



Trailway Through Time: Merging history and recreation



World Canals Conference
Aug. 31, 2021

What is the D&L?

- The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor was created by act of Congress, Nov. 18, 1988
- The D&L National Heritage Corridor is both a region and an idea
- Five counties in PA: Luzerne, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Bucks
- Created to preserve and interpret the historic pathway from anthracite mine to market
- ...and to tell the nationally significant story of our region's role in US industry



The D&L Trail: the spine of the Corridor

- Longest multi-use trail in Pennsylvania
- Follows the historic transportation route of anthracite from mine to market
- Stretches from the anthracite coal regions in the north to the Delaware River tidewater at Bristol
- Incorporates canal towpath and former railroad rights-of-way



The National Canal Museum

- Founded in 1970 to preserve and present the history of Pennsylvania's canals
- Its mission and collections broadened to encompass anthracite, canals, railroads, and 19th and early 20th century industries of our region
- Spearheaded the creation of the D&L Corridor in 1988

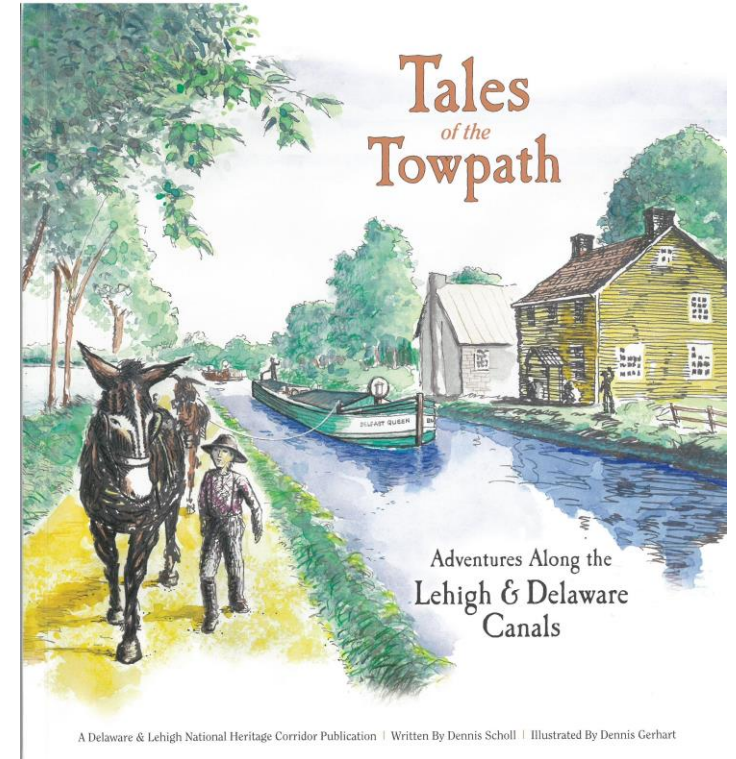


Education: our first bond

School Field Trips:
hands-on field
trip fun and
learning



Tales of
the
Towpath:
classroom
curriculum



Two Become One

- In 2017, the D&L and the National Canal Museum merged, and the Museum became one of the Corridor's signature programs.
- This combined the knowledge and collections of NCM with the financial resources and geographic scope of the Corridor.



A young child with blonde hair, wearing a purple t-shirt, stands in a sun-dappled forest. The child is pointing their right index finger towards a wooden trail sign. The sign is made of several horizontal wooden planks and has the following text: 'BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP' at the top, 'LOWPATH TRAIL' in the middle, and 'PARK CLOSES AT DUSK' at the bottom. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage, with sunlight filtering through the leaves.

Our mission: to inspire connections

- To industrial heritage
- To nature and the environment
- To health and wellness
- To economic development

Inspiring connections: Build the Trail along historic transportation routes

Towpaths

- The D&L Trail is on the Delaware Canal's and Lehigh Navigation's towpaths from Bristol to Allentown, Weissport to Jim Thorpe.
- Spur trails follow the towpath in Walnutport, Parryville, and Hugh Moore Park





Inspiring connections: Build the Trail along historic transportation routes

Rail Trail

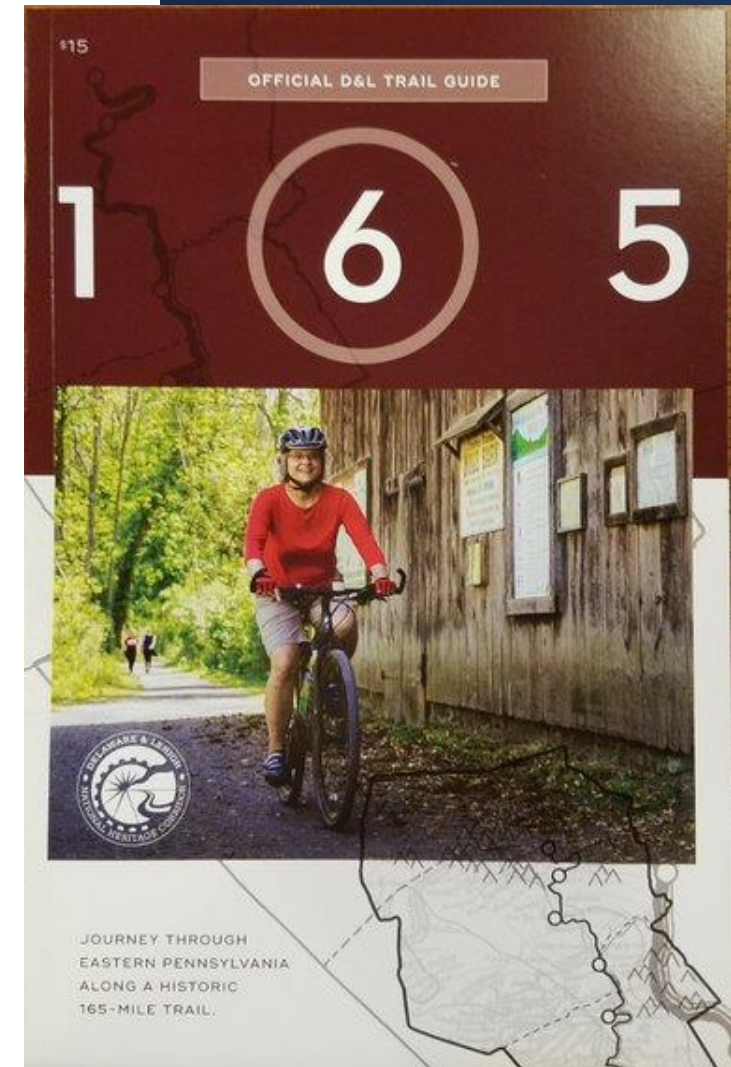
- The D&L Trail is on vacated sections of the rights of way of the Lehigh Valley, Lehigh & Susquehanna, Lehigh and New England and Jersey Central Railroads.
- Rail Trails begin in Cementon and will reach to Wilkes-Barre when the Trail is fully connected.



Inspiring connections:
Encourage exploration and
tell the stories along the Trail

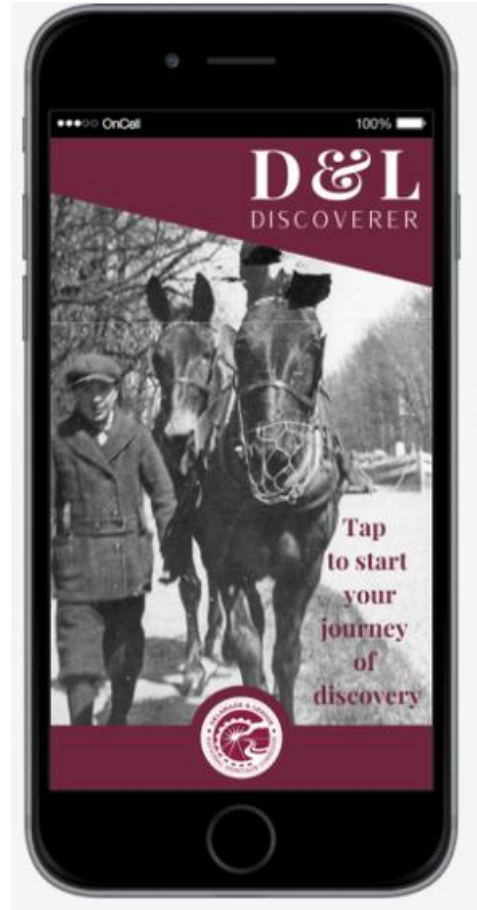
165 : The Official D&L Trail Guide

- Published in March 2021
- The Guide helps walkers, hikers, and cyclists plan routes, find access, food, and lodging



Inspiring connections: Encourage exploration and tell the stories along the Trail

The D&L Discoverer app



Visually Speaking: Interpretive and Way-finding panels



Inspiring connections: Blending outdoor recreation, history, and wellness



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D&L Half Marathon



Inspiring Connections: Sharing History and Heritage



Inspiring Connections: Sharing History and Heritage



Mule-drawn Canal Boat Rides and Locktender House Tours

Inspiring Connections: Sharing History and Heritage

The climate-controlled archive holds:

- 18,000+ photographs
- 2000 books
- 2000+ glass lantern slides
- 900+ artifacts
- 1300+ postcards
- 5000 pamphlets
- Lehigh Coal & Navigation, Bethlehem Steel, Atlas and Alpha Portland Cement, Dixie Cup and other records, photos, and artifacts of Corridor industries
- Model boats, locks, and trains
- The Pennsylvania Canal Society Collection
- Etcetera.....



Hugh Moore Park: Our home base

The history of the Corridor is found in microcosm here



- The only fully restored and functional section of the Lehigh Navigation: dam, guard lock, feeder, waste gates, lift lock. Towpath from Dam 8 to Dam 9
- Ruins of Glendon Iron Works, the second anthracite iron furnace in the US
- Remains of America's first "industrial park" and an LCN hydroelectric plant
- Lehigh Valley Railroad line in active use by Norfolk Southern

How do we accomplish what we do? Partners!

Trail-Friendly Businesses

Lehigh Valley Greenways

PA Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources

Trail Towns

National Park Service

The LINK

Smithsonian Affiliates

Lehigh University

Lehigh Valley Passport to History

St. Luke's University Hospital Network

60+ area schools

Trail Ownership Council

Lafayette University



Thank You!

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