

# Keynote Speaker: State of the Region's Trails



Cindy Adams Dunn, Deputy Secretary for Conservation and Technical Services, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

Cindy Dunn serves as Deputy Secretary for Conservation and Technical Services in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. In this capacity, she leads DCNR's work in landscape conservation, community connection and administers the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation and the Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey.

Prior to becoming Deputy Secretary, Cindy served as the Director of DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, which works to protect Pennsylvania's natural and heritage resources and provides recreational opportunities. Cindy served as the Executive Director of Audubon Pennsylvania from 1997 through 2003 and was

the Pennsylvania Program Director of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay for ten years. She has served on many volunteer boards at the local, state and national levels.

Cindy holds a Master of Science Degree in Biology from Shippensburg University. She is married to Craig Dunn and resides in Cumberland County. Her hobbies are bird watching, reading, canoeing, fishing and hiking.



#### **Comfort Suites**

Downtown Carlisle, PA November 3, 2010

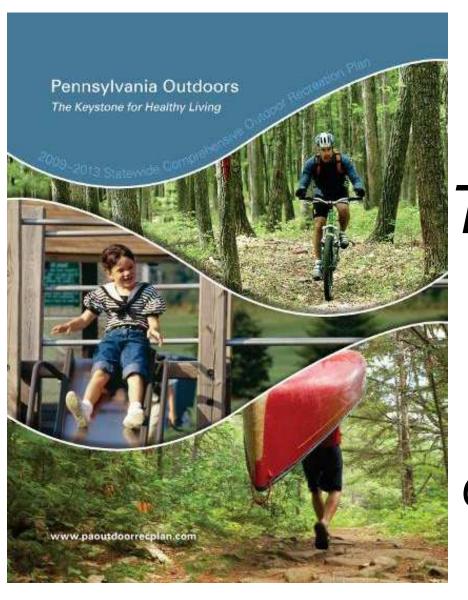
### Cindy Dunn

Deputy Secretary for Conservation and Engineering Services

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

# Pennsylvania Trails A National Leader

- 25,000+ miles of water/land trails with 3,500+ miles proposed
- About 10,000 miles in GIS database
- #1 with 146 open rail trail projects
- 1,413 miles of rail trail top multi-use trail miles
- GAP w/ MD (318 miles); RTC's1st Hall of Fame Trail
- 24 National Recreation Trails; 8 new trails were designated in 2009 adding over 400 miles.

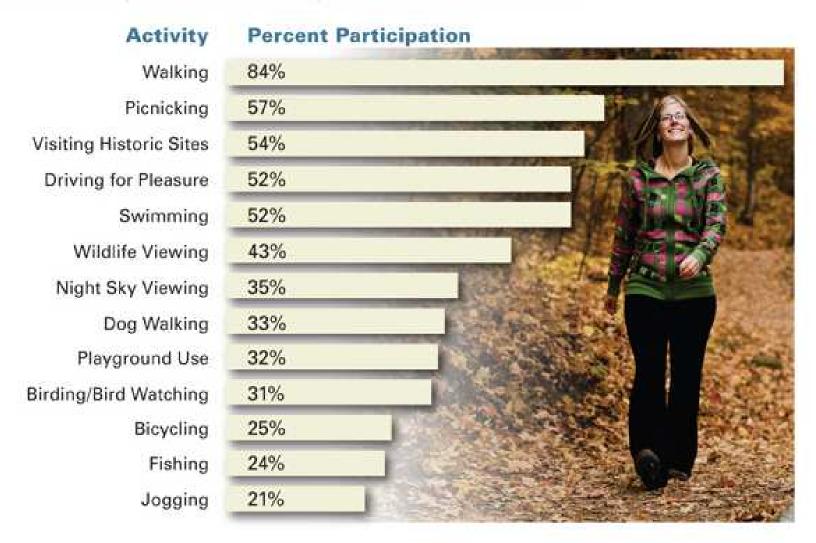


# Pennsylvania Outdoors: The Keystone for Healthy Living

2009-2013 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

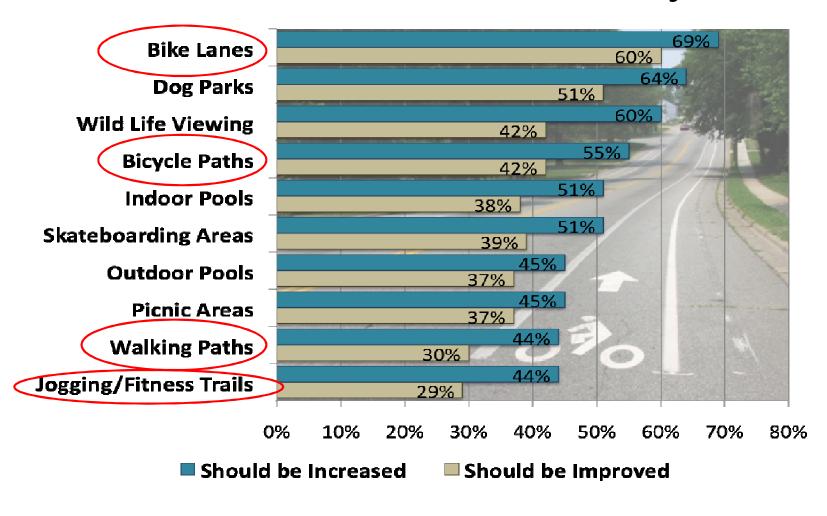
# What are Pennsylvanians Research doing? FindingsParticipation Rates for Popular

Table 1. Participation Rates for Most Popular Outdoor Recreation Activities



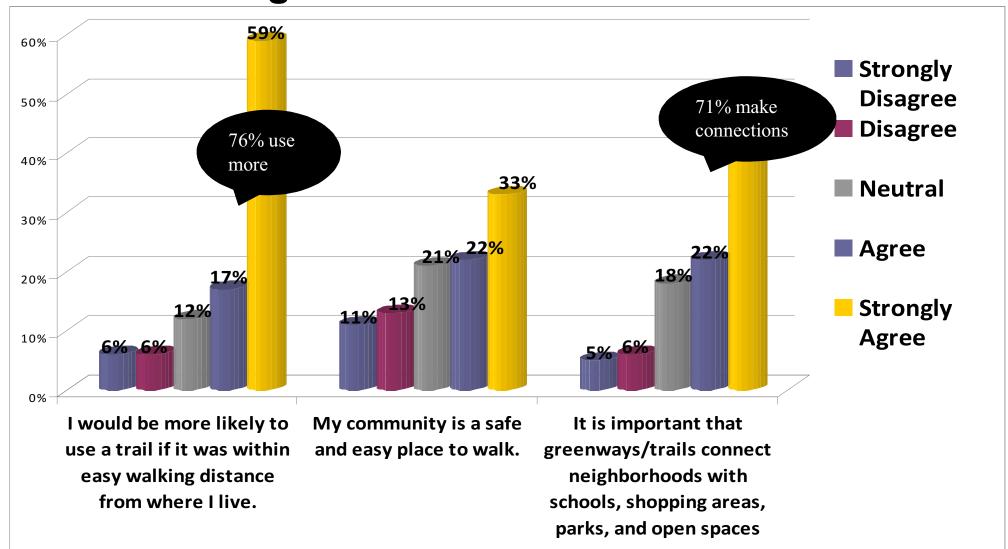
### Research Findings

# What kinds of facilities should be provided more widely?



### Research Findings

# How do people feel about trails in PA?



South Central PA	North East PA	South East PA
Slightly less likely to walk or ride a bike in their neighborhood	More likely to participate in fishing (like several regions)	Most likely to participate in visiting historic sites
Most likely to participate in nature study and bird watching	Most likely to indicate a need for wildlife and fish viewing areas (like Philadelphia)	Especially likely to use local/municipal recreation areas
Most likely to indicate a need for bike lanes and bike paths (like SW region)	Expressed high need for more and improved pools and picnic areas	Expressed high need for more overnight recreation facilities like campgrounds, rental, cabins, nature lodges

### Research Findings

Top 5
Preferences
For FUTURE
State Park
Strategies
and Efforts

State Park Strategy/Effort	% Important or Extremely Important
Build trails to connect areas within the park	74%
Increase the number of facilities that provide more active use of this park (e.g., trails, canoe launches, playgrounds)	67%
Build trails from parks to nearby communities	58%
Improve the visitor and environmental interpretation centers	54%
Improve the quality of overnight accommodations	46%

#### PA Outdoor Plan Goals

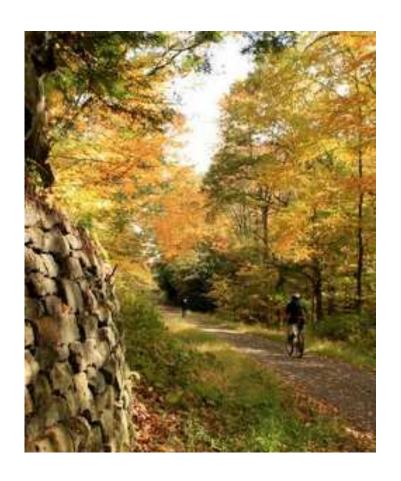
- Strengthen connections between recreation, health, and economics
- Reconnect people to the outdoors
- Develop a statewide land and water trail network
- Enhance outdoor recreation through better agency cooperation



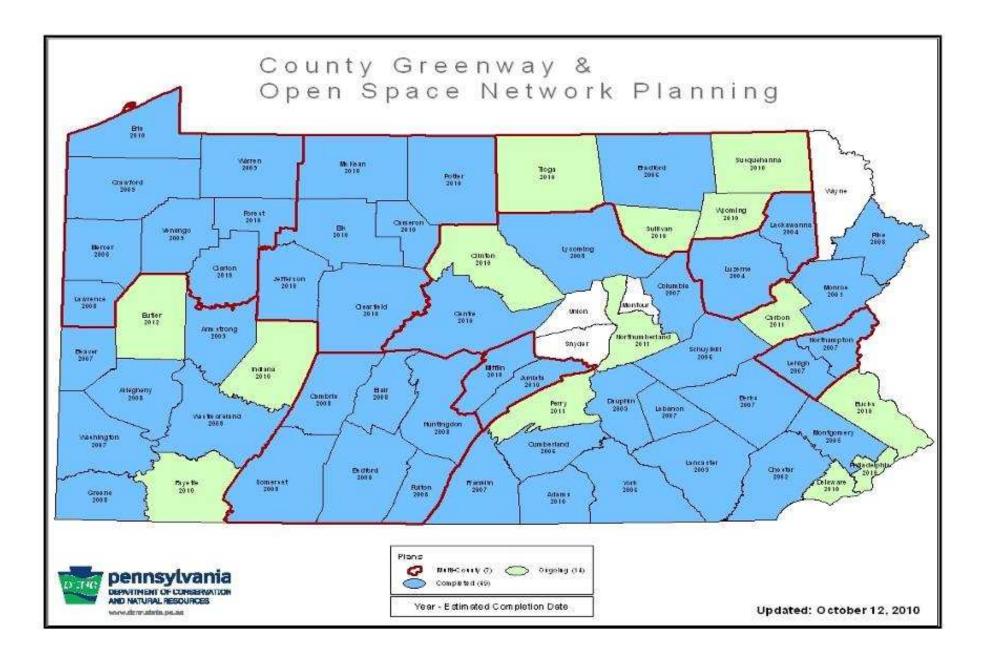
# Goal 3: Develop a statewide land and water trail network to facilitate recreation, transportation and healthy lifestyles

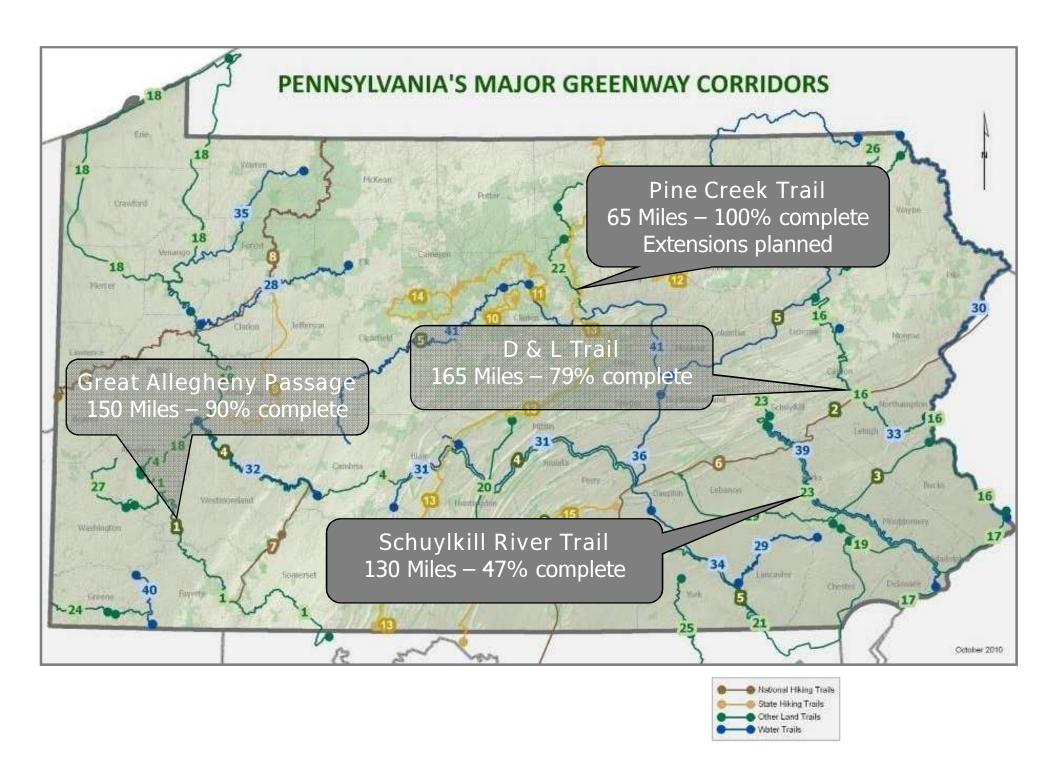
#### WHY?

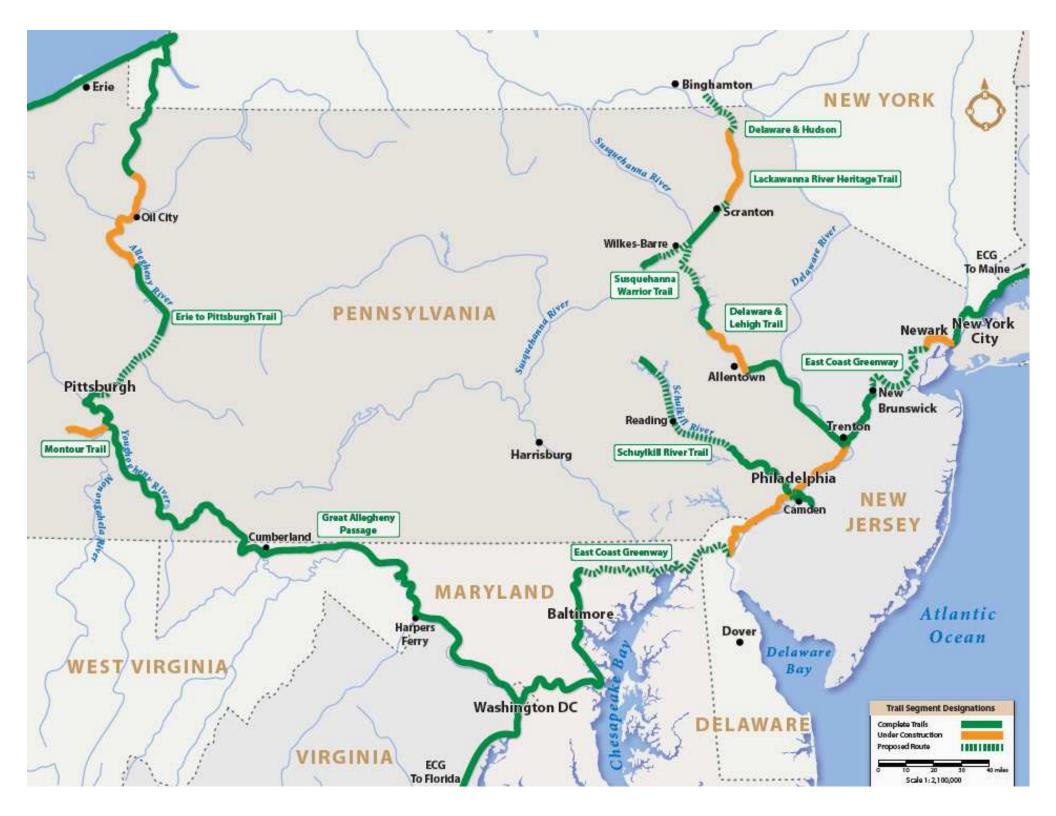
- PA is a national trail leader
- Disconnects in statewide efforts
- Need for coordinated funding and maintenance
- Trails are an easy way to connect – in communities and in the great outdoors

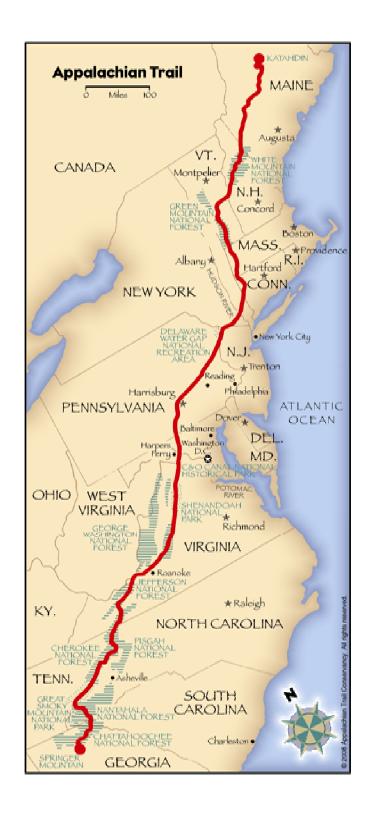


#### Strategy: Develop County Greenway Plans

















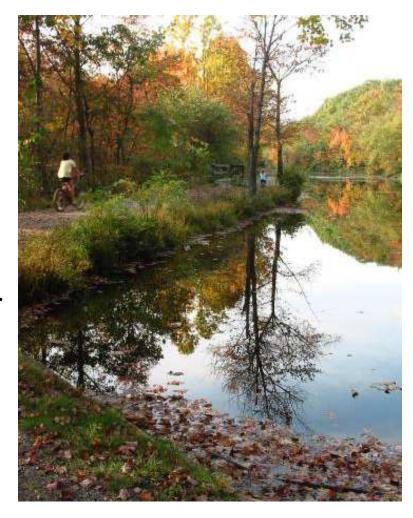
### **Goal 3 Recommendations**

- Establish a statewide Trails Committee
- Standardize trail planning guidelines and information (close the gaps)
- Improve existing electronic information for data collection and trail planning
- Improve the accessibility of trails and trail information
- Develop educational trails and programming opportunities
- Build the capacity of local/regional land and water trail groups



## DCNR's Strategy for Funding Trails: Top 5 Considerations

- 1. Does your project implement local or state planning priorities?
- 2. Have you formed partnerships to complete your project?
- 3. Does your trail connect people to places such as parks, schools, downtowns, and other communities?
- 4. Is your project ready to go?
- 5. Does your project embrace green principles?



### Key PennDOT/DCNR Recommendations

- Promote greener, safer, pedestrian-friendly communities (safe routes to schools)
- Coordinate PennDOT's Smart Transportation Initiative and DCNR CLIs



► Encourage local land use policy that preserves green spaces, creates walkable communities, and provides connections to amenities.



• Report trail updates

Add new trails



Explore PAtrails.com

### **Economic Impact of Trails**

- Ghost Town Trail (2009) \$740,000 annual soft goods
- Heritage Rail Trail County Park (2007) -\$4,000,000 in annual soft goods
- Pine Creek Rail Trail (2006) \$3,600,000 in annual soft goods

### **New Construction**

South Bethlehem Greenway, City of Bethlehem



### Resources

- New DCNR webpage tracking economic stories: <u>http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/indexeconomic.a</u>
   <u>spx</u>
- Coming in Mid-November -- Green Space
   Alliance releasing Economic Benefit quantifying
   the economic value of open space (including
   trails) in Southeastern

PA: <a href="http://www.greenspacealliance.org/home/w">http://www.greenspacealliance.org/home/w</a>
<a href="http://www.greenspacealliance.org/home/w">hatsnew.asp</a>

### Coming Soon!

- Statewide Trail Committee
- Scheduled Improvements to ExplorePAtrails.com
- iPhone application for ExplorePAtrails.com