

# PENNSYLVANIA *Trail* OF THE *Year* 2022

## DELAWARE CANAL STATE PARK TOWPATH

Managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of State Parks, the 58.9-mile-long Delaware Canal, completed in 1832, runs from Bristol to Easton, where it connects with the Lehigh Canal. The primary purpose of these two waterways was to transport anthracite coal from the northeastern Pennsylvania coal regions to the cities on the eastern seaboard. Canal traffic and revenue declined until trains finally beat the mule, and the last paying boat locked through on October 17, 1931. The same day, 40 miles of the Delaware Canal was deeded to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with the Commonwealth finally acquiring all 58.9 miles of the canal in 1940. The significance of the Delaware Canal was recognized in 1978, when it was designated a National Historic Landmark. The U.S. Congress officially recognized the canal's importance to the economic development of America by establishing the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor in 1988. The Delaware Canal is the only remaining continuously intact canal of the great towpath canal-building era in the early and mid-19th century. The towpath trail provides a level trail for walking, jogging, biking, and horseback riding. Boat accesses allow for relaxing canoeing and kayaking when conditions permit. In winter, ice skating and cross-country skiing opportunities are available.



All photos courtesy of the Friends of the Delaware Canal.

**Cindy Adams Dunn**, Secretary,  
Department of Conservation  
and Natural Resources

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