

Prospective Partners to Contact

- **Recreation and Heritage Organizations** – What assets did you identify on your [Asset Identification Form](#) -- trails, rivers, state parks, or heritage sites? The organizations that manage those assets will be important partners for your success, so ask them about their plans and how you can work together. Pennsylvania has several programs that focus resources for conservation and recreation in designated areas and along land or water trails. The managing organizations for these designated areas and trails will likely be interested in your initiative and willing to help you. Check these out these links to learn more:
 - [Heritage Regions](#)
 - [Conservation Landscape Initiatives](#)
 - [Greenway Corridors](#)
 - [Water Trails](#)
 - Land Trails - <https://trails.dcnr.pa.gov/> (is there a website that shows the trail management organization?)
- **Local elected officials and municipal staff** – you will need commitment from your local government to help support improvements to public spaces. Find an elected official who supports your concepts. Ask them to be part of your work from the beginning. Make a presentation to the governing body of your town on the benefits of being an Outdoor Town and ask them for a commitment of support.
- **Economic and Business Development Organizations** – Outdoor recreation can be a driver for the local economy. Meet with your local chamber of commerce, downtown partnerships, and business leaders.
- **Civic Organizations in Your Town** – working with other civic organizations in your town will multiple your efforts. Be sure to engage youth groups, they bring great ideas and energy for outdoor recreation.
- **Planning organizations** – local planning commissions, county planning departments, and regional planning organizations can provide technical assistance. Ask them what relevant plans have already been completed or are in the works. These may include [County Greenway and Open Space Plans](#), park and trail plans, comprehensive plans, bicycle and pedestrian plans, and sign ordinances. Reviewing plans takes a little time to start with but can be a huge timesaver in the end. It's also a great way to engage planning organizations to help with your work. They may be able to provide technical assistance and maps for your meetings. Ultimately, you will want them to include your projects in their plans. You may even be able to integrate your planning efforts with theirs.
- **State Representative and State Senator** - ask them for ideas and assistance in identifying funding sources and other resources that you need.
- **Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR)** – your [DCNR Regional Advisor](#) is knowledgeable about other recreational initiatives in your region, as well as technical assistance resources and grant programs.
- **Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)** – your [PennDOT Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinators](#) is knowledgeable about how to create bicycle and pedestrian facilities and transportation funding programs.
- **Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCEd)** – [DCEd Regional Office](#) can provide technical assistance related to planning, implementation, funding opportunities, grant applications, and project management.

- **Visitors Bureaus** – can help with planning trip itineraries, visitor’s brochures, and promoting your town. They may also have a regional signage program, and a grant program that you can tap into.
- **Hospitals and Healthcare Providers** – may be willing to help to create more opportunities for recreation, because they are interested in preventing diseases that are caused by sedentary lifestyles, such as obesity, diabetes, stroke, and heart disease.