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The City of Hazleton and the Greater Hazleton Civic Partnership received the Environmental Partnership Award from the Northeastern Pennsylvania Environmental Partners organization recently. The city received the award for Pine Street Neighborhood housing development, and the partnership, for its Rails-To-Trails project. Taking part in the awards ceremony are, from left, seated: Andrea Nerozzi, Ph.D., professor at Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School; Robert Sagan and Sue Nasrani, Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership; Peter Pinchot, recipient of the Shelburne Award; Sally Corrigan, Ellen Bugno, Abington Little League; Peter Wulfhorst, Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy; and Karen Szwast, Hicks Creek Watershed Association. Standing: Dale Burns, Wilkes University; Ellen Ferretti and Julie McMonagle, Pennsylvania Environmental Council; Steve Saunders, Kreder Brooks Hailstone LLP; Chuck O'Hara, Proctor and Gamble Paper Products Co.; Dave Mathis, Hills Creek Watershed Association; Bob Skulsky, Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership; Michael DiBerardinis, secretary of the state Department of Environmental Protection; Mayor Louis Barletta, City of Hazleton Pine Street Neighborhood Development; Pat Dougerty, Pocono Heritage Land Trust, and Andrew McElwaine, Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

City, civic partnership win environmental awards

WILKES-BARRE – Hazleton's Pine Street Neighborhood housing development and the Rails-To-Trails hiking trail each won an environmental award.

The projects each received the Environmental Partnership Award during the 14th annual Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partnership Awards and dinner held recently in Wilkes-Barre.

The City of Hazleton won

the award for the housing development because it incorporates green technology and materials, including solar panels, recycled products and shingles fashioned from tires.

The development of 25 homes in a three-city block area where deteriorating buildings were torn down was cited by Environmental Partners, the awarding organization, as an "example of teamwork and partnership"

that enabled the project to "serve as a model for residential urban renewal."

The homes, valued at \$180,000, are being offered for \$85,000 each, and financial assistance is available. The price is geared toward mixed-income individuals allowing people of different backgrounds to take part in home ownership.

The Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership was cited for

its Rails-To-Trails project to convert 16 miles of abandoned rail lines to a hiking, biking and cross-country skiing trail.

Environmental Partners said the Partnership is achieving its vision of a "family friendly trail that will enhance our area's recreational, educational and heritage values."

Seven other individuals and groups also received awards during the event.