

SUSQUEHANNA RIVERWALK & TIMBER TRAIL WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Susquehanna River Walk – first envisioned in 2000 – became a reality in Fall of 2009 when it was opened to the public. The Lycoming County Board of Commissioners and Planning Commission developed the Susquehanna River Walk, an approximately four-mile paved bikeway/walkway along the levee system which protects the City of Williamsport, the Borough of South Williamsport, and Loyalsock Township. The Timber Trail is the name given to the three-mile loop of the Susquehanna River Walk located between the Maynard Street Bridge and the Market Street Bridge running along the southern boundary of Williamsport and the northern boundary of South Williamsport Borough.

The Susquehanna River Walk and Timber Trail is part of a larger trail network intended to link the Pine Creek Rail Trail on the western edge of Lycoming County to the southeastern edge of Lycoming County, eventually connecting with Union County. These trails are integral to the Susquehanna Greenway vision of 500 miles of interconnected trails and greenways from the Susquehanna River headwaters to the Chesapeake Bay. The Susquehanna River Walk's prime location makes it a showpiece for the greater trail system.

The \$2.5 million project sponsored by the County of Lycoming was primarily funded using a combination of Federal and state grants administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Timber Trail was funded primarily by the Lumber Heritage Region, Lycoming County, local sponsors, and the Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation. The Susquehanna River Walk is a demonstration project of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership exemplifying how projects to reconnect people to the River can be successfully developed through partnerships.

The city of Williamsport is a gateway to the Lumber Heritage Region and the Pennsylvania Wilds, two landscape initiatives supported by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to preserve the rich history and natural beauty of the area. Williamsport was known as the “Lumber Capital of the World” in the nineteenth century because of its dense concentration of sawmills – made possible by easy access to timber and innovations such as the Susquehanna Boom. The Timber Trail illustrates the rich history of the region through public art installations and a series of interpretive signs along the Susquehanna River Walk which detail the past and present use of the forests.



To complement the Timber Trail's educational signs, Lycoming County is incorporating public art as another way to interpret the lumber history of the region. Local artist Pam Barner offered to construct a bronze sculpture of a woodhick as the first installation on the Timber Trail – “woodhick” is a Pennsylvania timber region colloquial term for lumberjack. The historically accurate six-foot bronze woodhick was installed in November of 2009 and has been a main attraction of the Timber Trail.

