

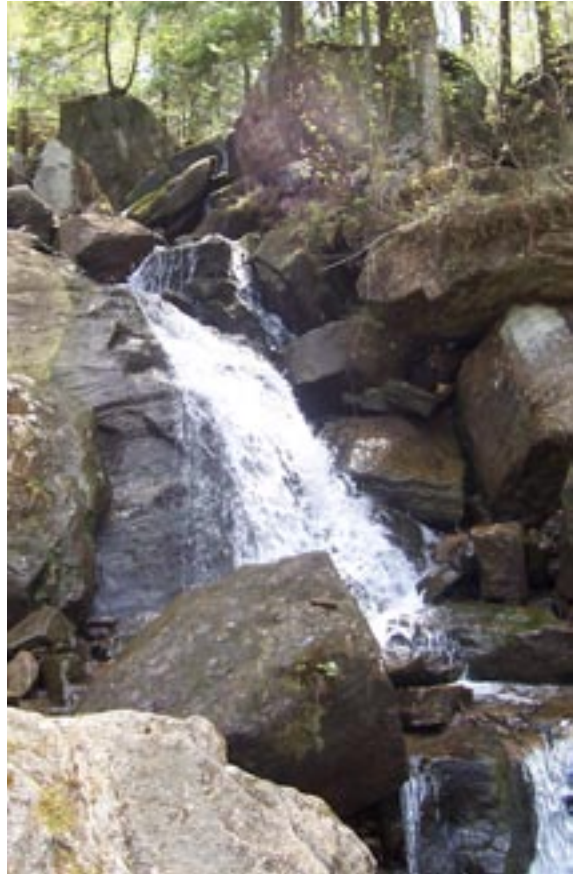


COMMUNITY FOUNDATION 60TH ANNIVERSARY GRANT APPLICATION



PENNSYLVANIA KINZUA PATHWAYS  
*A Historic Awareness Project*





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## PENNSYLVANIA KINZUA PATHWAYS

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PKP is a community oriented set of projects focused around enhancing the Allegheny Reservoir area. Its main objectives are to *increase historical awareness* and *provide connectivity among the sites*. PKP involves a multi-person, multi-agency, and multi-area collaborative effort being driven by volunteers within the Warren community.

For more information regarding the project, please review the enclosed “PKP Formal Findings and Recommendations Report.” Each recommendation (pathway) has been specifically designed to provide opportunities to:

- Increase historical awareness
- Provide educational opportunities
- Focus on responsible stewardship of the natural resources of the area (adhere to Geotourism principles)
- Provide small business opportunities
- Increase tourism
- Build collaborative relationships

Building relationships is a key component of the PKP project. For submission of this grant application, PKP has teamed with Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D). The RC&D is a 501(c)3 organization with a solid reputation and proven track record of assisting in the development and implementation of community projects such as PKP.

## PKP CONTACTS

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The first formal phase of the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways (PKP) project was focused on raising public awareness, building partnerships, and delivering a formal Findings and Recommendations report to the Allegheny National Forest management team. *“Virtual PKP”* represents the second formal phase of the PKP project. Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways will have a strong online presence, with an interactive web site that will not only track progress, educate, and guide but most importantly, serve as the hub for the marketing and social networking plan that is currently being developed to promote PKP and other natural as well as historical attractions in and around the Warren County area.

The web site will describe the vision in detail, with abundant photography to support each Pathway and track progress as portions of the project move forward and become a reality. Each virtual Pathway will contain links to entities involved and opportunities to facilitate real time communication. The educational, historical, and stewardship aspects of the project will be the driving force behind PKP’s online marketing efforts. Information will be accessible to learn about the land, the people, and the history of the area.

PKP currently maintains a Facebook group with over 100 members and is in the process of developing a newsletter that will be distributed via e-mail and available for download through the web site.

### PKP ~ THE BEGINNINGS

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Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways is, first and foremost, a historical awareness project designed to benefit and educate locals and visitors of the pre-history and rich history that is inherent to this area. This project was initiated by members of the Leadership Warren County Class of 2009. When presented with the opportunity to embark on a community project as part of the leadership program, the team developed this ambitious plan to renovate, update, and integrate the various recreational resources surrounding the Allegheny Reservoir, conceptualized as *“Connecting the Dots”* of the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways.

In addition to building trails and improving facilities, PKP aims to increase historical awareness, provide educational opportunities and promote stewardship of our natural resources. For example, there is tremendous history in this area that includes the Seneca Nation of Indians and the building of the Kinzua Dam, along with the creation of the reservoir itself, but many visitors do not have a chance to learn about these events because they are not captured or explained. Our project will change that.

Upon graduation from the Leadership Warren County Program, we worked on promoting the project by connecting with local and regional organizations, forming partnerships, and continuing to gain knowledge and information for the development of the project. During the awareness phase, our efforts were focused on building relationships between all the stakeholders in the area. One of our main goals is to ensure that the project moves forward in an organized, cooperative manner that makes economic sense but also preserves the pristine, remote nature of the reservoir which makes it such a special place to so many.

To date, PKP has conducted two formal presentations (one for the general public and one for elected officials,) have spoken at over a dozen community service and other club functions and held over 60 other meetings with groups and individuals. During these formal presentations, PKP surveyed those attending and, then, modified our recommendations based upon the feedback received. Statistics concerning these surveys are provided on page 35 in our formal findings report.\*

*\* Findings Report in pdf format enclosed.*

#### **PKP IN MOTION**

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Our group has delivered our formal findings to the ANF management team. As a result, the ANF is currently taking action on the Findings report. They will be submitting the proposals for public opinion and environmental analysis, where appropriate.

#### **Other action items of importance:**

- Warren County officials have recommended amending the county's Greenway and Open Spaces plan to include our recommendations
- Warren County officials have also recommended an amendment to the county's comprehensive plan to include our recommendations
- Currently working with members of the ANF Management and Warren County Career Center (WCCC) Drafting Class to begin planning and design work for the Beach to Rimrock trail and will work with WCCC carpentry group for bench and interpretive sign design
- Currently working with the Northern Allegheny Mountain Bicycling Association and International Mountain Bicycling Association on planning and design for the mountain bicycling "loops" that have been proposed

In the meantime, we continue our focus on increasing awareness and building partnerships. We continue to receive overwhelmingly positive feedback about Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways from individuals, non-profit entities, local tourism promotion agencies, elected officials and local/state/federal agencies. Our group is in the process of delivering over 60 copies of our Findings and Recommendations Report to those identified above.

### PKP ~ GOING FORWARD

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PKP is a multi-year, multi-phase, multi-million dollar system of projects. Each pathway will require additional overlays of projects and will represent the efforts of multiple stakeholder's input and ideas. We have specifically identified several key pathways and will follow with a formal interpretive signage plan intended to enhance and enrich the visitor experience.

As we move into the next phases of our project, the PKP group will focus our efforts and resources on the development and implementation of a powerful, integrated marketing plan. PKP has built a strong partnership with a professional graphic and web design team and, if successful in our submission, will utilize the Community Foundation of Warren County grant to design and launch the proposed web site.

### COMMUNITY VALUE

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#### *Will the proposed project provide a service or activity of lasting value?*

Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways will provide both, services and activities, of lasting value for individuals, the community, and the region. The project will move forward by reflecting on the past.

The Allegheny National Forest, specifically the area surrounding the Allegheny Reservoir, offers breathtaking beauty year-round. What often goes unnoticed is that this magnificent landscape holds secrets of an era long gone. Natives to the area and their descendants know of these secrets and the rich historical and cultural heritage that, for many, was lived and is not forgotten.

Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways (PKP) will capture this history while enhancing the visitor experience through stewardship and opportunities for adventure. PKP will inform and educate future generations of the stories beneath the reservoir's blue waters and the surrounding lands. This history will start with the glacier era and take visitors all the way through to the days

of the, once vibrant, Kinzua Valley and the construction of the Kinzua Dam. Interpretive and interactive learning vehicles will be used to honor, celebrate, and preserve this invaluable resource for the benefit of local and global visitors alike.

Another key benefit of lasting value is the increased connectivity and ease of access/use for all the sites in and around the Reservoir area. Current access to most of the sites of the area requires either a trip by motorized vehicle up Route 59 or via a somewhat hazardous hike through unmarked forest, utilized only by the most experienced hikers. Creation of these trails and the upgrading of facilities will encourage family use and allow visitors to recreate on multiple locations from a single staging area. Visitors will be able to migrate among the multiple locations with greater ease.

#### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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***Will the proposed project build or strengthen partnerships, collaboration, and connections among its participants, target audience, and the community?***

Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways is too complex and large in scope for any one group or entity to “own.” Building strong partnerships and collaborating with all of the ANF stakeholders is key to the projects’ success, and has been a primary objective of our group from its initiation. Examples of these partnerships and perceived benefits of the project can be found in the letters of support for the project found on pages 21 through 28 in our formal Findings report.

As mentioned earlier, our group has been building strong partnerships and collaborating with numerous individuals and groups. The following is a list of those that we have actively engaged:

Ms. Leanne Marten, Allegheny National Forest  
Mr. Tony Scardina, Allegheny National Forest  
Ms. Tonika Goins, Allegheny National Forest  
Mr. Steve Lauser, Army Corp of Engineers  
Ms. Christine Boyer-Krantz, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation  
Mr. Dan Glotz, Warren County Planning and Zoning Commission  
Ms. Meredith Hill, DCNR, Pennsylvania Wilds Director  
Ms. Tataboline Brant, Pennsylvania Wilds  
Ms. Dana Crisp, DCNR- Recreation Unit 1



Mr. Michael Wennin, Pennsylvania Lumber Heritage Region  
Mr. Wes Ramsey, Penn Soil RC&D Council  
Mr. Travis Hummel, Warren County Recreation Director  
Mr. Michael Olewine, Warren County Visitors Bureau  
Ms. Patty Sherbondy, Warren Public Library  
Ms. Penny Woboldt, Warren Public Library  
Mr. Jim Goodling, Leadership Warren County  
Ms. Barb Tubbs, Leadership Warren County  
Ms. Pat Evans, Leadership Warren County  
Mr. Todd Ristau, Leadership Warren County  
Mr. Rick Esch, Tuna Valley Trail Association  
Mr. Andrew Georgakis, Northern Allegheny Mountain Bike Association  
Mr. Joshua Ellis, Northern Allegheny Mountain Bike Association  
Mr. Mike Zobrest, Northern Allegheny Mountain Bike Association  
Mr. Rob Arnold, Northern Allegheny Mountain Bike Association  
Mr. Frank Maguire, International Mountain Bicycling Assoc. Mid-Atlantic  
Ms. Delores Berry, Warren County Career Center  
Mr. Dan Passmore, Warren County Career Center  
Ms. Donna Zariczny, Inscale PC  
Mr. Jeff Zariczny, Inscale PC  
Mr. Harvey Stone, H PE Transystem  
Mr. Mark Phillips, Mayor, City of Warren  
Ms. Piper Lindell, Allegheny Outfitters  
Mr. Thad Turner, Warren YMCA  
Mr. Dave Winans, Winans Insurance  
Mr. John Beard, Northwest Savings Bank  
Mr. Dana Harrington  
Mr. Jim Decker, Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry  
Mr. John Papalia, Executive Director, Council on Tourism  
Ms. Karen Coombs, Council on Tourism Board  
Mr. Kerry Gern, Council on Tourism Board  
Ms. Kay Eadie, Council on Tourism Board  
Council on Tourism  
Larson and Associates Architects  
Warren County Historical Society  
ANF Vacation Bureau, McKean County  
Allegheny Outdoor Club



AR Trucking, Inc.  
Northwest Savings Bank  
Whirley Drink Works  
Holiday Inn of Warren  
Nelson Creative Services, Inc.

**PKP is very much a community project.** Along with those specifically noted above, we are also working on building potential partnerships and collaborative efforts with the following:

- Working with the ANF and administration and students of the WCCC on design and carpentry efforts for all aspects of the project
- In discussion with the family of Gordon Mahan, Warren Public Library and Warren County Historical Society to establish the Gordon Mahan Gallery in the community center proposed at Kinzua Beach
- Will initiate conversations with the Chief Cornplanter Council regarding the potential for Eagle Scout projects as part of PKP
- Working with PA Wilds, area Tourism Promotion Agencies, Artisan groups and others in the promotion of the area as a whole
- Collaboration with the Seneca Nation of Indians on the historical aspects of the PKP project

#### CONNECTING THE DOTS

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Based upon the size, complexity and scope of this project, our group has been following a definitive and specific strategic plan.

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 1) Gauge interest of elected officials and general public   | Completed              |
| 2) Raise awareness through meetings and presentations       | Completed and On-going |
| 3) Build partnerships through collaborative efforts         | Completed and On-going |
| 4) Creation of a powerful, interactive marketing plan*      | In-process             |
| 5) Creation of a formal, interpretive signage plan          | In-process             |
| 6) Research and apply for project funding                   | In-process             |
| 7) Oversee the initiation and completion of recommendations | In-process             |

The \$10,000 Community Foundation of Warren County grant will be used to design, develop, implement and maintain a web site that will serve as the hub of our marketing efforts. All other marketing initiatives will be supported by the main web site.

Design and logistical efforts have already been initiated for this phase of the project. Our group has contracted with a professional graphic and web design team, Nelson Creative Services, Inc., owned and operated by Tony and Ines Nelson.\* Additional information and a proposal from this firm can be found in the appendix of this submission. Nelson Creative Services, Inc. has committed to completing the project within the \$10,000 budget allocated therefore.

\* Ines Nelson is a member of the PKP Team. Ines, along with the other members of the team, has volunteered well over 1,200 hours of her time working on the PKP project and has been an integral member of the team. She, through Nelson Creative Services, Inc., has donated her time and effort in the design and layout of the Formal Findings and Recommendations report (included in our submission). To date, she has neither received nor requested compensation for any design or layout work. Her passion for the project and fundamental understanding of the goals and objectives of our group and this project were the criteria used for the selection of her firm. Ines deferred the decision to the other members of the group and abstained from the discussion process. The deciding members discussed all options with other project partners before deciding upon Nelson Creative Services, Inc.

We do not see a conflict of interest in her firm handling the web design and marketing effort for Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways. Rather, we find them to be the logical choice. This information is provided for the sake of full transparency.

## IMAGINE

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Dreams are limited only by the boundaries of people’s imagination. We believe there are no boundaries for the possibilities and the experience that the Allegheny National Forest, and specifically the area surrounding the Allegheny Reservoir, can offer.

**IMAGINE** with us a reservoir area with an extensive, unique trail system – one that not only connects visitors to nature, but also to the people and events that went before them, to the history that shaped this beautiful corner of the Allegheny National Forest. **IMAGINE** the outdoor enthusiasts, people of all skill levels and walks of life, who will return year after year to enjoy this gem and be inspired to take care of it and share it with others. **IMAGINE** the invaluable lessons of life, nature, history, and stewardship to be learned generation after generation. **IMAGINE** the powerful legacy that will remain long after we are gone and the collective pride generated by the result of citizens and government working together for a common goal – a better future. **IMAGINE**, finally, an Allegheny National Forest where visitors from near and far can spend hours, days, and even weeks interacting with nature and building stronger bonds while being enriched by the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways experience.

