



Mission

- Identify brownfield pilot sites that meet project criteria
- Assess needs of each pilot and provide personalized assistance
- Deliver details on sources and leveraging of interagency funding and grant workshop opportunities
- Enhance coordination between state agencies and communities
- Expand recreational uses on brownfields by publicizing successful projects

Pilot Project Criteria

1. Plan for public recreation component
2. Site publicly owned or in a long-term lease to municipality(s)
3. Availability of matching funds
4. Level of progress
5. Community support
6. Various types of brownfield sites located throughout PA

Brownfields to Playfields Fact Sheet

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) released its Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for 2014-2019, which features 83 action items to be accomplished through partnerships with other agencies and organizations. One of the action items is to:

“Restore and repurpose brownfields, abandoned mine lands and other damaged lands for recreation and conservation purposes through at least five pilot projects.”

DCNR, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) have formed an interagency workgroup to implement this action item. We will identify recreation project opportunities throughout the commonwealth and coordinate with all partner regional offices to select at least five pilot projects, according to the criteria outlined to the left.



Schuylkill Banks, City of Philadelphia

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s definition of a brownfield:
“Real property, the expansion, development, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.”*

Pilot Project Information

Mahanoy City Borough, Schuylkill County, Kaier's Playground

- Demolition of a dilapidated 5 story former brewery building and redevelopment of the site into a community playground

Carlisle Borough, Cumberland County, Fairground Avenue Linear Park

- Redevelopment of former industrial parcels into a mixed-use development with a linear park.

Susquehanna Depot Borough, Susquehanna County Ira Reynolds Riverfront Park

- Redevelopment of former Erie rail yard along Susquehanna River into a community park

Williamsport City, Lycoming County, Susquehanna River Walk Extension

- Design and Engineering of a 3-mile extension of the Susquehanna River Walk Trail through an old landfill site and past multiple brownfield sites. This project site is listed as one of Pennsylvania's 'Top 10 Trail Gaps.'

Nanticoke City, Luzerne County, Lower Broadway Recreation Complex

- Further development of Lower Broadway Recreation Complex.

Charleroi Borough, Washington County, Waterfront Park

- Redevelopment of a stadium and glass factory into a recreational complex

Union Township, Washington County, Elrama Neighborhood Park

- Redevelopment of former chrome shop into a public park



Ground Breaking at Ira Reynolds Riverfront Park



The goal of this Pilot Project program is to provide better project coordination by enhancing communication between project grantees and Pennsylvania's agencies and to help identify additional state and federal funding sources.

The pilot projects were recommended by an inter-agency task force that evaluated the ability of the local project coordinators to manage the project, level of community support, engagement of local partners, availability of funding to complete the project and relevancy of the project's end use to accomplish the goals of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the missions of the agencies involved.

Quick Links:

SCORP: <http://www.paoutdoorrecplan.com/>

DCNR Regional Offices:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/aboutus/index.htm>

DEP Regional Offices:

<http://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Regional/Pages/default.aspx>

DCED Regional Offices: <http://dced.pa.gov/download/regional-contact-information/?wpdmdl=61870>

For more information on Brownfields to Playfields Pilot Projects, please contact the DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation Office:

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