

Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

Where America was Built™

Fact Sheet: Trail Tenders Program



*Become a Trail Tender!
Get involved in the preservation of history and natural resources in the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. Call our office or check our website for opportunities and events in your area.*

VOLUNTEERS LINK AMERICA'S PAST AND PRESENT

The Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor includes hundreds of natural and historic sites that played key roles in America's birth. Many of these sites are accessed by trail systems that open them to hikers, mountain bikers, cross-country skiers and equestrian riders. Maintenance of the trails is assumed by the D&L Trail Tenders, an association of volunteer groups who work from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol.

Trail Tenders provide litter cleanups; repair drainage problems; patch trails; clean and replace signs; control invasive plants and seed native species; and undertake trail enhancement projects. Their work allows the public to visit historic canals, railroads and scenic natural areas. Without Trail Tenders, the Corridor's heritage would be far less visible.



D&L Trail Tenders volunteers from the Allentown Hiking Club clear debris from Lock 2 in the Upper Grand section of Lehigh Gorge State Park. The club schedules four work days a year in the park.

TRAIL TENDERS ORGANIZE REGIONALLY

The Trail Tenders program is organized into three regions: Luzerne and Carbon counties (Upper Lehigh); the Lehigh Valley from Lehigh Gap to Easton; and the Delaware Canal from Easton to Bristol. Each region is divided into trail segments that are managed by an association of Trail Tenders groups. The groups are formed from volunteers who represent community organizations, corporations, scouts, schools and clubs. Volunteers work in a region of their choice and work with their own (home) group or cooperatively with other groups in their region. It is common for more than one group to work on a project.

TRAIL TENDERS HAVE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Trail Tenders have a keen interest in the history of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. Every year, volunteers clean and stabilize 168-year-old locks on the Upper Grand section of the Lehigh Canal. They have unearthed and cleaned out a 19th century railroad turntable in Lehigh Gorge State Park. In New Hope, Freemansburg and Walnutport, locktender's houses have been restored and opened to the public. As more trail sections open, Trail Tenders will have additional opportunities to preserve the history of the Corridor.

Since the program's inception, more than 5,000 volunteer Trail Tenders have accumulated 30,000 hours maintaining and restoring historic routes of trade and commerce.



D&L



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