

# Pocono Forest & Waters Conservation Landscape SUCCESS STORY

By: The Greater Hazleton  
Rails to Trails Greater  
Hazleton Area Civic  
Partnership

## Health Barren Signage

### SUMMARY

The Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails (GHRT) Interpretive Sign project helps to educate the users of the trail of the many different facets of unique environmental areas, and heritage of the trail. The signs tell the story of Heath Barrens and how they were created in addition to the flora & fauna to be found in the Barrens, The signage also educates the reader to what a watershed is, the Jeddo Mine Tunnel and Acid Mine Drainage and ancient fossils found while developing the trail. The signage also tells the story of the early railroads and the Ashmore Round Table.



### CHALLENGE

The Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails is blessed with two rare Heath Barrens, a large watershed adjacent to the trail, an area that drains AMD to the Jeddo tunnel, a native Brook Trout stream in addition to a rich History in the early Railroads and the mining of Anthracite Coal. Presently a large number of the users who use the trail as a connection to the outdoors do not know about the outdoors, the Heritage or even what AMD is. This project, the installation of 6 interpretive signs will help the general public, our school children, out of town visitors to the trail and many of the over 35,000 visits each year to learn more about the outdoors, the animals that live there, the flora & fauna and our rich coal mining history. This project is making the public know about the importance of enhancing and conserving our local natural resources and recreational areas.

### PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

**Delaware & Lehigh National  
Heritage Corridor**

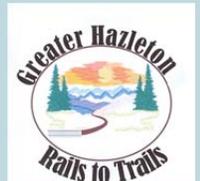
**Friends of the Nescopeck**

**North Branch Land Trust**

**Nescopeck Creek State Park**

**PA Department of  
Conservation and Natural  
Resources**

**Pennsylvania Environmental  
Council**



Committed to the future of rural communities.

## SOLUTION

Our project is already fulfilling the need of educating the general public and users of the GHRT by the calls that we are receiving regarding the three interpretive signs already installed in addition to the comments we are receiving looking for more detail about the subject matter. This project provides the resources in the form of the signage to increase the community awareness of the need for conservation, restoration and the use of our Natural Heritage to increase the green economic benefits to our area.

## RESULTS

The quantifiable statistics are not available at this time but after a year of monitoring the GHRT volunteers will be able to give a good estimate of the increase in trail users brought on by this project. The signs will be monitored by infrared counters to see how many people stop to read the signs. In addition, school groups, social clubs, and educational walks will be scheduled and guided by the volunteers of the GHRT centered on the topics of the signs.

### Contact

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