









Plan Implementation Matrix













Summary of Programmatic Recommendations and Action Steps

This chart summarizes all programmatic recommendations and action steps in the 2009-2013 Pennsylvania Outdoor Recreation Plan and includes a recommended timeline for each action step. Partners included are Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members who have affirmed their commitment to implementing plan recommendations, as well as suggested partners. A list of partner acronyms can be found on page 112. The plan recom-

mends continuing the TAC to help oversee plan implementation, and developing three subcommittees for Health, Outdoor and Trails. Determining these committee memberships and responsibilities is an ongoing process. The PA Water Trails Partnership is an existing alliance formed in 2008 between DCNR, PFBC, PEC, and NPS Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network.

Goal 1: Strengthen Connections Between Outdoor Recreation, Healthy Lifestyles and Economic Benefits in Communities

Recommendations and Action Steps	Implementing Partners	On-going	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs
1.1: Establish TAC Health Committee.				
a. Develop criteria and an interagency implementation plan for active/healthy/green community designation, recognition and funding prioritization.	TAC Health Committee			
b. Identify pilot communities in which to fund projects designed to strengthen the health and outdoor recreation connection.	TAC Health Committee			
c. Conduct a health summit to explore ways to improve health through physical activity and outdoor recreation.	TAC Health Committee			
1.2: Develop technical assistance materials.				
a. Update Creating Connections: The Pennsylvania Greenways and Trails Manual to web-based fact sheets.	PEC, DCNR, DOH, RTC, PRPS			
b. Work with health, economic, and government association stakeholders to offer links and audience-appropriate text on their websites to show the benefits of outdoor recreation.	DOH, DCNR, PFBC, DCED, DOE, PennDOT			
c. Promote model initiatives that are demonstrating the positive impact of outdoor recreation on health and economy.	DCNR, DOH, DCED, PDC			
1.3: Implement a statewide education and awareness campaign.				
a. Explore integration of existing health and recreation-based marketing campaigns and provide guidance for use.	TAC Health Committee			
b. Launch a statewide campaign to promote healthy recreation in the outdoors.	TAC Health Committee			















Recommendations and Action Steps	Implementing Partners	On-going	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs
1.4: Coordinate PennDOT’s Smart Transportation Initiative and DCNR’s CLIs to promote greener, safer, pedestrian-friendly communities.				
a. Develop planning guidelines to integrate outdoor and green infrastructure initiatives within multi-municipal plans.	DCED, DEP, DCNR, PennDOT, PDC			
b. Identify and implement PennDOT’s Smart Transportation projects to serve as models for livable communities with an outdoor recreation focus.	PennDOT, DCNR, DCED, 10,000 Friends			
1.5: Develop a statewide resource-based “town” program.				
a. Convene key stakeholders to discuss successful initiatives, develop strategies to further support a statewide trail/river town program, and select pilots.	DCED, PDC, The Trail Town Program, PEC, DCNR, RTC			
b. Hold a summit for tourism and business stakeholders to highlight the economic benefits of outdoor recreation.	DCED, PDC, DCNR, PEC, RTC			
c. Establish Gateway sites in the Susquehanna watershed.	Heritage Areas, DCED, DCNR, NPS, PHMC			
1.6: Encourage local land use policy that promotes best management practices to preserve green spaces, creates walkable communities, and provides connections to amenities.				
a. Expand and promote PALTAs’ Conservation Tool Box.	PALTA, DCNR, DCED, PPA, county planning organizations			
b. Promote Safe Routes to Schools Programs by holding workshops, supporting demonstration communities, and providing continued funding for needed improvements.	PennDOT, DCNR, PRPS			
c. Support the implementation of county greenway plans.	DCNR, DCED, PennDOT, county planning organizations			
d. Promote and fund urban tree planting efforts.	DCNR, DEP, DCED, county planning organizations, local recreation & parks departments			
1.7: Identify policy and environmental needs to improve physical activity and healthy eating in parks.				
a. Identify park practices where design, regulation or other factors constrain physical activity and healthy eating, and develop strategies to address constraints at pilot parks.	DCNR, PRPS, local recreation & parks departments			
b. Develop a collection of park, playground, and schoolyard designs that exemplify green practices and incorporate innovative trends in recreation to facilitate outdoor play.	DCNR, PRPS, local recreation & parks departments, PCEE			
c. Create a recognition program for parks and playgrounds.	DCNR, PRPS, local recreation & parks departments, PPF			

Goal 1: Strengthen Connections (continued)











Recommendations and Action Steps	Implementing Partners	On-going	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs
1.8: Conduct research on the economic benefits of outdoor recreation.				
a. Update the PA State Parks' economic impact study.	DCNR, PFFF, PRPS			🍁
b. Establish a benchmark system for emerging resource and recreation-based towns that can document measurable results and capture as case studies.	PDC, DCED, DCNR		🍃	
c. Complete the series of PA rail-trail economic benefit studies and develop a statewide assessment.	RTC, DCNR			🍁
d. Support the Southeast Economic Impact Study of parks and open space, evaluate results, and promote as a model.	Green Space Alliance, DCNR, William Penn Foundation	🍁		
e. Conduct an economic impact analysis to benchmark the economic impact of water trails.	PA Water Trails Partnership		🍃	
1.9: Conduct research on the health benefits of outdoor recreation.				
a. Conduct an assessment on attitudes and interests of health stakeholders.	TAC Health Committee			🍁
b. Study the impact of any implemented outdoor education and awareness campaign on improving physical activity.	TAC Health Committee			🍁



Goal 2: Reconnect People to the Outdoors and Develop a Stewardship Ethic Through Outdoor Recreation Opportunities and Experiences

Recommendations and Action Steps	Implementing Partners	On-going	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs
2.1: Continue to support and maintain existing outdoor recreation facilities and programs.				
a. Manage parks as welcoming places where visitors feel safe and can enjoy the outdoors by prioritizing maintenance and increased staff visibility in high-use areas.	DCNR, PGC, PRPS, local recreation & park departments			
b. Work with local recreation entities to inventory and review recreation infrastructure needs.	Local recreation & park departments, planning offices, DCNR			
c. Expand environmental education and interpretive programming in parks, and seek opportunities to provide upgraded centers, wildlife viewing areas, and active outdoor recreation facilities.	DCNR, PFBC, PGC, PRPS, local recreation & park departments			
d. Expand successful hunting and fishing programs by training park personnel and volunteers.	PFBC, DCNR, PRPS, PGC, local recreation & park departments			
2.2: Organize and market outdoor recreation opportunities and amenities more effectively.				
a. Develop a dynamic, comprehensive inventory of outdoor recreation amenities and facilities using GIS to identify areas lacking access to public parks.	DCNR, PennDOT, PFBC, PGC, PRPS, RTC, DCED, outdoor recreation organizations, local recreation & park departments			
b. Commission a statewide outdoor recreation clearinghouse website as a one-stop portal for outdoor recreation opportunities.	DCNR, PennDOT, PFBC, PGC, PRPS, RTC, DCED, outdoor recreation organizations			
c. Develop a year-long advertising and marketing program for Pennsylvania State Parks.	DCNR, PPFF, PRPS, DCED			
d. Establish a Trail of the Year Program to increase promotion and use of trails.	DCNR, RTC, PA Trails Committee			
2.3: Use outdoor learning opportunities in school settings and after-school settings to promote and facilitate the connection between outdoor recreation skills and environmental stewardship.				
a. Develop new and/or coordinate existing curricula and training to link outdoor recreation with personal outdoor stewardship to academic standards.	PDE, DCNR, PFBC, PGC, PSAHPERD, PCEE			
b. Provide professional development to physical education teachers and others to provide lifelong outdoor recreation skills.	DCNR, PFBC, PGC, PDE, PSAHPERD, PRPS, outdoor recreation providers			
c. Provide professional development, technical assistance and support for the development and/or revitalization of outdoor learning facilities and green space on school grounds.	PDE, PGC, DCNR, PFBC, PRPS			
d. Develop a leader's manual and student materials to establish and support school-based outing clubs.	PFBC, DCNR, PSU Cooperative Extension, 4H, Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, AMC			
e. Help PA children meet the national recommendation for 60 minutes of physical activity each day by encouraging more outdoor play as part of school day.	PSAHPERD, DCNR, PFBC, PGC, PRPS			
f. Encourage the use of technology to enhance student outdoor experiences and improve knowledge.	PDE, PFBC, PGC, DCNR, PRPS			










Goal 2: Reconnect People to Outdoors (continued)












Recommendations and Action Steps	Implementing Partners	On-going	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs
2.4: Develop social support networks to engage new and diverse audiences in outdoor recreation.				
a. Develop and support community-based and university outing clubs to facilitate close-to-home outdoor recreation programming.	PRPS, SSHE, DCNR, PFBC, outing clubs, YMCA			
b. Work with outdoor recreation-focused clubs to package and coordinate current offerings; address membership needs; and develop partnerships with outdoor recreation venues.	DCNR, PFBC, KTA, PEC, IMBA, Elderhostel, hunting/fishing clubs			
c. Provide training to volunteer-mentor networks to empower community organizations to expand outdoor recreation programs and facilities.	DCNR, PRPS, PFBC, KTA, PEC, IMBA, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, YMCAs, Scouts, 4-H Cooperative Ext.			
d. Partner with local schools and rec/parks depts. to create a Youth and Family Stewardship Corps. to increase volunteer efforts on public land.	PPFF, DCNR, PDE, L&I, PRPS, local recreation & park departments			
e. Package and publicize outdoors-based work events as recreation and service-learning opportunities.	DCNR, PGC, PFBC, PRPS, PPFF, PA Cleanways, heritage areas			
f. Develop events that blend youth-oriented and technology-driven activities with traditional sports like hunting/fishing.	PGC, PFBC, DCNR, PRPS, nonprofit partners			
2.5: Maximize outdoor recreation and tourism potential of PA's 12 Heritage Areas.				
a. Work with Heritage Areas to develop marketing packages that connect and build relationships between recreation, tourism, and business partners.	DCNR, DCED Heritage Areas, TPAs			
b. Continue to support an annual trail sojourn to promote emerging trails.	DCNR, Heritage Areas			
c. Work with state agencies and others to assess which current cultural or historic features could add recreational assets like trails and greenways.	PHMC, DCED, DCNR, Heritage Areas, PRPS, trail groups, PFBC, PennDOT			
d. Identify and implement projects linking historic or cultural features with trails or other recreational amenities.	PHMC, DCED, DCNR, Heritage Areas, PRPS, trail groups, PennDOT			

Recommendations and Action Steps	Implementing Partners	On-going	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs
2.6: Build a solid support network to assist in guiding, planning and advancing outdoor recreation and stewardship efforts.				
a. Develop and support a standing, statewide outdoors committee of TAC to implement recommendations that connect people to the outdoors.	DCNR, TAC		🍃	
b. Develop the PA Kids Outside Coalition to provide a forum for youth to advise the direction of relevant outdoor recreation policy and practice.	TAC Outdoors Committee		🍃	
c. Create a committee of the PRPS to advance plan recommendations.	PRPS, DCNR, TAC Outdoors Committee		🍃	
d. Focus research on activity and recreation-specific interests to understand specialized groups and facilities.	TAC Outdoors Committee			🍁
e. Engage under-represented populations in recreation research efforts.	TAC Outdoors Committee		🍃	
2.7: Better use the media to convey outdoor recreation and stewardship messages.				
a. Promote recreation orgs., planners and outdoor recreation providers as speakers at conferences of the POWA and MDOWA conferences.	DCNR, PRPS, POWA, MDOWA	🍁		
b. Distribute information about outdoor recreation sites, opportunities, events and trends to membership of professional writers' organizations in the state.	DCNR, PRPS, POWA, OWAA, MDOWA	🍁		























Goal 3: Develop a Statewide Land and Water Trail Network to Facilitate Recreation, Transportation and Healthy Lifestyles

Recommendations and Action Steps	Implementing Partners	On-going	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs
3.1: Establish Statewide Trail Committee.				
a. Convene a trails committee as a subgroup of the TAC to include reps from DCNR, PFBC, PennDOT, planners, motorized and non-motorized user orgs., and the RTC.	DCNR, PFBC, PennDOT			
b. Develop a strategic plan that details future goals, implementation and evaluation tools, and responsibilities.	DCNR, PFBC and PennDOT			
c. Initiate outreach to the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Department of Corrections for trail partnership opportunities.	PA Trails Committee			
d. Update the 2001 PA Greenway Plan.	PA Trails Committee with greenway stakeholders			
3.2: Standardize trail planning guidelines and funding decision criteria.				
a. Develop and adopt statewide funding criteria that emphasizes as priorities closing gaps, connecting users, opening opportunities for a variety of users, securing rights-of-way and providing access to people with disabilities.	DCNR, PFBC, PennDOT			
b. Adopt statewide guidelines to encourage uniform trail construction, maintenance and signage, to include the development of a non-motorized trail standards and guidelines publication.	PA Trails Committee			
c. Adopt and encourage statewide use of the federal trail difficulty rating system at trailheads and on printed and web-based trail guides and maps.	PA Trails Committee			
3.3: Standardize and improve electronic information and launch the trails website.				
a. Continue to gather GIS based trail inventory data to include identifying gaps and digitizing trail related recreation facilities and amenities.	PA Trails Committee			
b. Launch the planned one-stop trail information interactive website and continue website enhancements.	DCNR, PFBC, RTC, KTA, local and county trail builders			

Recommendations and Action Steps	Implementing Partners	On-going	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs
3.4: Improve trail access and use by enhancing access points and printed and electronic information.				
a. Clearly mark trails, trailheads and trail guides/maps with standardized difficulty ratings.	Trail clubs, DCNR, PFBC, RTC, KTA, local/ county trail builders			
b. Provide consistent and complete trail information on all brochures, maps and websites including information on safety and recreation facilities and launch sites along river trails.	Trail clubs, DCNR, PFBC, RTC, KTA, local/ county trail builders			
c. Develop a system of signing for river paddlers/water trail users that identifies landmarks (bridges and launches) and provides distances to upcoming access points.	PennDOT and PA Water Trails Partnership			
d. Develop a statewide communications plan for the PA Water Trails Program.	PA Water Trails Partnership			
e. Explore ways to link land and water trails and trail access points, and improve portages.	PA Water Trails Partnership			
3.5: Develop self-guided and interpreter-led educational and programming opportunities.				
a. Provide electronic and printed interpretive materials to facilitate self-guided hikes to learn about PA's natural and cultural history.	DCNR, Heritage Areas, PPF, local/ county trail builders			
b. Explore initiation of a trail guide trainers program.	DCNR, Heritage Areas, PPF, local/ county trail builders			
c. Explore opportunity for youth programs guided by properly trained and certified adult volunteers.	DCNR, Heritage Areas, PPF, local/ county trail builders			
d. Work with canoe outfitters and others to develop orientation programming to ensure paddlers have the information they need before disembarking.	PA Water Trails Partnership			
3.6: Build the capacity of local trail groups in planning, stewardship and programming.				
a. Continue workshops for land and water trail groups to share information, best practices, and conduct joint marketing efforts.	PA Trails Committee., PA Water Trails Partnership			
b. Work with partners to produce a guide for water trails and land trails on maintenance, stewardship and sustainability.	PA Water Trails Partnership, PA Trails Committee			

Goal 4: Enhance Outdoor Recreation Through Better State Agency Cooperation

Recommendations and Action Steps	Implementing Partners	On-going	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs
4.1: Develop a set of green principles to ensure that all state grant programs for recreation reward environmentally sustainable practices.				
a. Develop a set of green principles for state grant programs; develop a website and share green principles with all state agency partners.	DCNR, DEP, PDA, DOE, DOH, Center for Rural Affairs, PennDOT, DOA, DCED, State Planning Board, Interagency Land-Use Team.			
b. Work with state agencies and partners responsible for implementing the Wildlife Action Plan to coordinate timing and prioritizing grant awards.	PFBC, PGC, DCNR, DEP, PennDOT			
c. Develop standards and grant criteria to outline and incentivize the development of green and playful parks.	DCNR, PRPS, TAC Health and Outdoors Committees			
d. Take steps to better align PennDOT and DCNR trail development and grantmaking.	PennDOT, DCNR, PUC, RTC, PA Trails Committee			
e. Develop grant guidelines to ensure bridge replacements preserve existing land and water trails.	PennDOT, PFBC, DCNR, PA Water Trails Partnership, PA Trails Committee			
4.2: Provide more recreation opportunities for underserved urban and rural communities.				
a. Develop criteria for grant programs promoting recreational opportunities in underserved urban and rural areas and implement pilot projects.	DEP, Office of Environmental Justice Center for Rural PA; RTC, PennDOT			
b. Incorporate recreational opportunities into urban infill and brownfield redevelopment projects.	DEP, DCED, DCNR, PDC, PennDOT			
4.3: Protect PA's working landscapes and local economies by promoting recreation and conserving lands and waters through CLIs and restoration activities.				
a. Work with CLI leaders, county planners, and economic development staff to identify areas that need more recreation and marketing to benefit local economies.	DCED, RC&D areas, DCNR, PDA, counties, L&I, PACD, metropolitan and regional planning organizations, PEC			
b. Develop trails, events, or other recreational features within CLI regions highlighting different local economies.	DCED, RC&D areas, DCNR, PDA, PACD, counties, L&I, metropolitan planning and regional planning organizations			
c. Work with agency partners, in particular DEP and PFBC, and with non-profit partners to continue PA's successful small dam removal program.	PFBC, American Rivers, DEP, DCNR, Riverkeeper Program, Conservation Districts			
d. Work with agency and nonprofit partners, particularly the agricultural community, to conserve riparian forested buffers and restore buffers along river corridors in conjunction with water trail establishment.	NRCS, DCNR, PDA, DEP, CBF, Conservation Districts			

Recommendations and Action Steps	Implementing Partners	On-going	1-2 yrs	3-5 yrs
e. Work with PFBC and others to expand and enhance stream easements to preserve river access and protect river corridors as natural and scenic byways.	PFBC, DCNR, PALTA, Pennsylvania Water Trails Partnership			
4.4: Initiate inter-agency policy discussions to promote more recreational opportunities on state lands and state-funded private lands.				
a. Work with DGS to identify ways to introduce recreational opportunities when the state sells or exchanges land; develop guidelines, and implement pilot projects.	DGS, DCNR, land trusts, PALTA, Chamber of Business and Industry			
b. Work with PGC and PFBC to identify and develop trail connections on state game lands and PFBC properties for low-impact, non-motorized trail users.	PGC, DCNR, PFBC, trail groups, counties, land trusts, PALTA			
c. Work with Dept of Agriculture to identify ways to incorporate trails on lands under permanent agricultural preservation easements.	PDA, counties, DCNR, trail groups, Farm Bureau, PSU Cooperative Extension, PALTA			
4.5: Identify collaborative opportunities among state and local agencies to share project planning, training, and project implementation and maintenance.				
a. Survey state and local agencies for capacity needs and strengths as well as desired collaborative recreation projects.	PGC, PFBC, DCNR, DEP, SRBC, State Police			
b. Have PFBC provide staff training to DCNR field staff on designing and implementing fishing and boating access areas at state parks and forests.	PFBC, DCNR			
c. Build trails or other recreational facilities at PA Turnpike rest-stops and Welcome Centers and explore planting gardens at select sites.	DCNR, Turnpike Commission, DCED, PennDot, non-profits, trucking organizations			
4.6: Establish a 5-year Technical Advisory Committee that meets annually and is responsible for conducting annual evaluations.				
a. Establish a TAC and subcommittees on Health, the Outdoors, and Trails; develop a set of responsibilities and a schedule.	TAC Partners			
b. Develop an evaluation methodology to use for annual reviews of recommendations and action steps.	TAC Partners			



Acronyms for Agencies, Organizations, and Terms referred to in text

ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle	PCEE	Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education
CDC	Center for Disease Control	PEC	Pennsylvania Environmental Council
CLI	Conservation Landscape Initiative	PennDOT*	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
CNRAC	Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Committee	PDA*	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
DCED*	Department of Community Economic Development	PDC	Pennsylvania Downtown Center
DCNR*	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	PDE*	Pennsylvania Department of Education
DEP*	Department of Environmental Protection	PFBC*	Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
DGS*	Department of General Services	PGC*	Pennsylvania Game Commission
DOA*	Department of Aging	PHMC*	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
DOC*	Department of Corrections	POWA	Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association
DOH*	Department of Health	PPA	Pennsylvania Planning Association
DPW*	Department of Public Welfare	PPFF	Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation
GG	Growing Greener	PRPS	Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society
KTA	Keystone Trails Association	PSAHPERD	Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
L&I*	Department of Labor and Industry	PSU	Pennsylvania State University
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund	RC&D	Resource Conservation & Development
MDOWA	Mason-Dixon Outdoor Writers Association	RTC	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
NPS	National Park Service	SCORP	State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
NPS-CBGN	National Park Service-Chesapeake Bay Gateways & Water Trails Network	TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle		
PALTA	Pennsylvania Association of Land Trusts Association		
PARTAB	Pennsylvania Recreation and Trails Advisory Board		

**Indicates Pennsylvania state agency*