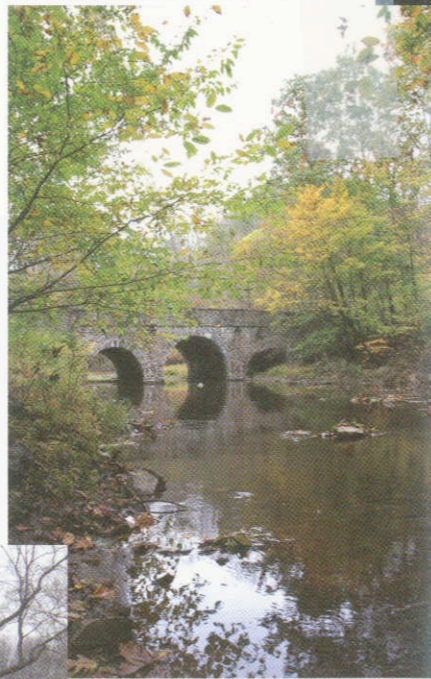




Bluebells line the path at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve.



Bridge at Pidcock creek, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve



Thompson Neely house at Washington Crossing

## NAVIGATING THE CORRIDOR

Providing the physical connections... canals, rivers, trails, and roads. 🐿

### History Meets Nature at Washington Crossing Historic Park

History and nature truly blend in Washington Crossing Historic Park, Bucks County, where a visitor can tour the historic Thompson Neely House and see native flora that was present when General Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware. But some missing links have prevented the thousands who visit New Hope each year from experiencing this treasure.

"Our sites need to be connected physically through a trail, but also tied together in respect to the cultural heritage they represent," says Miles Arnott, executive director of the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve.

The "History Meets Nature" project, which will link five sites through trails and signage, shows how partner organizations working together can maximize heritage tourism opportunities. Initiated by the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve and funded by a DCNR Pennsylvania Heritage Parks Program grant, this project will link the Delaware Canal, the Thompson-Neely House, the Thompson-Neely Gristmill, Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve and Bowman's Tower through a network of upgraded trails. In this region, DCNR Heritage Parks funding is administered

through the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

Each site can be connected historically, from the early days of agriculture to the industrial revolution and even modern suburbia, which can be seen from the lookout tower. To tell the story through the landscape, the partnership determined that at least 11 directional, informational and interpretive signs are needed, along with a new brochure and guide map. In addition, 680 feet of improved trail will be laid on top of the existing footpath to allow visitors to travel from the Canal to Bowman's Tower without having to contend with traffic from River Road. To educate visitors, native plantings from the wildlife preserve's nearly 1,000 species of wildflowers, trees, shrubs and vines will revegetate the trail.

"By working together," says Arnott, "we can create an overall destination. This has much stronger appeal for visitors to New Hope who can see our cultural and natural heritage just two miles down the road."

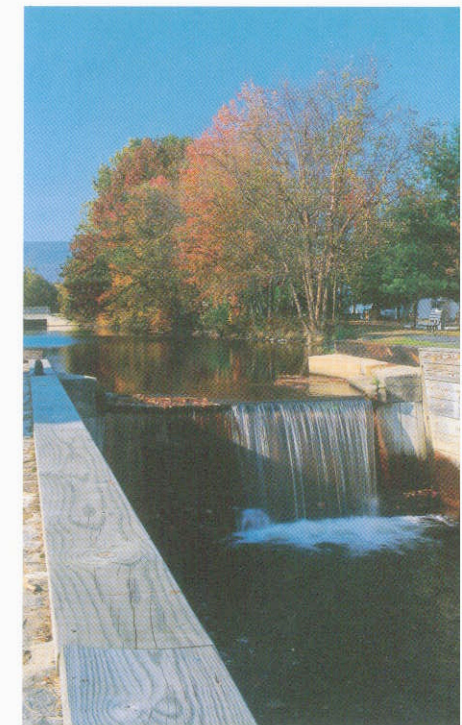
Partners in the "History Meets Nature" project include Historic Washington Crossing State Park, Friends of the Delaware Canal, Bucks County Conference and Visitors Bureau and the D&L National Heritage Corridor.



Left: A crowd gathered next to the newly restored structure in New Hope for the Lock 11 dedication ceremony.

Below left: Michael DiBerardinis, secretary of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, speaks at the Lock 11 dedication.

Below right: Jim Revie, president of the Historic Delaware Canal Improvement Corporation, introduces State Senator Joe Conti at the Lock 11 dedication ceremony.



Restored Lock #23, "Kelchner's Lock," in Walnutport

### Completion of Lock 11 in New Hope

Lock 11 in New Hope, the first lock to operate on the Delaware Canal in more than 50 years, was dedicated on June 17. Though the April flood prevented the Friends of the Delaware Canal from lowering a boat into the lock for the ceremony, the restoration project was not otherwise hindered by floodwaters. State, county and local officials gathered with members of the Friends and the Historic Delaware Canal Improvement Corporation to celebrate.

Since the current volume of water is not sufficient to operate the lock, water is being pumped in from the river so that the mule-drawn canal boat ride can operate between Centre Bridge and New Hope. Because of the flooding, the Lock 11 drop gate is serving as a temporary dam for the watered section.

"Now an exciting tourist attraction, Lock 11 serves as an endorsement for the future of the Canal," says Susan Taylor, executive director of the Friends of the Delaware Canal.

"The Canal is one of the jewels of the State Park system," said Michael DiBerardinis, secretary of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, at the ceremony. "We will improve the canal and do the repair work that is necessary."

### Bids Awarded for Section 1 of D&L Trail

After receiving approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in early September 2005 to bid the construction of section 1 of the D&L Trail, Lehigh County advertised for bids. This section of the trail, to be built on the former Lehigh Valley Railroad, starts in Slatington just west of the Walnutport/Slatington Bridge and ends two miles north near Lehigh Gap. After review of the bids, the D&L National Heritage Corridor made its recommendation and sought concurrence from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. McTish Kunkle and Associates of Allentown will provide inspection services for the construction project, and upon receiving concurrence from PENN DOT, construction is expected to begin late winter. Early summer is the projected completion date.