

Boscola Joins Lt. Gov Davis & DCNR Secretary Dunn to Celebrate Conservation and Recreation Grants and Easton Highline Project

By Senator Lisa M. Boscola

BETHLEHEM (January 23, 2026) – Senator Lisa M. Boscola (D-Northampton) today joined Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis, DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn, and community leaders to celebrate \$82 million invested statewide in conservation and recreation, including a \$500,000 Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) grant award to the City of Easton. This grant will allow for the acquisition of approximately 17.5 acres in Easton and West Easton Borough for development of the Easton Highline trail.

"The trail system in the Lehigh Valley has become the envy of the Commonwealth," Senator Boscola stated as she welcomed Lt. Governor Davis and Secretary Dunn back to the Lehigh Valley. "Whether it is the D and L (Delaware and Lehigh River) trail, the South Bethlehem Greenway, the Palmer Bike Path, the Bushkill Creek Trail or the

Since 2014 the State has invested nearly \$14 million just in trail construction and planning projects across the Lehigh Valley. About \$8.5 million was for D and L trail projects and planning alone. And, in the 18th Senatorial District the C2P2 program alone has invested over \$14 million in trails, parks and conservation projects in that time period.

"There is no doubt these investments have paid off and have made a huge difference in improving the quality of life here in the Lehigh Valley," Boscola added. These trails connect communities, get people outdoors to bike, walk or run and take full advantage of our natural resources. The High Line project is yet another example of using the great outdoors, turning an old railway trestle into a dynamic public park connecting neighborhoods with nature."

In total seven grants through the C2P2 program were awarded to Northampton County projects:

- Bethlehem City, \$250,000, Development of the South Bethlehem Greenway in Bethlehem City, Northampton County. Work to include the construction of approximately 0.10 miles of trail from New Street to Third Street, amphitheater, rain garden and lighting; ADA access, landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements. This funding brings the Commonwealth's partnership with the City of Bethlehem to over \$3 million on the South Bethlehem Greenway.
- Easton City, \$500,000, Payment toward the acquisition of approximately 17.57 acres in Easton City and West Easton Borough, Northampton County, to provide approximately 1.14 miles of trail for the development of the Easton Highline.
- Hellertown Borough, \$280,000, Further development of Tumminello Park in Hellertown Borough, Northampton County. Work to include construction of a pedestrian bridge and pedestrian walkways; ADA access, landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements.
- Nazareth Borough, \$350,000, Payment toward the acquisition of approximately 41 acres in Nazareth Borough and Upper Nazareth Township, Northampton County for passive recreation and open space.
- Wildlands Conservancy, Inc., \$160,000, Restoration of 2,000 feet of three unnamed tributaries in the Lehigh River Watershed, Lehigh and Northampton counties. Work to include dam removal; streambank stabilization; installation of instream habitat structures and riparian forest buffer; landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements.
- Wildlands Conservancy, Inc., \$120,300, Restoration of the Black River in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County. Work to include dam removal; streambank stabilization; installation of riparian forest buffer; landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements.
- Wind Gap Borough, \$250,000, Rehabilitation of Wind Gap Park in Wind Gap Borough, Northampton County. Work to include construction of pavilion; installation of utilities; ADA access, landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements.

The C2P2 program is administered by DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation to provide financial and technical assistance to local governments, rail and trail organizations, land trusts and other non-profits for park, recreation, conservation and greenway projects. The grant program is funded with a variety of state and federal funding sources including the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund (Key); the Environmental Stewardship Fund (ESF); the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) subject to National Park Service approval; the federal Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program (PRT), and the Pennsylvania Heritage Area Program (HA).



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