

# Get involved!

For more information about the Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership, or to volunteer your time, talent, or expertise, please contact:

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Major sponsors include the PA Dept of



Conservation and Natural Resources, Luzerne County, and the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor! Show your community spirit and volunteer!

## Support Your Trail

Show your support for the Rails to Trails Project. Contact the Civic Partnership to find out when the next hike is planned, or send a tax-deductible contribution to:

Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership  
"Rails to Trails Fund"  
1 S. Church St., Suite 200  
Hazleton, PA 18201

### Mail In Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation

\_\_ \$5      \_\_ \$10      \_\_ \$25

\_\_ \$50      \_\_ \$100      \_\_ Other



# Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails



A project of *The Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership & Mountain Council of Governments* in conjunction with the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce



## Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails

The Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails is one of the connecting links to the spine of the Delaware Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Trail system. After a hunter discovered coal in the 1820's, supposedly when digging for ground hogs, mining operations began in and around Hazleton. As coal was beginning to be mined in such places as Hazleton, Beaver Meadows, Colerain and Tresckow the need for a railroad to carry the coal down the mountain to Mauch Chunk, now Jim Thorpe was paramount. In 1833, a young man by the name of Ario Pardee, employed with the Engineering Corps of the Delaware and Railroad Canal Co. was sent to Beaver Meadows for surveying to develop the Beaver Meadows Railroad to carry coal to Much Chunk on the Lehigh River. As the coal industry grew in the area, so did the village of Hazleton and the number of railroad tracks and lines. Other areas outside of Hazleton including Beaver Brook,

Jeansville, Ebervale, Jeddo, Freeland, Upper Lehigh, Tresckow, Harleigh, and Filmore (Eckley) had spurs to the main line. Eckley is now listed on the National Register as the Eckley Miners' Village and is administered by the PA Historical and Museum Commission as a living museum. The main street of Eckley will eventually become part of the Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails as it follows railroad beds from Hazleton to Eckley and eventually to the Lehigh River. The first seven miles of the Greater Hazleton Rails-to-Trails follows the abandoned rail bed of the Delaware Susquehanna and Schuylkill (DS&S) line started in 1842. In the early (1900's) the DS & S became the Lehigh Valley Railroad. When completed, the 16 mile trail will pass the Hazleton City Reservoir through pitch pine barrens and offers the user a multiple of experiences including spectacular scenery, unique environmental areas, rare vegetation, scars of past strip mining, green fields brought back from the ravages of the past, active on-going strip mining,

and Eckley Miner's Village where the visitor can experience life as

was in a coal mining patch town in the 1800's. The trail user will also experience many types of wild life along the trail including deer, bear, ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, fox, coyote to mention a few.

At this time, the main trailhead is located off of SR 93 in Hazleton. To reach the trailhead from Interstate Route 81 take the exit marked the Greater Hazleton Area Chamber of

Commerce Beltway and travel east to its termination at SR 93. Make a left at the traffic light and travel 111 yards to the entrance to the Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails.



