



Happy trails: volunteers pitch in on Lackawanna River Heritage Trail

BY JIM LOCKWOOD (STAFF WRITER)

Published: September 29, 2013

Beth Gallagher of Scranton started her day Saturday by running 9 miles on the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail.

After that, she joined some four dozen volunteers who spent a few hours applying waterproofing sealant to a new half-mile-long section of rail fence between the trail and river near the Elm Street trailhead in Scranton.

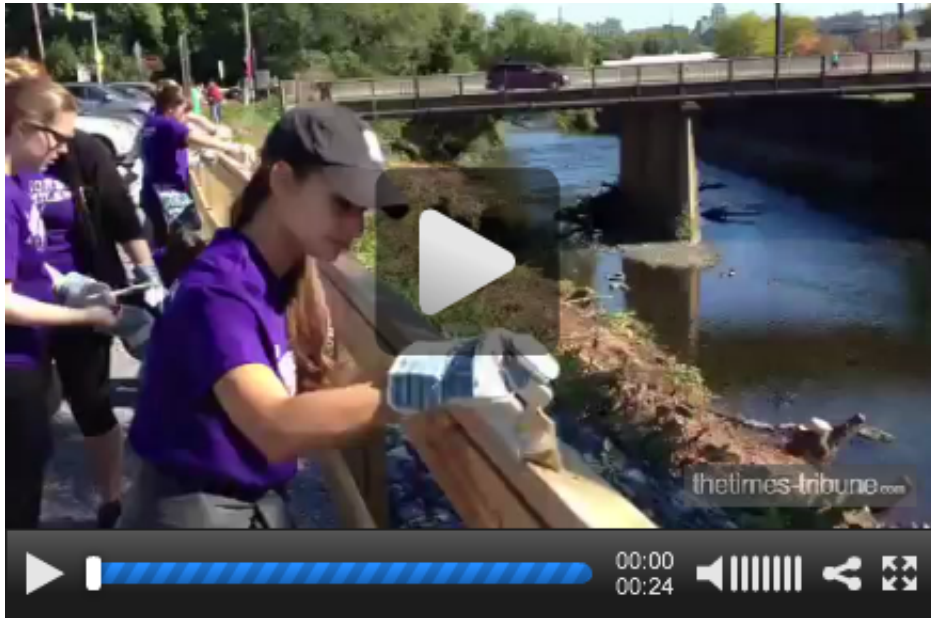
"I love this trail," Ms. Gallagher said as she brushed sealant on the pressure-treated fence rails and posts.

The volunteers turned out not only to work, but also to celebrate National Public Lands Day, the largest, single-day volunteer event for public lands in the nation, according to the Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Area.

The annual national day of caring, which aims to preserve and protect America's natural heritage, began in 1994. Lackawanna Heritage Valley has participated in the event for the past five years.

"We maintain our trail primarily through volunteer support," said Owen Worozbyt, Lackawanna Heritage Valley's

director of community outreach. "Projects like this wouldn't get done otherwise."



The fence is in a new 2-mile section of trail between Elm Street in South Scranton and Keyser Creek in Taylor that opened in July.

The volunteers included students performing community service from the University of Scranton's Seniors for Smiles group, Scranton High School's Pennserve group, and Riverside eighth-graders who made informational signs for the river and trail in fourth grade at Riverside Elementary West School and will finally get to see them installed. Post holes for those signs were dug Saturday.

"I promised them (in fourth grade) that when the trail was done I'd bring them back," said Riverside teacher Shawn Murphy.

Scranton High School teacher and Pennserve club adviser Karen Sopinski said of her students performing community service, "It helps them understand they need to give back and they take ownership in their community and contribute in a positive way."

The Lackawanna River Heritage Trail is part of a trail system that forms a 70-mile path from New York's border to the Susquehanna River in Pittston.

Contact the writer: jlockwood@timeshamrock.com, @jlockwoodTT on Twitter

We welcome user discussion on our site, under the following guidelines:

To comment you must first create a profile and sign-in with a verified DISQUS account or social network ID. [Sign up here.](#)

Comments in violation of the rules will be denied, and repeat violators will be banned. **Please help police the community by flagging offensive comments for our moderators to review.** By posting a comment, you agree to our full terms and conditions. [Click here to read terms and conditions.](#)

1 comment



Best ▾ Community

Share ▾


HalDonahue • 2 days ago

OUTSTANDING!

3 ^ | ▾ Reply Share ›

ALSO ON THE TIMES-TRIBUNE

Police seize 6 1/2 pounds of marijuana from Susquehanna County home 3 comments

Chris Kelly: Groups take on feral cat problem one kitty at a time 9 comments

Letters to the Editor - 9/30/2013 34 comments

AROUND THE WEB

WHAT'S THIS?

Citizens Over 50 May Qualify to Get \$20,500 this Year Moneynews

Hollywood's Most Mysterious Exes Zimbio

The Unbelievable Thing Firefox Is Doing Now OPEN Forum

How Crazy Are You in Bed? Take This Sex Quiz Lifescript

0

[Home](#) | [My Town](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Arts & Living](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Home Delivery](#) | [Place an Ad](#) | [Jobs](#)
[News Services: RSS](#) | [Search Archives](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Help](#)

Copyright ©2013 The Scranton Times Tribune | 149 Penn Ave. | Scranton, PA 18503 | 1-800-228-4637
[Privacy Policy](#) | [Opinion Posting Policy](#) | [About our ads](#) | Questions or comments? [Contact Us](#)

Times Shamrock NEPA