

WILMINGTON, DE (May, 2016) Delaware Greenways has received a planning grant from the William Penn Foundation to advance a Northern Delaware trail network connecting communities, important places, including our beautiful parks and natural areas, and the Circuit Trails in Southeastern, PA.

The project calls for the creation of a new trail coalition made up of civic organizations, corporations, hiking/biking clubs and other area non-profits. Public input will be integral in the development of a map of proposed trails and connectors within the study area. As a result of this work a process for leveraging private funding into trail development will be defined.

With the projected reduction in government funding for trails, Delaware Greenways will take a leadership role in working with all levels of government, foundations and corporate interests to develop trail funding plans that leverage private and foundation funding to build more trails faster. Delaware Greenways is excited about launching this effort to further our goal of expediting trail and pathway development throughout Delaware.

“Our vision is a culture of active living in which walking and biking are favorite and available options for transportation, recreation and connecting with nature. Active living is directly linked to improved physical health including reduced risk of obesity, diabetes and heart disease” said Delaware Greenways Board President, Lynne Kielhorn. “Spending time with nature is good for mental health and fosters an appreciation for our natural resources. We are committed to bringing these benefits to our communities.”

Founded in 1989, Delaware Greenways creates outdoor connections to Active Living and Healthy Eating. Its three current program areas are Trails and Pathways, Byways and Historic Penn Farm. The organizations past trail advocacy has been instrumental in bringing about some of the finest trails throughout Delaware including the Northern Delaware Greenway, Junction Breakwater and Gordons Pont Trails, Michael Castle C&D Trail, Valley Road Pathway in Hockessin and the Wilmington to New Castle Trail.

The William Penn Foundation, founded in 1945 by Otto and Phoebe Haas, is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Greater Philadelphia region through efforts that increase educational opportunities for children from low-income families, ensure a sustainable environment, foster creativity that enhances civic life, and advance philanthropy in the Philadelphia region. In partnership with others, the Foundation works to advance opportunity, ensure sustainability, and enable effective solutions. Since inception, the Foundation has made nearly 10,000 grants totaling over \$1.6 billion.