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Delaware Greenways Spring E-Newsletter

May 2011

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Preserving the Beauty of the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway

In 2010, Delaware Greenways began working with the Brandywine Valley community in Delaware to develop a plan to preserve the beauty of the Valley while providing for sustainable growth and development. The Plan will focus on integrating land use and transportation in a way that preserves the historic, natural, and scenic landscapes of the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway corridor, while providing convenient mobility for the residents, visitors, and businesses.



The importance of the Brandywine Valley to both the local residents and regional community is clear, and, therefore, the study and planning process will include significant public participation components. A steering committee has been convened, consisting of community leaders, landowners, and local officials. Public participation is also being sought through surveys, email, participation at public meetings, and a viewshed analysis field day.

Accomplishments To Date

- **Viewshed Analysis and Forecast of Development Trends**- Since last September, the Scenic Conservation Committee has been working

to develop a plan to preserve the Brandywine valley's scenic viewsheds. To date, the committee has completed a survey of existing environmental and transportation conditions, identified the most threatened viewsheds and is now assessing population, employment and development trends. These analyses will provide the basis to develop the Scenic Conservation Plan, anticipated to occur later this summer.

- **Route 52 and Route 82 Intersection Safety Improvement Project** - Using the principles of context sensitive design, Delaware Greenways is working with the community and DeIDOT to adopt an improvement plan to make the intersection that meets community needs and is more in tune with the goals of the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway and Red Clay Byway.
- **Byways Signing Plan** - A special committee has been established to work with DeIDOT to develop a signing plan for the Brandywine National Scenic Byway, as well as address sign clutter and update signing regulations in the Byway Corridor.

Byways Stewardship Celebration



The Byways Stewardship Celebration, held April 20th, was a huge success! The evening with the artists of the Brandywine Valley, brought in over \$50,000 through donations, ticket sales, and the auction, which will go toward protecting the beauty and character of the Byway. Artists in attendance included George A. (Frolic) Weymouth, who designed the event logo artwork, and author Catherine Quillman, who was signing her book [The 100 Artists of the Brandywine Valley](#). We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Sandra James and Patty Hobbs for putting this event together. We are also thankful to Wendell and Jenny Fenton for their generosity, including the use of their fabulous barn. To all who attended, volunteered, and participated - many thanks!

Visit our website: www.delawaregreenways.org
Or for more information and project updates contact us at:
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Scenic Byway Updates:
Corridor Management Plans



Delaware Greenways helps communities by constructing a document called a Corridor Management Plan (CMP), using information provided by the community. A CMP is a written document in which the Scenic and Historic Highway sponsor lays out the vision, goals, and responsibilities for conserving and enhancing a corridor's most valuable qualities, as articulated by the community surrounding the Byway, and its users. It includes strategies and recommendations for implementing plans that balance concerns for preserving the byway's resources with the visitor's opportunity to experience the byway corridor. Current progress on CMPs throughout the state includes:

State Route 9 Coastal Heritage Byway

Most focus groups have completed assessments of the byway and made recommendations for projects that will promote community goals. The next phase will involve engaging the Advisory Committee refine the matrix of goals and strategies and writing the CMP. We are on track for sending the reviewed and completed CMP to DelDOT and then on to the Federal Highway Administration in late fall, 2011.



Additional Information Regarding State Route 9 Coastal Byway Can Be Found [Here](#)

Lewes Scenic Byway

Having been designated a State Scenic Highway through the completion and acceptance of the Nomination Document in 2009, work now continues with the Corridor Management Plan. The first Advisory Committee meeting was held at DNREC's new Lewes Field Station last fall, and almost all of the six focus groups have now completed their meetings, utilizing Lewes' newly-refurbished and historic Net House on the Canal Front Park. A second Advisory Committee meeting should take place as soon as the next round of funding is secured from FHWA/DelDOT. Send-off of the completed and carefully reviewed CMP should be possible six to eight months after funding re-commences .



**Additional Information Regarding The Lewes Scenic Byway
Can Be Found [Here](#)**

Reducing Greenhouse Gases: The Junction & Breakwater Trail

Starting this spring, Delaware Greenways is beginning work with the communities in and around Rehoboth Beach and Lewes to plan transportation-related strategies for reducing greenhouse gases. The project will focus on working with community members to identify opportunities and needed improvements to pedestrian/bicycle networks in the areas surrounding the Junction and Breakwater Trail in order to increase the number of bicycle and walking trips and decrease the number of GHG-emitting auto trips. Delaware Greenways will collaborate with the Delaware Department of Transportation and other entities to get the identified projects implemented and promote these improved opportunities for non-motorized trips. We see a future in which the beach, boardwalk, restaurant, and shops are just a leisurely bike ride away!

The project is made possible through the Delaware Greenhouse Gas Reduction Projects grant through the Delaware Energy Office.

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