

Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

Where America was Built™

Landmark Towns of Bucks County™



Bristol



WHAT IS THE “LANDMARK TOWNS” PROJECT?

Landmark Towns of Bucks County™ is a regional revitalization initiative of four boroughs located along the Delaware Canal - Bristol, Morrisville, New Hope and Yardley. These communities have traditional downtown business districts linked by the canal, which is a National Historic Landmark. This initiative is designed to help breathe new economic life into their business districts, while preserving and enhancing the industrial and cultural heritage they share. Each of these boroughs have exhibited the will and interest to improve their quality of life, preserve historic resources, and enhance economic conditions.

HOW DOES THE LANDMARK TOWNS PROJECT WORK?

Since early 2006, representatives from the participating towns have worked with the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor to develop a regional revitalization strategy. Representatives from each town’s local business groups, civic organizations and municipal government convene monthly to work out strategy and funding details. In 2007, the towns hired a professional regional coordinator to help undertake activities identified in the plan, as well as assist Bristol Borough, Morrisville, New Hope and Yardley develop successful individual revitalization efforts. Program funding has been contributed from the D&L, the Commonwealth, and each participating municipality.

Morrisville



New Hope



Yardley



IS LANDMARK TOWNS DIFFERENT?

YES! The Landmark Towns project combines the tools of the four-point “Main Street” revitalization approach - Promotion, Organization, Economic Development and Design - and the Pennsylvania State Heritage Park program, on a regional basis. Resources are shared that would otherwise be unavailable in small boroughs. Focused assistance is available to help implement this economic development strategy.

WHAT WILL THE PROJECT ACCOMPLISH?

So far, Landmark Towns has helped define the region, assess its economy, and identify unifying regional themes. It also has identified focus areas, reviewed existing downtown plans and organizational capacity, established a downtown coordinating structure, and begun to develop community sub-plans and a regional support plan. In 2008, Landmark Towns, funded by a Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Transportation & Community Development Initiative (TCDI) grant and the Bucks County Conference and Visitors Bureau, hired consultants to develop a strategic plan that will create a visitor wayfinding system and link the four boroughs and attractions throughout Bucks County. The intended outcome is to attract more visitors to the Landmark Towns, the region, and Delaware Canal State Park. The project also will identify catalytic economic development projects in the boroughs and seek funding for implementation.