

The Keystone Trails Association a volunteer-directed federation of membership organizations and individuals dedicated to providing, preserving, protecting and promoting recreational hiking trails and hiking opportunities in Pennsylvania, and to representing and advocating the interests and concerns of the Pennsylvania hiking community.

We represent hundreds of thousands of people who use our state, local and private lands for outdoor recreation, including hiking. In fact, DCNR surveys show that upwards of 25% of Pennsylvanians consider themselves hikers. Our club members participate in thousands of hikes per year, and volunteer over 15,000 hours maintaining 3,000 miles of trails, including the Conestoga Trail in Lancaster County.

Every September, we hold a challenging, 32-mile trail event on the banks of the Susquehanna River that begins at Pequea, Lancaster County and ends at Otter Creek Campground in York County. We regularly attract over a thousand people – competitors, spectators and volunteers to this incredible event. The course traverses both Kelly's Run Nature Preserve and Holtwood Park.

With this in mind, you can see how we read with great dismay the article in Lancaster Online in which Talen Energy is saying they plan on closing public access to the Holtwood Park area and Kelly's Run.

http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/energy-company-abruptly-closes-park-land-long-used-by-public/article_1cac9850-0ca5-11e6-940c-9f398d975816.html

As the elected official from this district, we're asking for your help. Closure of this land would be a significant loss to Lancaster County both economically and as a source of outdoor recreation. Kelly's Run is an irreplaceable public asset that needs to be kept open and accessible.

Thank you.