
Steamtown National Historic Site

Gateway Community Meeting
December 1, 2025



Where is Steamtown NHS?

**Centrally located in NEPA:
downtown Scranton**

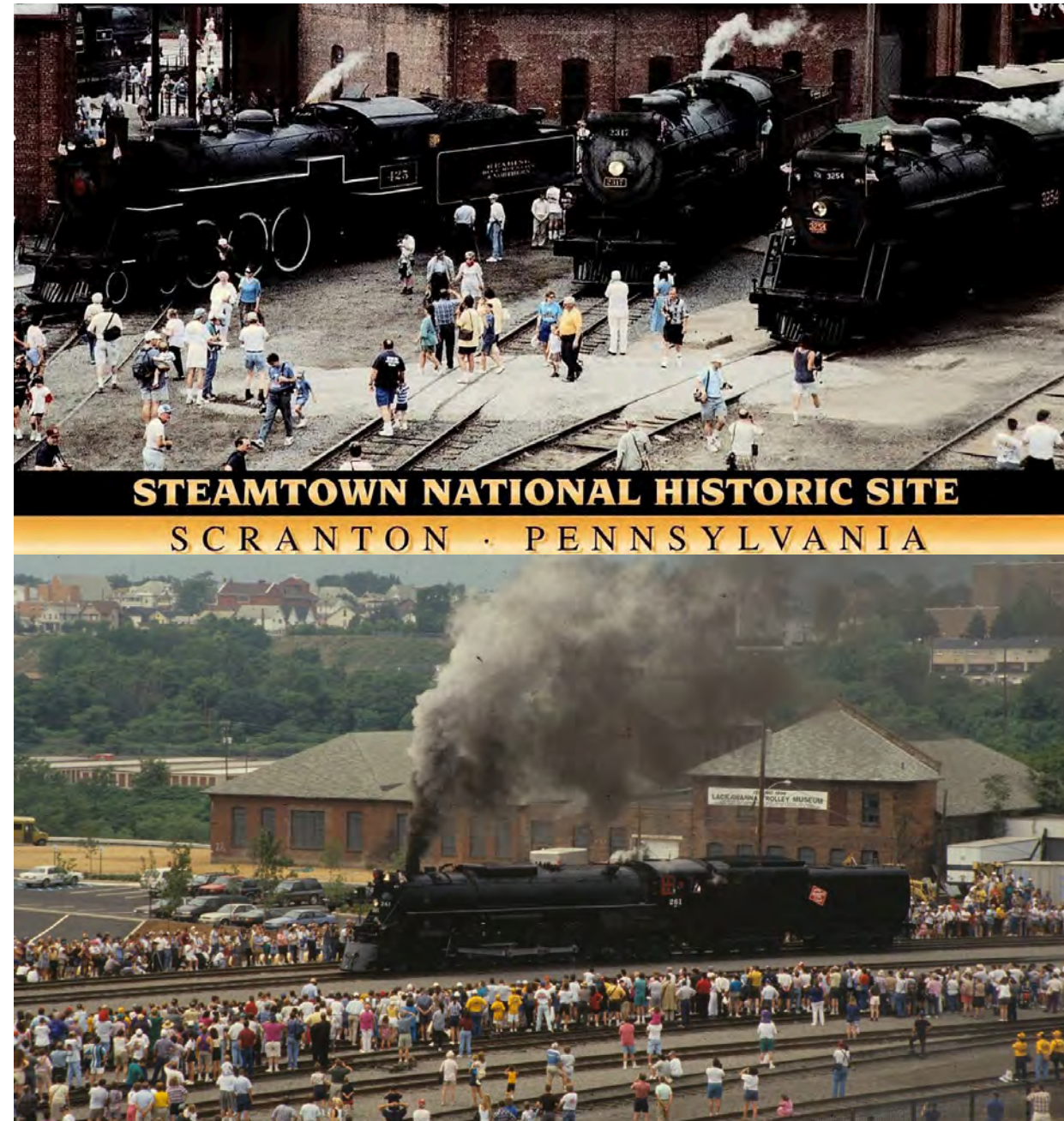
- 75 miles to Allentown, PA
- 120 miles to New York City, NY
- 120 miles to Harrisburg, PA
- 125 miles to Philadelphia, PA
- 130 miles to Syracuse, NY
- 150 miles to State College, PA
- 180 miles to Albany, NY
- 240 miles to Washington, D.C.



Our Origin Story

From private collection to a National Park

- Former DL&W Scranton rail yard identified as Steamtown's new home
- F. Nelson Blount's private steam collection relocated 1984
- Congress authorized Steamtown National Historic Site in 1986
- Site officially opened to the public in 1995



Park Purpose

“Steamtown National Historic Site was established to preserve, interpret, and protect the history of steam railroading in America including the historic railroad yard, collections, technical knowledge, and skills that further the public understanding of the impact of steam railroading on U.S. industry, commerce, and society.”

—NPS Foundation Document, 2018



Preservation and Restoration

Stewarding steam-era equipment and skills

- Ongoing care of historic locomotives and rail cars
- Skilled restoration that sustains steam-era heritage
- Shop tours and demonstrations highlighting technical craft



Railroad Operations

Providing historic rail experiences across gateway communities

- 1 mile of NPS-owned track within the historic DL&W rail yard
- Access to 95 miles of PNRRA-owned mainline track
- “Scranton Limited” rides demonstrate in-park rail operations
- Excursions extend the visitor experience beyond the park



Museum Collections

Preserving one of the largest collections in the NPS

- More than 1 million objects and archives transferred from Steamtown USA to the NPS
- Today's collection includes over 4.6 million archival items and approximately 210,000 artifacts
- Only about 1,100 objects are on exhibit; the rest are preserved in specialized storage



Facilities and Infrastructure

Historic structures supporting preservation and operations

- 14 NPS-owned buildings within the historic DL&W rail yard
- 62+ acres including main visitor complex, rail yard, and Renaissance Park (“500 Block”)
- Early-1900s structures adapted for visitor, employee, volunteer, and partner use



Superintendent's Vision

We will build an engaged community of visitors and stakeholders dedicated to preserving the history of steam railroading from 1850 to 1950, including the transition to diesel. Our priority is keeping steam alive at Steamtown through authentic operations and immersive experiences that connect people of all ages to our nation's railroad legacy. Through hands-on education and focused outreach, we will broaden public understanding of America's railroad heritage, strengthen partnerships with gateway communities and local organizations, and expand our regional impact.

We will carry this vision forward by, with, and through the **Iron Horse Society**, our official philanthropic partner.

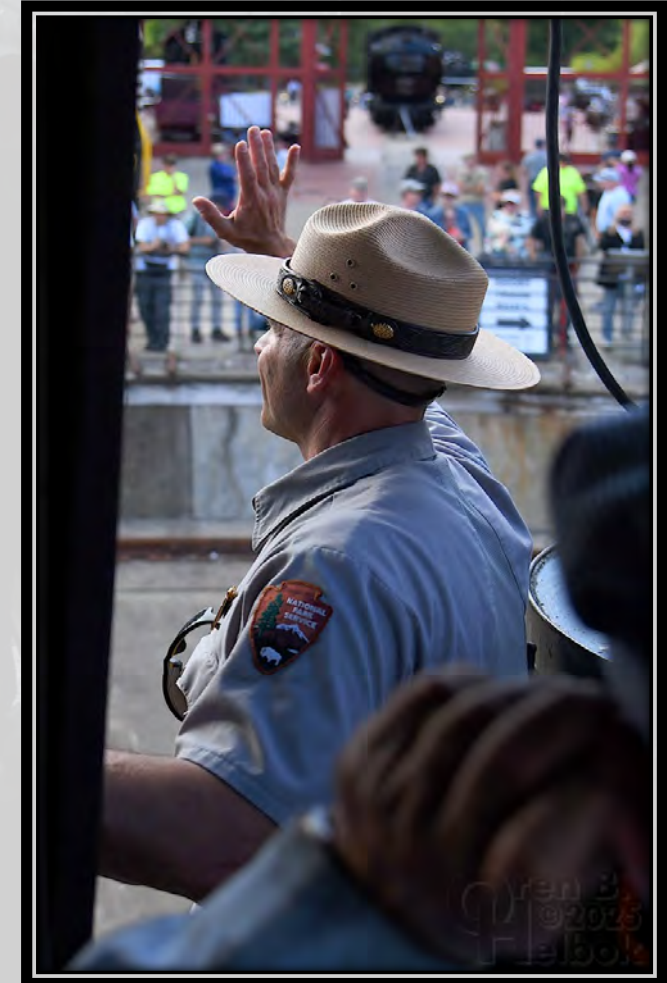


Photo: Oren B. Helbok

2025-2030 Strategic Action Plan

Building Steamtown's next era of preservation, operations, and public engagement

- Enhanced Visitor Experience
- Productive Partnerships and Community Engagement
- Fiscally Sound Infrastructure Investment
- Strategic Staffing and Empowered Volunteers
- Innovative Interpretation and Education



DOI Secretary's Order 3434:

Strengthening Coordination with Gateway Communities

What is a gateway community?

Why are you all considered part of Steamtown's gateway community?

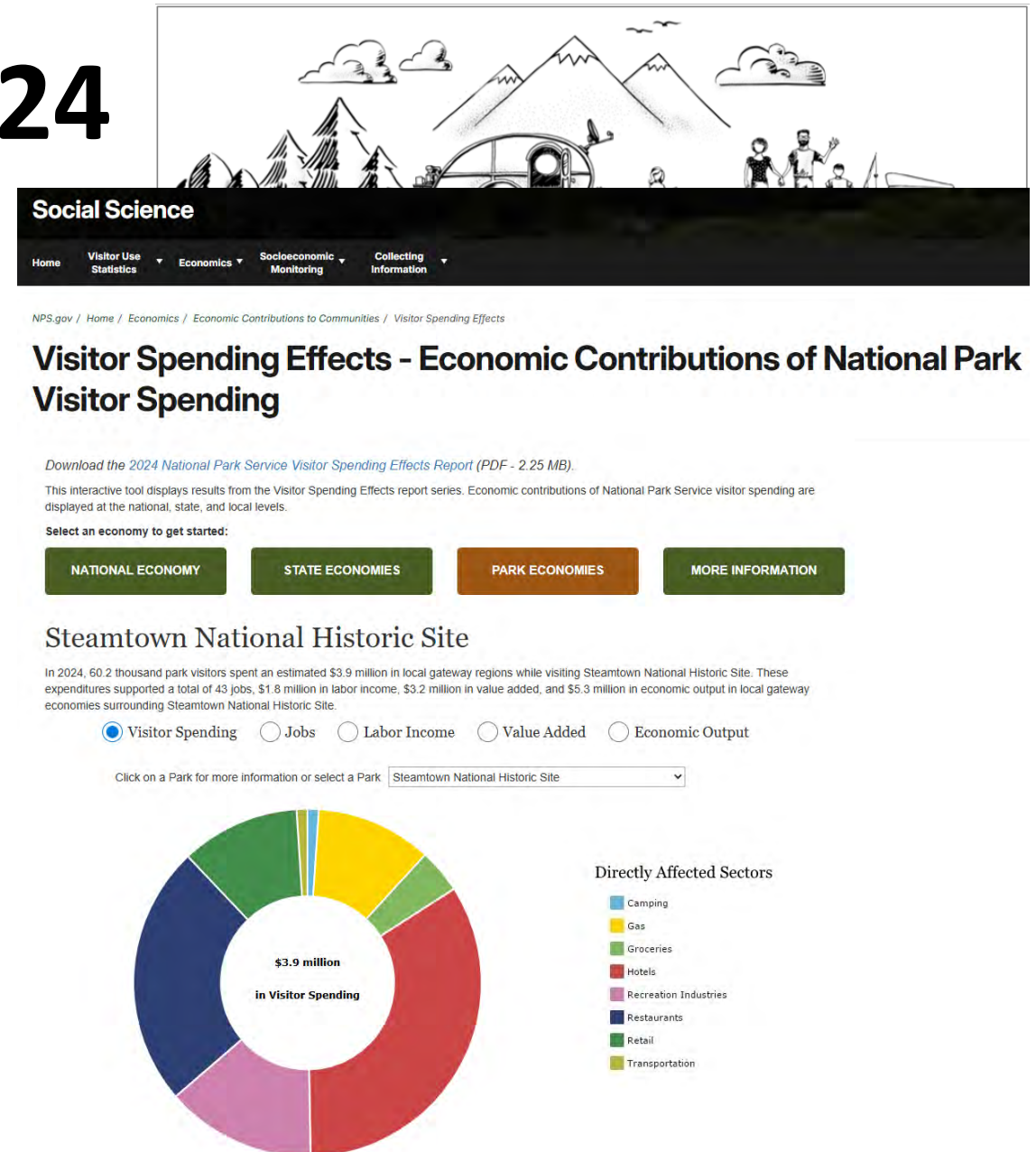
- Enhances NPS engagement with gateway communities
- Promotes shared stewardship and collaborative planning
- Supports sustainable tourism and regional economic vitality
- Expands technical assistance, data-sharing, and coordination
- Prioritizes housing, transportation, and visitor-use solutions
- Reinforces partnerships with Tribes and regional stakeholders



Economic Impact—2024

Steamtown's contribution to regional economic vitality

- **60,243** park visitors
- **\$3.9 million** in visitor spending
- **43** jobs supported
- **\$1.8 million** in labor income
- **\$3.2 million** in value added
- **\$5.3 million** in economic output



Community and Partnerships

Building capacity through engagement and shared stewardship

- Robust Volunteer-In-Parks (VIP) program supporting park operations
- Signature events that strengthen community connection and pride
- Growing capacity through partnerships with local, state, federal, and like-minded organizations



2025 Holiday Events

Connecting communities through seasonal traditions

- **Nov. 21:** Stuff the Caboose supporting United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA
- **Nov. 22:** Scranton Santa Parade
- **Nov. 28—30:** Moscow Holiday Express
- **Dec. 6:** Lackawanna Heritage Valley's "Christmas in a Small Town" Santa Train
- **Dec. 7:** [Iron Horse Society's North Pole Limited](#)
- **Dec. 13—14:** [Iron Horse Society's North Pole Limited](#)
- **Dec. 19—21:** [Iron Horse Society's North Pole Limited](#)



2026 Milestones

A landmark year for railroading, the Nation, the National Park Service, and Steamtown NHS! Celebrating:

- **200th** Anniversary of Railroading in the United States
- **250th** Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence (America250)
- **110th** Birthday of the National Park Service
- **40th** Anniversary of Steamtown's Enabling Legislation



2026 Events

Key dates to watch:

- **Jan. 5:** Q2 Gateway Community Partner (GCP) Meeting
- **Apr. 6:** Q3 GCP Meeting
- **Apr. 18—26:** National Park Week
- **May. 1—22:** Heritage Express on-site
- **Jul. 6:** Q4 GCP Meeting
- **Aug. 25:** NPS Birthday
- **Sep. 5—7:** Railfest
- **TBD:** Visiting equipment and excursions



Call to Action

Join us in advancing Steamtown's mission

- Strengthen partnerships and expand volunteer engagement
- Champion strategic investments that protect historic resources
- Share Steamtown's story and amplify our regional impact



Thank You!

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