



Northern Dauphin Revitalization PROJECT

Vision Statement for Fiscal Year 2007-2008

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During the first 18 months of Main Street activities, we spent a great deal of time learning how to find funding sources, who are the participants, and what should be done in order to transform Northern Dauphin County into a productive, economic engine. Our objective at the Northern Dauphin Revitalization Project (NDRP) is to produce jobs and increase property valuations in our seven downtowns so that everybody benefits from economic development in three areas: tourism, education, and technology.

Below are future attractions which, along with existing attractions, should aid in bringing tourism and jobs to the area. Although it might take years for these to materialize, and they might look different in the final analysis, NDRP will take the initiative to develop, promote, and enhance what makes Northern Dauphin County a family-friendly, clean, and hospitable place to spend your non-working hours.

Trail Towns In the Upper East End The Boroughs of Lykens, Williamstown, and Tower City will benefit greatly from investments in any of four projects that are just outside the downtowns:

1. *The Lykens and Wiconisco Field Restoration Project.* Enjoy one of the many automotive, ATV, or emergency vehicle shows throughout the year along with scheduled concerts and semi-professional baseball games in a restored 1940s Depression-Era stadium built entirely of mountain stone mined from nearby Berry Mountain. Nightly practices and games feature local pee wee and midget football and local tee ball and little league baseball for everyone.
2. *The Lykens Valley Rails-to-Trails Project* (opening the upper one-third and lower one-third of trail) Speed up your heart rate on eleven miles of gorgeous, gently-sloping former railroad beds that wind through Lykens, Wiconisco Township, and Williams Township. Walking, jogging, and biking during warmer months and cross-country skiing during snowy months complement equine riding trails and water sports in the Wiconisco Creek. Canoes, kayaks, and inner tubes may be rented in downtown Lykens or Williamstown for a nominal fee. Continuously running trolleys transport tubers and their gear back up Route 209 for another run.

3. *The Lykens Hotel Renovation Project and related Lykens downtown business investments* Relax in the Lykens Hotel where fine dining, locally-made souvenirs, and an internet café bridges a great day of hiking and tubing with a great night of entertainment at the Lykens Community Theatre or the Lykens and Wiconisco Field. Return your rental bike and pick up some organic trail mix in the Rails-To-Trails Coffee Shop right next to the Great Wall Chinese Restaurant and Lykens Dairy Queen. Waltz the half-block back to the restored Lykens Train Station for historical brochures and a 15-minute movie on the history of the Trail Towns.
4. *Williamstown Coal Museum and Kimmel Coal Company Tours of a working coal mine*: “the largest active anthracite mining project in North America” Browse the displays at the Williamstown Coal Museum on Friday and Saturday mornings before departing by trolley to the Kimmel Coal Company’s mining site. A company tour guide explains the evolution of coal mining’s resurgence within the last 70 years to the state-of-the-art digging machines of today. Visitors return to the museum to purchase mementos of their visit while they sip lemonade and munch on oversized, soft pretzels as “The Legend of the Mule” plays on plasma screens throughout the Coal Miner Café.

Agricultural Attractions In the Center The Boroughs of Gratz and Elizabethville will benefit greatly from a partnership between NDRP and three distinct agricultural communities: an Amish farm, an organic free-range chicken farm, and an organic dairy farm.

1. *Health-conscious educational tours* of a working free-range chicken farm and health foods store one Friday per month will provide real-time opportunities for visitors to learn about healthy eating and lifestyles. Friday morning tours at Natural Acres will culminate with a trip to the Crossroads Auction for lunch and unlimited produce, fresh meats, and horticultural shopping among local farmers.
2. *Environmentally educational tours* of a working organic farm one day per month will provide real-time opportunities for visitors to learn about organic dairy farming techniques in an increasingly green-conscious world. Saturday morning tours will culminate with a reasonably priced organic foods luncheon and unlimited organic foods shopping in the barn.
3. *Culturally educational tours* of a working Amish farm one day per month will provide real-time opportunity for visitors to observe the relocation of Amish farmers from Lancaster County to Lykens Township. Saturday morning tours will culminate with a reasonably priced chicken barbecue and unlimited shopping at the Tall Pines Outdoor Store.

Entertainment Venues along the Millersburg Riverfront The Borough of Millersburg will become an upscale shopping and quality arts and entertainment attraction where the restored Millersburg Colonade Theatre offers both live and motion picture entertainment in the heart of the new historic district. Visitors observe the Twin Valley Players’ current full-cast performance every fourth Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night, along with first-run movies seven days per week when the cast is not in

costume. In between shows guests shop downtown Millersburg, picnic in the restored, patriotic parks, ride the newly restored Ferry Boats, and fish off the docks of the Susquehanna. Work up an appetite on five miles of gorgeous, gently-sloping former railroad beds that wind through Millersburg, Lenkerville (Upper Paxton Township), and along both sides of the Wiconisco Creek to the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art. Once at the Center, visitors may engage the educational displays, nature gallery, artistic trails, and 250-seat amphitheatre – a welcome relief from the Concrete Jungle. On returning to downtown Millersburg, enjoy a sumptuous meal in one of the many downtown restaurants – or simply grab some Williams French Fries while listening to a performance at the Gazebo On the Square.

Historical Halifax in the Lower West End The Borough of Halifax will become home to quarterly encampments showcasing various French and Indian War reenactors. Period-appropriate troops, Indian settlements, and make-shift trading towns will spring up overnight in the fields surrounding the site of Fort Halifax. Visitors will observe demonstrations of artisans and smiths plying their trades for immediate sale. Hiking, boating, and fishing on the banks of the Susquehanna River lead to downtown antique stores, Patty Cakes Bakery, pizza, and soft-serve ice cream. The Valley Trolley transports visitors to Tobias Wildlife Park where a full day of critters and creature comforts delights the senses and spurs the imagination.

To respond to this vision statement and become involved in Revitalization, please contact the NDRP office in Elizabethville at 717-362-1438 or NDRP@epix.net or www.NDRCC.org/Revi.