

# *“Richard M. Garrard Greenways Neighbor of the Year”*

For involvement & assistance by property owners adjacent to a greenway or trail:

## **Cochranton Area Redevelopment Effort (CARE)**

Cochranton Area Redevelopment Effort (CARE) is a non-profit corporation organized by volunteers in 2011 to marshal expertise and resources to address major human service, outdoor recreation, beautification, conservation/preservation needs in this borough of 1,019 residents (as per 2020 census) and the surrounding area. The CARE Board set ambitious initial goals, including bringing medical services to town, construction of senior housing, updating the community park, promoting Creek Town status, adding green spaces in and about town, preserving and passing along the history of French Creek Valley, and advancement of the arts. Most of those goals have been achieved; and now the public indicates a desire for continued expansion of similar services and facilities suited for all ages and abilities.



When the Cochranton Greenways organization rolled its assets into CARE, CARE became the owner of the existing paved multi-use recreational trail along the east bank of Little Sugar Creek, currently reaching 7/10 of a mile from the Fairgrounds into and around the perimeter of Cochranton Lions Community Park, thus becoming “next-door neighbor” to key public outdoor recreational properties within Cochranton Borough.

During the past five years, CARE’s roles regarding enhancements to Cochranton Landing (kayak launch on French Creek) and the park have broadened to include these responsibilities: fund-raising focused on the private sector in order to provide significant cash matching dollars for grant applications by Cochranton Borough and by CARE; administrator of multiple free public events/performances in the park; coordinator of new memorial benches and other amenities; active participation in collaborative planning about outdoor recreational facilities and programs; linking cultural, artistic, historic and natural aspects in most of their sponsored projects; hosting musical concerts, heritage gatherings/re-enactments/ and illustrated lectures; coordination of citizen volunteer clean-up sessions; and grantsmanship for ongoing tree plantings.

This neighbor welcomes local residents and visitors alike to utilize and enjoy without charge the improved and more accessible buildings, grounds, and programs and special sites throughout this community. For example, the 2023 summer concerts in the park numbered three; in 2024, six; the 2025 schedule includes 13 free-admission concerts --- in good weather, conducted in the park; otherwise, held indoors at the Iris movie Theatre. To learn more about CARE, see [www.cochrantoncare.org](http://www.cochrantoncare.org).



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This 2025 award is sponsored by anonymous friends of the Council on Greenways and Trails.