

2018 SUCCESS STORY

Lazy River Family Float Day

SUMMARY

Jacobs Creek Watershed Association (JCWA) hosted a Lazy River Family Float Day on June 16th, 2018 on the brand new Scottdale Borough Family Friendly River Trail. The “Sojourn” covered only 1 mile of river trail and included a ribbon cutting ceremony. The event celebrated the grand opening of the two river trail access points installed in the last year. Through a partnership with POWR and Silvis Landscaping, JCWA welcomed 61 paddlers and over 13 volunteers. Individuals enjoyed the trail multiple times over the course of the day and paddled canoes, kayaks, and inter-tubes. JCWA worked to provide transportation, SWAG, music and food for sale during the 4 hour event. The event attracted individuals aged 3-85 and everyone enjoyed the trail.

SOJOURN HIGHLIGHTS

The Ribbon Cutting Presentation was attended by JCWA Board Members, Recreation Committee Chairs, Scottdale Borough Council President, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Staff, Canoe Access Development Fund Funders and Paddlers. It included a speech by Annie Quinn, the Executive Director of JCWA and talked about the three year journey to the development and construction of the Scottdale Family Friendly River Trail.

The Scottdale Borough and Parks Commission developed a cheap and “on the go” menu for paddlers to enjoy. Hot Dogs, chips, and cookies for only \$3 gave participants the opportunity to break for lunch after the slow float down the creek. The Scottdale Parks Commission also fundraised and provided funding for the KVE Music stations to be present for the event and provide music that could be heard down the River Trail and throughout the park on the day of the event.

The Scottdale Fire Department was a great partner and provided safety and oversight for the entire event with six firemen on site all day. They helped individuals in and out of the creek at the canoe ramps. They also provided environmental education on Water Rescue. Their equipment was onsite for individuals to see and learn about.

Everyone enjoyed the school bus, provided through partnership with Quest Coach, which got people back and forth from the ramps.

This event was a huge success and the challenges against it were staggering. Jacobs Creek has been isolated, polluted and ignored for generations. In the 1970’s it was channelized and the connection to the community was removed. It was absolutely unheard of to paddle down Jacobs Creek. This event first had to overcome the assumption that Jacobs Creek continues to still be polluted. Years of conservation, restoration and investment have really transited the creek and its water quality. Second, the idea that Jacobs Creek is too small for recreation. The marketing, outreach, and education prior to this event targeted those mentalities and hoped to transition the local opinion of the creek. The proof was in the attendance and the involvement of the community in the Lazy River Family Float Day.

FUNDING

Grant Award: \$500.00

Total Match: \$5,650.00

Total Project Cost: \$6,150.00



Jacobs Creek
Watershed Association

