organizations and municipalities 		

Forest County Greenways Plan

Type of Organization	Strengths	Weaknesses	Examples
<i>Greenways and Trails Organization</i>			
A non-profit organization usually created for the specific purpose of developing and managing trails and/or greenways. Such organizations are not directly affiliated with a municipal government but serve to support and enhance trail and greenway plans of one or more municipal bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to apply for state grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relies solely on volunteers 	Venango County/ Allegheny Trails Assoc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to apply for grants that are only available to non-profits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often ends up with just a few people doing most of the work 	ATA is responsible for planning, development, and maintenance of the trails. Individual municipalities are responsible for development and maintenance of trailheads within their municipalities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers have a special interest in trails and greenways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers have a limited interest in on-going maintenance and upkeep tasks 	Wildwater Conservancy, Lawrence County
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easier recruitment of volunteers for special activities and projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising often accounts for more of the volunteers time that trail work 	Allegheny Land Trust
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong interest in trail development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some trail groups become singularly focused on just one trail 	Independence Marsh Foundation - Beaver County
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limits County funding of trails and greenways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trail organizations goals may not always match those of the County 	Friends of the Riverfront - City of Pittsburgh
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to recruit and utilize volunteer experts for a variety of services such as engineering, design, construction, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is limited accountability for volunteers 	

Forest County Greenways Plan

Type of Organization	Strengths	Weaknesses	Examples
<i>Regional / Multi-County Joint Greenway Coordinator</i>			
Two or more Counties and or agencies enter into a Agreement to create and fund a Greenway Coordinator position. The person filling this position will be responsible for implementing the recommendations of the participating Counties' adopted Greenways and Trails Plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost to fund position shared with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not be available, or available on a limited basis only when needed 	Oil Region Greenways & Open Space Coordinator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to apply for state grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires a paid professional position housed in the offices of the responsible entity 	Beaver / Lawrence Counties Joint Greenways Coordinator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible entity sets the standards for all aspects of trail management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires a tremendous amount of coordination by the responsible entity 	Cumberland County
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid staff are usually more reliable and are accountable to the responsible entity 		Pike County
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The responsible entity has control over priorities and how they are accomplished 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality control comes from the responsible entity 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with local municipalities and volunteer organizations spreads the workload and funding among many agencies 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer groups can apply for funding that is only available to non-profits 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assures compliance with the County Trail and Greenway Plan 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assures greater accountability of all those working on projects 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows all the benefits of both volunteer non-profit organizations and municipalities 		

Consideration must also be given to the fact that the Forest County Greenway Plan recommendations and implementation strategies are part of the larger Northwest Region greenway effort. Therefore, thought must be given to this regional perspective.

Through the public participation process, consensus was focused on management structure with two components for it to be as successful as possible. Those components include a public component and a private component. This structure will be able to capitalize on the strengths of both types of organizations.

The public component can:

- Educate the public and municipal officials on the benefits of greenways
- Advocate municipalities to improve their land use tools to promote sound land development
- Provide technical assistance to municipalities and other greenway-related agencies
- Ensure consistent conservation and / or development throughout the proposed corridor
- Insure for the general liability of the corridors
- Provide routine maintenance
- Provide law enforcement, when required
- Provide access to government funding

The non-profit component can:

- Provide access to foundation and corporate giving
- Organize and conduct fund-raising events
- Organize volunteers
- Assist with property acquisition
- Leverage volunteers for periodic work days in the corridors
- Organize volunteers to be the eyes and ears of the corridors
- Promote, market, and advocate for the corridors
- Build support for the expansion of the greenway corridors

This model was selected because both the public and the private sector have unique characteristics that provide them with advantages in specific aspects of project service and delivery. A successful partnership arrangement draws on the strengths of both the public and private sector to establish complementary relationships.

The following describes the public and private components that are envisioned for this partnership.

Public Component

It is recommended that an intergovernmental cooperation agreement by the counties who desire to participate in this intergovernmental arrangement.

In Pennsylvania, Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreements must meet the requirements of Act 177. This Act requires the agreement to be written to comply with the terms of Act 177 and include the following:

- a. The agreement must be enacted by ordinance (Section 2305)
- b. The ordinance must specify (Section 2307):
 1. The conditions of the agreement
 2. The duration of the agreement
 3. The purpose and objectives of the agreement, including the powers and scope of authority delegated in the agreement
 4. The manner and extent of financing the agreement
 5. The organizational structure necessary to implement the agreement
 6. The manner in which property, real or personal, shall be acquired, licensed, or disposed of
 7. The entity created under this section shall be empowered to enter into contracts for policies of group insurance and employee benefits, including social security, for its employees

Forest County Greenways Plan

Furthermore, it is recommended the agreement address issues such as:

- Who will hold property and easements acquired for the trail
- Who is responsible for trail operations, maintenance, and security
- Whether any responsibilities will / can be delegated to outside entities, such as a non-profit organization

These items can be covered in the ordinance document itself, but usually are addressed in the agreement document and incorporated into the ordinance by reference, as an attachment to the ordinance.

An agreement enacted under the provisions of Act 177 is essentially a legal contract among two or more governmental agencies. Separate agreements, or a clearly stated multiple purpose agreement, are needed for two or more different functions. The terms of the agreement are whatever is negotiated among the participants, subject to the general requirements of the law.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development have funded circuit rider positions for greenway and trail coordinator positions in several other counties throughout the Commonwealth. If the organization can be further expanded to cover a multi-county effort, both agencies are likely to further support an effort to a greater extent. Currently, Beaver and Lawrence Counties, two western Pennsylvania Counties, have committed through an intergovernmental agreement to share a Greenways and Trails Coordinator. This is the first example of a multi-county position in the Commonwealth.

Private Component

It is recommended that an existing 501(c)3 non-profit organization be identified, or that one be established, to maximize funding opportunities and coordinate volunteer services. Responsibilities of this organization should include:

- Promoting greenways
- Providing physical labor for organized trail work days
- Providing “eyes and ears” on the trails and in the greenways
- Fund raising
- Producing maps, brochures, newsletters, and other information to educate users and educate and improve the greenways experience
- Coordinating the promotion of the greenways
- Advocating and building support for expansion of greenways

It is recommended the study group formed for this project continue to be an advocate for greenways in the Northwest Region until a formal management structure can be put in place. Assistance may be obtained through the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnership Program Circuit Rider Program.

Forest County Greenways Plan

DCNR's Circuit Rider Program is designed to provide initial funding for County or regional organizations to hire a professional, full-time staff person. The Circuit Rider's purpose is to initiate new programs and services for counties, municipalities, and organizations that individually do not have the financial resources to hire a professional staff person. Circuit Rider grant applications are accepted at any time. Eligible project costs include only the Circuit Rider's salary and DCNR-approved technical assistance and training expenses as follows:

- First Year: up to one hundred percent (100%) of gross salary
- Second Year: up to seventy-five percent (75%) of gross salary
- Third Year: up to fifty percent (50%) of gross salary
- Fourth Year: up to twenty-five percent (25%) of gross salary
- Training Expenses: up to \$2,000 available for Bureau-approved training expenses over the four years of funding.

Participating parties must provide local funds to cover the Circuit Rider's employee benefits for all four years; the balance of the salary in years two, three, and four; and normal support services, such as office space and furnishings, training and travel expenses, clerical support, equipment, etc. Startup costs will need to be allocated in the first two years of operation to acquire office furniture and equipment.

In order to apply for funding a governmental agency needs to complete and submit a PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program grant application. Additional assistance may be obtained from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program for the same purpose.

Within the context of the County and the region, there are many organizations at the local, municipal, trail corridor, and county levels. Care must be taken to not duplicate the efforts of those organizations, but rather the proposed management structure must enhance and provide assistance to these existing organizations. Therefore, it was suggested that either a county-wide position or a multi-county management structure might be most appropriate.

While considering this analysis and the various options, the consultant recognized the need for an organization that not only provides the management capacity for a specific entity or resources, but for all greenway initiatives throughout the County. Therefore this organization should be flexible enough to address all of the greenway efforts throughout the County.

Although PA DCNR has encouraged multi-county management structures for many years, one was not established until early 2008. In February 2008, Beaver and Lawrence Counties entered into a five-year agreement to share the services provided by a newly created Joint Greenways Coordinator position. Although in its infancy, this position has already proved to be effective in advancing the implementation of greenways in Beaver and Lawrence Counties. Furthermore, this level of cooperation has provided the Counties with funding opportunities they may not have otherwise experienced. This joint coordinator position has proven to be ideal, as generally there is not a sufficient amount of work in one county or the other to justify the position. However, when the two counties began to discuss the position, they determined there would be a sufficient workload to support a full-time position between the two counties. We believe the Beaver and Lawrence Counties' joint greenways coordinator position management structure warrants consideration for the counties of the Northwest Region.

In the process of developing the recommendations and defining the implementation strategies for each county, we have come to the conclusion that there ideally would be two joint coordinators who would oversee the implementation of greenways in the Northwest region. These positions are in addition to the

Forest County Greenways Plan

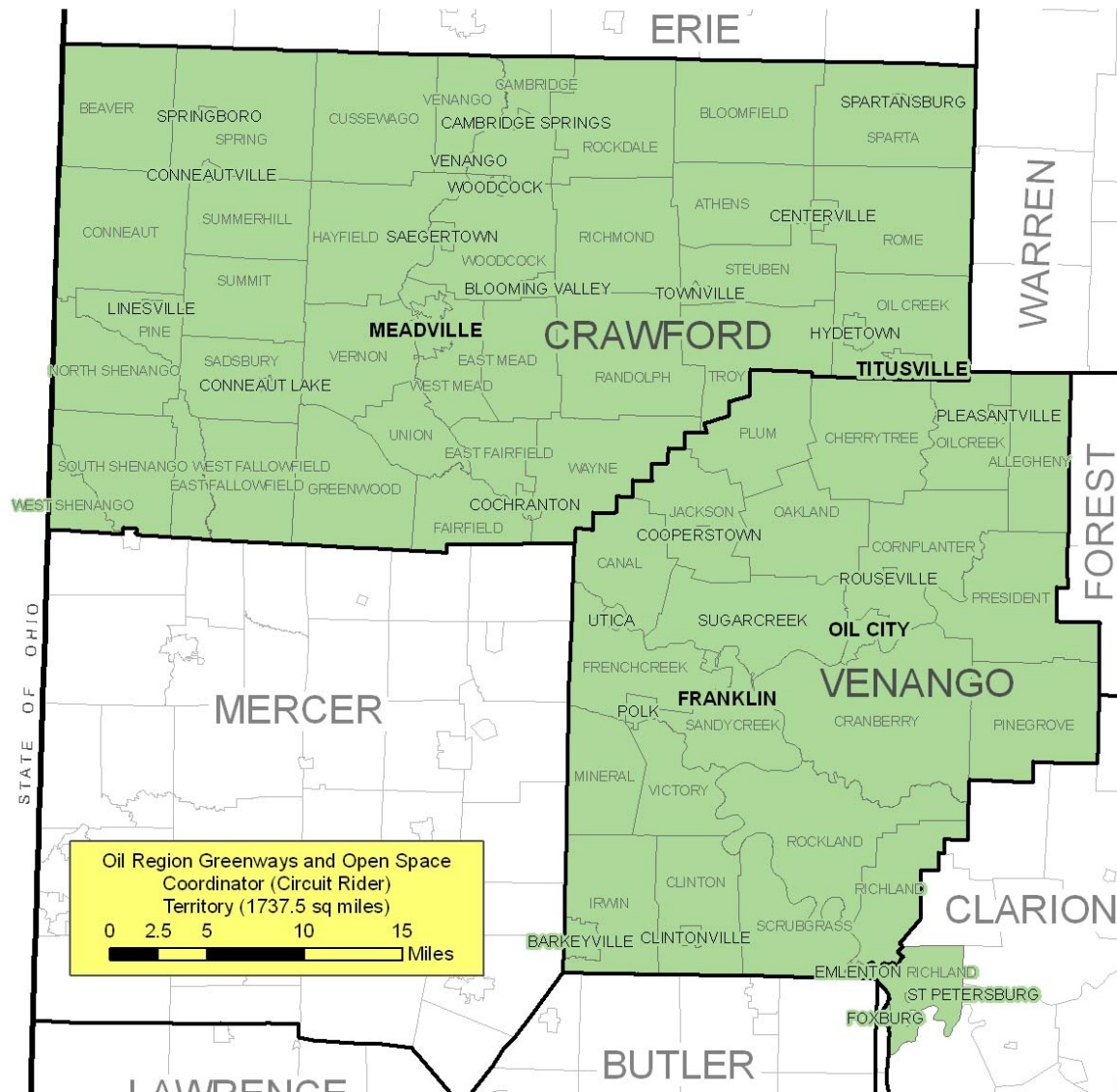
Beaver / Lawrence Counties Joint Greenway Coordinator described above and the Oil Region Greenways and Open Space Coordinator described below.

Near the completion of this study, a joint coordinator position was created following a peer study and the development of a multi-organization steering committee in the Oil Region National Heritage Area, which is located in the Northwest Region. This position was created upon completion of a peer study which examined the need, recommended the structure, and defined the position. As currently defined, this joint greenways coordinator is responsible for implementing greenway strategies in the Oil Region, which includes all of Venango County, and Oil Creek Township, City of Titusville, and Hydetown Borough in Crawford County.

In addition to the Oil Region, the geographic area for this position also includes greenways and trails that are contiguous with and also extend beyond the Region into Clarion and Crawford Counties, including:

- Clarion County: The Allegheny River Trail from Emlenton through Foxburg to Parker Landing, including the municipalities of Richland Township, Foxburg Borough, and St. Petersburg Borough
- Crawford County: Trails in the City of Titusville, Oil Creek Township, and heading northward, including the municipalities of Centerville, Spartansburg Boroughs, and Rome and Sparta Townships
- Parts of the proposed Erie to Pittsburgh Trail

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Erie, Crawford, and Mercer Counties have volunteer trail organizations that have been working for some time to implement greenway corridors in their respective counties, and based on the inventory and analysis, there is a lot of work required to continue and assist these organizations in their efforts. There are also many opportunities in Clarion, Forest, and Warren Counties. However, there are fewer organizations at the corridor level, and support at the county and municipal levels does not appear to be quite as strong.

Given the goals and objectives of the Northwest Pennsylvania Planning and Development Commission to serve the counties of the Northwest Region, they are well-suited to house the two additional positions being recommended. Then, the positions can be focused either geographically or based on where implementation priorities direct them.

Given the regional context of this position, additional information pertaining to the implementation of these positions is contained in the Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways Summary document, including:

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- Opportunities for Acquiring Funding for the Position
- Sample Greenway Coordinator Skill Set, Expectations, and Position Descriptions
- Sample Administrative Budget

The proposed joint greenway coordinator positions address the public component of the management structure.

To determine the structure for the private, not-for-profit component, opportunities for existing organizations to provide the services that may be required should be evaluated. Existing organizations in Forest County that can be approached for this role have been identified in the following table:

Agency	Address	Telephone
Northwest Commission	395 Seneca Street P.O. Box 1127 Oil City, PA 16301	814-677-4800
Lumber Heritage Region of Pennsylvania, Inc.	Cameron Co. Court House 20 East Fifth St. Emporium, PA 15834 www.lumberheritage.org	814-486-0213
PA Wilds Planning Team	Forest County Planning Commission & Conservation District 526 Elm St., Box 4 Tionesta, PA 16353	814-755-3450
Forest County Visitors Bureau	Tionesta Visitors Center 416 Elm Street, Tionesta, PA 16353	814-755-3338
Focus on Forest Future	P.O. Box 156 Tionesta, PA 16353	814-755-3622
Penn Soil RC&D Council	265 Holiday Inn Road, Suite 3 Clarion, PA 16214	814-226-8160
Penn Soil Conservancy Chairtable Trust	265 Holiday Inn Road, Suite 3 Clarion, PA 16214	814-226-8160
Warren -Forest Counties Economic Opportunity Council Regional Main Street Program	1209 Pennsylvania Avenue, W Warren, PA 16365 www.wfcaa.org	814-726-2400

THE VISION FOR FOREST COUNTY'S GREENWAY CORRIDORS

A detailed inventory and analysis of Forest County's resources was completed during the greenway planning process. Through this work, a vision for greenways in Forest County was created. The proposed greenway corridors for Forest County consist of trails and natural systems greenways.

The Structure of the Network

Building the framework of the greenway network began with analyzing and determining the locations of natural systems greenways. These corridors follow the existing natural features within the County, such as: forests, ridgelines, significant stream corridors, and wildlife habitats. Overlaying this Natural Systems backdrop, the plan adopts a "hubs and spokes" structure for its recreation and transportation greenways. Pennsylvania's Plan entitled *Pennsylvania Greenways: An Action Plan for Creating Connections* describes the product of this overlay method as follows:

Pennsylvania's greenways network will ultimately take the form of "hubs and spokes." The "hubs" of this network will be the state's parks, forests, game lands, lakes, and other destinations, including our towns. The "spokes" of the network will be greenways – connecting our natural areas and recreational and cultural destinations with the places where we live. The landscape connections that will result throughout Pennsylvania will create a "green infrastructure" of open space vital to the health of Pennsylvania's ecological systems and human communities.

The "hubs," sometimes called nodes, are the significant destination points – trail towns and important recreation areas. The spokes or corridors will provide the links between them. In some areas, natural systems corridors are distinct from recreation and transportation greenways; in other cases, they coincide. Finally, because streams, mountain ridges, wildlife habitats, state parks, and some recreation and transportation trails do not terminate at the County's boundaries, the greenways network proposes that recreation and transportation corridors continue outward and form connections to natural and recreational assets in neighboring counties and states.

Recreation and Transportation Greenway Corridors

Existing and potential recreation and transportation greenway corridors were inventoried and analyzed. Through this process, existing recreation and transportation corridors were documented, and recommendations were developed for expanding those offerings and prioritizing their implementation.

Land Based Trails

Proposed recreation and transportation greenway corridors in Forest County include:

- 1) Warren Trail – The proposed Warren Trail follows the abandoned Oil City Secondary Line from Warren County to Venango County, along the Allegheny River. The trail will connect Oil City with the City of Warren and pass through Tionesta, along the way in Forest County.

Approximate Length: 14 miles

Associated Municipalities: Harmony and Tionesta Townships

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- 2) Tionesta Creek Trail – This proposed trail follows Tionesta Creek, from Kellettville north to Warren County, where it intersects with the North Country Trail.

Approximate Length: Over 20 miles within Forest County

Associated Municipalities: Howe, Kingsley, Green, and Tionesta Townships, as well as Tionesta Borough

- 3) Knox Kane Trail – This proposed trail follows the former Knox Line through Forest County on its way from Elk County to Clarion County. The approximately 16-mile segment within Forest County is proposed to run from the Elk County Border, near Sheffield Junction, to Marienville and is part of the potential Knox to Kane Trail. Along this route, the line passes through Iron City, Pigeon, Byromtown, Penoke, and McCrays.

The proposed trail also provides an opportunity to potentially connect the motorized trails in the Allegheny National Forest with the Village of Marienville in Jenks Township. This connection is highly desirable from an economic development perspective and should be further explored.

Approximate Length: 16 miles

Associated Municipalities: Jenks and Howe Townships

Allegheny National Forest (ANF) Trails

There is an extensive trail system existing within ANF. These trails serve a range of recreational trail uses, including:

- Hiking
- ATV Riding
- Snowmobiling
- Horseback Riding
- Cross-Country Skiing

The ANF trails have the ability to create links between the regional trails that have been proposed as a part of this plan, and they should be considered for future connections.

Trail Development Costs

Utilizing an average cost range for rail trail construction of between \$50 and \$100 per lineal foot for trail construction, the following table establishes a budget for the anticipated cost of constructing the trails described above. These costs are based on the following assumptions:

- Construction projects will be publicly bid projects following PA DCNR, PA Department of Labor Industry and respective County / Municipal Code requirements
- Costs reflect the potential for completing projects with Pennsylvania Department of Transportation funding; from past experience it is known this can increase the project costs by fifteen to twenty percent
- Property acquisition costs have not been incorporated into the projected costs
- Costs are based on 2008 construction figures; future year costs should be amortized by 4.5% per year for price escalation
- Costs do not include costs associated with major structures, >100' in length
- Cost projections should be confirmed / revised upon completion of preliminary design

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- Costs do not assume in-kind, donated, or volunteer services

The projected costs may seem overwhelming at first. However, to fully understand the financial implications of implementing the projects, one must evaluate scenarios for implementation and funding to completely understand what the project will mean and cost to its implementation partners. Implementation costs can be significantly reduced by utilizing in-kind and donated services, grants, foundation awards, and volunteer services. Each of these aspects can further reduce the cost to the implementation partners and reduce their requirement for a cash match.

As an example, the Butler Freeport Trail Association, in Butler County, will be constructing 4.5 miles of rail trail on an acquired rail bed. Utilizing the multipliers identified herein, it is estimated the trail will cost between \$1,188,000 and \$1,820,000 to construct. However, through in-kind services being provided by a local municipality to construct the trail and volunteer services clearing the corridor, they hope to reduce the costs to approximately \$400,000. This money will be used to purchase materials and then volunteer and in-kind services will be used to provide the local match.

	Mileage	Construction Cost using \$50 / LF	Construction Cost using \$100 / LF
Knox Kane Trail	22.2	\$5,860,800	\$11,721,600
Tionesta Creek Trail	33.7	\$8,896,800	\$17,793,600
Warren Trail	14.3	\$3,775,200	\$7,550,400
	70.2	\$18,532,800	\$37,065,600

Personnel and financial resources are not available to meet the needs for all of the proposed trails. Therefore, in order to focus and prioritize the resources required to implement the trail segments identified in this plan, the following criteria was established to prioritize the corridors. This criterion allows us to rank projects, based on a common set criterion, established to ensure all resources are focused towards those projects with the greatest potential for public use, public benefit, and implementation.

Trail Prioritization Criterion

The steering committee established the following criteria by which each corridor was rated. The cumulative value of all criteria was utilized to determine the priority for a particular trail corridor. These criterion included:

1. *Trail Demand:* The degree of public support for the project and anticipated use of the trail. The greater the public support for a project and / or the greater the anticipated use of the trail, the higher the value.
 - a. Degree of public support is demonstrated by political support, public meetings, and through letters of support.
 - b. The projected use of the trail is a measurement of local use based on population in the vicinity of the proposed trail. The greater the projected use, the higher the value.
2. *Land Acquisition:* Trail concepts that require land acquisition to complete, receive a higher value because the project would not be feasible if land acquisition is not completed.
 - a. Donations / Low Cost: Significant Value
 - b. Associated with Regional Trail: High Value
 - c. Medium Cost: Medium Value
 - d. High Cost / Not Available: Valuable
3. *Connectivity:* The degree to which the trail connects to existing greenways or destination points or to on-road or pedestrian facilities. The greater the connectivity, the higher the value.
 - a. Regional Trail: Significant Value –a part of a regional trail system recognized by PA DCNR
 - b. Direct Extension: High Value - of existing trail and/or a spur directly into a destination center
 - c. Real Potential: Medium Value - to connect to existing opportunities
 - d. Stand Alone Trail: Valuable
4. *Environmental or Historical Impacts:* Measured by the degree to which the project will have anticipated, direct, adverse impacts to protected natural or historical resources. The greater the degree of impact, the lower the value.
5. *Benefits to the Public:* The total number of recreation, transportation, education, and other benefits that can be derived by the public from the project. The greater the number of benefits, the higher the value.
6. *Funding Opportunity / Partnering:* Considering the factors affecting the project's funding status and the degree to which the project may be allocated funds from a variety of agencies. The greater the funding opportunities, the higher the value.
7. *Economic Development Potential:* Trails that connect to proposed trail towns will have the greatest potential to impact the local economy.

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Prioritization Levels

- *Exceptional Priority:* most significant priority, focus planning, acquisition, design and construction, and funding resources to implement project.
- *Significant Priority:* second most significant priority, focus planning, acquisition, design and construction resources to provide locals with opportunity to secure funding to implement project.
- *High Priority:* third most significant priority, focus planning, and acquisition resources to plan for future of project.

Prioritization Levels

- *Exceptional Priority:* most significant priority; focus planning, acquisition, design and construction, and funding resources to implement project.
- *Significant Priority:* second most significant priority; focus planning, acquisition, design and construction resources to provide locals with opportunity to secure funding to implement project.
- *High Priority:* third most significant priority; focus planning, and acquisition resources to plan for future of project.

Trail Corridor	Trail Demand	Land Acquisition	Connectivity	Environmental / Historical Impacts	Benefits to the Public	Funding Opportunities / Partners	Economic Development Potential	Total	Ranking	Priority
Knox Kane Trail	3	2	4	3	4	1	3	20	1	Exceptional
Warren Trail	4	1	3	3	4	1	3	19	2	Significant
Tionesta Creek Trail	4	1	2	3	2	1	1	14	3	High

Based on this prioritization, the following corridors are recommended:

- Knox to Kane Trail: an Exceptional Priority Corridor, to be advanced in the short-term, one to three years
- Warren Trail: a Significant Priority Corridor, to be advanced in the mid-term, three to five years
- Tionesta Creek Trail: a High Priority Corridor, to be advanced in the long-term, five to ten years

Trail Implementation Steps

Taking a trail from concept through implementation can be a daunting task to a trail volunteer who may be responsible for its implementation. Towards that end, the following is a step-by-step process that helps defines the tasks required to advance the implementation of a trail:

1. Identify the potential corridor and any alternate routes.
2. Estimate the demand for the proposed trail. Will it connect local or regional population centers? Will the demographics of the area support the use of the trail?
3. Conduct research at the County Courthouse to gain an understanding of who owns the property.
 - a. If it is currently held by a railroad, contact the railroad, to determine if it is likely to be abandoned in the near future – if currently owned by the railroad then there is the potential to rail bank the corridor. Railbanking must be in accordance with Pennsylvania Act 1990-188, the Rails to Trails Act.
 - b. If the property is owned by various individuals, it is likely the corridor has reverted back to private ownership. To confirm this title, research must be completed so a legal opinion to the ownership status can be rendered. If ownership is unclear, one must assume the property has reverted to the adjacent property owners until proven otherwise.
4. Document the benefits of the proposed trail, including: economic, transportation, recreation, health and wellness, establishing partnerships, and quality of life improvements.
5. Meet with municipal and County officials to discuss your proposal, review the potential alignment, and discuss the benefits the proposed trail can provide to the area.
6. Meet with property owners and the general public to solicit input and determine whether property owners support or oppose the proposed trail. For this initial meeting, it is important to listen and identify concerns, issues, and false understanding of what the trail will mean and how it may impact the their property. With this information, you can tailor the concept for the trail to respond to the issues, concerns, and needs of the property owners. Also, by understanding any false pretenses they may have, you can prepare to demonstrate what a trail is / will do, and what a trail isn't / won't do at a second meeting with the property owners. Ask for permission to go onto their property so you can get a better understanding of their concerns. Document this request in writing by having them complete a form at the public meeting.
7. Evaluate the corridor to determine the likelihood of physically establishing a trail on the corridor. Do not go onto the corridor without the permission of the current property owner(s), as you will be trespassing. For portions of the trail you do not have permission to access, utilize aerial photography and other geographic information resources to complete a thorough desktop analysis. Meet with willing property owners, as required, to allay fears and discuss particular concerns and alignments.
8. Prepare a concept plan for the trail to identify the trail's potential alignment, respond to land owner issues and concerns where possible, and develop an estimate of probable construction costs from this concept plan.

9. Develop management, operations, and security strategies for the continued operation of the trail. Many agencies will be leery of your proposal unless you can demonstrate that there is a long-term commitment and that long-term care can be provided for the proposed trail.
10. Complete a financial analysis to project the capital and operating costs for the proposed trail, and prepare a plan to show how those costs will be covered. Also project the estimated economic impact of the proposed trail utilizing data collected from existing trails that are similar in nature to the trail being proposed.
11. Meet with the property owners and the general public a second time to present the proposed concept plan and review the proposed recommendations for property acquisition; trail alignment; trail development; and trail management, operations, and security. Collect input of proposed recommendations, determine where you have support, and determine where you do not have support for the development of the proposed trail. Determine if logical portions of the trail can be advanced to demonstrate the impacts of the trail and to build support for extensions to the trail.
12. Based on the input received, determine whether there is a feasible demonstration project that can be implemented.
13. Secure rights for public access to the demonstration segment of the proposed trail.
14. Complete final design, prepare construction documents, and obtain required permits for the construction of the proposed demonstration segment.

The old adage that “it is better to ask forgiveness than it is to ask for permission” is a common approach taken by those who do not have experience in advancing trail projects. When this approach is taken to the extreme and trails are developed and / or publicly advertised without the property owners’ involvement and consent, litigation can result, and property owners who otherwise may have been supportive are likely to be alienated.

Ideally, you will want to retain a professional experienced in trail planning and design to assist you throughout the process. The money invested up front will be beneficial throughout the course of implementing the trail. Furthermore, an experienced professional brings experience from other projects, allowing them to avoid pitfalls and recommend successful solutions used on previous projects.

There is nothing more satisfying than having a property owner who was vocally opposed to the proposed trail at the first meeting come to you after the second meeting and thank you for understanding and responding to their concerns. Experience tells us that some property owners are willing to share concerns, be open minded, and reevaluate their initial decision over the course of the project, while there are others who will not.

Recognizing many of the proposed trail routes in Forest County should begin with the completion of a trail feasibility study for their respective corridor. The following table provides an educated estimate of the costs associated with completing those studies. The budgets proposed here are based on 2008 dollars and should be increased by 4.5% for each year beyond 2008.

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Trail	Unbuilt Mileage	Feasibility Study Cost				Priority
		Title Search	Legal Opinion	Feasibility Study	Total	
Knox Kane Trail	22.2	may not be required		\$60,000	\$60,000	Exceptional
Tionesta Creek Trail	33.7	\$28,083	\$11,233	\$70,000	\$109,317	Significant
Warren Trail	14.3	may not be required		\$50,000	\$50,000	High

Given the possibility the Knox and Kane Railroad may be rail banked, there is no need to complete a title search and receive a legal opinion on issues related to property ownership in this corridor. However, should the line be abandoned and not rail banked, then this work would be required. Based on conversations with local surveyors, it is our understanding that an easement or right-of-way was the primary ownership interest of the railroad in this corridor and that the railroad owns very little property associated with the corridor, in fee.

The proposed Warren Trail corridor in Forest County, the former Western Pennsylvania & New York Railroad corridor, was purchased by the Penn Soil Charitable Trust. Over the years segments of the corridor have been sold by the Trust to raise funds to support the Trust's work in the seven-county region, for which the Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council has jurisdiction. Therefore, to develop the trail being proposed for this corridor would require re-assembling parcels to re-establish the corridor. The Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council has valuation maps for this corridor and has done substantial research to determine the ownership status of the corridor within Forest County.

The costs represented in the table above may be reduced if there is a well-organized trail constituency group. That group may be able to complete title research and develop the management, operations, and security components of the feasibility study, thereby reducing the overall cost of the plan. Furthermore, the value of their in-kind services can potentially be used to fulfill a portion of the local match requirement, when required by grant funding sources.

This step is of utmost importance. The number one issue facing local trail organizations is that most do not have the capacity to do the work required, to determine a particular corridor's viability. Providing these organizations with a completed feasibility study will go a long way towards giving them the information and direction required to move their plan forward. Furthermore, a significant component, both from a cost perspective and from a needs perspective, is that of completing the legal feasibility portion of the studies. This component includes completing title research and receiving a legal opinion regarding the ownership status of the corridor in question. Without completing this component, the local trail organizations are not able to move forward with their work.

Water Trails

Guidelines for PA Fish & Boat Commission designation as presented in the Commission's Fact Sheet, as follows:

- ✓ **Public Planning Process:** In order to designate a water trail, there must be a public process. This includes multiple public meetings that are publicly advertised. The purpose of the meetings is to collect information about the water trail (access points, amenities, etc.) and to gain support for the water trail. A steering committee is also recommended, which is made up of targeted stakeholders.
- ✓ **PFBC Water Trail Logo:** All designated water trails must use the water trail logo as developed by the PFBC. The top portion of the logo is a standard Pennsylvania Water

Trail image. Local groups can customize the bottom portion of the logo within the bordered format.

- ✓ **Mapping and Signage:** Any maps provided in partnership with the PFBC, as part of the PFBC technical assistance, must be distributed at no cost. Key access points should have trailhead signs. Other signage like interpretive signage and trail markers are desirable.
- ✓ **Local Government Notification:** As part of the public process, it is highly recommended that water trail organizers work with the local governments that are traversed by the trail. The purpose is both to notify and involve them in the development of the water trail-local support. Water trails benefit local governments so it is only logical that they should be involved. Also, if the local government is not involved at the outset of the project there may be unforeseen conflicts as the trail goes into development.
- ✓ **Access Points:** For ease of use, water trails should have at least one access point every ten miles. These points must be able to accommodate boats appropriate for the water trail.
- ✓ **Management & Stewardship Commitment:** There must be a local group who is willing to sign a Water Trail Partnership Agreement with the PFBC. The agreement is for a length of five years and includes specific agreements about signage, mapping, roles of the local group and the PFBC, stewardship goals, etc.
- ✓ **Safety Information:** Managers of water trails have a responsibility to provide safety information and to warn of hazards. No waterway is completely safe. However, by providing pertinent information about the waterway and good safety tips, hazardous conditions can be addressed appropriately. For example, users may be asked to portage around a particularly hazardous area.

Support for the development of water trails in Pennsylvania is available through the Pennsylvania Water Trails Partnership, established by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

In her thesis completed in 2002, “Case Studies of Water Trail Impacts on Rural Communities”, Lindsay Johnson, MCRP provides the following recommendation for developing a successful water trail.

Rural communities interested in water trail development should be aware of impacts on local culture, the environment and businesses. Negative impacts can be mitigated if the community is supportive of water trail development and there is dedicated management. The following recommendations should help project leaders plan, organize, and create facilities for water trails, while minimizing impacts on rural communities.

Planning and Organizational Needs

1. A shared vision for a water trail is a goal that community members believe in and are willing to work towards. Dedicated local support for a goal-oriented project will sustain local water trail benefits. A dedicated group of volunteers is key to water trail success. A water trail must be advocated and maintained locally if the community will reap economic and social benefits.
2. Address landowner and citizen concerns through outreach to the community early in the project. A designated contact person should respond quickly and accurately to suggestions, concerns, and

other comments. A pre-opening/pre-construction trail paddle will allow community members to see the proposed blueway for themselves.

3. Solidify funding, planning, and overall water trail management with clear leadership and goals. These factors should be considered before marketing a water trail.
4. Investigate local goals, norms, and land use patterns that are inconsistent with the water trail vision or threaten the integrity of a paddling experience. Tourism development in rural areas will have social implications, including increased land values.
5. Explore partnership opportunities and apply for grants and offers of assistance. Local officials, government agencies, businesses, and the community should commit to water trail project goals. Successful water trails are the result of a cooperative effort between an active citizen group, a responsive public agency, and a supportive community, all of whom share a vision for the trail. Partner with lodging, eating and drinking, retail sales, and recreational services businesses.
6. Host events to advertise the trail, build support, and draw new volunteers. Noteworthy events, such as water trail grand openings and annual paddling festivals provide an excellent opportunity to make contact with the community. Present accurate information and generate positive media attention.

Infrastructure Needs

7. Designate and clearly sign legal access points and public land at reasonable intervals to minimize landowner concerns.
8. Promote 'leave no trace' ethics or provide adequately-maintained facilities to mitigate for environmental impacts from improperly disposed human waste, large groups, and littering.
9. Improve access to parking at river put-ins. Information and access are two big issues to improve trail system usage.
10. Manage a river experience. The quality of the natural environment and uncrowded river conditions are important to paddlers. These aspects of the river experience are vital for all management actions.
11. Explore the history of the waterway and interpret these stories to paddlers in creative ways. Trail users often have an interest in the history and environment of the community and can help to support museums, nature centers, and other cultural assets. The interpretation of history and linkages with the past is a marketable concept.
12. Offer a variety of accessible activities. Paddlers are often interested in easy access to main streets, restaurants, campgrounds, and bed and breakfasts in other outdoor recreation experiences and learning about local history and culture. Successful paddle destinations offer diverse activities with a wide variety of opportunities.

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Proposed Water Trails

Based on the inventory and analysis, it is recommended the feasibility of establishing a water trail along Tionesta Creek be explored by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Tionesta Creek

The “Canoeing Guide to Western Pennsylvania and Northern Western Virginia”, published in 1991 by Weil and Shaw, documents Tionesta Creek as a canoeable stream. Access points are noted in the guide as put in and take out locations. The ownership status of these locations is unknown.

Tionesta Creek – Sheffield to Lynch – 9.0 miles

Shuttle Points:

- Sheffield near junction of State Route 666 and State Route 948
- State Route 666 Bridge
- Lynch Gauge

Tionesta Creek – Lynch to Kellettsville – 15.0 miles

Canoeable during the high water season (December through May). Occasional Class I rapids, campground at Minister Creek State Park, about half way between Lynch and Kellettsville.

Shuttle Points:

- Lynch Gauge
- State Route 666 runs along the entire length

Tionesta Creek – Kellettsville to Nebraska Bridge – 11.4 miles

Canoeable during the high water season (Mid-December through May).

Shuttle Points:

- Kellettsville
- Nebraska Bridge on State Route 3004

Tionesta Creek – Tionesta Reservoir below Nebraska Bridge – 5.5 miles

Opportunity to portage around Tionesta Reservoir Dam and continue 1.0 mile from the base of the dam to the Allegheny River. If paddling to the junction of Allegheny River beware of lowhead dam in the Allegheny River, below the mouth of Tionesta Creek on the left side of the island.

Existing Water Trails

In addition to the proposed Tionesta Creek Water Trail it is important to market and promote the existing Middle Allegheny River Water Trail and the Clarion River Water Trail in Forest County. As water trails officially designated by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, water trail brochures and informational pamphlets are available on line at www.fish.state.pa.us/watertrails/trailindex.htm, and hard

copies can also be obtained through the Commission. Every effort should be made to publicize this information to develop an awareness of these water trails.

Due to the success of each of these trails, the local economics are beginning to see economic impacts of this trail, on the towns located along the trail, that provide the goods and services provided by the local business districts. Case in point is what the Allegheny River Water Trail and local entrepreneurs have done in Warren County at the Indian Waters Canoe and Kayak Livery in Tidioute and the Allegheny Outfitters in the City of Warren. This entrepreneurialism has not only proved to be a successful business venture, but also has increased canoe and kayaking activity along the Allegheny River and has contributed to the local economies of the communities along the river.

To date, there has not been a study completed to document the economic impacts of a water trail on the communities along its path. Therefore, it is recommended such a study be completed along the Allegheny River, utilizing the format established by the Rails to Trails Conservancy in their “Trail Users Survey Workbook”. Furthermore, it is recommended that data be collected from canoe and kayak liveries and known providers of goods and services within the corridor, to assist in providing the most accurate estimate of economic impact that can be achieved. The results of this study can then be utilized to promote the establishment of other water trails throughout the Commonwealth. Like the surveys completed for rail trails, it is suspected the economic impact of water trails are far greater than may be realized.

Bicycle Routes

Forest County does not have any formally established Bicycle PA Routes in the County. It is recommended that the Forest County Planning Department work with local cyclists to prepare a Bicycle Suitability Map of Forest County. This requires existing bicycling opportunities to be evaluated to determine the respective cycling opportunity’s level of comfort for the average bicyclist. The map should document those routes which are considered to be comfortable bicycling routes, those which are cautionary routes, and where existing bicycle lanes and shared use paths are present.

Potential opportunities that have been identified for bicycle routes in Forest County include: State Route 666 for its scenic qualities; River Road along the Clarion River; State Route 3004 (Golinza and Guitionville Roads); and State Route 4004 (German Hill Road). Further, it was suggested that opportunities be explored to utilize the existing forest roads for bicycle routes in Forest County.

Motorized Trails

Forest County has a well established network of snowmobile trails due to the efforts of the Allegheny National Forest. With recent budget cuts, the ANF is considering closing some of these trails, as well as other recreation opportunities located within the forest. Legal motorized trail riding opportunities are very limited in the Commonwealth, with a majority of the opportunities located within the Allegheny National Forest and in State Forests. Therefore, it is recommended that any potential reduction in motorized trail opportunities in the Allegheny National Forest be carefully considered as to not negatively impact motorized trail opportunities, and its corresponding economic impacts, in Forest County.

Trail Town Opportunities

It should be the goal of Forest County’s recreation and transportation greenways to attract every trail user to main street districts where they can find the goods and services they need, while spending money in our towns. Therefore, it is recommended the Forest County Planning and Zoning Department coordinate the planning and development of trail towns with applicable municipalities. Several Forest County municipalities are ideally situated to capitalize on a trail town concept to maximize the economic benefits that can come with trail development.

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In 2005, the Allegheny Trail Alliance published “Trail Towns – Capturing Trail Based Tourism, a Guide for Pennsylvania Communities”. The development of this guide was funded by the Regional Trail Alliance and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The guide provides step by step guidance in preparing a blueprint to provide goods and services required by trail users and promoting trail-friendly towns.

Trail Towns

- Entice trail users to get off the trail and into your town
- Welcome trail users to your town by making information about the community readily available at the trail
- Make a strong and safe connection between your town and the trail
- Educate local businesses on the economic benefits of meeting the needs of trail tourists
- Recruit new businesses or expand existing ones to fill gaps in the goods or services that trail users need
- Promote the “trail-friendly” character of the town
- Work with neighboring communities to promote the entire trail corridor as a tourist destination

The steering committee developed a criteria system for determining key destinations and points of interest for designation as Trail Towns, Major Hubs, and/or Hubs along the Recreation Greenways network. This criteria system involved assessing towns or sites based on the facilities and amenities they offer.

Trail Towns were determined based on their presence of the following elements: a Main Street, food, lodging, and fuel. In order to meet the criteria and be designated as a trail town, the town had to have at least three of the four elements. Optional elements used to determine Major Hubs and Hubs included the presence of: entertainment, recreation opportunities, and historic and other attractions. The table below details the matrix for determining Trail Towns, Major Hubs, and Hubs in Forest County.

Potential Hub and Trail Town Opportunities	Must have Three of Four for Trail Town Status				Optional				Status		
<i>Forest County</i>	Main Street	Food	Lodging	Fuel	Entertainment	Recreation	Historic Site(s)	Other Attractions(s)	Potential Trail Town	Major Hub	Hub
Tionesta	X	X	X	X		X			X		
Marienville	X	X	X	X		X			X		
Kellettville - USACOE			X			X					X
Beaver Meadow Lake - U.S. Forest Service			X			X				X	
Buzzard Swamp						X					X
Kelly Pines Recreation Area			X			X					X
Complanter State Forest											X
Cook Forest State Park			X			X				X	

Potential Trail Towns

- 1) Tionesta
- 2) Marienville

Potential Major Hubs

- 1) Beaver Meadow Lake – U.S. Forest Service
- 2) Cook Forest State Park

Potential Hubs

- 1) Kellettville USACOE
- 2) Buzzard Swamp
- 3) Kelly Pines Recreation Area
- 4) Cornplanter State Forest

Towards that end, the following communities have been identified as potential Trail Towns because of the proximity to existing or proposed trail corridors. They have also established main street districts and provide food, lodging, fuel, and basic services desired by trail users.

Potential Trail Towns

- Tionesta Borough
- Village of Marienville in Jenks Township

Trail Towns provides goods and services desired by trail users. These goods and services may include bicycle sales and service, casual restaurants, bed and breakfasts, ice cream shops, convenience stores, restrooms, outfitters, museums, art galleries, gift shops, clothing stores, camera stores, postal services, banking services, and guide services, to name a few. It is important that goods and services can be procured in trail-friendly environments, meaning that they encourage, not discourage, clientele that may have just come off the trail. Provide ample opportunities to secure their bicycles in bike-friendly bike racks. Provide a shoe brush outside your doorway to allow them to clean the mud off their shoes before entering your establishment. Provide a restroom with ample space and necessities, such as towels and wash clothes, to allow them to clean-up so they can feel comfortable while at your location. Finally, sell items that trail users need while out on the trail or as mementos of their visit.

Creating a Trail Town involves organizing, educating, promoting, and economic restructuring. It results in the preparation of a Trail Town Master Plan that pulls it all together by providing a gateway moment, creating a sense of place, developing a welcoming atmosphere, establishing the right mix of services, and promoting trail-oriented events.

This process should be lead by the local Chambers of Commerce and /or Merchants Associations, in cooperation with their respective municipalities. The development of Trail Towns will require new partnerships to be developed by stakeholders in each community. Developing a trail town master plan will require monthly meetings of the stakeholders and should involve quarterly meetings of trail town catalysts to prepare a coordinated approach.

As a first step, each community must understand their customers. What do trail users want when they come to town; what do they need; does someone in town have the ability to meet that need? How much money will they spend; what are their dining and shopping preferences; how many trips do they make during the course of the year; etc.?

Next, complete an inventory of the community and its business community to determine if there is the ability to meet the needs of the trail users, or if the community needs to encourage the development of a business to meet an unmet need. With this information, a community can develop a trail town marketing guide, which can be provided to trail users. This guide should accomplish several tasks. First, it should provide the trail user with information regarding the trail, provide maps of the trail segments, and locate those who offer the goods and services that the trail users desire. The guide should focus on the qualities of the community that make it unique. It can provide an overview of the history of the community and a history of features located along and adjacent to the trail corridor. Further, advertising space can be sold in the guide to those who offer goods and services of interest to trail users.

Upon completing the self assessment recommended in the Trail Town guide, a community will be able to identify those businesses that cater to trail users. Then, a wayfinding signage program can be developed to assist trail users in finding the goods and services they need and to allow those in the community to find the trail and trail access opportunities. At this time, the community should also be aware of the goods and services that are desired but not being provided in the community. With this information, community development efforts can focus on attracting and expanding businesses that can fill those voids. For further details in preparing a detailed trail town master plan, refer to “Trail Towns – Capturing Trail Based Tourism, a Guide for Pennsylvania Communities,” published by the Allegheny Trail Alliance.

Forest County Greenways Plan

Potential Trail Town Advocates

The following agencies should be approached to determine their interest in implementing and promoting their respective communities as trail towns in Forest County:

Agency	Address	Telephone
Northwest Commission	395 Seneca Street P.O. Box 1127 Oil City, PA 16301	814-677-4800
Lumber Heritage Region of Pennsylvania, Inc.	Cameron Co. Court House 20 East Fifth St. Emporium, PA 15834 www.lumberheritage.org	814-486-0213
PA Wilds Planning Team	Forest County Planning Commission & Conservation District 526 Elm St., Box 4 Tionesta, PA 16353	814-755-3450
Allegheny National Forest	Forest Supervisor 222 Liberty Street Warren, PA 16365	814-723-5180
Forest County Visitors Bureau	Tionesta Visitors Center 416 Elm Street, Tionesta, PA 16353	814-755-3338
Allegheny National Forest Vacation Bureau	Allegheny National Forest Vacation Bureau PO Box 371 Bradford, PA 16701 www.visitANF.com	800-473-9370
PA Great Outdoors Tourism Bureau	175 Main Street Brookville, PA 15825 www.pagreatoutdoors.com	800-348-9393
Focus on Forest Future	P.O. Box 156 Tionesta, PA 16353	814-755-3622
Tionesta Chamber of Commerce	Tionesta, PA 16353	814-755-3424
Marienville Area Civic Association	PO Box 138 Marienville, PA 16239	
Marienville Chamber of Commerce	PO Box 542 Marienville, PA 16239	
Penn Soil RC&D Council	265 Holiday Inn Road, Suite 3 Clarion, PA 16214	(814)-226-8160
Penn Soil Conservancy Chairtable Trust	265 Holiday Inn Road, Suite 3 Clarion, PA 16214	(814)-226-8160
Warren -Forest Counties Economic Opportunity Council Regional Main Street Program	1209 Pennsylvania Avenue, W Warren, PA 16365 www.wfcaa.org	814-726-2400

Natural Systems Greenway Corridors

Forest County contains a total of approximately 275,840 acres of land. Of that over forty-seven percent is held by a public agency for conservation, forestry, and recreational purposes.

Public Land Holdings in Forest County	Public Land Acres	Percent Public Land
Allegheny National Forest	119,837	43.40%
State Park	1,435	0.50%
State Forest	2,276	0.80%
State Game Land	7,410	2.70%
Total	130,958	47.50%

The Forest County Comprehensive Plan of 1998 indicates that the natural resources of Forest County should be identified and critical areas signified for conservation; exceptional areas should be considered for protection, where warranted, by means of local citizen consensus.

That said, the Comprehensive Plan also indicates the following:

- Forest County should continue to seek out and adopt necessary development controls and guidelines in order to insure future development will occur in such a manner as to be an asset to the County.
- Forest County should continue to seek ways to control and mitigate the effects which occur through the conversion of private lands to public.
- Forest County should continue to explore, and adopt, appropriate policy measure which result in a No Net Loss of Private Property standard within the County.

The continued conversion of private lands to publicly held lands has had a negative impact on the real estate values, and corresponding revenue generated from real estate to adequately sustain municipal and county services within Forest County. Further, this has created an unbalanced situation on the County where public acquisitions have taken away other beneficial land uses such as prime farm lands. Therefore, any approach to the conservation of natural systems greenway corridors within Forest County must be done in a manner which does not further burden the County and its municipalities.

Private property that is within an area designated as a Natural Systems Greenway Corridor should be understood as remaining private. Forest County respects private property rights and will continue to protect those rights regardless of regional or county-wide plans that have other considerations. The importance of natural systems cannot be over-emphasized, however, private property remains a cornerstone of our rights as citizens of the United States. Private property included within a Natural Systems Greenway Corridor will not suffer any loss of landowner rights. Any land use or land management policy changes resulting from this Greenways Plan shall be a matter of local consideration that will include the public in the decision making process. Nothing within this Plan should be construed as to usurping private property landowner rights.

Equally important, is understanding where natural infrastructure resources are located within the County. Therefore, the process of developing a Natural Systems Greenways network utilized a green infrastructure approach in identifying the building blocks which contribute to region's well-being and identified

strategies to assure these resources are available to provide their functions for future generations of Forest County residents.

Forest County has one of the largest amounts of conserved land in the Commonwealth due to the vast amount of public land located in the County. Because of this fact Forest County's leaders and decision-makers see little need to further land acquisition by public agencies. The erosion of taxable property through conversion of private taxable lands to public non-taxable lands has, as previously mentioned, placed undue strain on local governments and their budgets, a problem that continues to be unresolved. This being understood, the greenways process has identified natural systems greenway corridors that may be considered at some point in the future if this issue can be resolved to the satisfaction of the County and the local governments within it.


Natural Systems Greenway Corridors in Forest County must not take away the rights of property owners, nor will it restrict development in the region. Instead, Natural Systems Greenways should promote sustainable development, lower development costs, and reduce the burden of providing public services on local, county, and state governments.

The Criteria

Natural Systems Greenway Corridors are defined as an interconnected network of natural areas and other open space that helps preserve natural ecosystem values and functions, sustains clean air and water, and provides a variety of benefits to people and wildlife. Therefore, an inventory of natural and ecological infrastructure resources was conducted to enable the identification of the Natural Systems Greenway building blocks.

The process of identifying Natural Systems Greenway Corridors consisted of identifying natural infrastructure building blocks that warrant conservation. Those building blocks were identified by the project's steering committee by reviewing the natural and ecological resources of the County. Then, the selected building blocks were weighted based on their significance towards achieving the vision established for the Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways. The following table identifies those building blocks and their associated values.

Forest County Greenways Plan

Less Important  *More Important*

Ranking Criteria	Value									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Biological Diversity Area - No Activity										
Biological Diversity Area - Nature Observation										
Biological Diversity Area - Passive Recreation										
Wetland										
Slopes > 25%										
Biological Diversity Area - Active Recreation										
Floodplain										
Exceptional Value Stream										
Landscape Conservation Area - No Activity										
National Wildlife Refuge										
Landscape Conservation Area - Nature Observation										
High Quality Cold Water Fishery										
National Forest										
State Forest										
State Game Land										
Landscape Conservation Area - Passive Recreation										
Landscape Conservation Area - Active Recreation										
State Park										
Supporting Natural Landscape										
Interior Forest										
Exceptional Value Watershed										
Hydric Soils										
Important Bird Area										
Important Mammal Area										
Other Managed Land										
County Park										

The Process

The proposed Natural Systems Greenway Corridors were defined using this system of weighted values given to the building blocks. Each building block was then mapped individually, and all natural resources were overlaid utilizing a geographic information systems process. When more than one building block overlapped, their respective values were added together creating a cumulative value. Areas with the highest total values included the most building blocks, and thus merited inclusion in the Natural Systems Greenways network. Corridors were then defined and named based upon their watershed association. Additionally, the cumulative value of each corridor was used to establish priorities.

The Results

This analysis led to the identifying eighteen Natural Systems Greenway Corridors within Forest County, as follows:

- Exceptional Priority Corridors:
 - Clarion River Greenway Corridor
 - East Hickory Creek Greenway Corridor
 - Tionesta Creek Greenway Corridor
 - Allegheny River Greenway Corridor
 - Salmon Creek Greenway Corridor
 - Bluejay Creek Greenway Corridor: 100 % conserved in the Allegheny National Forest

Forest County Greenways Plan

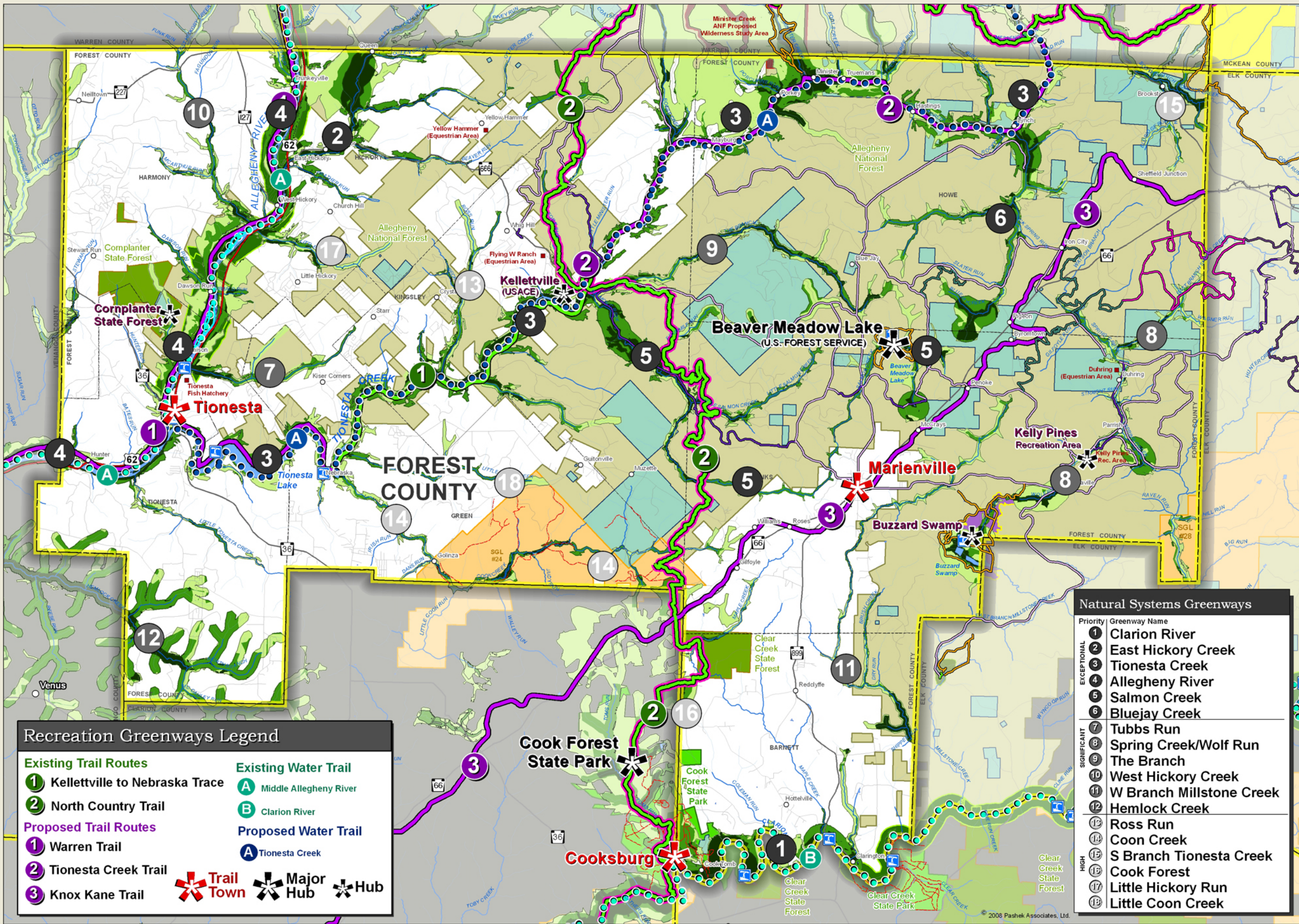
- Significant Priority Corridors:
 - Tubbs Run Greenway Corridor
 - Spring Creek/Wolf Run Greenway Corridor
 - The Branch Greenway Corridor
 - West Hickory Creek Greenway Corridor
 - West Branch Millstone Creek Greenway Corridor
 - Hemlock Creek Greenway Corridor
- High Priority Corridors:
 - Ross Run Greenway Corridor
 - Coon Creek Greenway Corridor
 - South Branch Tionesta Creek Greenway Corridor
 - Cook Forest Greenway Corridor
 - Little Hickory Run Greenway Corridor
 - Little Coon Creek Greenway Corridor

Unlike the other counties of the northwest region, due to the amount of publicly held lands; which include the Allegheny National Forest, State Forest, State Gamelands, and State Park land; many of Forest County's natural system greenway corridors are being conserved through their respective agencies. The proposed greenway corridors which have over seventy-five percent of their lands being conserved through a respective public agency include:

- Salmon Creek Greenway:94% conserved
- Blue Jay Creek Greenway:..... 100% conserved
- West Hickory Creek Greenway:80% conserved
- Hemlock Creek Greenway:.....99% conserved
- Little Coon Creek Greenway:81% conserved
- West Branch Millstone Creek:77% conserved

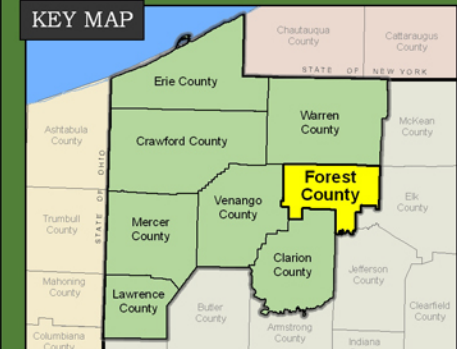
Forest County Greenways Plan

Priority	Ranking	Greenway Name	Sensitivity Ranking	Total Acres	Total Conserved Acres	Total Percent Conserved
Exceptional	1	Clarion River	31.3	1,698	682	40.2%
	2	East Hickory Creek	27.2	2,972	1,445	48.6%
	3	Tionesta Creek	26.5	12,500	6,214	49.7%
	4	Allegheny River	25.3	5,988	2,407	40.2%
	5	Salmon Creek	23.3	3,377	3,169	93.8%
	6	Bluejay Creek	22.3	2,238	2,238	100.0%
Significant	7	Tubbs Run	21.3	687	294	42.8%
	8	Spring Creek/Wolf Run	21.2	2,814	2,780	98.8%
	9	The Branch	20.9	1,568	1,497	95.5%
	10	West Hickory Creek	20.8	645	121	18.8%
	11	West Branch Millstone Creek	19.9	1,181	903	76.5%
	12	Hemlock Creek	19.4	3,071	0	0.0%
High	13	Ross Run	18.6	560	241	43.0%
	14	Coon Creek	18.5	925	425	45.9%
	15	South Branch Tionesta Creek	18.5	572	542	94.8%
	16	Cook Forest	18.5	1,039	580	55.8%
	17	Little Hickory Run	17.0	486	234	48.1%
	18	Little Coon Creek	15.1	418	76	18.2%
Totals				42,739	23,848	55.8%



Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways Plan

for
Clarion County Lawrence County
Crawford County Mercer County
Erie County Venango County
Forest County Warren County



LEGEND

County Boundary

Municipal Boundary

Urban Areas

Lake / Reservoir

River

Interstate

PA State Route

US Highway

PAFBC Access Points

DCNR Managed Land

State Park

Pennsylvania State Forest

Wild & Scenic River Corridor

County & Local Parks

State Game Land

Allegheny National Forest (ANF)

ANF Wilderness Area

ANF Wilderness Study Area

Other Managed Land - Private

Buzzard Swamp Wildlife Management Area

Existing & Proposed Trails

Existing Trail

Proposed Trail

Existing North Country Trail

State Park / State Game Land Trails

Existing Water Trail

Proposed Water Trail

Allegheny National Forest Trails

ATV Trail

Full-time Snowmobile Trail

Bank Fishing Trail

Full-time ATV / Snowmobile Trail

Hiking Trail

Joint-use Snowmobile Trail

Motorized Bike Trail

Pathway

Cross-country Skiing Trail

Natural Systems Greenways

Priority	Greenway Name
1	Clarion River
2	East Hickory Creek
3	Tionesta Creek
4	Allegheny River
5	Salmon Creek
6	Bluejay Creek
7	Tubbs Run
8	Spring Creek/Wolf Run
9	The Branch
10	West Hickory Creek
11	W Branch Millstone Creek
12	Hemlock Creek
13	Ross Run
14	Coon Creek
15	S Branch Tionesta Creek
16	Cook Forest
17	Little Hickory Run
18	Little Coon Creek

Recreation Greenways Legend

Existing Trail Routes

1 Kellettville to Nebraska Trace

2 North Country Trail

3 Knox Kane Trail

Proposed Trail Routes

1 Warren Trail

2 Tionesta Creek Trail

3 Knox Kane Trail

Existing Water Trail

A Middle Allegheny River

B Clarion River

Proposed Water Trail

A Tionesta Creek

Trail Town

Major Hub

Hub

Data Source:
ESRI 2005 Data
USGS
PASCA
PennDOT

Projection: State Plane - NAD 1983
Pennsylvania North Zone

Miles

Forest County Greenways Plan

Natural System Greenway Corridor Descriptions

- 1) Clarion River Greenway – This corridor is situated in southern Forest County, along the border with Elk County. Included within this greenway are Cook Forest State Park, the Wild and Scenic section of the Clarion River, and five CA's:
 - Clarion River at Clarrington CA is an aquatic habitat that supports six odonate species of special concern.
 - Hottelville CA includes a riparian forest habitat that supports a plant species of conservation concern within Pennsylvania.
 - Forest Cathedral Natural Area CA's encompasses an old growth Hemlock-White Pine Forest within the state park natural area.
 - Clarion River CA surrounds the Clarion River because it supports several plant and animal species of concern.
 - Clarion River at Cook Forest CA – This section of the Clarion River is an aquatic habitat that supports seven odonate species of concern.

Approximate Size: The total acreage of this greenway is estimated to be nearly 1,700 acres, of which 40.2% is protected within the state game land and privately-managed land. Approximately 4.5% of this greenway is designated as developed or urban land.

Associated Municipalities: Barnett Township

- 2) East Hickory Creek Greenway – East Hickory Creek is a tributary of the Allegheny River, situated to east the east of the river in northern Forest County. Other streams within this greenway include Otter Creek, Prather Run, and Queen Creek. Additionally, this greenway includes portions of the Allegheny National Forest, an Important Mammal Area (IMA), and two CA's:
 - Hickory Creek CA includes the aquatic habitat in the creek that supports four animal species of special concern.
 - East Hickory Creek CA encompasses the stream and forest habitat that supports three odonate species of concern.

In addition to protecting the CA described above, this greenway will also be of benefit in preserving the High Quality Cold Water Fishery designation on East Hickory Creek.

Approximate Size: The total acreage of this greenway is nearly 3,000 acres, of which 48.6% is protected within the national forest and privately managed land. Approximately 3.5% of this greenway is designated as developed or urban land.

Associated Municipalities: Hickory Township

- 3) Tionesta Creek Greenway – This greenway is found adjacent to Tionesta creek, which enters Forest County in the northeast from Warren County, to the mouth of the creek at the Allegheny

Forest County Greenways Plan

River in the southwest section of the County. This greenway includes portions of the Allegheny National Forest, as well as some privately managed land. There are also six CA's associated with this greenway:

- Tionesta Creek at Minister CA is a stream habitat that supports an animal species of special concern.
- Minister CA includes the stream and forest habitat that supports five odonate species and one fish species of special concern.
- Mayburg CA includes a section of Tionesta Creek that provides habitat for three aquatic species of special concern.
- Kellettsville CA covers a section of Tionesta Creek that provides habitat for the Round Pigtoe Mussel.
- Lower Tionesta Creek CA – Includes a section of Tionesta Creek that provides habitat for Long-solid Mussel and Round Pigtoe Mussel.
- Tionesta Confluence CA is a section of the Allegheny River, at the mouth of Tionesta Creek, which provides habitat for Red-head Pondweed, a Pennsylvania rare plants species.

In addition to the unique natural features mentioned above, Tionesta Creek greenway also encompasses a large area, in the northern section of the County, where six High Quality Cold Water Fisheries (HQ-CWF) enter Tionesta Creek. The streams with the HQ-CWF designation are Bobbs Creek, Blood Run, Porcupine Run, Minister Creek, Fools Creek, Lower Sherriff Run, and Upper Sherriff Creek.

Approximate Size: The total length of the Tionesta Creek Greenway is roughly 32 miles, within Forest County. The width varies from more than 2 miles near the six HQ-CWF mentioned above to less than 1,000 feet in some sections.

The total acreage of this greenway is estimated to be around 12,500 acres, of which 49.7% is protected within the national forest and privately managed land. Approximately .5% of this greenway is designated as developed or urban land.

Associated Municipalities: Tionesta, Green, Kingsley, and Howe Townships, as well as Tionesta Borough

- 4) Allegheny Greenway – This greenway is located in eastern Forest County, entering from Warren County in the north and exiting into Venango County to the west. It includes a portion of Allegheny National Forest, as well as six CA's:

- County Line CA includes a section of the Wild and Scenic designated Allegheny River that provides habitat for six freshwater mussel species and one vertebrate species of special concern.

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- Middle Allegheny River CA includes a section of the Wild and Scenic designated Allegheny River that provides habitat for eight freshwater mussel species of special concern and one vertebrate species of conservation concern.
- Sibbald Run Mouth CA is an old field habitat supporting a healthy, mature Butternut, a tree species that is in decline due to an introduced fungus.
- Tionesta Creek Confluence CA is a section of the Allegheny River, at the mouth of Tionesta Creek, which provides habitat for Red-head Pondweed, a Pennsylvania rare plants species.
- Little Tionesta Creek Confluence CA includes a section of the Wild and Scenic designated Allegheny River that provides habitat for two animal species of special concern.
- Allegheny River, Venango County CA includes the river and floodplain which supports critical populations of numerous species of rare animal and plants.

In addition to the unique natural features mentioned above, this greenway supports the Wild and Scenic section of the Allegheny River.

Approximate Size: The total length of the Allegheny River Greenway is roughly 14 miles, within Forest County. The width varies from less than 1,500 feet to more than 1 mile in some sections.

The total acreage of this greenway is estimated to be nearly 6,000 acres, of which 40.2% is protected within the national forest. Approximately 3.4% of this greenway is designated as developed or urban land.

Associated Municipalities: Tionesta, Hickory, and Harmony Townships, as well as Tionesta Borough

- 5) Salmon Creek Greenway – This greenway is situated in central Forest County adjacent to Salmon Creek, Little Salmon Creek, and Fourmile Run. This greenway also includes portions of the Allegheny National Forest and some privately managed land, as well as Important Mammal Area (IMA) and two CA's:

- Salmon Creek CA - Includes the stream and forest surrounding the creek which supports six dragonfly species of special concern.
- McCrays Pond CA is a manmade impoundment and adjacent bog habitat that supports populations of Comet Darner Dragonfly and Bog Sedge.

In addition to the unique natural features mentioned above, Salmon Creek greenway also protects the High Quality Cold Water Fishery designation on Salmon Creek and Little Salmon Creek, as well as the Exceptional Value rating on Fourmile Run.

Approximate Size: The total length of the Salmon Creek Greenway is roughly 15 miles, with an additional 3.5 miles along Little Salmon Creek and another 3 miles along Fourmile Run. The width varies from nearly 1 mile to less than 500 feet.

Forest County Greenways Plan

The total acreage of this greenway is estimated to be more than 3,300 acres, of which 93.8% is currently protected in the national forest and privately managed land. Approximately .2% of this greenway is designated as developed or urban land.

Associated Municipalities: Kingsley, Howe, and Jenks Townships

- 6) Bluejay Creek Greenway – This corridor is located in north eastern Forest County along Bluejay Creek, a tributary to Tionesta Creek, its main tributary West branch Bluejay Creek. This greenway also includes sections of Watsontown and Bald Hill Run's, as well as part of the Allegheny National Forest, and one CA:

- Lynch CA – Includes the stream and forest habitat that supports two dragonfly species and one fish species of special concern.

In addition to protecting the CA described above, this greenway will also be of benefit in preserving the High Quality Cold Water Fishery designation on Bluejay Creek.

Approximate Size: The total length of the Bluejay Creek Greenway is roughly 6.5 miles, with an additional 3.5 miles along West Branch Bluejay Creek. The width varies from roughly a mile and a half surrounding the CA to less than 1,000 feet in some sections.

The total acreage is estimated to be more than 2,200 acres, of which 100% is currently protected in the national forest. Approximately 4% of this greenway is designated as developed or urban land.

Associated Municipalities: Howe and Jenks Townships

- 7) Tubbs Run Greenway – This greenway is situated in western Forest County along Tubbs Run, a tributary of the Allegheny River. This greenway is also adjacent to Pigeon Run and includes part of the Allegheny National Forest.

This greenway will also be of benefit in preserving the High Quality Cold Water Fishery designation on Tubbs Run.

Approximate Size: The total length of this greenway is approximately 4.5 miles along Tubbs Run and an additional 1.5 miles along Pigeon Run. The width varies from less than 1,000 feet to more than half a mile near the mouth of Tubbs Run at the Allegheny River.

The total acreage of the Tubbs Run Greenway is estimated to be nearly 700 acres, of which 42.8% is currently protected in the national forest. Approximately 1.6% of this greenway is designated as developed or urban land.

Associated Municipalities: Tionesta and Green Townships

- 8) Spring Creek/Wolf Run Greenway – This greenway is located in eastern Forest County, adjacent to Spring Creek, Wolf Run, and East Branch Spring Creek. This greenway is completely within the Allegheny National Forest and contains one CA:

- Spring Creek CA includes a section of Spring Creek and adjacent beaver impoundment and forest habitat that supports four dragonfly species of special concern.

Forest County Greenways Plan

Approximate Size: The total length of this greenway is approximately 11 miles. The width varies from more than half a mile to less than 1,000 feet. The total acreage of this greenway is estimated to be nearly 3,000 acres, of which 100% is currently protected in the national forest.

Associated Municipalities: Jenks and Howe Townships

- 9) The Branch Greenway – Situated central Forest County, this greenway is found adjacent to The Branch, which flows into Salmon Creek, approximately 1,500 feet before it enters the Allegheny River. This greenway is in an Important Mammal Area and includes part of the Allegheny National Forest, as well as some privately managed land and one CA:

- Branch Trail CA is a forested habitat that supports two butterfly species of conservation concern.

In addition to protecting the CA described above, this greenway will also be of benefit in preserving the High Quality Cold Water Fishery designation on The Branch.

Approximate Size: The total length of this greenway is nearly 9 miles. The width varies from approximately half a mile near the mouth at Salmon Creek to less than 500 feet in some places.

The total acreage of The Branch Greenway is estimated to be more than 1,500 acres, of which 95.5% is currently protected in the national forest and within privately managed land. Approximately .1% of this greenway is designated as developed or urban land.

Associated Municipalities: Kingsley and Howe Townships

- 10) West Hickory Creek Greenway – This greenway is situated in northwest Forest County. This greenway is adjacent to West Hickory Creek, a tributary to the Allegheny River. A portion of this greenway includes part of the Allegheny National Forest.

Approximate Size: The total length of this greenway corridor is nearly 5 miles. The width varies from approximately half a mile near the mouth of the creek at the Allegheny River to less than 500 feet in various sections.

The total acreage of this greenway is estimated to be nearly 650 acres, of which 18.8% is currently protected in the national forest. Approximately .3% of this greenway is designated as developed or urban land.

Associated Municipalities: Harmony Township

- 11) West Branch Millstone Greenway – This greenway is situated in the eastern section of the County, adjacent to West Branch Millstone Creek, as well as sections of Scotts Run and Brush Creek. This greenway includes part of the Allegheny National Forest and also one CA:

- Millstone Creek CA is an aquatic habitat that supports three rare aquatic species and a dragonfly species of special concern.

Approximate Size: The total length of the West Branch Millstone Greenway is roughly 11.5 miles. The width varies from less than 500 feet to nearly 1,000 feet.

Forest County Greenways Plan

The total acreage of this greenway is estimated to be nearly 1,200 acres, of which 76.5% is currently protected within the national forest. Approximately .7% of this greenway is designated as developed or urban land.

Associated Municipalities: Barnett and Jenks Townships

- 12) Hemlock Creek Greenway – This greenway is situated in the western portion of the County and extends into Venango and Clarion Counties. The portion within Forest County includes one CA:

- Hemlock Creek CA supports an exceptional value stream, with potential for rare plants and animals.

This greenway will also be of benefit in preserving the Exceptional Value Stream designation on Hemlock Creek.

Approximate Size: The total acreage of this greenway is estimated to be just over 3,000 acres, none of which is currently protected. Approximately .9% of this greenway is designated as developed or urban land.

Associated Municipalities: Tionesta Township

- 13) Ross Run Greenway – This greenway is situated in the central section of the County. Ross Run Greenway is found adjacent to Ross Run and part of Reck Branch and East Branch. It also includes part of the Allegheny National Forest and an Important Mammal Area.

This greenway will also be of benefit in preserving the High Quality Cold Water Fishery designation on Ross Run.

Approximate Size: The length of this greenway is just over 4 miles, while the width varies from less than 500 feet to roughly 2,000 feet. The total acreage of the Ross Run greenway is estimated to be 560 acres, of which 43% is currently protected in the national forest. Approximately .7% of this greenway is designated as developed or urban land.

Associated Municipalities: Kingsley and Hickory Townships

- 14) Coon Creek Greenway – This greenway is situated in the south central section of the County. This greenway is found adjacent to Coon Creek and includes part of the Allegheny National Forest, State Game Land No. 24, and privately-managed land.

Approximate Size: The total length of this greenway is just over 12 miles, while the width varies from less than 500 feet to roughly 2,000 feet. The total acreage of the Coon Creek Greenway is estimated to be 925 acres, of which 45.9% is currently protected in the national forest, state game lands, and private land.

Associated Municipalities: Jenks and Green Townships

- 15) South Branch Tionesta Creek Greenway – This greenway is found in the extreme northeast corner of the County, where it extends into Warren County and is adjacent to South Branch Tionesta Creek, Rock Run, Fork Run, East Fork Run, West Fork Run, Iron Run, Eldridge Run, and Bogus Run. It is within an Important Mammal Area and includes portions of the Allegheny National Forest, as well as some privately managed land and one CA:

- South Branch Tionesta Creek CA is found adjacent to the creek, as well as to wetland habitat that supports eight animal species of special concern.

This greenway will also be of benefit in preserving the High Quality Cold Water Fishery designation on Bogus Run, Iron Run, Fork Run, Rock Run, and South Branch Tionesta Creek.

Approximate Size: The total acreage of this greenway is estimated to be roughly 572 acres within Forest County, of which 94.8% is currently protected in the national forest and private land.

Associated Municipalities: Howe Township

- 16) Cook Forest Greenway – The majority of this greenway is found in Clarion County, surrounding Cook Forest State Park. The small portion in Forest County includes one CA:

- Swamp Forest Natural Area CA is a Bureau of State Parks Natural Area containing old growth Hemlock forest community at the headwaters of Browns Run.

Approximate Size: The total acreage of this greenway is estimated to be roughly 1,000 acres within Forest County, of which 55.8% is currently protected in the state park.

Associated Municipalities: Barnett Township

- 17) Little Hickory Run Greenway – This small greenway is found along Little Hickory Run, a tributary to the Allegheny River, in southern Forest County.

Approximate Size: The total acreage of this greenway is estimated to be roughly 486 acres, of which 48.1% is currently protected in the Allegheny National Forest.

Associated Municipalities: Barnett Township

- 18) Little Coon Creek Greenway – This small greenway is found in central Forest County, adjacent to Little Coon Creek, a High Quality Cold Water Fishery.

Approximate Size: The total length of this greenway is roughly 5.3 miles. The width varies from around 1,000 feet to less than 500 feet. The total acreage is estimated to be approximately 418 acres, of which 18.2% is currently protected in the Allegheny National Forest and State Game Land No. 24.

Associated Municipalities: Green Township

Discussion Regarding Forest Resources

Property owners, municipal and County officials, and others are often concerned that conservation of Natural Systems Greenways means limitations on timbering in the County. The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act of 1968, P.L. 805, No. 247, as reenacted and amended, ensures the right to timber by stating:

- Article VI, Section 603(f) states: “Zoning ordinances may not unreasonably restrict forestry activities.”
- Section 107(a) of the MPC defines forestry as follows: The management of forests and timberlands when practiced in accordance with accepted silvicultural principles, through developing, cultivating, harvesting, transporting, and selling trees for commercial purposes, which does not involve any land development.
- Municipal ordinances must allow forestry activities as a use by right in all zoning districts.
- Restrictions on forestry activities are reasonable if contained in the ordinance, but no additional requirements may be added at the time of issuance of a permit.
- Ordinances that prohibit forestry activities in any zoning district or permit forestry activities only by special exception, conditional use, or variance are not valid. Such ordinances are effectively repealed by the provisions of Act 68.
- Restrictions on forestry activities that appear only in special exception or conditional use provisions of an ordinance may not be enforced.
- Many municipal ordinances require the issuance of a zoning permit to proceed with forestry-related activities. If a permit application is denied, an appeal may be filed with the zoning hearing board in accordance with the provisions of the MPC.
- Timber harvesting activities that are part of a land development and subdivision plan do not fall within the definition of forestry activities and are not a permitted use by right under the MPC.
- Municipalities are not authorized to assume whether an applicant intends to develop the land subsequently

The timber industry is following in the footsteps of many other industries and looking at ways their profession can be carried out in an environmentally-friendly and sustainable manner. Local Forest Stewardship Council Certification: The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, nonprofit, non-governmental organization with diverse representation, including environmental institutions, timber and trade organizations, forestry professionals, indigenous peoples’ organizations, community forestry groups, and forest product certification organizations from 25 countries. The Council accredits certification bodies and promotes voluntary, third party certification. Certification is voluntary. The FSC logo on a product provides consumers with an assurance that the wood they use comes from forests managed in an environmentally- and socially-responsible manner.

The following organizations educate timber producers and land managers in managing their forests in an environmentally sustainable manner:

- Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Pennsylvania Hardwood Development Council
- Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group
- Wood and Lumber Industry Partnership

IMPLEMENTATION OF FOREST COUNTY'S GREENWAY NETWORK

The implementation of natural systems greenways will rely on a proactive approach from the public and private sectors. From the public side, the implementation of natural systems greenway corridors should begin with the Forest County Conservation District and Planning Department who can educate, advocate, encourage, and implement the recommendations set forth herein. As recommended in this plan, this will occur through a joint greenways coordinator at the regional level, or it may occur at the County level through the planning department. Regardless, the greenways coordinator must work closely with the Forest County Conservation District and Planning Department. The greenways coordinator and the Forest County Conservation District and Planning Department can provide Forest County's municipalities with their guidance and expertise to guide the municipalities in implementing those strategies recommended to occur at the municipal level. Furthermore, they may also provide similar guidance and expertise to local conservancies, land trust, and trail organizations. Other important public partners in this endeavor may include:

- Northwest Commission
- Lumber Heritage Region of Pennsylvania, Inc.
- PA Wilds Planning Team
- U.S. Forest Service, Allegheny National Forest
- Forest County Visitors Bureau
- Allegheny National Forest Vacation Bureau
- PA Great Outdoors Tourism Bureau
- Focus on Forest Future
- Forest County
- Local Municipalities
- Tionesta Chamber of Commerce
- Marienville Area Civic Association
- Marienville Chamber of Commerce
- Penn Soil RC&D Council
- Penn Soil Conservancy Charitable Trust
- Warren -Forest Counties Economic Opportunity Council Regional Main Street Program
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Cooks Forest State Park
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry
- Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
- Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Forest County Greenways Plan

From the private sector, involvement may come from many avenues, such as education, health care, main streets, economic development, and non-profit sectors. They may include:

- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited
- North County Trail Association
- Allegheny Outdoor Club
- Titusville Hospital and Health Community Members
- Brookville Hospital and Health Community Members
- Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Pennsylvania Hardwood Development Council
- Private Timber Producers
- Pennsylvania Audubon Society

Strategies to Implement the Forest County Greenway Network

The following are step-by-step recommendations outlining the process of implementing the proposed Forest County greenways network, as defined through this study process.

The first step involves formally adopting the vision for Greenways in Forest County. The implementation strategies are outlined in the following tables. These tables document the sequence of events required to carry the greenways plan from the Vision described earlier in this plan to the implementation of natural system and recreation and transportation corridors.

Implementation strategies are organized into Adopting a Vision for Greenways in Forest County and Advancing Greenways at the Local Level.

Each implementation strategy includes a brief description of the task, identifies possible responsible parties, sets a priority for completing the task, provides an estimate of cost associated with completing the task, and provides planners with the opportunity to track the process of implementing the plan.

The following priorities have been defined through the planning process:

Short Term Priorities (S): should be accomplished within one to three years after official adoption of the Greenways Plan. These strategies will lay the foundation for successful implementation of the greenways plan recommendations.

Mid Term Priorities (M): should be undertaken in years three to five.

Long Term Priorities (L): are expected to be completed in years five to ten.

Many of the strategies have little or no cost beyond the administrative costs incurred by the responsible parties. However, other strategies may require substantial funding. When costs are provided, the estimates are “ball park” figures in 2009 dollars. These costs were established based on our experience with other projects or initiatives. For each year beyond 2009, the costs should be multiplied by a factor of 4.5% to account for escalation of the costs associated to perform the task. Detailed feasibility studies and other pre-design and / or implementation work will refine these costs.

It is recommended Forest County and the partners identified herein review these tables on an annual basis, at a minimum, to determine which tasks have been accomplished, which should be undertaken next, and where adjustments need to be made. It is recommended that the status column of the tables be used to record the beginning and completion dates for each task as it is implemented. This will allow Forest County and other responsible parties to track their progress towards the implementation of each strategy.

The following tables outline the plan of action to implement the greenways vision for Forest County. Actual implementation will depend on fiscal and political climate in any give year or municipality, making it essential that the tables be reviewed and updated often.

Forest County Greenways Plan

Adopting the Vision for Greenways in Forest County

Task	Partner	Priority	Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Status	
					Begin	End
Adopting the Vision for Greenways in Forest County						
Adopt the Forest County Greenways Plan as an amendment to the Forest County Comprehensive Plan.	Forest County Planning Department (FCPD)	S	Admin. Time	n/a		
Conduct Peer to Peer study to determine willingness to establish joint greenway coordnator positions with Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Warren, Forest, and Clarion Counties.	Northwest Commission, participating counties	S	\$20,000	PA DCNR PA DCED Participating Counties		
If regional joint greenway coordinator positions are deemed feasible:						
Develop position description	Northwest Commission	S	Admin. Time	n/a		
Draft intergovernmental cooperation agreement	Northwest Commission	S	Admin. Time	n/a		
Execute Intergovernmental Agreement	Northwest Commission	S	Admin. Time	n/a		
Secure funding for position for minimum five years	Northwest Commission	S	\$250,000	PA DCNR PA DCED Foundations Participating Counties		
Advertise position	Northwest Commission	S	\$200	Participating Counties		
Hire regional coordinator	Northwest Commission	S	\$40,000 annually, to be paid from funds secured in item c. above	PA DCNR PA DCED Foundations Participating Counties		
If regional joint greenway coordinator positions are deemed not feasible:						
Implement recommendations through existing agencies.	Joint Greenways Coordinator, FCPD, municipalities	S	In-Kind	n/a		
Marketing / Education / Promotion						
Spread the Word - announce the adoption of the Greenways Plan through regional and local television, newspaper, radio, and internet .	Stakeholders, partner organizations	S	Volunteer / In-Kind	n/a		
Develop marketing, education and promotion campaign to inform county residents and elected officials about the benefits of greenways implementation and promote the many attractions of the greenway network.	Forest Visitors Bureau, FCPD, Forest County Conservation District, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, PA DCNR, PA DEP, PA Game Commission, and Allegheny National Forest	On-Going	\$5,000 / In-Kind	PA DCNR PA DEP PA DCED Foundations		

Forest County Greenways Plan

Advancing Recreation Greenways at the Local Level

Task	Partners	Priority	Cost	Potential Funding	Status	
					Begin	End
Coordination with Local Trail Organizations / Municipalities and Other Stakeholders						
Meet with local trail organizations to review recommendations for recreation greenways that resulted from county greenway planning process	Joint Greenway Coordinator, FCPD	S	Admin. Time	n/a		
Review process for planning and developing recreation greenways with trail organizations	Joint Greenway Coordinator, FCPD	S	Admin. Time	n/a		
PA Wilds and Lumber Heritage Regions						
Develop interpretive programs which focus on telling the stories of the heritage regions in Forest County	Joint Greenway Coordinator, respective Heritage Regions	M	unknown	DCNR, DCED		
Utilize heritage region wayfinding systems to guide visitors to and from Forest County greenway opportunities	Joint Greenway Coordinator, respective Heritage Regions	S, M	unknown	DCNR, DCED		
Motorized Recreation and Transportation Implementation Strategies						
Explore potential for connecting ANF snowmobile and ATV trails to Marienville to promote economic development	Joint Greenway Coordinator, FCPD, U.S. Forest Service, other participating counties with similar desires for their Counties / local municipalities / Marienville Chamber of Commerce	M	Northwest Commission, FCPD, ANF, DCNR	PennDOT DCNR DCED Foundations		
Shared Use Trail Implementation Strategies						
Determine if Knox & Kane Corridor can be rail banked	DCNR / Northwest Commission / FCPD / Trail Partners / Local Municipalities	S	In-Kind Services	n/a		
Petition U.S. Department of Transportation Surface Transportation Board to rail bank Knox & Kane Railroad corridor	DCNR / Northwest Commission / FCPD / Trail Partners / Local Municipalities	S	In-Kind Services	DCED		
Complete master plan for proposed Knox & Kane Rail Trail	Northwest Commission / Regional Greenways Coordinator / FCPD / Participating Counties	S	\$60,000	DCNR / DCED		
Construct, in phases, Knox to Kane Rail Trail	Northwest Commission / Regional Greenways Coordinator / FCPD / Local Municipalities	M-L	Unknown / Costs to be indentified in planning	DCNR, DCED, Foundations		

Forest County Greenways Plan

Advancing Recreation Greenways at the Local Level

Task	Partners	Priority	Cost	Potential Funding Sources	Status	
					Begin	End
Water Trail Implementation Strategies						
Meet with PA Water Trail Partnership and local municipalities to discuss feasibility of establishing a PA Fish & Boat Commission designated Water Trail on Tionesta Creek	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPD, PA PA Water Trail Partnership, ANF	S	PA Fish & Boat In-Kind Services	PA Fish & Boat Commission		
If feasible, locate put in / take out opportunities, confirm property ownership, secure public access to locations	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPD, PA Fish & Boat Commission, , U.S. Forest Service ANF	S	Unknown	PA Fish & Boat Commission PA DCNR		
Establish Tionesta Creek Water Trail and access points.	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPD, U.S. Forest Service ANF	M	Unknown	PA Fish & Boat Commission PA DCNR		
Trail Town Implementation Strategies						
Conduct Trail Town self assessment for Tionesta and Marienville	Northwest Commission, Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPD	S	In-Kind Services	n/a		
Complete Trail Town Master Plan for Tionesta	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPD	M	\$25,000	DCNR, DCED, PA Fish & Boat Commission		
Upon preparing a plan to connect motorized trails to Marienville, complete Trail Town Master Plan for Marienville	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPD	L	\$25,000	DCNR, DCED, Foundations ATV & Snowmobile Manufacturers		
Implement Trail Town Master Plan in Tionesta	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPD	M-L	Unknown	DCNR, DCED, PA Fish & Boat Commission		
Implement Trail Town Master Plan in Marienville	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPD	L	Unknown	DCNR, DCED, Foundations ATV & Snowmobile Manufacturers		

Forest County Greenways Plan

Advancing Recreation Greenways at the Local Level

Task	Partners	Priority	Cost	Potential Funding	Status	
					Begin	End
Ensuring Success Marketing / Promotion						
Conduct Allegheny River Water Trail Economic Impact Analysis Study	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission	S	\$25,000	DCNR / DCED		
Conduct Motorized Trail User Economic Impact Analysis Study	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission	S	\$25,000	DCNR / DCED		
Conduct Natural Systems Greenways Economic Impact Analysis Study	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission	S	\$25,000	DCNR /DCED		
Meet with U.S. Forest Service ANF to discuss status of motorized trail riding opportunities in ANF. Advocate for retaining and expanding existing trail system where appropriate	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPC	S, M	In-Kind Services	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPC, DCNR, DCED		
Implement marketing strategies formed in the early stages of greenways implementation, with emphasis on economic development potential	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPC	on-going	\$2,500 annually	Forest County Visitors Bureau		
Celebrate successes, solicit support and coverage from local television, newspaper, radio, and internet news agencies.	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPC	on-going	In-Kind Services	n/a		

Forest County Greenways Plan

Advancing Natural Systems Greenways Plan at the Local Level

Task	Partners	Priority	Cost	Potential Funding	Status	
					Begin	End
Identify and Secure Funding for Demonstration Projects to Advance the Proposed Natural System Greenway Corridors						
Identify key players that will help carry out pilot projects, explore possibility of public / private partnerships with possible public and private partners	Northwest Commission, Joint Greenway Coordinator (JGC) and / or County Planning Department	On-Going	In-Kind Services	n/a		
Establish Natural Systems Greenway Network						
Secure grants and matching funds Secure easements from willing land owners to conserve natural infrastructure resources	Municipal Officials, Planning Commissions, PA DCNR, Conservation Clubs, with guidance from Joint Greenway Coordinator and FCPD	On-Going	Varies greatly, site / project specific	PA DEP PA DCNR PA DCED PA Fish & Boat Commission		
Work with timber producers to establish conservation easements for natural systems greenway corridors through their holdings	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPD, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, DCNR Bureau of Forestry	On-going	Unknown, if any	PA DEP PA DCNR		
Ensuring Success Marketing / Promotion						
Implement marketing strategies formed in the early stages of greenways planning, with emphasis on economic development potential	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPD	S	\$2,000 annually	Forest County Visitors Bureau		
Celebrate successes, actively solicit support and coverage from local television, newspaper, radio, and internet news agencies.	Joint Greenway Coordinator, Northwest Commission, FCPD	on-going	In-Kind Services	n/a		

Demonstration Projects

Quick successes are important to show residents of the Northwest Pennsylvania Region that implementation of greenway projects can provide many benefits. Successful implementation of these demonstration projects will build momentum and enthusiasm to continue implementing the recommendations contained in this plan.

Land Based Trails

- **Knox Kane Trail:** The projected costs for completing a feasibility study of the Knox Kane corridor are identified in the Clarion County Demonstration descriptions. The proposed trail also provides an opportunity to potentially connect the motorized trails in the Allegheny National Forest with the Village of Marienville in Jenks Township. This connection is highly desirable from an economic development perspective and should be further explored. Therefore it is recommended that Forest and Clarion Counties bring together all potential partners to consider the feasibility of establishing this proposed trail.

Water Trails

- **Tionesta Creek:** It is recommended that Forest County may want to identify local partners that can complete a feasibility to determine the potential of establishing a Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission designated water trail along Tionesta Creek.

Trail Towns

Of the trail towns being proposed for Forest County, focus should be placed on implementing a trail town philosophy in Marienville.

Natural Systems Greenway Corridors

Forest County contains a total of approximately 275,840 acres of land. Of that, more than forty-seven percent is held by a public agency for conservation, forestry, and/or recreational purposes.

The Forest County Comprehensive Plan of 1998 indicates that the natural resources of Forest County should be identified and critical areas signified for conservation; exceptional areas should be considered for protection, where warranted, by means of local citizen consensus.

That said, the continued conversion of private lands to publicly held lands has had a negative impact on the real estate values. Further, corresponding revenue generated from real estate is not adequate to sustain municipal and County services within Forest County. This has created an unbalanced situation on the County where public acquisitions have taken away other beneficial land uses such as prime farm lands. Therefore, any approach to the conservation of Natural Systems Greenway Corridors within Forest County must be done in a manner which does not further burden the County and its municipalities.

At issue is the lack of communication between federal, state, and county agencies. Therefore, before any further conservation efforts take place, all agencies must come together and reach a consensus on how to best achieve conservation, recreation, and forestry goals in a manner that promotes the sustainability of Forest County's future.

Potential Funding Sources

Development of a greenways network requires funding and a long-term strategy to access a variety of federal, state, and private sector funding opportunities. Funding programs designed to conserve natural resources, develop recreational trails, and create transportation improvements are all potential sources of grants for implementation of the recommendations contained herein. Most require some form of local match, and sometimes one grant opportunity can be utilized as the 'local match' for another grant opportunity.

The following tables list many current funding sources that are available to assist in funding greenway efforts in the Northwest Region. Because these programs are constantly changing, these tables are a starting point. When seeking grant programs, applicants should check web sites of the funding organizations for an updated listing of grant programs and eligibility requirements.

Moreover, any funding strategy should leverage local resources as well. Private and non-profit foundations in the communities and region are important sources of funding that should not be overlooked when assembling funding strategies. In addition, efforts should be made to create public-private partnerships and to seek in-kind contributions from local businesses in the communities and the region.

State Public Agency Grant and Funding Opportunities

Program	Agency	Purpose	Website
Act 167 Enactment and Implementation	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	watershed restoration	www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/
Boating Facilities Grants	Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission	boating facilities	www.fish.state.pa.us/promo/grants/boat_fac/00boatfac.htm
Certified Local Government Grants	Pennsylvania Historic and Muesum Commission	cultural surveys / interpretation	www.artsnet.org/phmc/pdf/clg_app.pdf
Coldwater Heritage Conservation Grant	Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited, PA DCNR, PA Fish & Boat Commission	conservation of coldwater streams	www.coldwaterheritage.org
Community Conservation Partnership Program	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	greenways, trails, & parks, acquistion, planning, development, circuit rider	http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/general02.aspx
Community Development Block Grant	Pennsylvania Department of Community Development	infrastructure / community facilities	www.newpa.com/programDetail.aspx?id=71
Community Revitalization Program	Pennsylvania Department of Community Development	quality of life	www.newpa.com/programDetail.aspx?id=72
Dirt and Gravel Road Program	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	reduction of non-point source pollution	www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/
Environmental Education Grants	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Environmental Education	www.depweb.state.pa.us/enved/cwp/
Flood Protection Grants	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	flood prevention	www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/
Growing Greener Grants	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	conservation of resources	www.depweb.state.pa.us/growinggreener
Heritage Area Grants	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	specific to designated heritage areas	http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/general02.aspx
Hometown Streets & Safe Routes to Schools	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	bicycle and pedestrian improvements	http://www.dot.state.pa.us/penndot/Bureaus/CPDM/Prod/Saferoute.nsf
Keystone Historic Preservation Grants	Pennsylvania Historic and Muesum Commission	preservation / restoration	www.artsnet.org/phmc/pdf/kph_app.pdf
Land Recycling Grants Program	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	remediation	www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/site/detail.aspx?id=71
Land Use Planning & Technical Assistance Grants	Pennsylvania Department of Community Development	community planning	www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/site/detail.aspx?id=72
Main Street Program	Pennsylvania Department of Community Development	economic growth / community	www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/site/detail.aspx?id=79
Non-Point Source Management Section 319	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	watershed restoration	www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/
Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation	transportation projects	www.dot.state.pa.us/bureaus/PIB.nsf/homepagePIB?OpenForm
Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	greenways, trails, & parks, acquistion, planning, development, circuit rider	http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/general02.aspx
Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Improvements	Pennsylvania Department of Community Development	see program guidelines	www.budget.state.pa.us/budget/lib/budget/racp/appmat/applicationhandbook.pdf
Single Application Grants	Pennsylvania Department of Community Development	see program guidelines	https://www.esa.dced.state.pa.us/ESAW/
Treevitalize	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources	planting of trees	www.treevitalize.net
Urban & Community Forestry Grants	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources	planting of trees	www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/pucfc/

State Foundation Grant and Funding Opportunities

Program	Purpose	Website
Alcoa Foundation	economic development & quality of life	www.alcoa.com/global/en/community/foundation/overview.asp/
Asland Oil Foundation		www.ashland.com/commitments/contributions.asp/
Bayer Foundation		www.bayer.com/en/bayer-foundations.aspx/
Bozzone Family Foundation	quality of life	311 Hillcrest Drive, New Kensington, PA 15068-2318
Bridge Builders Foundation		www.bridgebuildersfoundation.org/aboutus/index.htm/
Deluxe Corporation		www.deluxe.com/dlxab/deluxe-foundation.jsp/
Dominion Foundation	economic development & environment	www.dom.com/about/community/foundation/index.jsp/
Ganassi Foundation		100 RIDC PLZ, Pittsburgh, PA 15238
Giant Eagle Foundation		101 Kappa Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15238
H.J. Heinz Foundation		www.heinz.com/foundation.aspx/
Heinz Endowments	Environment	www.heinz.org/
Highmark Foundation		www.highmark.com/hmk2/community/hmfoundation/index.shtml/
Hillman Foundation	quality of life	www.hillmanfdn.org/
Hunt Foundation	focus on good of the region	www.rahuntfdn.org/
Juliet Lea Hillman Simonds Foundation		330 Grant Street, Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation	environment	P.O. Box 186, Latrobe, PA 15650
Massey Charitable Trust		1370 Washington Pike, Suite 306, Bridgeville, PA 15017-2839
McCune Foundation	community development	www.mccune.org/
Millstein Charitable Foundation		P.O. Box K, Youngwood, PA 15697

State Foundation Grant and Funding Opportunities

Program	Purpose	Website
Milton G. Hulme Charitable Trust		1146 Old Freeport Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238
Mine Safety Appliances Company Charitable Trust		www.msanorthamerica.com/communityrelations.html/
National City Bank Foundation		www.nationalcity.com/about-us/community/community-relations/pages/charitable-giving.asp
Pennsylvania Snowmobile Association Mini-grant Program	motorized trails	www.pasnow.org/PSSA%20Trail%20Grant%20Package.prn.pdf
Pew Charitable Trusts	environment & community development	www.pewtrusts.org/
Pittsburgh Foundation		www.pittsburghfoundation.org/
PNC Bank Foundation		https://www.pnc.com/webapp/unsec/ProductsAndService.do?siteArea=/PNC/Home/About+PNC/Our+Organization/Community+Involvement/PNC+Foundation/PNC
PPG Industries Foundation		http://corporateportal.ppg.com/PPG/PPGIndustriesFoundation/
Richard King Mellon Foundation	environment	http://foundationcenter.org/grantmaker/rkmellon/
Rockwell International Corporation Trust Fund		www.rockwellautomation.com/about_us/neighbor/giving.html/
Snee-Reinhardt Charitable Foundation	education & environment	www.snee-reinhardt.org/
Stackpole Hall Foundation		44 St. Marys Street, St. Mary's, PA 15857
The Bank of New York Mellon		One Mellon Center, Room 1830, Pittsburgh, PA 15258
United States Steel Foundation		www.uss.com/corp/ussfoundation/
W. Dale Brougher Foundation	conservation, ecology, history, & arts	1200 Country Club Road, York, PA 17403
Washington Federal Charitable Trust		www.washfed.com/charity.htm/
Westinghouse Foundation	quality of life	www.westinghouse.com/charitablegiving/giving.htm/

Federal Public Agency Grant and Funding Opportunities

Program	Agency	Purpose	Website
Acres for America	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	acquisition of property	www.nfwf.org/programs.cfm
Brownfields Redevelopment Intiative	General Services Administration	includes trails	http://bri/gda/gov/brownfields/home
Community Development Block Grant	U.S. Department of Housing	can include greenways	www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/index.cfm
Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program	Federal Highway & Transportation Adminstration	includes trails	www.fwha.dot.gov/environment/cmaqpgs/index.htm
Conservation Reserve Program	U.S. Department of Agriculture	resource conservation	www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crp.htm
Economic Development Grants for Public Works	Economic Development Administration	trail development	www.cfda.gov/public/viewprog/asp?progid=167
Environmental Education Grants Program	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Environmental Education Projects	www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html
Federal Public Lands Highway Discretionary Grants	Federal Highway Adminstration	includes trails	www.fwha.dot.gov/tea21/factsheets/fedland.htm
General Matching Funds	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	fish & wildlife conservation	www.nfwf.org/programs.cfm
Healthy People 2010 Community Grants Program	Federal Department of Health & Human Services	health and wellness	www.health.gov/healthypeople/impleneetation/
Keystone Initiative Grants	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	habitat enhancement	www.nfwf.org/am/templateccfm?Section-Grants
Land & Water Conservation Fund Grants	National Park Service	trails and greenways	www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/
National Scenic Byway Program	Federal Highway Adminstration	bicycle and pedestrian facilities	www.byways.org/grants/index.html
North America Wetland Conservation Grants	U.S. Department of the Interior	wetland conservation	www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/grants/nawca/index.shtm
Recreational Trails Program	Federal Highway Adminstration	trails	www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/index.htm
Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program	National Park Service	conservation of resources	www.ncrc.nps.gov/programs/rtca/ContactUs/cu_apply.html
Safe Schools / Healthy Students Initiative	Office of Juvenile Justice, Department of Education	promote heathly childhood development	www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/grants/safeschool/content.html
Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficent, Transportation Act	Federal Highway Adminstration	bicycle & pedestrian improvements	www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/index.htm
Save America's Treasures Historic Preservation Fund	National Park Service & Arts	preservation / conservation	www.saveame ricastreasures.org/funding.htm
Sustainable Development Challenge Grants	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	sustainable community projects	www.epa.gov/ecocommunity/sdcg/
Targeted Watersheds Program	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	sustainable community projects	www.epa.gov/ecocommunity/owow/watershed/initiative/regions.html

Federal Public Agency Grant and Funding Opportunities

Program	Agency	Purpose	Website
Transportation & Community & System Pilot Program	Federal Highway Adminstration	planning & implementation of trails	www.fwha.dot.gov/tcsp/
Transportation Enhancements	Federal Highway Adminstration	trails & bike / ped facilities	www.enhancements.org/
Urban Park and Recovery Program	National Park Service	parks	www.ncrc.nps.gov/uparr/
Value Added Producers Grants	USDA Rural Development	market value added ag products	www.rurdev.usda.gov/GA/vadg.htm
Water Quality Research Grants	U.S. Department of Agriculture	water quality impairment	www.epa.gov/smarthgrowth/topics/water_quality_funding.htm
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Grants	Natural Resource Conservation Service	watershed improvements	www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/watershed/index
Wetlands Reserve Program	Natural Resource Conservation Service	restore & protect wetlands	www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/WRP/
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	Natural Resource Conservation Service	develop & improve wildlife habitat	www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/

National Foundation Grant and Funding Opportunities

Program	Purpose	Website
American Conservation Association	conservation, river protection & wildlife	1200 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20005
American Express Philanthropic Program	historic & natural assets	http://home3.americanexpress.com/corp/csr.asp/
AmeriCorp's National Civilian Community Conservation Corps	community improvements / trail building	www.americorps.org/about/programs/nccc.asp/
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	conservation	www.mellon.org/
Art & Community Landscapes	community landscapes	www.nefa.org/grantprog/acl/acl_grant_app.html/
Bankamerica Foundation	conservation,, parks, fisheries, education	www.bankofamerica.com/foundation/
Bikes Belong Grant Program	bike improvements	www.bikesbelong.org/grants/
Caterpillar Foundation	history & environment	www.cat.com/cda/layout?m=39201&x=7
Chrysler Corporation Foundation	health & community affairs	www.thechryslerfoundation.com/
Coca-Cola Foundation	community development	www.thecoca-colacompany.com/citizenship/foundation_coke.html/
Compton Foundation	conservation	www.comptonfoundation.org/
Davis and Lucille Packard Foundation		www.packard.org/
Exxon Mobil Foundation	environment & education	http://hoe.exxonmobil.com/Corporate/community.aspx
Fish America Foundation	fish & water resources enhancement	www.asafishing.org/content/conservation/fishamerica/
Ford Motor Company Foundation	community development	www.ford.com/our-values/ford-fund-community-service/
Gannett Foundation		www.gannettfoundation.org/
General Mills Corporation	history & environment	www.generalmills.com.corporate.committment/foundation.aspx/
General Motors Foundation		www.gm.com/corporate/responsibility/community/
Harry C. Trexler Trust		33 South Seventh Street, Room 205, Allentown, PA 18101
J.C.Penny		www.jcpenny.net/company/commrel/index.htm/
John D. and Catherine MacArthur Foundation		www.macfound.org/
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation		www.knightfoundation.org/

National Foundation Grant and Funding Opportunities

Program	Purpose	Website
Kodak American Greenways Awards Program	greenways	www.grants.conservationfund.org/tcf/public/viewAwards.action/
Kresge Foundation	challenge grants	www.kresge.org/
L.L. Bean, Inc.		www.llbean.com/customerservice/aboutLLBean/charitable_giving.html/
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation		www.nfwf.org/
New-Land Foundation	environment	114 Avenue of the Americas, 46th Floor, New York, New York, 10036
Norcross Wildlife Foundation	land & habitat conservation	www.norcrossws.org/
Oracle Corporate Giving Program	can include greenways	www.oracle.com/corporate/giving/community/index.html?giving.html
Pepsico Foundation		www.pepsico.com/PEP_citizenship/Contributions/GrantGuidelines/index.cfm/
Polaris 'T.R.A.I.L.S.' Grant Program	motorized trails	www.pi54.com/ATV/PDFs/TRAILSGrantAppForm.pdf
Private Foundation	National	www.tourismcaresfortomorrow.org/
Proctor Gamble Foundation		www.pg.com/company/our_committment/community/jhtml/
Recreational Equipment Company		www.rei.com/reigives/
Robert Woods Johnson Foundation	health & physical activity	www.rwjf.org/
Rockefeller Family Fund	environment	www.rffund.org/
Sony Corporation of America Foundation		www.sony.com/SCA/philanthropy/guidelines.shtml/
Surdna Foundation		www.surdna.org/
Texaco Foundation	environment	www.chveron.com/globalissues/economiccommunitydevelopment/
The Global Relief Heritage Forest Program	tree seedlings on public lands	www.americanforests.org/global_refief/grants/
The Nathan Cummings Foundation	conservation	www.nathancummings.org/
Turner Foundation	wateshed protection	www.turnerfoundation.org/
W.K. Kellogg Foundation	community development	www.wkkf.org/
Wallace Reader's Digest Funds	education	www.wallacefoundation.org/

National Foundation Grant and Funding Opportunities

Program	Purpose	Website
Walmart Foundation		www.walmartstores.com/community/
William Penn Foundation	environment	www.wpennfdn.org/
Yamaha OHV G.R.A.N.T. Initiative	motorized trails	www.yamaha-motor.com/outdoor/OHV_Grants/OHVGRANTS_%20Guidlines_Application.pdf

Appendix

Inventory and Analysis Maps

Natural Infrastructure Inventory Map

Integrated List of Non-Attaining Streams

Ecological Infrastructure Inventory Map

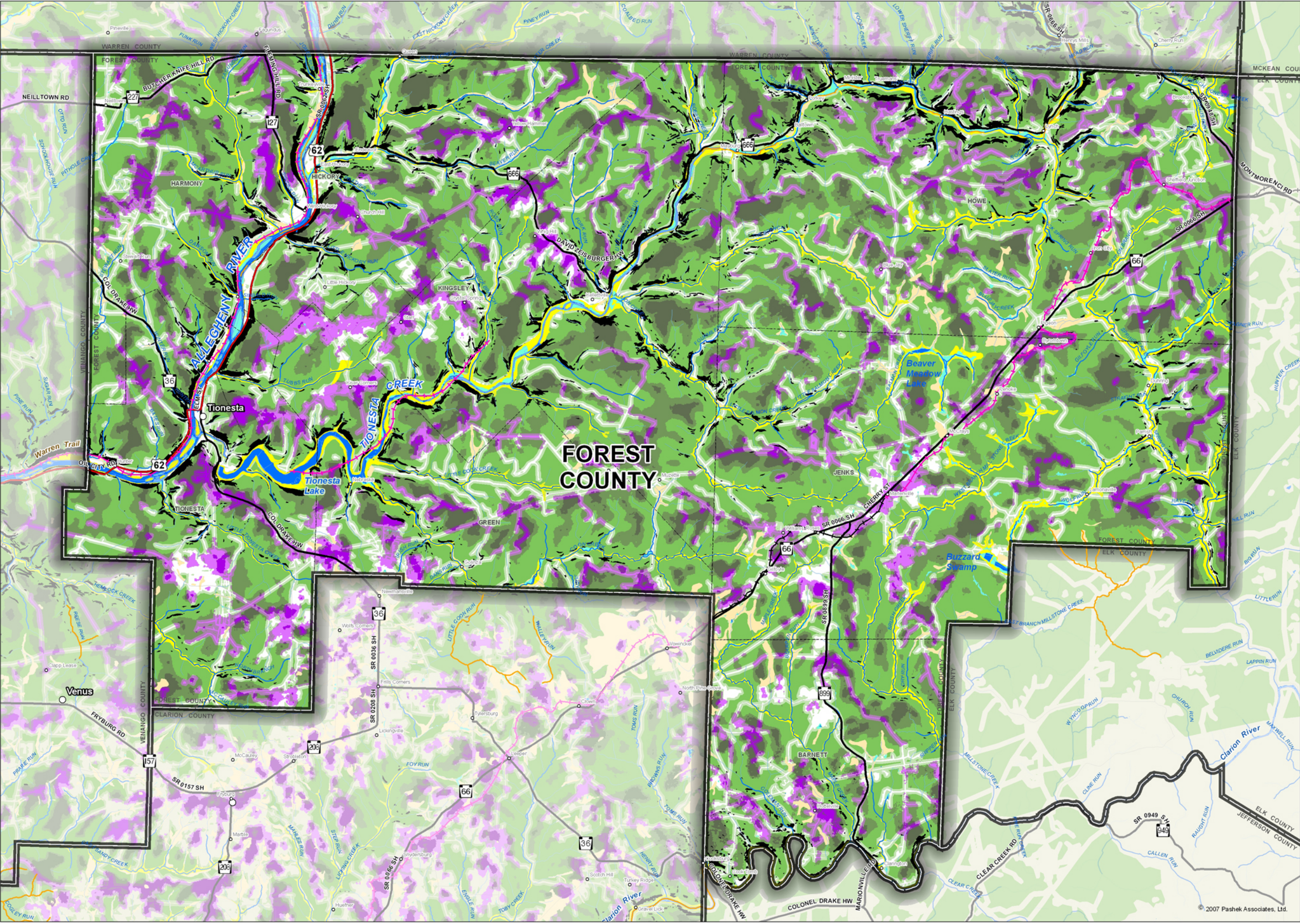
Recreation Opportunities Map

Cultural & Historic Resources Map

Population Density Map

Natural Systems Greenways Plan

Recreation and Transportation Greenways Plan

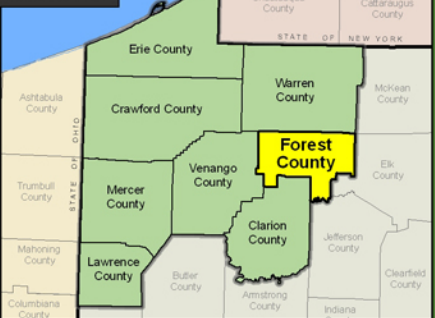


Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways Plan

for

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Clarion County | Lawrence County |
| Crawford County | Mercer County |
| Erie County | Venango County |
| Forest County | Warren County |

KEY MAP

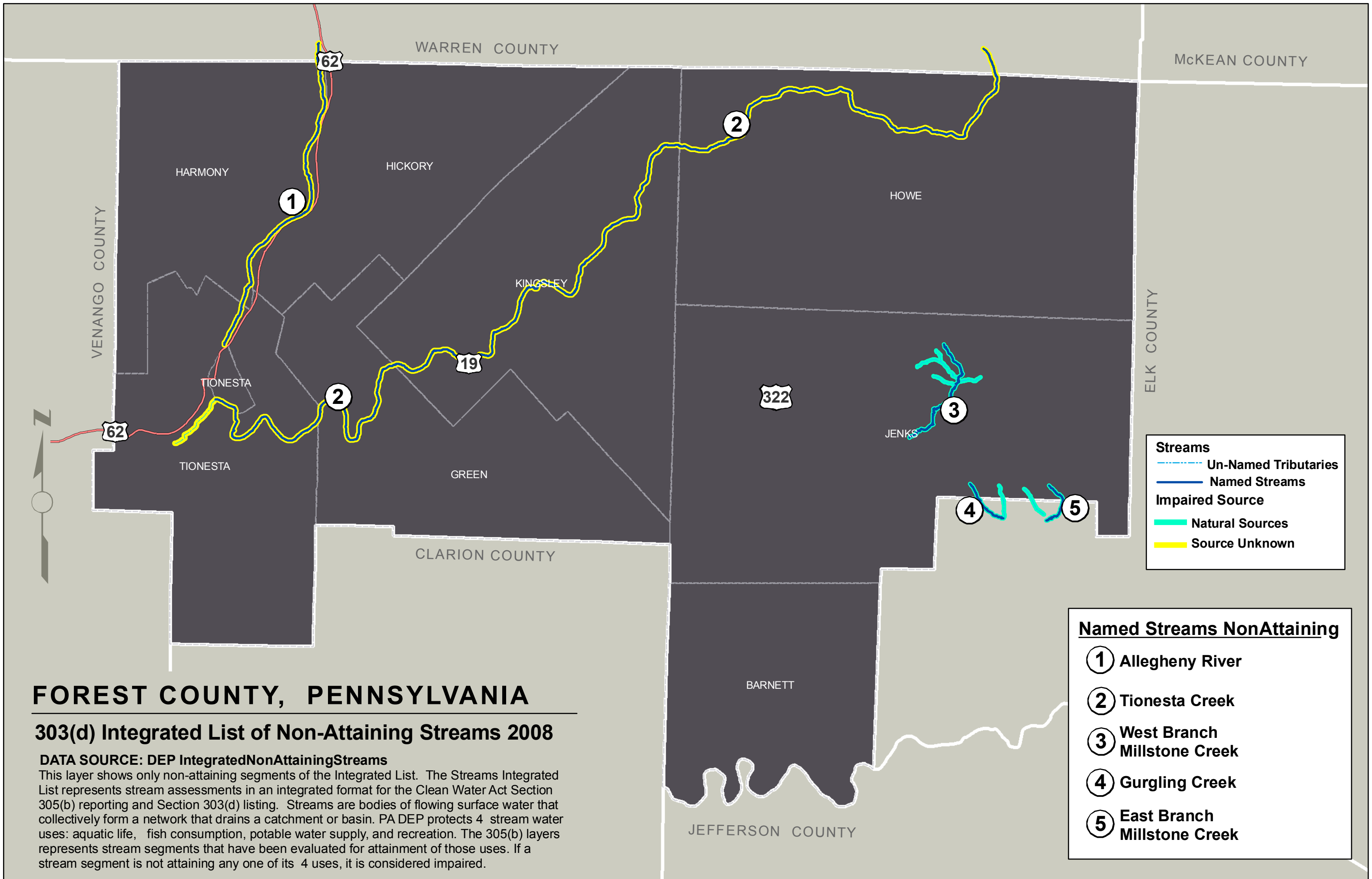


LEGEND

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| County Boundary | Municipal Boundary |
| Lake | Interstate |
| River | PA State Route |
| Streams | US Highway |
- Sensitive Environmental Features**
- Floodplain
FEMA - 100 Year Floodplain
 - Wetland
National Wetland Inventory
 - Hydric Soils
NRCS Soils - County Hydric List
 - Interior Forest Patches
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program
 - Forest Blocks
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program
 - Slope > 25%
USGS Digital Elevation Model
 - Impaired Streams - DEP Streams 305(b)
- Topographic Position Index**
- Upper Slope
 - Ridge
- Jenness, J. 2006. Topographic Position Index (tpi_jen.avx) extension for ArcView 3.x, v. 1.3a. Jenness Enterprises. Available at: <http://www.jennessent.com/arcviewtpi.htm>.
- Data Source:**
ESRI 2005 Street Map USA Data
US Geologic Survey (USGS)
Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA)
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
US Army Corps of Engineers - National Wetland Inventory (NWI)
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Soil Data Mart
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Pashek Associates
makes no claims to
the accuracy of
this data.



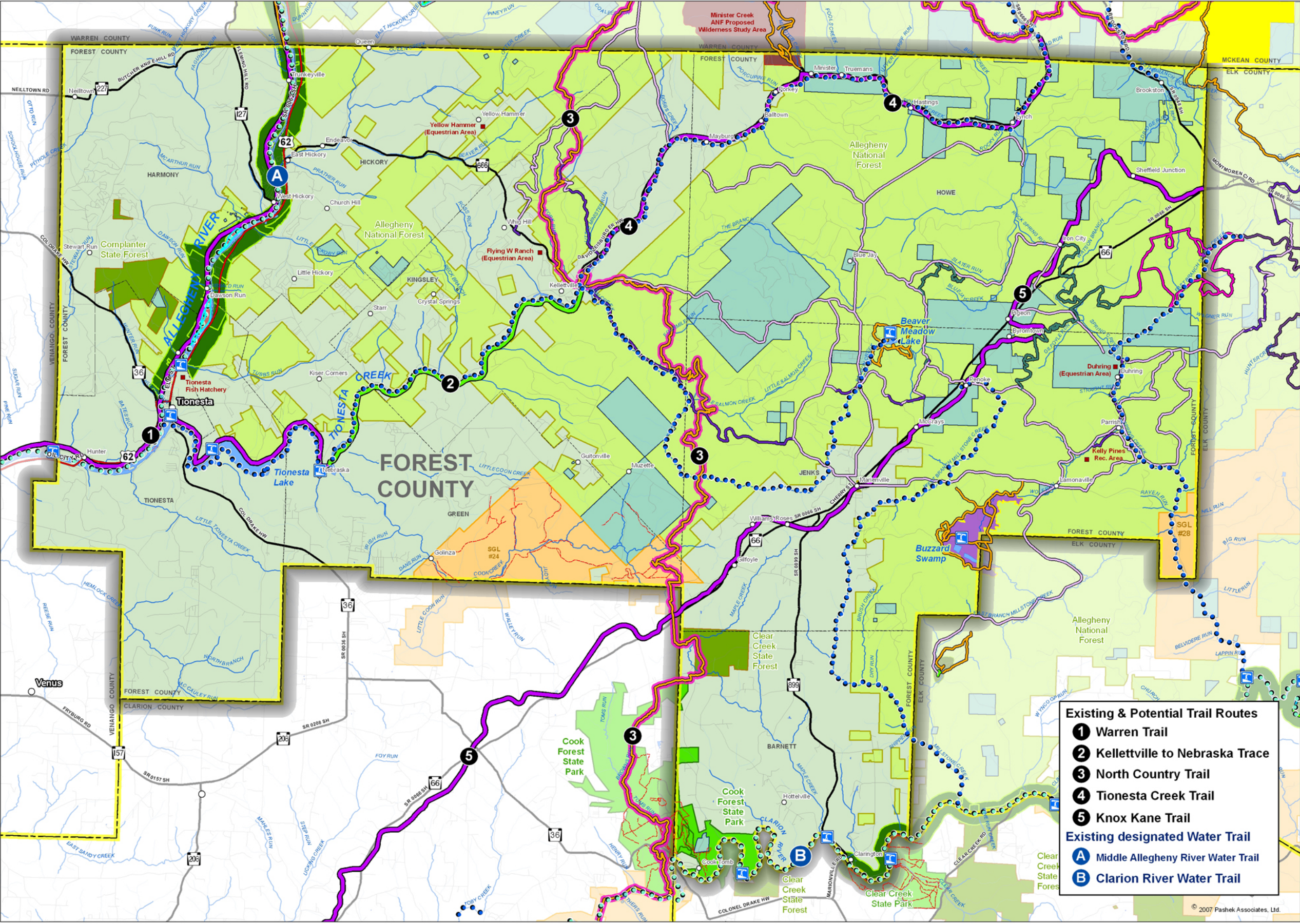


Northwest PA Greenways Plan
Forest County Natural Heritage Inventory

NHI #	NHI Name	Description
1	South Branch Tionesta Creek	South Branch Tionesta Creek and adjacent wetland habitat that supports 8 animal species of special
2	Tionesta Creek at Minister	stream habitat that supports an animal species of special concern
3	Hickory Creek	aquatic habitat in Hickory Creek that supports 4 animal species of special concern
4	Pithole Creek	well forested watershed provides potential habitat for rare plants and animals
5	Stewart Run Swamps	beaver meadows and swamps provide potential habitat for rare plants and animals
6	Allegheny River, Venango County	The Allegheny River and its floodplain supports critical populations of numerous species of rare animals and plants
7	Swamp Forest Natural Area	Bureau of State Parks Natural Area containing an old-growth Hemlock Palustrine Forest community at the headwaters of Browns Run.
8	Lynch	Stream and forest habitat that supports two dragonfly species and one fish species of special concern.
9	Spring Creek	Section of Spring Creek and adjacent beaver impoundment and forest that provide habitat for four dragonfly species of special concern.
10	Clarion River at Cook Forest	Aquatic habitat that supports seven odonate species of special concern
11	Millstone Creek	Aquatic habitat supporting 3 rare aquatic species and a dragonfly species of special concern.
12	County Line	Section of the Wild and Scenic designated Allegheny River that provides habitat for six freshwater mussel species and one vertebrate species of conservation concern.
13	Middle Allegheny River	Section of the Wild and Scenic designated Allegheny River that provides habitat for eight freshwater mussel species and five fish species.
14	Little Tionesta Creek Confluence	Section of the Wild and Scenic designated Allegheny River that provides habitat for two animal species of special concern.
15	Tionesta Creek Confluence	Section of the Allegheny River that provides habitat for Red-head Pondweed, a Pennsylvania-rare plant species.
16	East Hickory Creek	Stream and forest habitat that supports three odonate species of concern.
17	Lower Tionesta Creek	Section of the Allegheny River that provides habitat for Long-solid Mussel and Round Pigtoe Mussel.
18	Mayburg	Section of Tionesta Creek that provides habitat for three aquatic species of conservation concern.
19	Iron City Bog	Sphagnum-dominated seepage wetland occurring in a mid-elevation saddle.
20	Brookston	Roadside ditch and adjacent wet area providing habitat for a population of queen of the prairie, a Pennsylvania-rare plant species.

Northwest PA Greenways Plan
Forest County Natural Heritage Inventory

NHI #	NHI Name	Description
21	McCrays Pond	Man-made impoundment and adjacent bog habitat that support populations of Comet Darner Dragonfly and Bog Sedge.
22	Clarion River at Clarington	Aquatic habitat that supports six odonate species of special concern
23	Buzzard Swamp	Area containing a number of diverse habitats that support four odonate species and seven butterfly species of conservation concern.
24	Forest Cathedral Natural Area	Bureau of State Parks Natural Area containing old-growth Hemlock - White Pine forest.
25	Hottelville	Riparian forest habitat supporting Large Toothwort, a plant species of conservation concern in Pennsylvania.
26	Seldom Seen Corners	Roadside habitat that supports two butterfly species of conservation concern.
27	Branch Trail	Forested habitat that supports a population of Harris' Checkerspot Butterfly, a species of conservation concern.
28	Cashup Road	Habitat for American Columbo, a plant species of special concern.
29	Stewart Run	Habitat for American Columbo, a plant species of special concern.
30	Sibbald Run Mouth	Old-field habitat supporting a healthy, mature Butternut, a tree species dramatically declining due to an introduced fungus.
31	Salmon Creek	Stream and forest habitat that supports six dragonfly species of special concern.
32	Kellettville	Section of Tionesta Creek that provides habitat for Round Pigtoe Mussel.
33	Minister Creek	Stream and forest habitat that supports five odonate species and one fish species of special concern.
34	TOMS RUN	Exceptional value stream with potential for supporting rare animals
35	HEMLOCK CREEK	An exceptional value stream with potential for rare plants and animals
36	CLARION RIVER	The Clarion River supports several plant and animal species of concern
37	CLARION RIVER	The Clarion River supports plant and animal species of concern

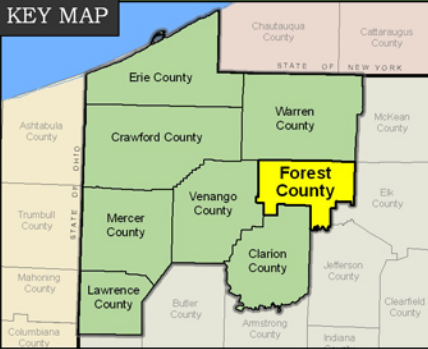


Northwest Pennsylvania
Greenways Plan

for

- Clarion County
- Crawford County
- Erie County
- Forest County**
- Lawrence County
- Mercer County
- Venango County
- Warren County

KEY MAP



LEGEND

- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Urban Areas
- Lake / Reservoir
- River
- Interstate
- PA State Route
- US Highway
- Active Railroad
- PAFBC Access Points
- DCNR Managed Land

State Park

Pennsylvania State Forest

Wild & Scenic River Corridor

County & Local Parks

State Game Land

Allegheny National Forest (ANF)

ANF Wilderness Area

ANF Wilderness Study Area

Other Managed Land - Private

Buzzard Swamp Wildlife Management Area
- Existing & Proposed Trails

Existing Trail

Potential Trail

Existing North Country Trail

State Park / State Game Land Trails

PA Fish & Boat designated Water Trail

PA Canoeable Streams
- Allegheny National Forest Trails

ATV Trail

Full-time Snowmobile Trail

Bank Fishing Trail

Full-time ATV / Snowmobile Trail

Hiking Trail

Joint-use Snowmobile Trail

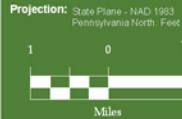
Motorized Bike Trail

Pathway

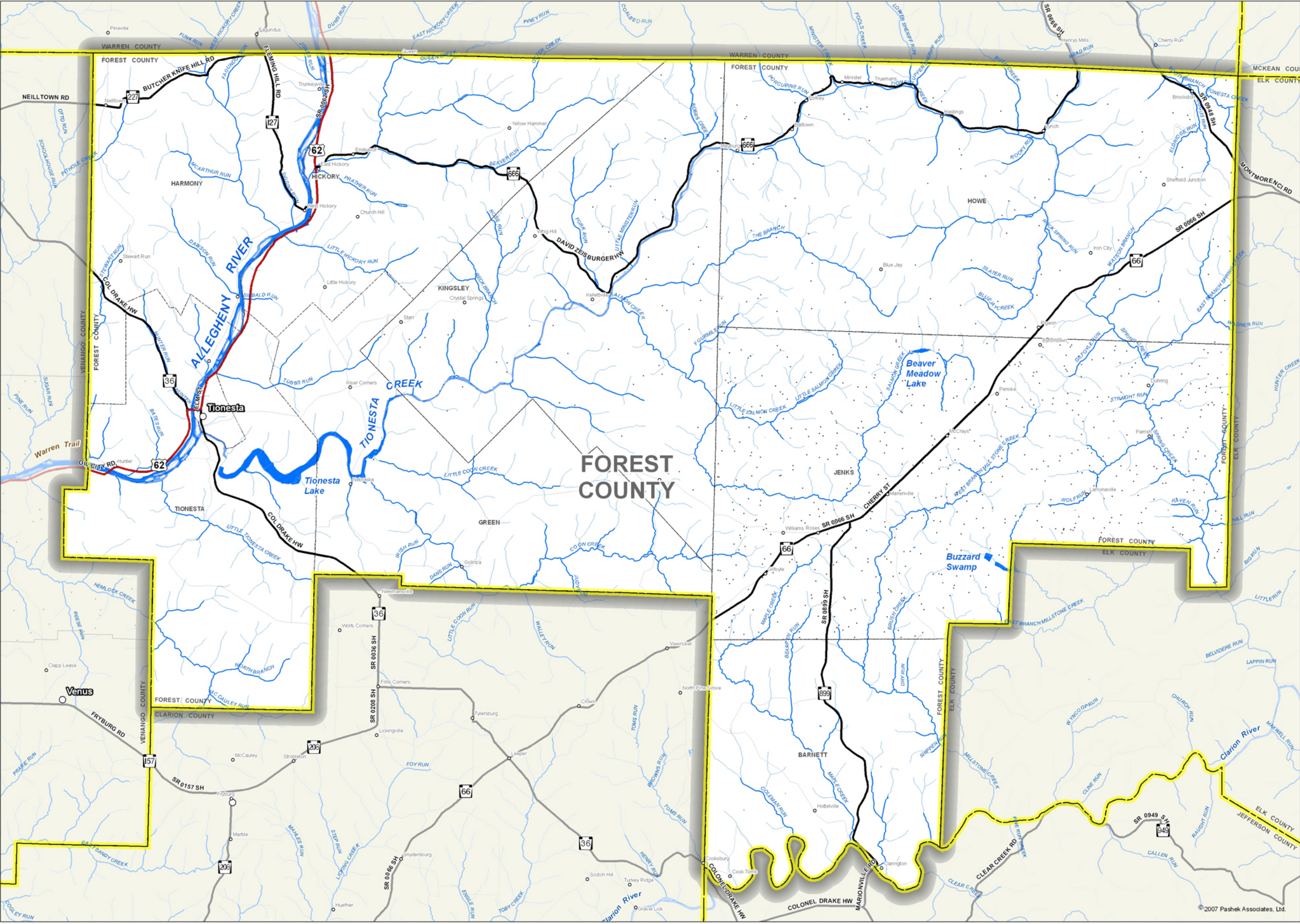
Cross-country Skiing Trail

- Existing & Potential Trail Routes**
- 1 Warren Trail
 - 2 Kellettsville to Nebraska Trace
 - 3 North Country Trail
 - 4 Tionesta Creek Trail
 - 5 Knox Kane Trail
- Existing designated Water Trail**
- A Middle Allegheny River Water Trail
 - B Clarion River Water Trail

Data Source:
ESRI 2005 Data
USGS
PASCA
PennDOT



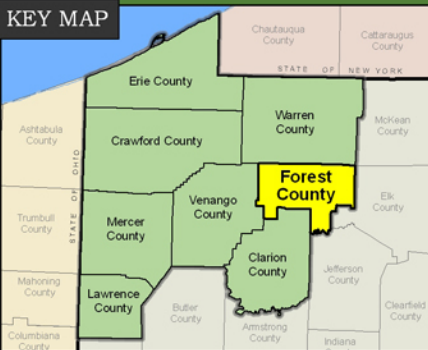
Pashek Associates makes no claim to the accuracy of this data.



Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways Plan

for

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Clarion County | Lawrence County |
| Crawford County | Mercer County |
| Erie County | Venango County |
| Forest County | Warren County |



LEGEND

- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Lake / Reservoir
- River
- Stream
- Interstate
- PA State Route
- US Highway

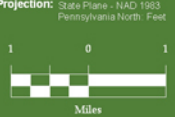
Population Density

1 dot = 5 people

Based on 2006 Population Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau
www.census.gov

Data Source:
ESRI 2005 Street Map USA Data
US Geologic Survey (USGS)
Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA)
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
US Army Corps of Engineers - National Wetland Inventory (NWI)
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Soil Data Mart
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

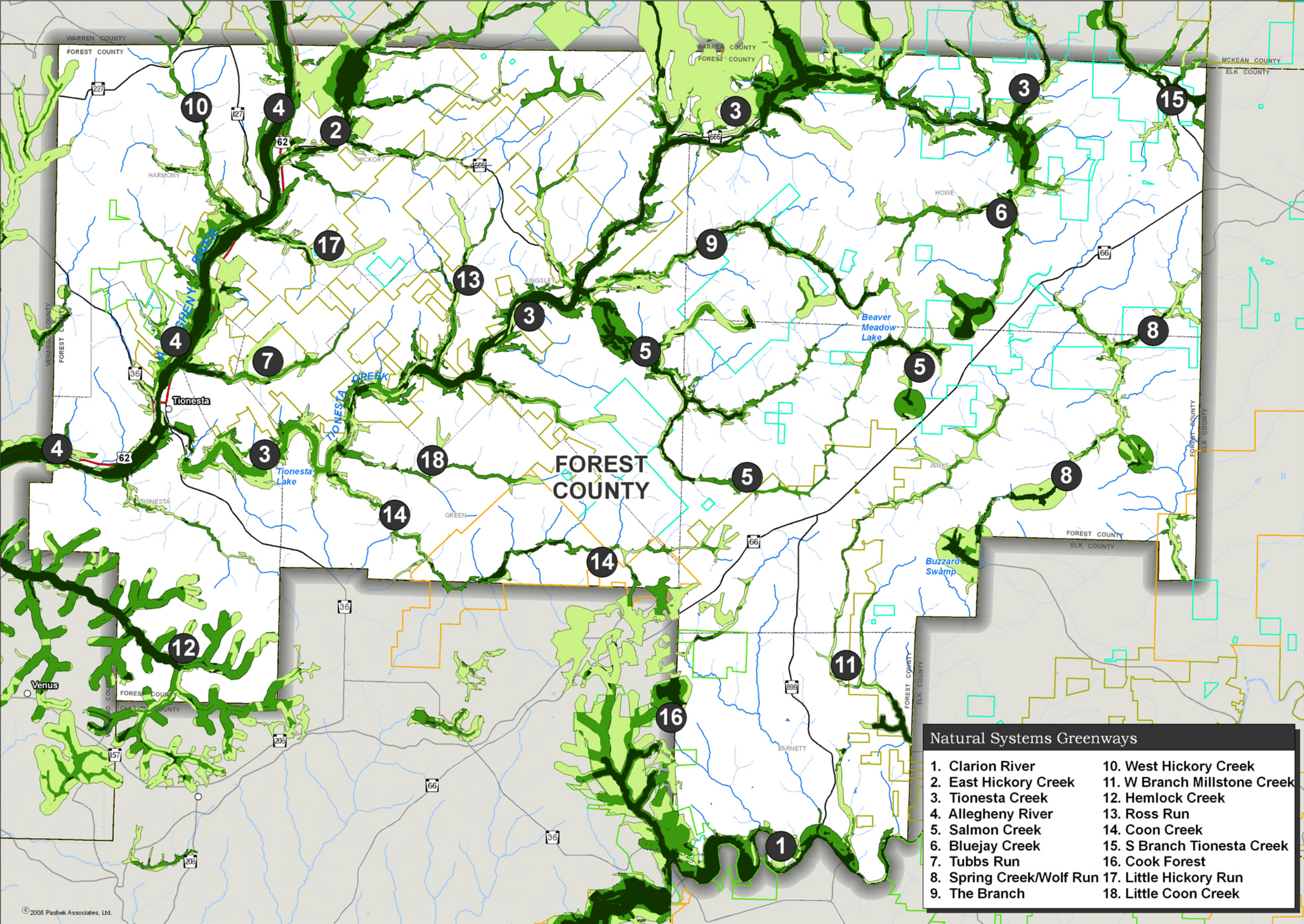
Pashek Associates
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this data.



Population Density

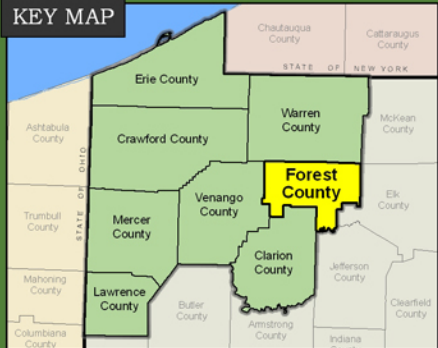


Forest County



Northwest Pennsylvania
Greenways Plan

for
Clarion County Lawrence County
Crawford County Mercer County
Erie County Venango County
Forest County Warren County



LEGEND

- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Lake
- River / Major Stream
- Tributary
- TRANSPORTATION
 - Interstate
 - PA State Route
 - US Highway

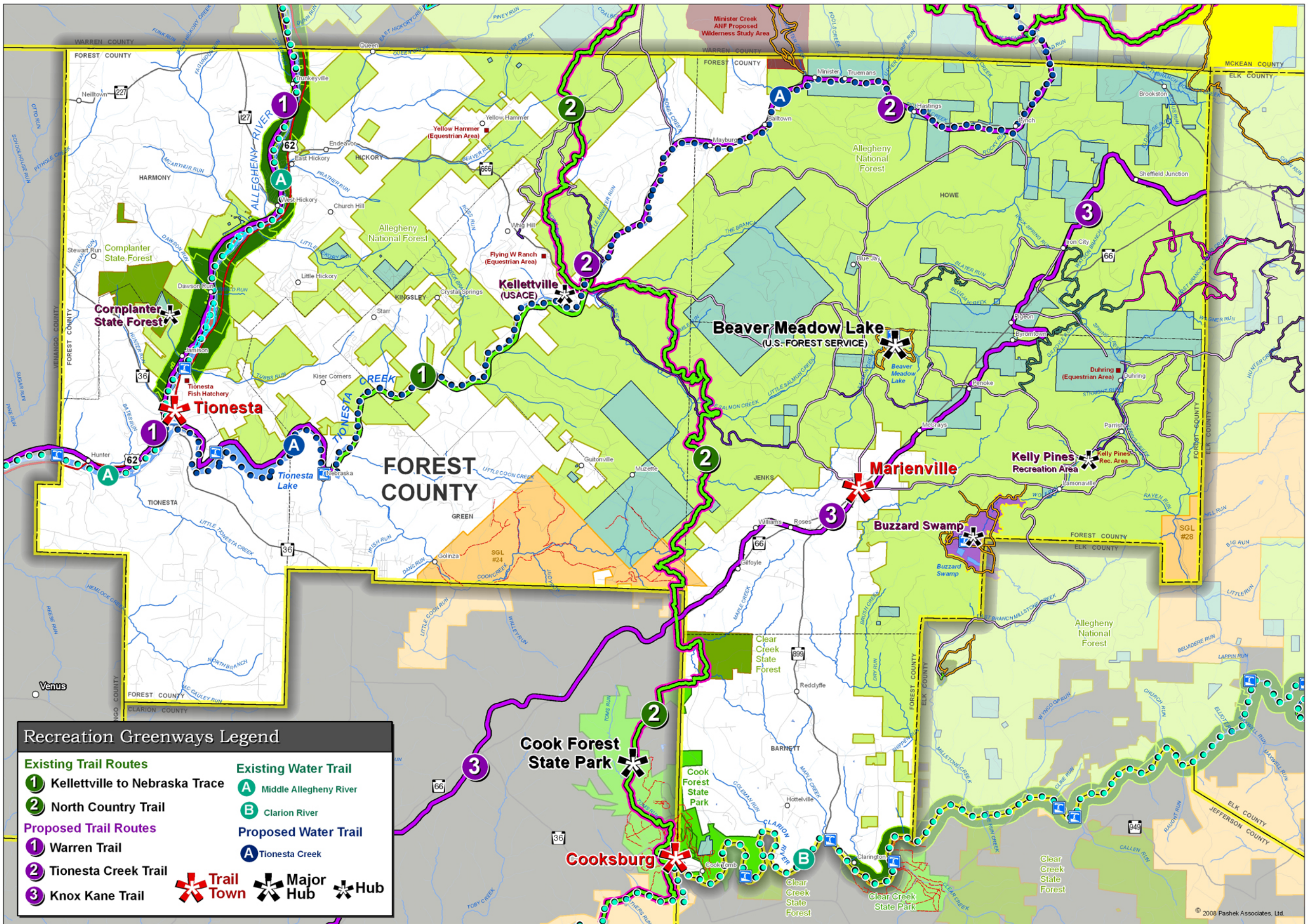
Managed Land (DCNR Data)

- Allegheny National Forest
- State Park
- County Park
- State Game Land
- Other Managed

NATURAL SYSTEMS SENSITIVITY

- Exceptional
- High
- Moderate

- Natural Systems Greenways
- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Clarion River | 10. West Hickory Creek |
| 2. East Hickory Creek | 11. W Branch Millstone Creek |
| 3. Tionesta Creek | 12. Hemlock Creek |
| 4. Allegheny River | 13. Ross Run |
| 5. Salmon Creek | 14. Coon Creek |
| 6. Bluejay Creek | 15. S Branch Tionesta Creek |
| 7. Tubbs Run | 16. Cook Forest |
| 8. Spring Creek/Wolf Run | 17. Little Hickory Run |
| 9. The Branch | 18. Little Coon Creek |



Recreation Greenways Legend

Existing Trail Routes

1

Kellettville to Nebraska Trace

2

North Country Trail

Proposed Trail Routes

1

Warren Trail

2

Tionesta Creek Trail

3

Knox Kane Trail

Existing Water Trail

A

Middle Allegheny River

B

Clarion River

Proposed Water Trail

A

Tionesta Creek

Trail Town

Major Hub

Hub

Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways Plan

for

Clarion CountyLawrence County

Crawford CountyMercer County

Erie CountyVenango County

Forest CountyWarren County

KEY MAP

LEGEND

County Boundary

Municipal Boundary

Urban Areas

Lake / Reservoir

River

Interstate

PA State Route

US Highway

PAFBC Access Points

DCNR Managed Land

State Park

Pennsylvania State Forest

Wild & Scenic River Corridor

County & Local Parks

State Game Land

Allegheny National Forest (ANF)

ANF Wilderness Area

ANF Wilderness Study Area

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Existing & Proposed Trails

Existing Trail

Proposed Trail

Existing North Country Trail

State Park / State Game Land Trails

Existing Water Trail

Proposed Water Trail

Allegheny National Forest Trails

ATV Trail

Full-time Snowmobile Trail

Bank Fishing Trail

Full-time ATV / Snowmobile Trail

Hiking Trail

Joint-use Snowmobile Trail

Motorized Bike Trail

Pathway

Cross-country Skiing Trail

Data Source:

ESRI 2005 Data

USGS

PASCA

PennDOT

Projection: State Plane - NAD 1983

Pennsylvania North Feet

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Recreation & Transportation Greenways - Draft

PASHEK ASSOCIATES

Forest County

