

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Awarded \$960,000

BY DCNR

EASTON - The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) awarded \$960,000 to the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (DLNHC) through their Community Conservation & Partnership Program on Wednesday January 11, 2023. This award draws down funding from the \$3M allocated by DCNR as part of a recent funding announcement for the D&L Trail through the Lehigh Valley. This award covers half of the estimated project cost to assess, design, and construct the D&L Trail in Catasauqua north of Race Street with landowner, Lehigh County. This grant is in conjunction with funds awarded to Hanover Township and the City of Allentown for D&L Trail.

"Closing the D&L Trail gap between Allentown and Catasauqua is now within reach," says DLNHC Director of Trails and Conservation, Mandy Tolino. "This funding is a critical piece of the puzzle to allow trail users to travel from Bristol to Black Diamond, connecting them to over 100 miles of natural and industrial heritage, and bolstering the economic opportunities available to our Trail Towns and Trail Friendly Businesses."

The original commitment was part of a larger funding announcement of \$7 million in November of 2022. Then Senator Pat Browne secured \$2 million through the 2022-23 state budget, and DCNR committed to an additional \$3 million for the canal side to close trail gaps in Catasauqua, Hanover Township, and Allentown. The remainder of the combined \$7 million was awarded to Lehigh County through a grant of \$2 million to be matched by county funds for assistance with land acquisition for future D&L Trail development on the west side of the river that contains rail trail.

Both sections of D&L Trail are part of the larger D&L Trail: Lehigh Valley Gap, a stretch along each side of the Lehigh River between the Route 329 bridge and the Hamilton Street bridge following the canal towpath and former railbed.

The section in Catasauqua north of Race Street, for which this \$960,000 has been awarded, will help in the effort to connect two significant portions of D&L Trail along the eastern side of the Lehigh River, creating 140 miles of continuous open trail through the five counties that make up the National Heritage Corridor.

"Knowing we have been officially awarded this grant is an exciting next step for the growing momentum to get the remaining D&L Trail gaps designed, permitted, and constructed," says DLNHC Executive Director Claire Sadler. "We are ensuring we have the staffing and funding in place to support the trail landowners and get the Lehigh Valley Gap closed."

Once fully connected through Luzerne County, the D&L Trail will link Wilkes-Barre to Bristol with over 165 miles, making it the longest multi-use trail in Pennsylvania.

Closure Of One Walk-in Covid Testing Site

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Lamont McClure, the Northampton County DCED, Emergency Management Services and Lehigh Valley Hospital-Coordinated Health Allentown Hospital (LVH-CHA) announce that one of the walk-in COVID-19 testing sites will close on January 20, 2023.

The site at 2300 Highland Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18020 will close for testing after January 20th. Walk-in COVID-19 tests for County residents and employees are still available at:

Palmer Township Express Care
3701 Corriere Road, Suite 14
Easton, PA 18045
Monday – Friday: 8AM – 8PM
Saturday – Sunday: 8AM – 8PM

A Physician's order is not required for a COVID-19 test. Only residents of Northampton County will have the cost covered by the County if they do not have health coverage. All testing will be through Health Network Lab Medicine unless insurance requires an alternate laboratory. Participants should bring a photo ID and their insurance card, if they have one, with them to the testing site.

"COVID-19 is still causing illness in our communities," says Lamont McClure. "I want to thank our partners at LVH-CHA for their continued dedication in making these testing services available to Northampton County residents and employees."

The walk-in testing center is a collaboration between the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development, Emergency Management Services and LVH-CHA.

COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters are available by appointment for those six-months-and-older at the LVH-Hecktown Oaks Hospital Campus, 3780 Hecktown Road, Easton, PA between 10AM and 6PM on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.

To schedule an appointment call the hotline 833-584-6283. The hotline is open Monday-Friday from 8:30AM-5:30PM.

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Winter Bird Walk

January 21, 2023

11 AM

Grand Central
Environmental
Education Center

891 Grand Central Road
Pen Argyl, PA 18072



An event for all ages—bring the family!

Join the Grand Central Habitat team on a 1-mile long walk (must wear sneakers or hiking boots and be able to walk on various terrain) in search of migratory birds.

Please dress for the weather and bring your camera!

*in the event of bad weather, we will cancel. Please RSVP

Free Event!

Email afors1@wm.com

Or call GCSL Community Line

1.888.373.2917

