

SUCCESS STORY

D&H Rail-Trail Gate

SUMMARY

Our project was installation of an access-control gate at the start of our trail in Simpson, Fell Township. This section of trail parallels the Lackawanna River and has both historical and connectivity significance. Due to ownership issues and unimproved railroad bridges, this one mile section of trail was unused for many years leaving it vulnerable to illegal dumping, vehicle use and vegetation overgrowth. After ownership issues were resolved this became an important connection linking the D&H Rail-Trail to the LRHT. We now have the challenge to protect this area from future illegal activity.

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Lackawanna Heritage Valley

--Matching funds

--Clean-up Volunteers

--Trail Management Partners

Fabcor, Inc.

--Trail Grading

Linde Enterprises

--Trail Restoration

--Trail Clean-up

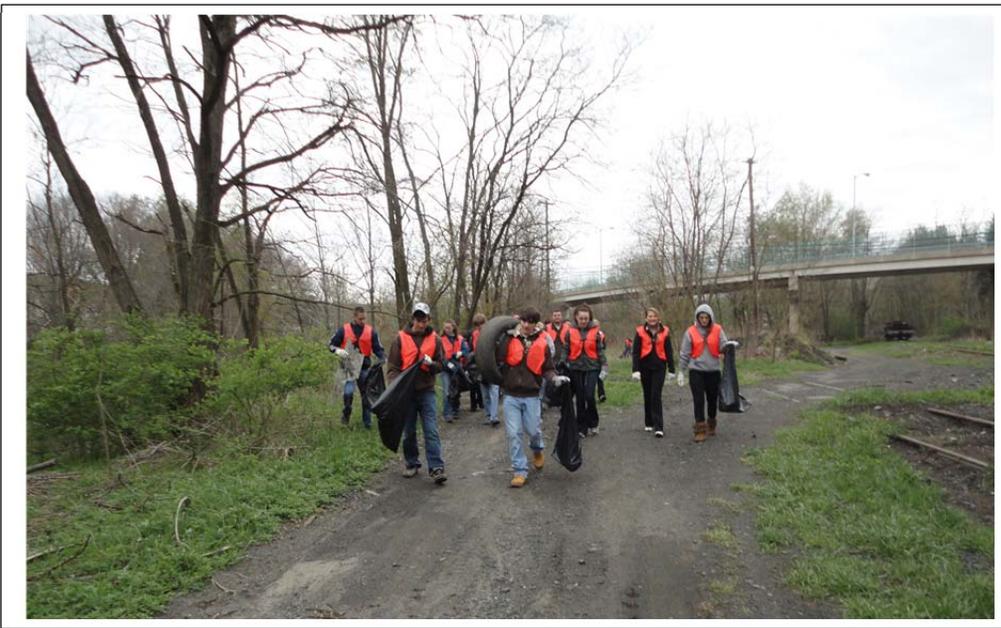
--Access-Control

Northeast PA Sno-Trails

--Trail Clean-up

Pennsylvania Environmental Council

--Provide Dumpsters for Trash Pick-up



CHALLENGE

The Challenge: To stop dumping and vehicle access along an unused overgrown section of trail soon to become a major connection between the D&H Rail-Trail and Lackawanna River Heritage Trail.

Maintain our identity by marking the transition from the Lackawanna Heritage Trail to the D&H Rail-Trail



Rail-Trail Council of NEPA



Committed to the future of rural communities.

SOLUTION

The solution to our problem was installation of a control gate. This also jump started a community effort to improve this section of trail. Volunteers working with Lackawanna Heritage Valley and Pennsylvania Environmental Council removed over 10 tons of debris including 121 tires from the area. A local contractor donated manpower and heavy machinery to grade, improve drainage, and clear brush from the trail. NEPA Sno-Trails re-established the shoulders of the trail by clearing brush. The trail is now open and serves as a direct connection between two major trail systems and **eliminating the need for a bypass trail**. Installation of the gate was a critical part of this success story and in addition helps to maintain our identity by marking the transition from LRHT to the D&H Rail-Trail.

RESULTS

As part of the 2012 Great American Cleanup and with the help of around 100 volunteers, over 10 tons of debris and 121 tires were removed from the project area. Approximately 0.5 acres of knotweed were controlled along one mile of trail, over 2 seasons. An additional cleanup in 2013, removed an additional few tons of debris. Brush was trimmed back and chipped along almost 2 miles of trail. Approximately 0.5 mile of trail was graded with drainage improvements.

It has been demonstrated on other areas of our trail, that an access-control gate is a valuable deterrent to illegal activity such as dumping. The trail is now open and serves as a direct connection between 2 major trail systems. It eliminates the need for a bypass trail (the O&W), which was in need of safety improvements. With ownership issues resolved, further trail improvements can proceed. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority and the Rail-Trail Council are now moving forward with a trail management agreement on this trail connector.

Contact

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