

Shapiro Administration Announces Grants for ATV and Snowmobile Projects

By DCNR
HARRISBURG - Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn announced new grant funding totaling \$793,800 for ATV-related projects.

Three recipients were awarded grants for projects including trail and trailhead construction and land acquisition for trail development.

"DCNR supports projects that improve upon and expand outdoor recreation opportunities across the Commonwealth, and we are excited to announce funding for this round of ATV projects," Dunn said. "We look forward to seeing the impact of these projects and encourage worthy projects to apply for the upcoming spring grant round."

The spring ATV and snowmobile grant applications will be accepted Thursday, February 1 through Friday, March 29.

Funding for these grants comes from the ATV and Snowmobile Restricted Accounts, which are funded through registration fees that riders pay, and support planning, construction, or maintenance of ATV and snowmobile trails and facilities. Learn more...

A person rides aa four wheeler on a dirt road through a green forest. Another rider is in the distance.

ATV Regional Trail Connector Program Continuing Through 2025

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced it will operate an ATV Regional Trail Connector through the 2025 riding season, following the conclusion of the ATV Regional Trail Connector in 2023.

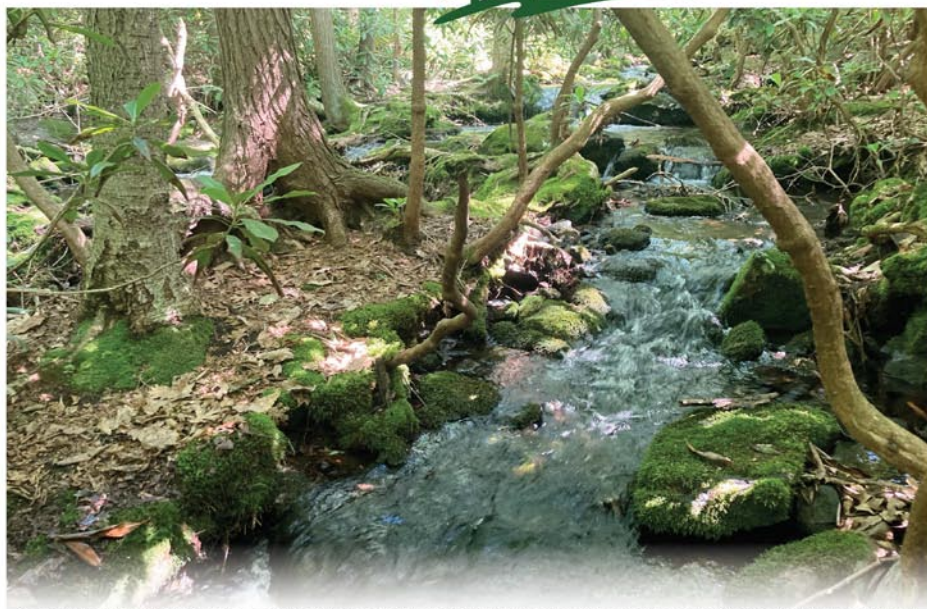
An ATV Regional Pilot Report shares findings regarding the pilot on the department's website.

Through collaborations with public and private partners, the pilot offered long-distance riding opportunities and contributed to local economies, while maintaining the many uses and values of the state forest system.

A key finding of the report showed that a multi-jurisdictional authority is necessary to ensure proper staffing, budget, and expertise to address the needs of the trail system. Learn more...<https://t.e2ma.net/click/iecwjp/2ddo0k/ym9jwgc>.



PRESERVING THE POCONOS WITH POCONO HERITAGE LAND TRUST



Does it surprise you to know that "visiting big, new warehouses" is on zero wish-lists for awe-inspiring travel? Pocono Heritage Land Trust preserves natural open space for you to enjoy, like this, at Jonas Mountain. Become a member at phlt.org/donate.html (Contributed photo)

Nature by numbers

PHLT's preservation work benefits local businesses as well as residents

By Carol Hillestad for Pocono Heritage Land Trust

Tourism in Pennsylvania is a big deal. A very big deal.

450,000 jobs.

\$32.9 billion a year in total economic impact.

\$3.4 billion in state and local revenues.

Here in the Poconos, tourism benefits outfitters, guides, hotels, resorts, and restaurants in a big way. But it's not just the big guys who win. It's also gas stations, diners, pizza places, and corner stores — basically anyone who provides a product or service needed by human beings.

Big numbers. Big benefits. But for people who live here, the benefits run a lot deeper than that.

In our backyard, we have riches that other people have to drive hours to enjoy...

Trail running, bouldering, climbing, and hiking. Geocaching, scavenger hunting,

foraging, and biking. Birding and wildlifeing, mushrooming and botanizing. Photography.

Fishing and hunting, fireflies and night skies. Picnicking, camping, cabins and bonfires. Woodlands and wetlands, creeks, swamps, and bogs.

Continued on reverse

PRESERVING THE POCONOS WITH POCONO HERITAGE LAND TRUST

Nature by numbers

Continuing from front

Sunrise, forest bathing, contemplation and meditation. Waterfalls, canoeing, creek swimming, rapids running. Snowshoeing, downhill, cross-country, sledding. Snow angels!

Yes, jobs and money matter. Still, true prosperity is more than that.

Pocono Heritage Land Trust protects the woods, water, wildlife and natural beauty on which all this depends. We work with individual landowners to conserve their land in the ways that matter to them. We are local people, dedicated to safeguarding our children's heritage — the important lands, natural places, open spaces and agricultural landscapes of this rare, precious place we call home.

So, step outside. Close the door, clear your mind. Take yourself into the woods — there's treasure yet to find.

Pocono Heritage Land Trust protects thousands of acres of the natural world, protecting quality of life for ourselves and for visitors. Much of the land we conserve is open to the public. Find your own awesome experience at one of our preserves: phlt.org/places-to-visit.html You're welcome!

(Statistics according to Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources via weconservepa.org.)



POCONO HERITAGE LAND TRUST

ABOUT CONSERVING LAND

Founded in 1984, Pocono Heritage Land Trust is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the Pocono region by conserving land and inspiring people to care for, enjoy and explore their natural world. PHLT works cooperatively with landowners to preserve their property and leave a legacy of protected natural habitats, healthy forest, clean waterways and open space for future generations.

You can help Pocono Heritage Land Trust protect land for the future. Learn about membership and volunteer opportunities at www.phlt.org.

PLEASE DONATE to preserve important lands and natural resources in the Poconos, for generations to come.

- \$25 provides supplies for one trash cleanup day, or one planting of wildflower seeds for meadow habitat restoration.
- \$50 buys tools for managing invasive plants on volunteer days.
- \$150 prints 500 trail brochures to guide visitors on preserves.
- \$500 builds a streamcrossing bridge to improve trail access.
- \$1,500 covers the cost of an appraisal, the first step in acquiring new land for preservation.
- \$3,000 funds construction of a sign kiosk on a new preserve.
- \$5,000 enables development of a new nature trail network, including trail marking, clearing, signage and maps.

Donate online at phlt.org/donate.html

or clip this form and send it with your check made out to Pocono Heritage Land Trust to:

PHLT, 1539 Cherry Lane Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____