

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Celebrating A Year of Progress

By Dan DiBella

LEHIGH VALLEY - 2025 was a busy and impactful year for Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (DLNHC). From community projects to volunteer milestones and trail improvements, our work continues to connect people to the D&L Trail and preserve the rich history of our region. Here's a look at what we've accomplished together in 2025 (NOTE: Data tracked from January till the beginning of November 2025).

Community Projects: Investing in Our Communities

DLNHC is committed to stewardship and supporting projects that enhance the trail experience and local amenities. This year, we provided:

\$10,000 in support to the City of Easton for emergency repairs

Invested approximately \$7,000 in Take Action community projects, including a new water fountain and concrete game tables at Scott Park.

\$10,352 in funding provided for events such as community festivals and 5K's and \$24,000 in funding provided for projects such as signage, trail repairs benches, trash cans and other trailhead amenities!

These investments reflect our dedication to creating vibrant, welcoming spaces for trail users and residents.

Volunteer Impact: The Heart of DLNHC

Our volunteers are the strength of DLNHC, doing everything from maintaining the D&L Trail to greeting visitors at the National Canal Museum. Their efforts define our community-based mission and make preservation possible.

2025 Trail Volunteer Shindig at the National Canal Museum, located at Hugh Moore Park, in Easton. Photo Credit: Dan DiBella

2025 Trail Volunteer Impact:

Our trail volunteers accomplished so much this year, collectively working over 2,300 hours, collecting 161 bags of waste, and patrolling nearly 7,400 miles of the D&L Trail! We hosted four public Trail Tender events and nine private ones, welcoming 96 participants who put in 364.5 hours to maintain 22 miles of trail and remove 57 bags of trash.

Adopt-A-Section volunteers added 13 new members—bringing the total to 86—and together with 125 participants, they contributed over 415 hours, cared for 104 miles of trail and 11.5 miles of canal, and cleared 56 bags of trash.

2025 Trail Tender Cleanup at Lehigh Gap State Park.

We also welcomed 12 new Trail Patrol volunteers, bringing that team to 42 strong. Every effort makes a difference, and these numbers show just how dedicated our volunteer community is to keeping the D&L Trail beautiful and safe.

Our volunteers don't just work on the trail—they play a vital role inside the National Canal Museum too! From greeting visitors as friendly docents to helping in the gift shop and assisting with archival projects, their efforts keep history alive and ensure every guest has a memorable experience.

Want to join this incredible team? Explore opportunities like Museum Docent & Gift Shop Helper, Trail Tender & Trail Patrol, Field Trip Educator, Facilities & Maintenance, Office & Archives, and Gardeners. Click here to learn more about our volunteer opportunities.

Preserving Our Industrial Heritage

The National Canal Museum had an incredible year! We cataloged more than 4,200 historic items, reviewed over 5,500 archival records, and inventoried 7,700 artifacts—each one helping us preserve the stories that shaped our region. We also welcomed more than 5,300 visitors for museum admissions and canal boat rides—and kept the museum open for over 1,000 public hours, meeting the best practices of the American Alliance of Museums for the very first time. These milestones ensure the legacy of the people who built the region that helped spark the American Industrial Revolution lives on for generations to come.

Looking Ahead

As we wrap up 2025, we're proud of the progress made and excited for what's next. Thank you to our volunteers, partners, and supporters for helping us preserve history and connect communities through the D&L Trail.

Your support helps us connect and maintain the 150+ miles of D&L Trail. If you've enjoyed the trail or learned something through our programs, please consider giving today.



St. Luke's Joins National Study on New Shoulder Replacement Technology

By Sam Kennedy

LEHIGH VALLEY - St. Luke's is the only health care system in the Lehigh Valley chosen for this innovative research.

St. Luke's University Health Network has been selected as the only health care system in the Lehigh Valley, and one of just a few nationwide, to take part in a major clinical trial studying a new shoulder replacement design called the INHANCE™ Shoulder System by DePuy Synthes.

This research will evaluate the safety and effectiveness of the INHANCE Shoulder System, which uses a stemless design instead of the traditional metal stem placed inside the arm bone. By removing the stem, the procedure may help preserve more natural bone and reduce bone loss, which could be important for patients who might need another surgery in the future.

The study is for patients who need a reverse total shoulder replacement because of a gross rotator cuff deficiency and severe pain and loss of function caused by conditions like osteoarthritis. These issues can make everyday activities difficult and greatly affect quality of life. Participation in the study is a decision made together by the patient and surgeon.

Dr. Gregory Carolan, an orthopedic surgeon with St. Luke's Orthopedic Care, performed the first procedure in the Lehigh Valley at St. Luke's Orthopedic Hospital at the West End Campus. DePuy Synthes invited Dr. Carolan to join the study because of his national reputation and extensive experience with complex shoulder surgeries.

"We are excited to be part of this important research," said Dr. Carolan. "The stemless design could be a big step forward in shoulder replacement because it preserves more of the patient's natural bone, which is especially important for long-term results."

St. Luke's participation in this study highlights its commitment to bringing advanced orthopedic care to the region.

