



Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission

Annual Report

2010

Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission

Day Street Community Center

15 Day Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

570-426-1512

www.srosrc.org



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Above: Dansbury Trailhead, looking north, October 2010

Cover: Ribbon Cutting at the Dansbury Trailhead Grand Opening & Dedication, September 25, 2010





Winter's late afternoon sun trickles golden in Stroud Township's Big Pines Park.

Mission & Methods

Building vibrant communities and enriching lives through quality open space, parks, and recreation

Mission

The Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission provides essential public services of regional economic stimulation, environmental stewardship, and social stability through healthful recreational and cultural programming and responsible stewardship of parks and open space.

The municipalities of Stroudsburg, East Stroudsburg, and Stroud Township, Pennsylvania, along with the school districts of Stroudsburg Area and East Stroudsburg Area, created the Commission to plan, protect, and develop public recreation resources. As such, the Commission is responsible for implementing the Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Plan, adopted in 2002.

The Commission Board consists of eight members; two from each of the municipalities and one from each school district. It employs an Executive Director, Recreation Director, Recreation Associate, and various seasonal programming staff; and coordinates many important contributions to the parks through its Volunteers in Parks program.

Work Ethic

Integrity: moral soundness in all business, staff, and client interactions; revealing steadfastness to truth, purpose, responsibility, and trust.

Excellence: superior workmanship, highest professional conduct; exceptional quality productions in all endeavors.

Innovation: nurturing personal and professional creativity; developing and introducing successful new concepts in program services design, content, and delivery.

Letter to the Stakeholders

from Sonia C. Wolbert, Chair



Dear friends and supporters,

The span of 2010 brought the end of a successful year, decade, and era—and such a short time to have accomplished so much. This year our inaugural Chairperson stepped down from her position to spend more time with her family but continues to contribute to the Commission in so many ways. “Thank you” does not come close to expressing our gratitude to Samantha Holbert who saw this Commission from its inception to where we are today. Certainly without her knowledge and contribution we would not be where we are today.

The most exciting accomplishment of this year was the opening of the trailhead at Dansbury Park. This is the end of the beginning... it represents what we have been working so hard to accomplish and it is now here in real life. This hidden gem in our region shows what beautiful nature exists right here in the middle of two busy downtowns. It’s a step away and you almost feel as if you are miles away taking in the beauty of the Brodhead and the nature all around. If you haven’t yet visited, be sure to stop by soon.

The Grand Opening of the trailhead was soon followed by more good news! Award of another grant to begin hard surfacing of the Levee from Veterans Bridge to the new trailhead: a step that will make this section of the Levee Loop Trail accessible to people of all abilities. We hope to begin this project in 2012!

Our Friends group has been hard at work spreading the news about the work we are doing. In January it hosted the First Annual Greenway Soireé and welcomed more than 60 community members as they discovered more about the Greenway Project. And as one of its first fundraising events, the Friends also hosted a “Martini Tasting” in October that also drew similar attendance. I encourage everyone to become a part of improving the quality of life in our region by becoming part of the Friends and help make our grand plans become a reality.

2010 was a year of accolades as well. Samantha Holbert received the PRPS Volunteerism Service Award and our Executive Director Tim Herd was presented with northeast Pennsylvania’s Environmental Leadership Award. Tim has also been hard at work educating Pennsylvanians about the possibilities through the Greenway Leadership Forum and Legislative Breakfast hosted in April and presenting at the Recreation and Parks Leadership Summit and National Trails Symposium.

We look forward to the coming summer when the renovated bath houses at Dansbury and Stroudsburg Park are opened, as well as all the great programs our fabulous staff has prepared for 2011. Be sure to check out everything that is available in *Stroud Region Connections*.

And finally, please join us at The Clubhouse Café at Glenbrook Country Club on Thursday, April 21, 2011 for the Friends’ Second Annual Greenway Soiree!

Positioning Recreation and Parks as an Essential Community Service

At the invitation of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society (PRPS), Executive Director Herd presented this topic to 100 invited leaders from the PRPS membership at the Recreation and Parks Leadership Summit held in September at Temple University, Philadelphia. Refined with a team of his peers, the following position paper examines the background and issues facing the parks and recreation profession, outlines the essential community services the profession provides, and recommends both statewide and local implementation steps.

During the industrial revolution, recreation and parks systems were first organized as essential services to address the quality of life issues derived from unhealthy living environments. However, in recent times, these services are perceived as only marginal to our daily lives.

Because parks, open space, and recreation are not commonly recognized as indispensable, reestablishing them as essential community services requires building political and community support. It is for this reason the paper was developed and is reprinted here.

Background & Issues

Communities where parks, greenways, trails, and recreational services play a vital role in the lives of their residents are invigorated places to live. These facilities and programs constitute a recreation and parks system that is considered an essential community service by those residents. By having this service provided, the community is more likely to experience continual regeneration of its physical, cultural, and historical aspects, which in turn leads to greater social opportunities. Such invigorated living contributes to a broad range of documented physical, mental, social, and spiritual benefits. This supports the concept of wellness defined by the National Wellness Institute as “an active process through which people become aware of, and make choices towards, a more successful existence.”

Pennsylvania residents understand this concept. Nearly two-thirds of them believe it is very or extremely important to build more greenways/trails and pedestrian and cycling paths between places of work, schools, and shopping areas. More than 80 percent feel that trails and greenways increase the value of nearby properties and nearly all believe that parks and natural areas exert a similar influence on property values.

A majority view the state’s landscapes, particularly near their homes, as vulnerable to undesirable change. Nearly 75 percent have rated environmental, conservation, and other recreation programs at parks and recreation areas as very or extremely important. (*Pennsylvania Outdoors: The Keystone for Healthy Living 2009-2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.*)

Although it is clear that Pennsylvania residents want the benefits associated with this essential community service, it is not being reflected in the operating budgets of recreation and parks systems. According to the 2010 National Economic Survey conducted by the National Recreation and

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Park Association of its professional members, almost 54 percent of the responding agencies have had their budgets reduced, with another 41 percent holding steady. Over half of the respondents expect additional reductions in fiscal year 2011. Finally, almost 60 percent reduced part-time staff resources for 2010 and almost 35 percent will experience full-time staff cuts.

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These numbers show that there is a disconnect between what our residents want and what they are being offered. Our representatives in government are elected to solve problems and improve the public good. Yet there exists a common misconception among many elected officials at all levels of government that the tangible values provided by recreation and parks systems are nonessential amenities that the public can do without in times of economic distress. Many officials hold to the erroneous belief that most or all of the benefits of a recreation and park system accrue to only those who use such services and that there are few, if any, spin-off benefits for society in general. This contrasts with their views about the merits of other social services, such as transportation, health, and police and fire protection. For these services, those same officials acknowledge large benefits to society beyond the direct users of those services. (*Concepts and Uses of the Benefits*

Approach to Leisure, Driver & Bruns; *Leisure Studies: Prospects for the Twenty-first Century*, 1999.)

These officials are also turning their backs on the historical significance of recreation and park systems' roles in solving societal problems. As early as the 18th century in Pennsylvania, recreation and parks systems were organized to address issues that sprouted from the booming industrial revolution, such as lack of natural environments in urban settings, lack of play areas for youth, and lack of acceptable recreation pursuits for adults. Governmental providers, including municipal recreation departments, created solutions to these issues, thereby establishing themselves as an essential community service. However, over time, this service began to be perceived as only marginal to our daily lives and less attention has been paid to the benefits provided by recreation and park systems.

Reestablishing recreation and parks systems as an essential community service will require building political and community support. Because the profession's contributions are not commonly recognized as indispensable, building that support will require leadership from recreation and parks professionals at the state, county, and local levels. A focus on educating both the public and its politically active members about the community benefits of a recreation and parks system will have to be a priority. These benefits also address the same essential issues that are facing today's 21st century communities and that public officials are elected to solve— 1) Developing Economic Prosperity, 2) Promoting Social Stability, and 3) Enabling Environmental Sustainability.

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Essential Community Issues

1. **Developing Economic Prosperity.** Many civic leaders are learning that there is a direct connection between the local economy and an active parks and recreation system. One main revenue generator is the tourism and recreation services industry. Preserving our natural environment stimulates a healthy economy and enhances the quality of life. When our economy thrives, it expands the tax base, whose additional resources can be invested toward meeting our most pressing problems.

- **Promoting Tourism and Providing Recreation Services.** People pay to play! Dollars follow tourists; tourists follow attractions. The main attractions are often dominated by the local natural assets, the recreation services industry, and its nonprofit partners in providing year-round



Live amongst nature: a billboard along Route 447 in Stroud Township promotes real estate in natural areas.

indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities—along with such enticing features as parks, lakes, beaches, trails, ski slopes, waterparks, festivals, tournaments, and cultural events.

- **Enhancing Business Viability.** Businesses depend on attracting and retaining qualified and committed employees, who want a vibrant community with a “high quality of life.” However that is defined, the availability of recreational services, parks, and open space is always a major component.

- **Enhancing Property Values.** Home buyers are often willing to spend a little extra for close proximity to parks and natural areas. Such enhanced property values contribute their share of higher taxes to the municipalities, which in turn can be used to offset the costs of acquiring or developing the natural area or park. Creating or rehabilitating parks can also spur an increase in the value of nearby commercial properties, as well as attract additional businesses and residents. (*Conservation: An Investment That Pays, The Trust for Public Land, Gies, 2009*)

- **Contributing to Lower Taxes.** An urban myth holds that perpetual development keeps taxes low. However, recent research shows that the cost of providing services and infrastructure to most new residential developments exceeds the tax revenues generated by the development, so the taxes of existing residents must be raised. Preserving open space helps keep taxes lower. (*Evolution and implications of a paradigm shift in the marketing of leisure services in the USA, Crompton; Leisure Studies, 27:2, 2008*)

2. **Promoting Social Stability.** A failure to invest in resources that pre-empt potential social problems only results in serious problems later at a much greater cost to society. Recreation and parks systems are uniquely poised to curtail the early signs of social ills by providing connections to daily living.

- **Fostering Healthy Child Development and Providing Therapeutic Relief.** According to accumulating research, time spent in green outdoor spaces by children fosters creative play and relieves attention deficit disorders. Among adults, the rejuvenation derived from such outdoor pursuits as trailing a tiny ball through the byways of a golf course—or the hours teasing trout with an artificial fly—are well known. Aerobic activities of jogging, walking, and swimming contribute directly to our physical health. Surprisingly, studies show the amazing therapeutic benefit of the outdoors extends even to those with a mere view of green plants and vistas by reducing frustration and stress. (*Nearby Nature: A Buffer of Life Stress Among Rural Children, Wells and Evans, Environment and Behavior, Vol. 35:3, 2003.*)



The Foglio brothers enjoy a time “brooksnooping” in Brodhead Creek Park during Nature & Wildlife Enrichment Camp in August.



The Levee Loop Trail Run in June promotes active, healthier lifestyles and connects people to a portion of the Region’s beautiful natural assets.

- **Promoting Healthier Lifestyles.** Community recreation programs combat the obesity epidemic and many weight-related health problems, like diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. Hiking and biking trails encourage people to walk and ride to destinations, while reducing traffic congestion and contributing to healthier lifestyles. A healthier population, in turn, helps reduce the nation’s \$2 trillion annual health care costs.
 - **Investing in Community Regeneration.** Communities where recreation and park systems play a vital role in the lives of their residents are invigorated places to live, and are more likely to experience continual regeneration of their physical, cultural, and historic resources, which leads to greater social opportunities.
 - **Engaging At-Risk Populations and Promoting Character Development.** Recreation programs help at-risk youth from engaging in deviant behavior and help raise levels of education and employability. The return on such services, especially when compared to the costs of incarceration, is phenomenal.
 - **Providing Employment.** Many recreation and parks systems and leisure services providers are also employers for meaningful program, maintenance, construction, renovation, and repair projects. Conservation and parks work provides entry level jobs for unskilled laborers, who can develop vocational skills and future employability.
- 3. Enabling Environmental Sustainability.** Responsible stewardship of the natural, altered, human, and historic environment guides patterns of development on the land to avoid loss or damage to important natural and cultural resources.
- **Protecting Land and Water Quality.** Preserving watersheds and protecting stream corridors with vegetative buffers filters pollutants at a much lower expense than if the typical required equipment and manpower were used. Such buffers also mitigate flooding and protect our drinking water sources.
 - **Protecting Air Quality.** One acre of green growing trees produces enough oxygen for 22 people. Vegetated open space improves air quality by removing gaseous pollutants, toxic chemicals, particulate matter, and carbon dioxide. The shade and evapotranspiration also lessens the heat island effect of urban areas and reduces energy costs for mechanical air conditioning.



Natural buffers along streams and connective habitats in greenways promote human, wildlife, and environmental health.

- **Preserving Habitat Quality and Promoting Biodiversity.** Green corridors and large parcels of protected natural areas help preserve habitats and maintain crucial biodiversity. The greater variety of plants and animals in an area, the more ecologically stable, and sustainable it is. On a broader scale, biodiversity directly benefits human dietary, physical, social, and psychological health; nutritional security; medical science; industrial, technological, and medicinal resources. It also reduces risks of disease vectors, epidemics, and natural disasters.

Statewide Implementation Steps

1. Develop and implement a statewide branding campaign for uniform positioning of recreation and parks systems as an essential community service.

- The Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), with input from its members and staff, should jointly develop a unified vision and series of mission statements for the profession, based on the above community issues and the benefits provided through an active recreation and parks system. A “toolkit” of practical resources for adaptation and use by local agencies should also be developed.
- Statewide toolkit resources should include prepackaged, branded educational materials easily adaptable for local application for all manner of professional development and public education, including, but not limited to: PowerPoint programs; fact sheets; sample media releases; weekly radio and TV public service announcements and newspaper features; podcasts and video clips; online resources; and social networking content and promotion.

2. Develop, implement, and vigorously promote ongoing professional training and leadership development.

- Specific leadership training and professional development workshops should be provided annually to all professionals, volunteer recreation board and committee members, and other community leaders on the uniform vision, missions, and local application of the various resources and toolkits to position recreation and parks systems as an essential community service.
- Accredited colleges and universities offering degree programs in recreation and parks should incorporate courses on public leadership and political involvement into the curricula.

Develop a statewide campaign for uniform positioning of recreation and parks systems as an essential community service.

3. Research, develop, and analyze a profile of Pennsylvania’s county and municipal recreation and parks systems, their services, and their citizens’ values on what is delivered at the local level.

- DCNR and PRPS should compile information on the number and percentage of Pennsylvania counties and local governmental entities that have a recreation and parks system, and, if so, its means of financial support. This should include advisory parks and recreation boards (those communities that have only a board, and no staff) and intergovernmental agencies. This profile would not include budgets or salaries, but it is recommended that this component be added to future budget and salary surveys so a comprehensive fiscal picture of the state’s recreation and parks systems can be produced.
- Research Pennsylvanians’ opinions on what should be prioritized, or most valued, and which services are, and are not, delivered at the local level. Such local municipal information would augment the updated State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- The research could be conducted through in-depth interviews, which would then be used to develop an online survey. The survey should ask both program and park users to rate the priority and current delivery of parks and recreation programs. The survey results should be used to actively promote what the public values about parks and recreation.

4. Invest in an aggressive, professional lobbying presence at the state level.

- PRPS and its partners should develop the funding to hire a professional staff member whose duties would include assisting in the formulation of public recreation and park policies and positions, their active promotion among legislators, and the motivation and mobilization of the professional membership and practitioners for local, same-message support.

Local Implementation Steps

1. Promote cooperation and partnerships in the positioning of recreation and parks systems as an essential community service.

- Work closely with, and solicit broad support from, local civic organizations and elected officials through intermunicipal agreements; regional commissions; local park and recreation boards; joint authorities; Environmental Advisory Councils; cooperative business planning ventures; and shared equipment, services, facilities, etc. Go to work every day assuming you need to prove the worth of your mission and the mutual benefits of collaboration.

2. Enlist all available resources to position recreation and parks systems as critical contributions to a vibrant and healthy community.

- Discover and use all the local, statewide, and national tools and resources available: natural, human, physical, materiel, financial, institutional, cultural, historical, technical, informational, educational, and motivational. Use scientific research methods of polling, surveying, and public meetings to establish the data to demonstrate public support.
- With the information from the state's research on county and municipal recreation and park systems, promote how public values are met through existing or planned local programming and how such services are essential to the local community.

3. Align all recreational, environmental, and cultural programming and park services with one or more of the essential community issues in planning, promotion, and delivery.

- Prepare educational objectives for all programming that clearly support at least one of the essential community issues your work provides. Promote it as such. Avoid all appearances of providing merely "fun," frivolous, or nonessential services or amenities.
- Engage the public in a comprehensive, year-round program of environmental education and outdoor recreation utilizing parks and greenway features and incorporating all ages, abilities, and interest areas. Connecting people to the land is the most effective strategy for developing direct and personal support for the essential community service the profession provides.

4. Develop and maintain a continual campaign of positive public education and advocacy on recreation and parks systems as an essential community service.

- Keep up a continual flow of locally-adapted versions of the branded, uniform statewide recreation and parks messages to members of the executive and legislative branches so they come to understand the tremendous value associated with an active recreation and parks system. Such actions position you as a trusted authority to the elected officials of reliable information about such issues and on the worthy return of their investments in the community.
- Learn how to communicate on many different levels and to all types of people. Develop multiple methods, variations, and avenues of getting the uniform message out to reach all the different segments of your audience.

Align all local programming with essential community issues in planning, promotion, and delivery.

Writing Team: Kurt Baker, Debra Hatley, Tim Herd (Team Leader), Sue Landis, Francis Rubert

Partnerships

The success of the Regional Commission is derived from its formal agreements and informal community collaborations between municipalities, elected and appointed councils, boards and committees, civic and governmental organizations, businesses, schools, institutions, and individuals. Such public and private partnerships have contributed in very many ways to the total program and services and are what together help build a vibrant, healthy community. In 2010, we have greatly benefited from the following 444 community-minded organizations and individuals.

Municipal Members

Borough of East Stroudsburg, PO Box 303, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301	570-421-8300
Borough of Stroudsburg, 700 Sarah Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360	570-421-5444
East Stroudsburg Area School District, PO Box 298, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301	570-424-8500
Stroudsburg Area School District, 123 Linden Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360	570-421-1990
Township of Stroud, 1211 North Fifth Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360	570-421-3362

Commissioners

		<i>term expires</i>
Charles Baughman, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Stroudsburg Borough	2011
John Burrus	East Stroudsburg Area School District	2012
Samantha Holbert*, <i>Chair</i>	Stroud Township	2011
James Phillips, <i>Treasurer</i>	East Stroudsburg Borough	2011
Theo Quinones, <i>Alternate</i>	Stroudsburg Area School District	
Jeff Walters	Stroudsburg Area School District	2010
Susan Welsh, <i>Alternate</i>	Stroudsburg Borough	
Linda Wiles	Stroud Township	2010
Sonia Wolbert, <i>Secretary, Chair</i>	East Stroudsburg Borough	2010
Liz Wright, <i>Secretary</i>	Stroud Township	2011
Cecilia Yost	Stroudsburg Borough	2010

* S. Holbert resigned June 29; S. Wolbert elected Chair; Alternate L. Wright appointed to fill Holbert's remaining term and elected Secretary

Solicitor

David Williamson, Scanlon, Lewis & Williamson

Recording Secretary

Wanda Lasher

Auditor

Todd Bushta, CPA,
Gneiding, DeSanctis, Blizard & Company, LLP

Staff

Tim Herd, Executive Director
Niki Tourscher, Recreation Director
Jessica O'Keefe, Recreation Associate

Greenway Advisory Board

Gary Bloss	Christine Dettore	Scott Dietrich
Daryl Eppley	Lori Foglio	Dawn Gorham
Chad Martinez	Ray Moeller	Ramon Molina
Linda Wiles	Liz Wright	Tim Herd, <i>Ex-officio</i>

Recreation Advisory Board

Rich Berkowitz	Ed Cramer	Dave Czahor
Paula Gordon	Wanda Lasher	Ruth Piancone
Gretchen Rusk	Barbara Scanlan	Sue Welsh
Mike Wolbert	Niki Tourscher, <i>Ex-officio</i>	

Friends of Stroud Region Board and Committee Members

Janis Bechtel	Yuliya Lynch	Liane Scofield	Sue Welsh, <i>Secretary</i>
Cassie Benning	Michael Meilinger	Brad Seid	Sonia Wolbert, <i>Chair</i>
Amy Brenna	Claudia Ness	Jeff Serowick	Cecilia Yost, <i>Vice-Chair</i>
Gina Fish	Kevin Ness	Stacy Steward-Keeler	
Tim Herd, <i>Ex-officio</i>	Sue Oiler, <i>Treasurer</i>	Janet Wachter	

East Stroudsburg Recreation Board

Mark Brown	David Czahor	Robert Gress	Donald Repsher	Michael Wolbert
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Stroudsburg Parks and Recreation Board

Matt Abell	Barbara Quarentello	Barb Scanlan	Sue Welsh
Mark McDonald	Gretchen Rusk	Eric Scelza	Cecilia Yost

Stroud Township Parks and Recreation Board

Glenn Bisbing, Jr.	Paula Gordon	Ann Horvath	Ray Williams
Ed Cramer	Sharon Grover	Ruth Piancone	

East Stroudsburg University Practicum Students

Samantha Hoak	Shawn Murray	Sarah Palmer	Lauren Sayre
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Seasonal Program Staff and Aides

Kyle Anger	Heather Emmel	Mark Kanaley	Harley Louizaire
Conner Bayer	Charissa Frederick	Frances Karycki	James Lynch
Kyle Bayer	Cori Gallagher	Sarah Koberlein	Laura Mazlo
Alex Benson	Steven Carcia	Sarah Lapping	Kevin Melnick
Brittney Bradley	Bailey Garrett	Christopher Lastra	Lauren Modica
Lucia Burrafato	Mackenzie Gay	Jessica Leap	Anais Morgan
Christine Chester	Gerardine Glynn	Joshua Leap	Angelia Myers
Rachel Clark	Jessica Gonzales	Thomas Leeds	Bogdan Nicolescu
Tiffany Culleney	Jessy Gonzales	Shana Lepre	Mihaela Nicolescu
Devin Diaz	Luke Jiorle	Erin Lewis	Rachael Nicolescu
Valeria Echeverry	Erin Kanaley	Jesus Lopez	Nicole Neitz

Matthew Noia
Christina Perazio
Danielle Perez
Caitlin Pierson
Allison Pletcher
Alice Rajlai
Shawn Robertson

John Ropars
Stepanie Rosenberg
David Ruck
Emily Sasz
Angela Schembeck
Courtney Sebring
John Seman

Thomas Sinner
Anthony Snapp
Michelle Snapp
Andrea Stiff
George Stone
Shana Stone
Karen Stylianides

Nicholas Sullivan
Tara Tarazi
Maxim Uniejewski
Stephanie Vera
Kellyann Zimmer

Stroudsburg Pool Staff

Kyle Anger
Lacey Anger
Michael Aviles
Vanessa Baillis
Ciara Banks
Emily Clark
Eric Cordero
Kathleen Doherty

Alexandra Dunigan
Valeria Echlevery
Kelsey Goll
Chelsea Juschitsch
Jaimie Juschitsch
Erin Kanaley
Kelly Kanaley
Jon Liguori

Delia Lynch
James Lynch
Megan O'Malley
Kolby Miller
Valerie Pansy
Chris Pickarski
Leanne Rios
Raymond Rios

Angelique Riutort
Carolyn Swanson
Anthony Trezza
Corey Ward
Steve Wootton
Catherine Zini

Volunteers in Parks

Jeremiah Ahschar
Alexis Angulo
Krystal Avila
Harold Bacon
Jerry Baxter
Kyle Bayer
Robert Bedard
Cassandra Benning
Brittany Borel
Jared Boyle
Lamar Burd
Joy Burnett
Art Butler
Johnnie Cipriani
Aislinn Crank
Shaun Copeland
Karla DeLaMata
Erik Demchak
Jasmine Diaz
Theresa Diaz
Nancy Dunn

Jessica Edwards
Richard Ferrer
Brianna Flanagan
Travis Graff
Breanna Golder
Ashley Gyarmaty
Katie Hallinan
Eyal Herstik
Carley Higgins
Evan Hirschmugl
Brandon Hodakowski
Winnai Hoyt
Rashad Jones
Frances Karycky
Chandler Klein
Jordan Klein
Brian LaRose
K. Alphonza Lashley
Chris Lastra
Tom Leeds
Ethan Lewis

Alex Lohman
Brittany Lutjens
Yuliya Lynch
Jared Mallette
Staci Matt
Ashford Martinez
Lauren Moore
Nydia Moxam
Tom Murphy
Sean Murray
Betty Noonan
Robert Noonan
Jon Norris
Kelechi Nwaro
Michael O'Brien
Sarah Palmer
Andre Pearson
Chelsea Peralta
Brian Peters
Kathy Pianka
Lauren Potcher

Ryan James Quinn
Christina Ridner
Shawn Robertson
John Ropars
Barbara Scanlan
Joseph Strasser
Michael Stuart
Taylor Thornton
Dave Trainer
Allison Trunfio
Kayliegh Trunfio
Steven Trunfio
Zahra Vahanvaty
Brandon Vazquez
Jane Wachter
Destinee Ward
Demetri Williams
John Wisegarver
Jonathan Wisser
Alexander Wisser
Steve Wootton

Program Partners

American Red Cross
Boy Scouts of America
British Soccer Camps
Carol Petrucci
Cecilia Goncalves
Chef Alice

Deron Erney
Eastburg Community Alliance
Eunice Ferreira
Feel Kneaded Massage
Jeff Juell
Jennifer Legoso

Kathleen McCarthy
Keith Karkut
Linda Breen
Marshalls Creek Chiropractic
Maureen Harms
Mountain Knits and Pearls

Nadya Matychak
Nicole Beach
Nikki Sajudin
Pack 'n Paddle Tours

Paskiet Martial Arts Academy
Pocono Arts Council
Pocono Kids' Cultural Connection
Pocono Mountain Kennel Club

Precision Music
The Clay Studio Shawnee Gallery
U.S. Sports International
West End Park and Open Space

Community Partners

Aardvark Sports Shop
ActiveNet
Adam's Jewelry
Adventure Sports
AlignLife
American Ribbon
Animal Welfare Society of Monroe
Arlington Elementary PTA
Bella Luna Ristorante
Big A Grill House
Big Wheel Roller Skating Rink
BJs Wholesale Club
Bognet, Inc.
Boucher & James, Inc.
Brodhead Watershed Association
Buchart-Horn Environmental Engineers
CareWorks Convenient Healthcare
Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies
Cherry Valley Community Supported Agriculture
Chesapeake Crab & Seafood Market
Cluck U Chicken
Collinson, Inc.
Compton's Pancake House
Curves
Cute As Buttons
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
Diane Dougherty, Certified Reading Instructor
DigiKids
Divas II Hair Studio
E.F. Possinger & Sons
East Stroudsburg Area High School South
East Stroudsburg Area School District
East Stroudsburg Borough
East Stroudsburg Shade Tree Committee
East Stroudsburg University Bookstore
ESU Dept. of Recreation and Leisure Services
ESU Nonprofit Technologies Group
ESU Stony Acres Recreation Facility
East Stroudsburg University Sustainability Comm.
East Stroudsburg Youth Association
Eastburg Community Alliance
Eastern Monroe Public Library and Bookmobile
Edge of the Woods Outfitters

Edible Arrangements
Elevations Health Club
ESSA Bank & Trust
ESSA Foundation
Fitzpatrick's Celtic & Irish Store
Four Corners Health and Fitness
Friends of Stroud Region Open Space
Fromm Electric
Gary's Meat Market
Giant
Glen Brook Golf Club
Grace Industries
Habitat for Humanity
Heidi Nyland
HJP Park and Open Space Committee
Holy Guacamole Mexican Grill
Hospitality Alliances
Imagination Zone Family Fun Center
International Mountain Biking Association
Island Delights
JMSI Environmental Corp.
John C. Prevoznik, Attorney at Law
JT Lambert Intermediate School class
Keith Karkut Entertainment
Ken and Co.
Ken's Auto Service
KESK General Contractors
Kitchen Chemistry
Lasting Impressions Landscaping
Liquid Martini Bar
Liztech
Merrell
Minuteman Press
Mohegan Sun
Mollie's Restaurant
Monroe County American Red Cross
Monroe County Commissioners
Monroe County Community Services
Monroe County Conservation District
Monroe County Recreation Department
Monroe County Planning Commission
Monroe County Trails Planning Committee
Moose Lodge

Morey Elementary PTA
 Mr. Z's
 Natural Lands Trust
 Nicolaus Copernicus Polish Supplemental School
 Olga's Greek Cuisine
 Olive Garden Restaurant
 Orlando Diefenderfer
 PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
 PA Department of Environmental Protection
 Panera Bread
 Patty Cake Bakery
 Paychex, Inc.
 Penn State Cooperative Extension Service
 PennDOT District 5
 Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Magazine
 Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society
 Pocono Area Running Club
 Pocono Avian Research Center
 Pocono Heritage Land Trust
 Pocono Medical Center
 Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau
 Pocono Outdoor Club
 Pocono Produce
 Pocono Record
 Poke-A-Nose Pottery
 Praeferens
 R.J. Groner
 Representative Mario Scavello
 Representative Mike Carroll
 Rosewood Counseling Services
 Sanofi Pasteur

Sara Street Grill
 Schoonover & Vanderhoof Architects
 Shear Design Salon Space
 Sherman Theater
 Shoprite
 Simone Collins Landscape Architecture
 Spiderweave
 Stroud Area Regional Police
 Stroud Signs
 Stroud Township
 Stroudsburg Area High School Journalism students
 Stroudsburg Area School District
 Stroudsburg Borough
 Stroudsburg Intermediate/Elementary School
 Sweet Creams Café
 Target
 Tepee Town, Inc.
 The Potting Shed
 The Salvation Army
 Thomas McClane & Associates
 Total Home Health Care, Inc.
 Tulpehocken Mountain Water
 Twin Boroughs Recycling Committee
 Walmart
 Weiler Brush
 West End Park and Open Space Commission
 Willowtree Inn
 Yuppie Puppy
 Zoom On In



Volunteers help out at the Josie Porter Farm, l-r: supervisor Mihaela Nicolescu, Jared Mallette, Joseph Strasser, Chelsy Peralta.

Volunteer support is a critical indicator of the health and vibrancy of an organization, as well as the soundness of its goals and its impact on the community. The Commission benefitted from 4,131 hours of documented donated service by our Volunteers in Parks corps in 2010. Assessed by the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics at \$20.85 per hour of volunteer time, our VIPs have contributed approximately \$86,000 of service in 2010!



Community Partnerships in action

Clockwise. Employees of the **Olive Garden Restaurant** volunteered their labor to erect directional signs on the Levee Loop Trail. The Restaurant also donated a catered luncheon to the attendees at the Dansbury Trailhead Grand Opening and Dedication in September.



Officer Overpeck of the **Stroud Area Regional Police** answered the many questions of Stroud Kids Camper Jerome Jekai Ford after a K9 Demonstration featuring Teppy the Police Dog and the SARPD special emergency response team vehicle.



Stroudsburg High School's journalism classes, under the tutelage of Matt Sobrinski, researched, photo-documented and wrote a series of first-person stories on each of the Region's parks. Published in a special 24-page edition of the school's Mountaineer newspaper, 10,000 copies were distributed to every student in the school district and in many public locations throughout the county.



Darryl Speicher of the **Pocono Avian Research Center** conducted a Bird Banding Mist Net Demonstration for the attendees at the Greenways Leadership Forum & Legislative Breakfast at ESU's Stony Acres Recreation Facility in April.

Volunteens Cira Banks, Michael Stuart, and Lauren Potcher are happy to pitch in with the gardening at the Day Street Community Center.

Regional Administration

As the scope of its management responsibilities grows, the Commission continues to extend its professional expertise in recreation, park, open space, and public education matters. While the Commission owns no real property, it manages regional park reservations, athletic field rentals, vendors, the sale of pool passes, and the facilities of the Day Street Community Center and the Stroudsburg Boro Pool. The Commission also offers oversight of playgrounds and other park facilities, leads in trail development projects, and assists in open space planning and promotion.

Regional Parks and Facilities Rules & Regulations

To increase and promote the regional identity of the parks, greenways, trails, and open space—and streamline the facilities reservation process—the Commission drafted a set of Rules and Regulations by combining and resolving the varying policies of all three municipalities into one comprehensive, uniform ordinance for the region. The document includes hours of operation, park regulations, rental policy, and a uniform fee structure. The draft policy was approved by the Commission Board in January and was subsequently adopted by each of the municipalities. The Commission also developed and now administers a region-wide permitting policy regulating vendors desiring to sell food and drinks in the parks.



Disc Golf is a popular and growing sport in Yetter Park.

Parks Stewardship

In a series of meetings and discussions between the Commission Director, the Borough Managers, and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, the administrators developed a plan to phase in an expanded role for the Regional Commission in direct management of park maintenance and security. Under this arrangement, the Commission will begin to assume responsibility for a portion of park maintenance in 2011 by hiring, managing, and supervising seasonal maintenance and security personnel. The Commission will also work with Twin Boroughs Recycling and Stroud Township to provide for recycling collection in the regional parks.

Bathhouse Renovations

In August 2008, the Commission received an advance payment of half of a \$75,000 grant from the PA Community Conservation Partnerships Program (administered by the DCNR) toward the proposed renovations of the Stroudsburg Borough and Dansbury Pools Bathhouses. Both pool facilities were constructed in the 1930s and received support from the DCNR (Stroudsburg in 2000 and Dansbury in 2003) for renovations to the physical and mechanical functions of the pool structures.

During 2009, Commission staff calculated the occupancy rates of both pools based on the anticipated maximum number of bathers in each of the different areas to aid in determining code-compliant issues of the renovation plans; and consulted with Borough personnel and Schoonover & Vanderhoof Architects to update the cost projections, prioritize the tasks, and prepare the renovation plans and project manuals to solicit bids for the necessary work to be completed in 2010.

Bids were advertised in May and the contracts awarded in July to KESK Corporation as General Contractor; Bognet Inc. as Mechanical Contractor; R.J. Groner as Plumbing Contractor; and Orlando Diefenderfer as Electrical Contractor. A separate contract with JMSI Environmental tested both facilities for lead paint and asbestos, and remediated the same in the Stroudsburg bathhouse. Both boroughs elected to invest additional funds beyond their grant matches to address the needs of replacement windows and doors, and new flooring, which were awarded through alternate bids by the above contractors. Work commenced in September immediately after the close of the summer pool season, and concluded in December. The renovation project totaled approximately \$212,000.

Regional Parks and Open Space

Twenty-six regional parks comprising nearly 830 acres, and 18 more open space properties totaling an additional 1,882 acres, are owned by the Commission's municipal members and contribute to a high quality of life in the Stroud Region. In addition, Stroud Township holds conservation easements on another 392 acres. The Commission publishes a Regional Park Directory on its website and in the pages of each issue of *Stroud Region Connections*.

Stroud Region Parks		Acres	Open Space Properties	Acres
Ann Street Park	<i>Ann & Broad Streets</i>	.35	between Rtes. 209 & 80	2.6
Big Pines Park	<i>Brown Road</i>	25	along Brodhead Creek south of Rt.80	5.64
Brodhead Creek Park	<i>Route 191</i>	30	Flood Control project properties	34.2
Bryant Park	<i>Bryant St. & Park Ave.</i>	.25	Flory Pond	3.82
Creekview Park	<i>off Avenue C</i>	35	E.S. Reservoir properties	1548.8
Dansbury Park	<i>Day Street</i>	15.7	Peeney property	25.3
David Miller Park	<i>S. Kistler Street</i>	1.2	end of Park Street	21.76
Glen Brook Golf Club	<i>Hickory Valley Road</i>	224	behind CSA	20.63
Glen Park	<i>Collins Street</i>	9.8	off Shafer School House Road	4.24
Gregory's Pond Park	<i>Poole Road</i>	16.1	along Hallet Road	122.94
Helen Amhurst Park	<i>Third Street</i>	1.5	along PA Rte. 191	50.33
Hickory Valley Park	<i>Hickory Valley Road</i>	100	along Stokes Ave.	.88
Jay Alberston Park	<i>Wallace Street</i>	5.3	LR 45064	3.93
Katz Park	<i>Wedgewood Lake Dr.</i>	7.2	along Bonnie Drive	.51
Kovarick Park Lands	<i>McMichaels Drive</i>	13	along Stokes Mill Road	2.50
Laurel Street Pond	<i>Clearview Avenue</i>	1.5	along Stokes Mill Road	27.36
Michael Moore Park	<i>White Birch Street</i>	.5	along Stokes Mill Road	6.0
Pinebrook Park	<i>Route 191</i>	60	east of LR 45064	.48
Red's Park	<i>Route 191</i>	1.3	total	1881.92
Rotary Creek Park	<i>Broad Street</i>	1.25	Conservation Easements	
Stroudsburg Boro Park	<i>off Main Street</i>	59.3	along PA 447/ Wicks/Oiler	81.33
Terra Greens Golf Course	<i>Route 447</i>	111	along PA 447/ Wicks/Oiler	2.64
Totts Gap Trailhead	<i>Totts Gap Road</i>	32	Mervine Lane/ David	125.30
Westgate Park	<i>Main St. & Dreher Ave.</i>	.15	Mervine Lane/ David	27.50
Yetter Park	<i>off Roosevelt Street</i>	40	Poplar Valley Road/ M. Swed	13.82
Zacharias Pond Park	<i>East Third Street</i>	36.5	Poplar Valley Road/ C. Swed	16.86
			Pleasant Ave./ Beagle Club	124.60
	total	827.9	total	392.05

Summer 2010 Pools Season



The Commission continued to manage sales and promotion of season passes for the Stroudsburg Borough and Dansbury Park swimming pools. Use of the online Active Net system streamlined the process for returning patrons with simple updates and new photos if needed. Passes were available to purchase starting May 1, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. Staff was also available on Saturdays, May 15 and 28 for season pass sales and photos.

Internet access was once again offered at both pools: Stroudsburg through the use of a wireless USB port purchased

from Verizon, and Dansbury using a seasonal subscription with Blue Ridge Cable. The ability to restrict access to websites other than Active Net and The Weather Channel prevented summer staff from surfing the web. Computer access allows for pool pass scans and daily entry sales.

Season Passes

Season passes were available in a variety of options; Borough Resident, Township Resident (Smithfield and Stroud), Non-Resident, and Dual Pool. There was an overall decrease in season pass sales for the Stroudsburg Pool, while Dansbury increased pass sales by 53%. A large reason for the drop in sales at the Stroudsburg Borough pool may be attribute to construction on the Stroudsburg School District property.

The Dual Pool Pass allows residents of East Stroudsburg Borough, Stroudsburg Borough, Stroud Township, and Smithfield Township to patronize both pools using one pass. A total of 14 passes were sold, with the majority sold to Stroudsburg Borough Stroud Township residents. Daily usage resulted in 63% attendance at the Stroudsburg Borough Pool and 37% visiting the Dansbury Pool.

Season Pass Sales	Stbg 10	Stbg 09	DP 10	DP 09	Dual 10	Dual 09
Resident Adult	0	1	4	1		1 Stbg
Resident Family	9	18	58	47	5 Stbg	3 ES 3 Stbg
Resident Teen	0	0	2	0		
Resident Youth	0	0	5	8		2 Stbg 1 ES
Resident Senior	16	3	4	6	1 Stbg	
NR Adult	1	0	0	0		
NR Family	4	5	13	13		4
NR Teen	0	1	0	0		
NR Youth	0	0	0	0		1 ES
NR Senior	2	2	0	0		
Housing Authority	15	19	28	29		
Complimentary Passes	17	13	0	0		
Township Adult	2	0	2	0		1 Strd
Township Family	13	12	10	11	6 Strd	8 Strd
Township Teen	0	0	0	0	1 Strd	
Township Youth	0	0	0	1	1 Strd	
Township Senior	1	1	0	0		
Total	64	75	126	116	14	24

Daily Admissions

Continued use of the ActiveNet system eases the process of daily entries to the pools. Each location is equipped with a Point of Sale screen that shows daily fees specific to that pool, broken down into the categories of Resident, Township Resident, and Non-Resident, with sub-categories of Family, Adult, Senior, Youth, and Teen. Point of Sale is similar to a cash register and allows staff to view a Daily Close Report for deposits and use statistics.

Daily entries for 2010 saw an 11.3 percent increase at Stroudsburg despite the surrounding construction zone of the school district property. Dansbury's daily entries increased 139 percent over 2009.

This can be partially accounted for by the overall much less rainy weather conditions (see chart below) and improvements in both staffing and pool environments. Special events created by pool staff also led to higher daily participation.

Daily Fees (Point of Sale)	Stbg. 10	Stbg. 09	Dansbury 10	Dansbury 09
Resident Adult	1078	934	2717	1966
Resident Family	422	293	1183	1341
Resident Teen	794	644	1050	758
Resident Youth	1143	1535	2583	2389
Resident Senior	97	99	206	157
NR Adult	210	129	1730	1137
NR Family	66	31	554	402
NR Teen	67	63	367	199
NR Youth	168	152	1568	1472
NR Senior	16	12	97	80
Township Adult	445	261	10	44
Township Family	183	106	2	31
Township Teen	275	141	2	8
Township Youth	448	454	15	41
Township Senior	30	35	4	2
Totals	5442	4889	11,688	6611

Stroudsburg Swim Lessons

2010 brought a change to the swim lesson structure at the Stroudsburg Borough Pool. Three

3-week sessions offered thirty minute classes five days a week. This adaptation was a result of comparing the lesson offered at both municipal pools in the past. Dansbury services approximately 300 participants per summer by offering lessons that run just short of six weeks for a slightly higher fee. While we would like to see those numbers, we have numerous parents comment on how they prefer the length of our lessons because they are able to plan around family vacations.

Weather Statistics KMPO Mt. Pocono Airport	Avg mean temp (°F)		Cooling Degree Days		Precipitation (in.)	
	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009
June	67	63	101	31	2.53	7.51
July	72	65	235	448	2.18	5.86
August	68	69	118	140	3.51	5.99
3 month totals			454	619	8.22	19.36



An increase in fees in 2010 for swim lessons yielded \$5680 for lessons to 121 participants. Stroudsburg serviced 146 participants in 2009 bringing in \$5480. While lesson numbers were lower than 2009, this can be greatly attributed to construction confusion at the school.

American Red Cross swim lessons are offered at the Stroudsburg Boro Pool.

Greenway Projects

The Brodhead, McMichael, and Pocono Creeks Greenway Plan, completed in 2005 by Pashek Associates and Bloss Associates, outlines the many diverse facilities, features, and opportunities for preservation and enhancement along its 19 linear miles of greenway and 14 recommended trail projects. Such grand plans are, of necessity, long range ambitions; however, the Commission continues to enlist its resources and implement the portions and projects it can as opportunities arise. In 2010, these efforts include:

Levee Loop Trail

The trail has enormous potential as a nonmotorized transportation route for both residents and tourists, substantially contributing to needed regional economic development, alleviating traffic congestion and associated pollutants, facilitating healthier lifestyles, increasing the mobility of non-drivers, and enhancing the cultural, social, and historical vitality of the surrounding community. During 2010, a number of enhancement development projects were planned or completed:

Guard Rail Opening

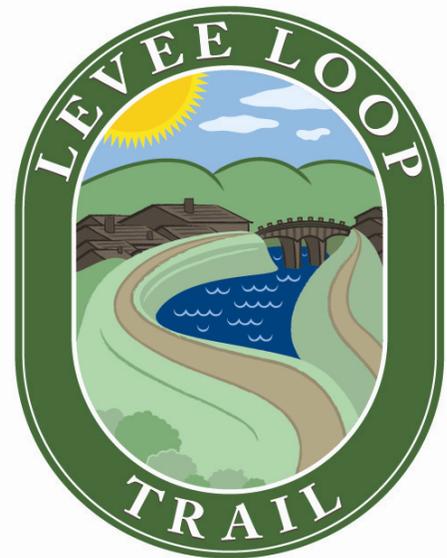
Ever since the trail was established, there's been a permanent guardrail blocking pedestrian access to and from the trail at the north, east side of the Veterans Memorial Bridge. Working with PennDOT's District 5 Safety Committee, the Commission received permission to modify the guardrail to give pedestrians access, without compromising the integrity of the guardrail and safety for vehicular traffic. On February 4, the opening was created by Collinson, Inc. with the installation of a new section that curves back and away from the roadway, so there's now an overlap of the guardrail, and easy access for pedestrians and bikers.

Trail Mapping

With the assistance of the Monroe County Planning Commission, the entire Levee Loop Trail, including several alternate sections, was plotted with a GPS unit and matched with the county's GIS data to produce a high quality map of the trail. Deliberations over the alternate routes by the Greenway Advisory Board resulted in the recommendation of the preferred pathway between Creekview Park and the Stokes Avenue Bridge on the west side; which in turn allowed the Commission to approach specific private property owners to obtain trail easements. Large prints of the trail map are now part of the informational displays of the Friends of Stroud Region's traveling tabletop display and the Dansbury Trailhead kiosk.

Trail Easements

Because the route of the Levee Loop Trail traverses several private property owners, the Commission proposed permanent trail easements to these owners to obtain permanent public access while preserving their full rights of ownership. The proposed easements remain under consideration. Because the PA DCNR requires the permanent public access to a trail that receives grant funding, the Commission also proposed easements to the East Stroudsburg School District and Stroud Township for their portions of the trail route. The School District approved a five-year, renewable term to the public trail easement.



Logo and Signs

Based on its real-life scenic beauty, Hospitality Alliances designed a logo for the Levee Loop Trail, which was also incorporated into directional signs for the trail. The aluminum trail signs and directional arrows were manufactured by Stroud Signs, and installed on the trail in September by volunteers from the Olive Garden Restaurant, assisted by Commission and East Stroudsburg Borough personnel. A student project of an ESU Recreation Facilities Class studied the trail route and made recommendations for proper sign design, construction, and placements.

Hard Surfacing

In October, the PA DCNR announced a matching grant of \$37,900 to East Stroudsburg Borough for the hard surfacing of a portion of the Levee Loop Trail, consisting of 2,228 linear feet of trail 8 feet wide between the east end of the Veterans Memorial Bridge and the Dansbury Trailhead in East Stroudsburg, excepting its crossing of the Salvation Army parking lot. This project continues developing the vision outlined in the Levee Loop Trail Master Plan, the Stroud Area Regional Open Space and Recreation Plan (2002), the Brodhead, McMichael, and Pocono Creeks Greenway Plan (2002), and the Monroe County Open Space Plan (2001) by establishing a uniform and accommodating trail surface of permeable pavement.

Instead of asphalt, the Commission has elected to use pervious paving through partnering with Penn State's Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies for technical assistance on paving with its trail mix aggregate, which is more permeable and less expensive than pervious asphalt. When thus developed, the Levee Loop Trail will become much more accommodating to more users and visitors, including those currently underserved because of physical or social handicaps.

Dansbury Trailhead Grand Opening & Dedication



On National Public Lands Day, September 25, the Commission hosted a Grand Opening and Dedication for its newly constructed Dansbury Trailhead to the Levee Loop Trail in East Stroudsburg.

In her remarks to the enthusiastic crowd of approximately 120 guests, Commission Chairwoman Sonia Wolbert stated that the trailhead is just the beginning of a series of greenway and outdoor recreation projects that can have a tremendous impact on the quality of life in our communities. She applauded the work of the many dedicated volunteers that help make such realities and encouraged others to join them, and invited those memorialized by the planting of eight trees on the trailhead to join her in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Noted for their “exemplary civic leadership, generous contributions, and community spirit” in the establishment of the nearby Day Street Community Center, the trees and a plaque mounted on the trailhead’s informational kiosk honor the Leadership Pocono Class of 2005, the ESSA Foundation, Architect John Schoonover, Sonia Wolbert, the Borough of East Stroudsburg, the Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs, the Kiwanis Club of the Stroudsburgs, and the Nicolaus Copernicus Polish School. Also recognized was the East Stroudsburg Youth Association for its sponsorship of one of the benches with a memorial plaque for Silvia J. Nicoletti.

The trailhead was designed as a “bump-out” of the levee in Dansbury Park, with a wide overlook area on the top of the dyke, where the Levee Loop Trail passes, with space for park benches and an informational kiosk. A concrete stairway and two paved handicapped-accessible ramps lead to the top of the levee and the overlook. Rounding out the amenities of the trailhead is a small parking area, a water fountain, and a bike rack. Located in the northeast corner of the popular park, the trailhead was financed by a \$100,000 grant from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and matched by cash and in-kind services from East

Stroudsburg Borough and Stroud Township. It was designed by Landscape Architect Karla Farrell of Bucharthorn, Inc.. Grace Industries served as the prime construction contractor.



After the ribbon cutting, the guests swarmed over the new scenic park facility, and enjoyed a pasta luncheon donated and served by the Olive Garden Restaurant of Stroudsburg.

ESSA McMichael Trail and Trailhead

When ESSA Bank & Trust built its new headquarters on Palmer Street in Stroudsburg a few years ago, it agreed to a public trail easement along its property boundary, held by Stroudsburg Borough. In July, the ESSA Foundation approved a construction grant of \$17,680 to the Friends of Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation to establish a trailhead at the Bank’s parking lot near the historic “Hanging Rock” (the site of public executions in the 19th Century), and a mulched trail leading to the bank of the McMichael Creek near its confluence with the Pocono Creek. Construction is expected to be completed in summer 2011.

Greenway Economic Viability Study

Investments in bikeways, trails, pedestrian bridges, park facilities, and links to popular destinations and events are a proven economic stimulus in many locations across the state. In July, the Monroe County Commissioners approved a \$10,000 open space planning grant to the Commission for a special project to determine the economic viability of developments within the Brodhead, McMichael, and Pocono Creeks Greenway System, including linkages to key resources in the historic downtown districts of both Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg. The study is conducting workshops with regional institutions, private businesses and developers; identifying the facility needs of the economic partners; researching recreational programming and events that generate substantial revenues; analyzing the feasibility of simultaneous investments in the greenway facilities; and will prepare a scope of work for a subsequent financial plan. The study is being conducted by independent consultant Samantha Holbert.

Regional Walkability & Pedestrian Safety

The Commission has investigated various transportation enhancements, their funding, necessary agreements of shared use paths, trail structures, and right of entry; and has initiated a series of discussions with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation over several possible projects for improving pedestrian and biker connections and traffic safety in the coming years. Among them:

- A separated bike/pedestrian lane on the reconstructed Seventh Street Bridge in Stroudsburg, and a pedestrian bridge over the McMichael Creek into Rotary Creek Park as part of PennDOT's improvements to its staging area after reconstructing the Seventh Street bridge.
- Salvaging girders from the Seventh Street bridge for use in constructing a pedestrian bridge over the Brodhead Creek near the Twin Boroughs Recycling Center and Glen Park to extend the southern end of the Levee Loop Trail.
- Recycling an existing bridge through the department's Historic Bridge Marketing program as a pedestrian span over the Brodhead Creek.
- Establishing identified walking routes on sidewalks and other pathways in both downtown districts.
- Being included in the early discussions with District 5's Bike/Ped Coordinator concerning the planning and design of the replacement of the Stokes Avenue Bridge over the Brodhead Creek, tentatively scheduled for 2012.
- Contributing to decisions regarding pedestrian crosswalks on Stroudsburg's Lower Main when improvements to the intersections are made.
- An analysis of regional pedestrian/biker/motorized traffic accidents, injuries, and fatalities in the past several years to recommend improvements in design and education to mitigate such interactions.

Other Greenway Plans and Linkages



Glen to Glen Trail

Working with the Monroe County

Planning Commission, the Commission is investigating the possibilities of establishing a walking trail route connecting Glen Brook Golf Course in Stroud Township to Glen Park in south Stroudsburg.

Pocono–McMichael Creek Corridor

As part of the Greenway

Economic Viability Study, attention is being given to the required physical and legal links that, once pursued and resolved, can promote and accommodate public access and pathways from the Stroudsburg Area School District campus and the Pocono Creek to Main Street, Glenbrook Apartments, ESSA Bank, the McMichael Creek, Seventh Street Bridge, Rotary Creek Park, Ann Street and Ann Street Park, Park Avenue Bridge, and Lower Main Street, to the Stroudsburg Levee, the Veterans Memorial Bridge, and the Levee Loop Trail.

Key Property

At the Commission's request, Representative Mario Scavello contacted Met-Ed/GPU in October on the Commission's behalf to re-initiate its interest in its property adjacent to Glen Park as a trailhead and parking area for the southern portion of the Levee Loop Trail. GPU is in negotiations with a potential buyer of the property, which is reportedly favorable to the request.

Tennis Facilities

The Commission is cooperating with the newly formed Stroud Area Regional Tennis Association (SARTA) in its plans to meet the regional need for indoor and outdoor tennis courts while partnering with the Commission, one or more of its municipal partners, and the Stroudsburg Area School District.

Advocacy & Community Education



The Commission recognizes that a continual flow of positive education to the community and its elected leaders is crucial to advancing its mission. Cultivating a wide variety of communication and program delivery methods to reach all the different demographic segments of the public it serves, the Commission produces an array of print and electronic newsletters, media releases, Opinion-Editorial advocacy pieces, displays and exhibits, special events, direct mail, brochures, fact sheets, and other devices; but its efforts include public education components in its programs and services, and extend to its social, professional, commercial, and institutional networks as well.

At left: SROSRC Staff Niki Tourscher and Jessica O'Keefe pose by the Friends of Stroud Region's educational display at the Greenway Leadership Forum in April.

Public Presentations

- Greenway Soirée
- Stroudsburg Area Senior High School Journalism Classes I and II
- Greenway Leadership Forum & Legislative Breakfast
- Middle Eastern Counties Association of Boroughs
- Stroud Fest
- ESU Intro to Recreation Class, tour of Dansbury Trailhead
- East Stroudsburg Area High School Service Learning Project

Media Distribution

During 2010, 153 separate reports, stories, announcements, letters, Op-Ed articles, features, and other promotional materials were tracked in the local and statewide media, which has contributed in many ways to the growing numbers of program clients, park visitors and overall interest and support of the region's recreational opportunities, park facilities, and greenway projects.

The Pocono Record is the major distributor of the Commission's media releases and program announcements. It recognized the work of the Commission in four Opinion columns: "Parks and trail investments pay dividends" on May 7; "Thumbs Up for Summer Safety Day at Stroudsburg Pool" on June 12; "Thumbs Up SROSRC for the Dansbury Trailhead" on October 2; and "They draw us to the outdoors" on October 15. Other dissemination avenues in 2010 included The Morning Call, Stroud Township Newsletter, Blue Ridge Cable Channel 13 News, WSBG radio, The Forwardian Arts Society, and the following special mentions:

Mountaineer In a mutually beneficial partnership between Stroudsburg High School and the Regional Commission, journalism students produced a special 24-page edition of the High School newspaper featuring photos and first person stories on each of the Region’s 26 parks. Ten thousand copies of the newspaper were distributed to each student in the district and at many public locations throughout the county.

Pennsylvania Borough News The January 2010 edition of Pennsylvania Borough News published *The Great Multi-Municipal Link*, by Tim Herd. The article tells the story of the creation of the Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission, and the municipal cooperation that enabled it.

Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society Magazine The Fourth Quarter 2009 edition (which came out in 2010) began a three-part series by Tim Herd on the benefits of parks, open space, and recreation titled *It Starts in Parks*, which also published a Member Profile on the Executive Director of the SROSRC. The series continued in the First and Second Quarter 2010 editions.

Stroud Region Connections Twenty thousand copies of each of two issues of the 64-page biannual magazine were distributed to all resident households in Stroudsburg, East Stroudsburg, and Stroud Township and other media outlets throughout the region. The Spring/Summer 2009 edition was awarded the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society’s 2010 Community Program Publication Award at the organization’s annual conference in March.

E-newsletter An electronic newsletter began monthly publication and distribution in January. Produced through a subscription to Constant Contact, the e-newsletter greets each of the 1200+ recipients on the mailing list with a personal message from the Director and highlights several upcoming events and programs.



Facebook and Twitter Popular usage of Facebook and Twitter grew dramatically through the year as more users became fans of Stroud Region Recreation, and enjoyed and shared news, photo albums, and spontaneous announcements. In July, the Commission conducted a media campaign on Facebook celebrating “July is National Parks and Recreation Month” with a daily posting on an aspect of current recreation opportunities and activities. At the end of the year, the Commission’s Facebook page boasted 137 total fans, with 5,787 post views in December alone.



Website The Commission’s website underwent a major transformation during the year to add more user-friendly pages and relevant links, and continued to grow in its vital role as the electronic hub of the Commission’s advocacy and community education program. Main pages include About Us, Programs, Pools, Parks, Trails, Greenway, Friends, and Community. Drop-down menus on these headers include links to the following pages: Community Center, News, Employment, Volunteers, Advocacy, Preschool, Youth, Teen, Adult, Outings & Events, Aquatics, Summer Day Camps, and 2010 Pool Season. The Community page provides recognition and hyperlinks to nearly 60 of the Commissions cultural partners in the community.

The Advocacy page posts the following educational information and downloadable materials: The Top Ten Reasons Parks, Open Space, and Recreation are Important; It Starts In Parks 3-part series; Parks & the Economy; A National Environmental Stewardship Ethic; Why Parks and Recreation are Essential Services.

Web design and assistance was donated by Susan Bonser and East Stroudsburg University’s Nonprofit Technologies Group; web hosting and email service is provided through Spiderweave.

www.srosrc.org	2010
Unique visitors	10,631
Visits	15,965
Pages Viewed	15,967
Hits	171,675
Bandwidth	14.28 GB

Other Weblinks Many outside webpages link or refer visitors to the SROSRC website, and include the following sites: East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg Borough, Stroudsburg Borough, Stroud Township, Runners World, Pocono Careers, Facebook, Monroe County Public Library, Glen Brook Golf Club, and many others. Two special mentions are:

- **prps.org** The Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society website posts The Great Multi-Municipal Link on its home page. In January it promoted “Check out what’s going on in the Stroud Region” through its PRPS Webnews newsletter; and in April it shared information on the Greenway Leadership Forum.
- **ExplorePATrails.com** featured the Levee Loop Trail on its homepage in April.

Greenways Leadership Forum & Legislative Breakfast

The 2010 Monroe County Greenways Leadership Forum and Legislative Breakfast was the first event of its kind in northeastern Pennsylvania. Co-hosted by Friends of Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation, Monroe County Planning Commission, East Stroudsburg University, and Monroe County Recreation, the free conference was open to all interested in the development and linkages of key properties among Monroe County greenway systems and their crucial connections to land and water trails throughout the Poconos and beyond.



DCNR Deputy Secretary Cindy Dunn made a special presentation of grant-awarded funds to Jackson Township and the Pocono Heritage Land Trust for two priority acquisition projects totaling more than 145 acres in Monroe County. Above, l to r: Dawn Gorham, Executive Director, Pocono Heritage Land Trust, DCNR Deputy Secretary Dunn, DCNR Region Director Dennis DeMara.

Local legislators and other elected officials joined over 100 attendees in a 7 am breakfast that included an informal question and answer session, and a special presentation by students from JT Lambert Intermediate School on their water quality testing project on the nearby Brodhead Creek.

The Forum began at 9 am with a general session on “Leadership in Building Greenways and Community Collaboration.” An educational slate of workshops filled the remainder of the day. Superintendent John Donahue of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area concluded the day’s sessions with a keynote on “Landscape Scale Connectivity.” Two special enrichment programs

offered during the lunch hour permitted attendees to enjoy the outdoors with the choice of a guided tour of the facilities of Stony Acres, or a bird banding mist net demonstration.

Registration for the Breakfast and Forum, including two meals, was free. The rental cost of the facility was waived by East Stroudsburg University. Registration bags were donated by the Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau. The only costs associated with the event, \$1165 for the two catered meals, were covered by sponsorships from Sanofi Pasteur and the Pocono Heritage Land Trust. All other arrangements were free or provided by volunteers. Vendors and exhibitors paid a total amount of \$400 to appear at the Forum, which benefitted the nonprofit Friends of Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation.

Recreational & Cultural Programming

The comprehensive Regional Program encompasses year-round recreational, educational, cultural, and environmental activities and services for all who live and work in the Stroud Region. Accommodations for all ages and abilities, combined with a broad slate of indoor and outdoor activities helps promote individual and community wellness, which in turn stimulates the local economy and preserves our natural assets.

In 2010, Staff and Program Partners conducted **815 program sessions engaging a total of 26,871 participants;** a 25% increase over 2009 and a 42% more than in 2008.

Including the following structured Programs in the Day Street Community Center, Regional Parks, area school facilities, and other off-site venues:

Adult Tennis*	Healthy Steps in Motion	Stroud Kids After Camp
ARC Adult CPR*	Junior Golf Basics	Stroud Kids After School
ARC Babysitters Course	Karate – Adult*	Stroud Kids Basketball
ARC First Aid CPR/FPR Re-Cert*	Karate – Youth*	Stroud Kids Before Camp
ARC First Aid*	Kids' Yard Sale	Stroud Kids Extension
ARC Infant/Child CPR	Lap Swim	Stroud Kids School Holiday
ARC Lifeguard Re-Cert *	Let go of my Lego	Stroud Kids Tennis*
ARC Lifeguard Training	Levee Loop Trail Run	Stroud Tots - Full Day
Beginner Crochet*	Levee Loop Walk	Stroud Tots - Half Day
Beginner Hand Sewing*	Mother-Daughter Pilates	Swim Lessons
Beginner Knitting*	Movie in the Park	Team Tennis*
Beginner Machine Sewing*	Muck-n-Mess	Teen Beginner Tennis*
Bitty Basics	Nature & Wildlife Camp	Therapeutic Massage*
Budget Basics*	October Fest	Try-Athletics Enrichment Camp
Challenger Soccer Camps*	Oodles & Doodles	Volunteers
Christmas Fair	Pilates*	Whose Woods are These?
Crochet*	PKCC Making Music*	Women's Resistance Training*
Dive In Movie	Play Doh Playtime	Woodland Indians Lecture
Dog Obedience	Ralleyball Tennis*	Yoga with Nadya*
Family Swim	Reiki*	Youth Swim Pre – Level 2
Flower Show Bus Trip	Start Smart Basketball	Youth Swim Pre – Level 3
Get Your Giggles Out	Start Smart Soccer	
Glow Egg Hunt	Stroud Kids - Dansbury	
Guard Start Training	Stroud Kids - Morey	
Hand Sewing - Embroidery*	Stroud Kids - SHS	

* conducted by Program Partners

Fifth Annual Levee Loop Trail Run and Fitness Walk

The Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission celebrated the Fifth Annual Levee Loop Trail Run and Walk on Saturday, June 5. In conjunction with National Trails Day the event promotes the trail, raises awareness of the benefits of trails and outdoor activities, and helps protect and maintain the regional greenway corridor.

2010 introduced a new aspect to the event by sponsoring a complete 4.5 mile walk in addition to the traditional trail race. Participants climbed the levee in Dansbury Park, and traversed through all three member municipalities enjoying a trek through leafy suburban pathways, wooded stream sides, and scenic natural vistas.

Assisting in planning and administering the event was a group of dedicated Friends Members, volunteers, and generous community sponsors.



2010 Stroud Kids Summer Day Camp Series



The Stroud Kids Water Balloon Games in full splash at Dansbury Park

Registration & Enrollment

Open enrollment by mail, in person, and online began the second week in January. A multiple child discount was offered for families with 3 or more campers. Total enrollment increased 24% over 2009 (and 113 percent over 2007). This is attributable to our ability to expand the Dansbury location with the addition of the Salvation Army gymnasium and the ESYA Building during times of inclement weather; the addition of the Stroud Tots program; and a combination of high rate of repeat campers, active word-of-mouth recommendations, a varied, quality program, and reasonable fees. Rates increased this year to \$480/child for the eight weeks, which works out to \$2 per hour - lower than any other competing day camps in the area.

Stroud Tots

Stroud Tots, a new branch of Stroud Kids for preschoolers aged 4-5 years, was introduced this year. Two 4-week sessions were planned at JM Hill Elementary in East Stroudsburg and Ramsey Elementary in Stroudsburg. Full day (9 am-3 pm) and half-day (9 am-1 pm) options were available. Due to low enrollment, both JM Hill sessions were cancelled; however both sessions did run at Ramsey with approximately 22 participants each session.

Construction at Morey Elementary and Stroudsburg High School sites

The Stroudsburg Area School District began a multi-year construction project this summer at the Morey Elementary and Stroudsburg HS sites. Parking, field, and playground access was interrupted throughout the summer. Indoor facilities remained largely unaffected. At a meeting prior to the start of camp, representatives from the School District as well as WH Lane Inc. briefed SK staff on the affected areas as well as security modifications. Although the construction was extensive and disruptive and required many adjustments (some of them last-minute) by the SK staff, there were no accidents or incidents reported as a result.

DigiKids Safety ID

Once again, each camper was provided a DigiKids Safety ID, which was held by the Counselors for the duration of the camp. On the last day, the photo ID card and a mini-CD of high-resolution photographs of the child, along with physical and medical information, was turned over to the parents. The CD is easy to carry in a purse or wallet, and contains its own built-in email notification system to immediately alert authorities and print and broadcast missing child information in case of emergencies. This service was paid by the Stroud Kids operational budget and offered free to the participants.

Program/Location	Enrollment			
	2010	2009	2008	2007
Dansbury Park	165	123	120	105
Morey Elementary	115	114	90	93
Stroudsburg H.S.	100	88	70	
Stroudsburg Intermediate				59
Lehman Intermediate				25
Ramsey Elementary (S Tots)	44	-	-	
Before Camp - DP	25	22	21	28
Before Camp - ME/SHS	23	-	-	
After Camp - DP	46	39	37	
After Camp - ME/SHS	23	-	-	
Basketball	16	15	12	
Tennis	21	20	17	
Volunteens	14	-	-	
SK Extension	30	-	-	
Show Biz! Musical Theater	-	0	11	
Try-Athletics Sports Sampler	15	21	14	
Arts & Aquatics	-	33	17	
Nature & Wildlife (Ages 4-6)	10	24	9	
Nature & Wildlife (Ages 6-9)	12	33	14	
Total	659	532	432	310

“Our child loves this program! This was his second summer involved and he so looks forward to it each summer. The counselors and the program are wonderful. This puts our minds at ease and is a worthy investment in many ways – thank you!”

Swimming

Swim lessons and open swim time were available at Dansbury Park, Morey Elementary, and Stroudsburg H.S. Lessons were more popular at the Dansbury Park location due to length and cost of the lessons; however the Stroudsburg pool enjoyed increased participant numbers over last year. Campers continue to enjoy open swim time – it was a special treat this year as a relief from the excessive heat and humidity.

Special Events

- **Karkut Entertainment** generously offered services for Stroud Kids at a large discount once again. Events included: Family Feud, Brain Drain, Karaoke, Magic Shows, Dance Party, and Carnival Day (with air brush tattoos, a Moon Bounce, and popcorn), Green Screen Photos, and a take-home CD with photos from each camp location.
- The **Eastern Monroe Public Library Bookmobile** visited Dansbury Park and Ramsey Elementary sites weekly, allowing campers to take advantage of its services for summer at-home recreational reading.

- The **Stroud Area Regional Police’s K-9 Unit**, headed by Officer Ralph Overpeck with his canine companion Teppy, visited each of the sites. Officer Overpeck detailed Teppy’s role and training and treated campers to a demonstration of Teppy searching out narcotics from a prop car and a tour of the department’s tank. The K-9 Unit’s visit was enjoyed by all.
- **The STARLAB Planetarium** is a portable, 16-foot diameter inflatable planetarium that was brought to the camps at no cost by Heidi Nyland, a parent of a Dansbury camper. Campers and SK staff entered for a 20-30 minute presentations on the constellations featuring brightly displayed images of the night sky. This was a unique and extremely positive experience for our campers.
- A trip to **Big Wheel Roller Skating Rink** proved to be a popular activity. Parents paid \$5 for the trip which included lunch, skates, and a movie.

Enrichment Camps

Enrichment camps were offered one week prior to and following the regular 8-week camp session. New this year for teens ages 13-17 was a Volunteers Enrichment camp. During this camp, our group of 14 teens spent a day volunteering at each of the following local organizations learning about their goals and positively contributing to the community: SROSRC, AWSOM Animal Shelter, Cherry Valley CSA, Pocono Medical Center, and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Another new Enrichment offering, Stroud Kids Summer Extension, offered August 16-20, proved to be the most popular.

Staffing

The full complement of staffing for this year’s total program included five Site Directors (two at Dansbury Park and one for each Stroudsburg site); 44 Counselors (including Enrichment and After camps), four Junior Counselors; and 14 volunteer Counselors-in-Training. Staff Training and Orientation was held at the Community Center and on-site the Friday before the camp started. Those who also required First Aid and CPR Training were provided the opportunity on two dates prior to the start of the program.

Revenues and Expenses

The Stroud Kids Summer Day Camp and its associated programs, including Before and After Camp offerings and Enrichment Day Camps, generated over \$210,000 of program income: a 38.3 percent increase of gross revenues over the 2009 season, and a 94.8 percent increase over three years ago. The net revenues derived from the successful program contribute to both the operations and capital portions of the Commission’s budget, which in turn reduces dependence on municipal allocations.

Raising the base pay rate for the seasonal staff positions, which has remained static for the last three years, will be considered for 2011.

Revenues and Expenses	2010	2009	2008	2007
total summer revenues	210,146.47	151,866.15	135,919.43	107,853.50
operational expenses	-17,042.74	-13,001.60	-13,176.40	-16,104.14
staffing & payroll taxes	-122,878.51	-85,964.45	-88,705.37	-97,742.47
payroll service	-1,392.35	-916.61	-825.78	-1,597.95
Net	+68,832.87	+51,983.49	+33,211.88	-5,584.06

“Even though we were in the middle of a construction zone, the counselors and Site Director were very attentive to the safety of the children. You have a great team at SHS. My daughters loved their counselors – Courtney and Chris – I hope they become teachers as they are great with children. I was also impressed with the involvement of John, the Site Director. My daughters told me that he would join in with different group activities so he could get to know all of the kids. A great, professionally staffed program that I continue to recommend! We will be back next year. Sincerely, Lynn Meisse”

Professional Development & Recognitions

“Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.” — Aristotle

The Commission’s successful track record in its enhanced community recognition and the growth and acceptance of its services is due in part to the commitment to professional training and continuing education of its staff and associates, and the sharing of that expertise in practical ways.

2010 Regional, State, and National Training

Contributing Roles

- Monroe County Open Space Update Committee (Monroe County Citizens for Open Space)
- Sustainable Landscapes Conference Planning Committee
- Brodhead Watershed Association Board of Directors
- Greenways Leadership Forum & Legislative Breakfast Planning Committee
- East Stroudsburg University Recreation and Leisure Services Management Department Advisory Board
- Pennsylvania State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Technical Advisory Committee and Health & Outdoors Subcommittee
- Glen Brook Golf Club Audubon Sanctuary Program Advisory Committee

Conferences & Workshops

- DCNR Greening Webinar on new Green Scorecard criteria for grant applications
- 63rd Annual Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society Conference, Champion, PA
- Greenways Leadership Forum & Legislative Breakfast, ESU’s Stony Acres Recreation Facility
- Opportunity Knocks—Open Space is a Community Investment; Heritage Conservancy
- Wilkes-Barre & Eastern Rail Trail, Great Pocono Chamber of Commerce
- Power of Friends Webinar, National Public Lands Day
- Walk Leader Certification Training
- Conservation Easements; Monroe County Conservation District
- Northeastern PA Trails Forum Workshop, Scranton; presented on Levee Loop Trail
- Recreation and Parks Leadership Summit, Temple University
- Lehigh Valley Trails Summit, DeSales University
- 2010 Sustainable Landscapes Conference, Marywood University; *SROSRC credited as co-host*
- PennDOT District 5 Trails Crossings, Connections and Clearances Conference, Allentown
- American Trails National Symposium, Chattanooga, TN; Director Herd presented *Getting to the Ribbon Cutting: Leadership and Partnership for Successful Trail Development*
- PRPS Mini-Expo and Roundtable, Upper Dublin, PA
- NRPA National Playground Safety Certification Course, Harrisburg, PA
- PRPS Mini-Conference The Power of Persuasion, Plymouth Meeting, PA

Staff Certifications & Memberships

CPRP and CPSI National Certifications

Executive Director Tim Herd and Recreation Director Niki Tourscher each earned certifications from the National Recreation and Parks Association as a “Certified Park and Recreation Professional” (CPRP). The examination assesses core professional knowledge of General Administration, Programming, and Operations of recreation and park systems. Recreation Associate Jessica O’Keefe received her certification as a “Certified Playground Safety Inspector” after completing the national training course. She is now qualified to inspect and recommend safety improvements in the Region’s playground equipment and facilities.

Both certification examinations are administered under the auspices of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the National Certification Board (NCB).

Other Certifications

- Babysitters’ Training Instructor (American Red Cross)
- Certified Pesticide Applicator (PA Department of Agriculture)
- CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer Instructor (American Red Cross)
- CPR/AED and First Aid Instructor (American Red Cross)
- Healthy Steps in Motion Leader (PA Department of Aging)
- Dog First Aid (American Red Cross)
- Cat First Aid (American Red Cross)
- Walk Leader Certified Instructor
- Walk With Ease Leader (Arthritis Foundation)
- Water Safety Instructor (American Red Cross)

*Recreation Associate
Jessica O’Keefe, CPSI (left)
and Recreation Director
Niki Tourscher, CPRP*



Professional Memberships

- National Recreation and Parks Association
- Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society
- Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association
- American Trails Association
- Pennsylvania Alliance of Environmental Educators

Recreation and Parks Leadership Summit

In early September, DCNR and the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society (PRPS) sponsored a Leadership Summit to help set the agenda for recreation and parks in Pennsylvania over the next five years. At the summit, a cross-section of 100 invited recreation and park professionals spent two days applying their best thinking to the development of an action plan to help DCNR and PRPS assist recreation and park professionals with providing the best possible programs and services to our citizens.

Held at Temple University in Philadelphia, the Summit focused on five principal topics. Upon the request by DCNR and PRPS, Executive Director Herd prepared and delivered a presentation on “Developing Political Support for Parks and Recreation” to the attendees. As one of the five core topics, the subject was discussed and analyzed by the participants for refinement into a position paper to benefit the entire profession. Its ultimate form was titled, “Positioning Recreation and Parks Systems as an Essential Community Service” and is reprinted in this Annual Report.

PRPS Excellence Awards



The Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society selected the Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission as the winner of two of its annual Agency Publication and Promotion Awards, and its chairperson as the recipient of its prestigious Volunteer Service Award. PRPS presented the awards during the annual State Conference held at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA in March.

Community Program Publication Award

Recreation Director Niki Tourscher accepted the **Community Program Publication Award** for the Spring/Summer 2009 edition of *Stroud Region Connections*. With a banner of people—parks—programs—trails—communities—life, the biannual magazine is purposefully packed with relevant information to strengthen all such bonds in the region.

Unique Form of Promotion Award

Executive Director Tim Herd accepted the **Unique Form of Promotion Award** for *It Starts In Parks*, a full-color trifold brochure that highlights how open space, parks, and recreation contribute to a healthy economy, environment, and society.

PRPS Volunteerism Award

Samantha Holbert (*right*) was awarded the 2009 Volunteerism Award. She spearheaded the creation of the Commission through the Intergovernmental Agreement and served as the Commission's volunteer Chairperson from its inception until June 2010, providing both vision and leadership to the Stroud Region.



Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award

In October, Executive Director Tim Herd was awarded the prestigious Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award by the Northeast Pennsylvania Partners. Presented annually to an outstanding champion of partnering in the community for his or her inspiring leadership and commitment to environmental quality, the award was conferred at the annual Environmental Partnership Awards Dinner at the Woodlands Inn and Resort, Wilkes-Barre.



Mr. Herd was honored for his dedication to providing environmental education and promoting community collaboration for the benefit of the environment in Northeastern Pennsylvania, having been engaged in environmental education, leadership, and in developing partnerships to help reconnect people to the land for the past 32 years. He began his career at the Somerset County, New Jersey Environmental Education Center as an interpretive naturalist teaching environmental stewardship.

Mr. Herd continued his career by founding The Roving Nature Center, based in Northampton County, which brought the staffing, equipment, and resources of a traveling environmental education facility to any indoor or outdoor venue. Through this program, Mr. Herd helped hundreds of Pennsylvania schools meet the state educational standards for Environment & Ecology. Mr. Herd also served as the first Recycling Coordinator for the City of Bethlehem, where he organized and implemented the total public recycling program for the city, and co-founded the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania. He began employment with the Commission in March 2007.

Friends of Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation

Friends of Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation is a 501(c)(3) organization working to help preserve and protect open space within the Brodhead, McMichael, and Pocono Creeks Greenway system, and supporting recreational, educational, environmental, and cultural opportunities for all who live and work in the Stroud Region. Governed by a five-member Board of Directors, the Friends promoted and supported these ideals in 2010 in the following events.



Greenway Soirée

The first annual Greenway Soirée fundraiser was held at Liquid Martini Bar on January 12. Nearly 60 attendees received funding opportunities packets and commitment cards, and responded to the vision and requests for involvement in developing organizational strength, special events, fundraising, and advocacy. A scrolling visual presentation and large maps in the room helped facilitate stimulating conversations regarding the greenway and its linkages.

Greenways Leadership Forum & Legislative Breakfast

As one of the host partners of the day-long Forum, the Friends helped facilitate the educational sessions attended by over 100 people on April 9 at East Stroudsburg University's Stony Acres Recreation Facility. The Friends also raised \$400 through paid exhibit space by several commercial vendors and nonprofit organizations.



Levee Loop Trail Run & Fitness Walk

On June 5, National Trails Day, the Friends helped staff the annual Levee Loop Trail Run and Fitness Walk, to help promote the trail, raise awareness of the benefits of trails and outdoor activities, and help protect and maintain the regional greenway corridor. In a timed race, runners mounted the levee and hit the trail for a four-and-a-half mile trek through leafy suburban pathways, wooded streambanks, and scenic natural vistas.

Dansbury Trailhead Grand Opening

On September 25, National Public Lands Day, the Friends hosted the Grand Opening of the newly constructed trailhead to the Levee Loop Trail in Dansbury Park. Approximately 120 enthusiastic supporters joined the celebration that included a ribbon cutting ceremony and the dedication of eight memorial trees planted in honor of those individuals and organizations who had substantially contributed to the renovation of the former East Stroudsburg Police Station into the now well utilized Day Street Community Center. See more about the Grand Opening on page 27.

Martini Tasting Fundraiser

The Liquid Martini Bar on Main Street, Stroudsburg, was the site for the October 25 Friends' Fall Fundraiser: a delightful evening enjoying the finest sampling of hors d'oeuvres and unique cocktails to support the greenway.



Custom Brooch

A swirl joins water, land and air with its living resources in a beautiful portrayal of the value of open space preservation in the Poconos. In one simple yet elegant flourish, the design captures the Stroud Region's Levee Loop Trail, the ever-present cycle of life, and the interconnectedness of the greenway and all we cherish...

Liztech Jewelry's custom design inspired the design of the Friends' logo, and continues to an ongoing source of monetary support through its sales.

Annual Membership

Eight levels of Annual Membership offer both personal and corporate stewardship roles in helping to meet the recreational needs and open space objectives where we live, work, and play. In 2010, the following Members contributed their tangible support to the cause and are gratefully acknowledged.

Individual

Dr. John Georgiou
Paula Gordon
Ajay Hiller
Donna Wells Hollander
James Lynch
Richard Narvaez
CJ Penwell
Sharyn Setzer
Tippy Sheraw
Matthew Wyler

Senior/Student

Frank Allen
Harriet Dronska-Feitelberg
Janice Jenkins
Pam McCarthy
Ashley Puderbach
Anne Robertson

Family

Nicole Atkins
Julieta Bautista
Jerry Baxter

Sarah Bentz
Karen Brinkman
Yolanda Brown-Massey
Marcy Bruckstein
Samantha Holbert
Karin Hornkohl
Robin Kahn
Judith Magann
Julie Malloy
Kathleen McCarthy
Kristine McHugh
Kathy Oiler
Sue Oiler
Gretchen Peters

James Philips
Hillary Potcher
Kim Roasiro
Robert Sedwin
Susan Tagliente
Jennifer Williams
Cecilia Yost

Sponsor

David Williamson

Sustainer

Kathleen Lockwood

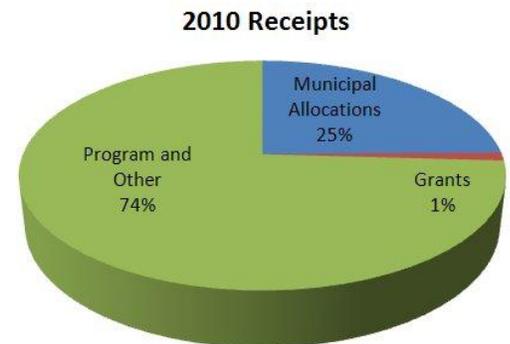
Friends of Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation 2010 Board of Directors

Sonia Wolbert, *Chair*
Cecilia Yost, *Vice-Chair*
Sue Oiler, *Treasurer*

Sue Welsh, *Secretary*
Michael Meilinger
Tim Herd, *Ex officio*

2010 Fiscal Operations

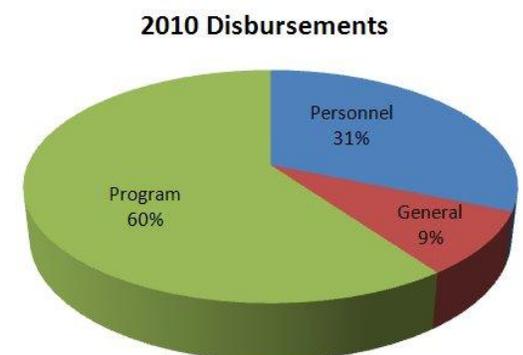
Receipts	2010	2009
Municipal Allocations		
East Stroudsburg	33,451	30,339
Stroudsburg	25,868	23,457
Stroud Township	72,061	65,502
Grants		
Commonwealth of PA - DCNR	0	2,500
County of Monroe - CSBG	4,080	3,135
County of Monroe - Planning	1,950	0
Program and Other		
Contributions	1,397	1,594
Interest & Dividends	51	465
Rentals & Use Fees	9,940	5,233
Greenway Project Contributions		
East Stroudsburg	50,035	0
Stroudsburg	68,661	0
Stroud Township	4,383	0
Recreation Programs	258,671	187,125
Other	134	3,035
Total Receipts	530,682	322,386



In fiscal 2010, the Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission received 25 percent of its operating revenues as allocations from the Township of Stroud and the Boroughs of Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg, based on a per capita rate of \$4.11. Recreational and educational programming and greenway projects generated 74 percent of the total revenues.

Among disbursements, 60 percent directly supported the programming, 31 percent paid the salaries and benefits of the fulltime professional staff, and 9 percent covered general operating expenses.

Disbursements	2010	2009
Personnel		
Professional Staff Salaries	123,083	109,075
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	47,854	41,396
General		
Public Education/Advocacy	13,589	11,699
Community Center	11,808	13,391
Conferences & Training	4,251	2,710
Dues & Subscriptions	1,512	1,894
Insurance	6,127	5,809
Professional Fees	7,555	22,168
Telephone & Internet	2,753	3,199
Other	559	6,440
Program		
Wages	98,201	84,523
Payroll Taxes & Benefits	31,117	8,199
Greenway Projects	147,945	0
Supplies & Equipment	2,721	4,423
Recreation Program	47,323	42,790
Total Disbursements	546,398	357,716
Net (Disbursements)	(15,716)	(35,330)
Beginning Cash	37,592	72,922
Ending Cash	21,876	37,592



2011 Initiatives & Objectives



The Dansbury Trailhead overlooks the snow-covered baseball field of Dansbury Park

Planning, Research & Coordinating

- Greenway Economic Feasibility Study
- Regional Tennis Facilities
- Shale Pit neighborhood park
- Hallett Road open space multiuse trail system
- GPU property
- Godfrey Ridge tract ownership transfer
- "Glen to Glen" Trail

Programming

- Implement new programming consistent with updated Recreation Plan
- Increase emphasis and opportunities for nature & the outdoors; health & wellness
- Increase school, corporate, and events programming

Capacity & Partnerships Development

- Increase Partnerships in Planning, Programming, Funding, Greenway, Advocacy areas
- Part-time Staffing to assist with Office, Programming, Park Maintenance, Park Security
- Assist in developing organizational capacity for Friends of Stroud Region

Parks Stewardship

- Seasonal park caretakers and security staff
- DSCC gym flooring
- Institute commingled recycling pickup in all regional parks
- Parks and Playground Safety Inspections
- Parks signage where needed

Funding Development

- Friends' 3-year Capital Campaign
- Greenway Soiree & other fundraising events
- Local Gaming, DCNR, other grant applications
- Implement recommendations from Greenway Economic Feasibility Study

Greenway Projects

- "To" LLT signs, and other pedestrian/bike connections
- LLT hard surface Veterans Memorial Bridge to Dansbury Trailhead
- trail easements secured
- LLT interpretational signage
- ESSA McMichael Trail and Trailhead

Advocacy & Outreach

- Young Lungs At Play
- website maps, parks directories
- revamp and improve e-newsletter
- Public Advocacy Campaign
- Regional Parks Directory

Professional Training & Leadership

- PRPS Conference, Valley Forge
- NRPA Conference
- Regional Trails, Greenways, Recreation Workshops
- Certified Playground Safety Inspector
- Certified Park and Recreation Professional
- ServeSafe Food Safety Certification



Recreation Staff members Jessica O'Keefe and Niki Tourscher visit the beautiful Hickory Valley Park in fall.

