



Pennsylvania
Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 30, 2025

MEDIA CONTACT:

Wesley Robinson, werobinson@pa.gov, 717.877.6315

DCNR Celebrates Path of the Flood Trail in Cambria County as Pennsylvania's 2025 Trail of the Year

A historic 14-mile trail tracing the 1889 Johnstown Flood route earns statewide recognition for its blend of natural beauty, recreation, and economic impact.



South Fork, PA – Today, the **Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)** celebrated the [Path of the Flood Trail](#) in Cambria County as **Pennsylvania's 2025 Trail of the Year**.

Spanning 14 miles, the Path of the Flood Trail follows the historic route of the catastrophic 1889 Johnstown Flood. This scenic corridor blends natural beauty, outdoor recreation, and deep historical significance—featuring landmarks such as the **Staple Bend Tunnel**, the first railroad tunnel constructed in the United States.

"Path of the Flood is a special trail that reflects the region's history and provides a vibrant space for recreation and community engagement," said **DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn**. "I hope this designation brings even more visitors to explore the trail, supporting local businesses and fostering economic, environmental, and social benefits to the region."

The trail draws approximately **80,000 visitors annually**, including international tourists. It has become an important economic and cultural asset for Cambria County — contributing to the growth of small businesses, drawing tourists, and providing a space for events like the [Path of the Flood Historic Races](#), which welcomes nearly 1,000 participants each year.

"We are honored to celebrate this incredible honor for the Path of the Flood Trail and are excited to share the Pennsylvania's top trail for 2025 with the public," said **Cliff Kitner, Executive Director, Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority (CCCRA)**. "This trail is a testament to the partnership between partners at the local and county level, as well as with DCNR and the National Park Service. We would not be here celebrating today without the synergy that maintains this amazing trail and the history of this region."

The Path of the Flood Trail is composed of crushed stone and pavement, making it accessible for a variety of activities, including biking, hiking, running, birdwatching, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Its historical significance is further elevated by its inclusion in the [9/11 National Memorial Trail](#), a corridor connecting national sites of remembrance. Development and maintenance of the trail are a collaborative effort led by the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority (CCCRA) and the National Park Service, supported by local businesses and volunteers.

Since taking office, **Governor Josh Shapiro** has made [strategic investments](#) to elevate outdoor recreation, transforming it into a cornerstone of Pennsylvania's economy and improve quality of life in communities statewide. These efforts are driving economic growth, fostering entrepreneurial opportunities, and creating jobs across the Commonwealth.

In 2023, Pennsylvania's outdoor recreation industry contributed **\$19 billion** to the state's economy — a 10 percent increase over the previous year — and now represents 2 percent of the Commonwealth's GDP. The industry supports more than **168,000 jobs** and generates **\$9 billion** in wages, [according](#) to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

With more than 14,000 miles of trails, Pennsylvania continues to lead the nation in trail development. DCNR's goal is to have a trail within 10 minutes of every Pennsylvanian, with significant investments being made to close priority trail gaps across the Commonwealth. In the past two years, the **Shapiro Administration** has closed [four of the Commonwealth's Top 10 priority trail gaps](#).

The Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee is charged with implementing the recommendations of the [Pennsylvania Trails Strategic Plan](#) to develop a statewide land and water trail network to facilitate recreation, transportation, and healthy lifestyles for all. The 20-member DCNR-appointed committee represents both motorized and non-motorized trail users and advises the Commonwealth on use of state and federal trail funding.

Visit the [CCCRA webpage](#) for more information about the trail. Check out DCNR's [Calendar of Events](#) for events on public lands.

#