



Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund

Pine Creek Rail Trail World Class Destination

Hiking along the Pine Creek Rail Trail, one is met by fellow hikers, bicyclists, horse back riders, dog walkers, bird watchers, fishermen... some with a destination, others just enjoying the path more or less traveled. It is a destination in itself as well as a pathway to places worthy of exploration.


The 62-mile trail stretches through Pennsylvania's very own Grand Canyon and travels through two state forests, Tioga and Tiadaghton. The trail runs parallel to Pine Creek, which offers bald eagles and other spectacular scenery as well as recreation for fisherman, rafters and kayakers.



The rail trail stands in the shadow of what once was an industrial corridor. Rail cars had moved tons of coal, iron and lumber through the Pine Creek Gorge to northern markets. The tracks were first laid in the mid-1800s and supported over 100 years of commerce; in 1989, the last train trundled through. The tracks were removed that same year.

Within six years, the first section of the Pine Creek Rail Trail was opened to the public, connecting Ansonia to Blackwell—a 17-mile stretch.

Since then, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and its partners have added dozens of miles and numerous amenities to the rail trail. With the support of the Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund, DCNR has rehabilitated bridges that add beauty and safety. In addition, the Keystone Fund has enabled DCNR to add parking lots and public restrooms that offer modern conveniences to this rustic path.

The investments by the Keystone Fund and other funding sources have paid off. Each year, Pine Creek Rail Trail welcomes over 125,000 outdoor enthusiasts. These visitors hike, bike, fish, kayak, birdwatch...and contribute \$3-5 million annually to the rural economy. 

Project Spotlight

Project leader: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Bureaus of Forestry and Recreation & Conservation

Key local partners: Lycoming County, Northcentral PA Conservancy, Pine Creek Trail Advisory Council, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority

County: Lycoming, Tioga

Fun fact: Pine Creek Rail Trail was named by USA Today as one of "10 great places to take a bike tour" in the world.



The Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund was established in 1993 with overwhelming bipartisan support both in the General Assembly and through a voter referendum. A portion of the state Realty Transfer Tax has been dedicated to the Keystone Fund for more than two decades. Each dollar of Keystone Fund investment typically leverages three dollars or more in direct local investments in our parks, trails, community green spaces and libraries.

Read more about the Keystone Fund at KeystoneFund.org