

Location:

163 Vic Miller Road
Strongstown, PA

County:

Cambria

Description:

Business
development loan

Total Project Cost:

\$157,023



Creekside Cabin Rentals



People:

Sometimes it takes time away to realize what you have at home. English teachers Don and Megan Swanson were vacationing in Kentucky when it struck them: The natural beauty was stunning – much like Cambria County. Their home sits along Elk Creek and the expanded Ghost Town Trail, within a short drive of the Horseshoe Curve, Flight 93 Memorial and museums dedicated to Jimmy Stewart and the Johnstown flood. What's missing? Much in the way of lodging. They set out to build three vacation cabins on a wooded, five-acre lot near their home.

Progress:

Terry Anderson from St. Francis University Small Business Development Center helped hone their plan and recommended The Progress Fund, which loaned \$105,000.

Impact:

The Ghost Town Trail won Trail of the Year in 2020, and has since added a looping extension. Creekside Cabin's Amish-built A-frames sit between the extension and creek, offering cyclists and tourists comfortable living spaces, generous porches and luxurious hot tubs. "Our hope is to use the trail as the main pull to get people's attention, but entice them to explore the region," says Don. "If it works for us, other people start to do things, and it helps to drive it as a destination."

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