



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Cumulative for 2021 (thru December 12)

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SEIZING OPPORTUNITY

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) enacted in March has provided a massive influx of dollars into state and local government coffers. WeConservePA has acted to ensure that conservation is advanced by this unprecedented event.

Promoting Local Investments

ARP provides \$6.15 billion to Pennsylvania counties, townships, boroughs, and cities, much of it available for new community investments. WeConservePA has promoted outreach to local officials to make sure that land conservation, waterway restoration, and park and trail projects are included in these investments. WeConservePA produced various communications, delivered Zoom workshops, and provided a legal review of the of the ARP funding rules.

Regarding the latter, WeConservePA contracted with a law firm with deep experience in regulatory affairs and as counsel to local governments to produce an [opinion letter to guide local officials](#). The letter sets forth the findings that many types of conservation projects are clearly eligible for ARP dollars. Investments in parks and other public outdoor recreation spaces, natural infrastructure to prevent pollution and manage stormwater, and land and easement acquisitions in support of these efforts are among the eligible expenses.

Boosting State Investments

ARP also provides \$7 billion to Pennsylvania state government. WeConservePA—both directly and through its managing role of the Growing Greener Coalition—has advocated continuously (via social media, direct meetings with decisionmakers, coalition-building, etc.) in 2021 for directing a substantial portion of ARP funds into conservation projects. Substantial progress has

been made in moving bills through the Senate, and WeConservePA's advocacy will continue into 2022.

RESEARCHING AND DEVELOPING GUIDANCE

WeConservePA published nine new guides and refreshed six existing ones. Each is briefly described below.

Parks in Perpetuity

The Protections Provided to Parks and Other Public Open Spaces Under Pennsylvania Law

Parks and other public open spaces deliver tremendous benefits to the public and provide a crucial foundation for building, maintaining, and renewing communities. People rely on the permanence of these civic assets in making decisions on where to live and work. Thus, it is no wonder that Pennsylvania law affords great protections to parks from sale or conversion to non-public uses by the municipal governments responsible for their care. This guide describes these protections in brief. 3 pages. <https://conservationtools.org/guides/191>

Eminent Domain and Conserved Land in Pennsylvania

This guide provides a basic review of the eminent domain law of Pennsylvania and the United States as it applies to conserved land and conservation easements. 8 pages. https://conservationtools.org/library_items/2167

Delineating Conservation Easement Boundaries and Protection Areas

Properly delineating the boundaries of conservation easements and their different protection areas is crucial to easement stewardship and enforcement. Conservation restrictions are difficult, if not impossible, to enforce unless tied to physical locations on the ground. This guide discusses the delineation of boundaries and protection areas using physical markers, verbal descriptions, and visual depictions. 7 pages. https://conservationtools.org/library_items/2150

Using a Deed Restriction to Protect Land

A Path for When Neither a Land Trust Nor Government Can Help

A family or group of neighbors may want to limit future use of a property, but that desire may not be shared as a priority by conservation organizations or government. In this case, a deed restriction may be a sensible—albeit imperfect—tool that the private individuals can use on their own to achieve limited protection of the land. 2 pages. https://conservationtools.org/library_items/2148

Deed Restriction Versus Conservation Easement

In most circumstances, a conservation easement is a far better tool for conserving land than a deed restriction. This guide explains how the tools differ. 4 pages. https://conservationtools.org/library_items/2166

Restricting Development to What Is Approved in a Subdivision and Land Development Plan

When a local government is approving a subdivision and land development plan, a landowner or developer sometimes agrees to place restrictions on the land to ensure that no further subdivision or development of common open space or large lots can occur beyond that contemplated in the plan being approved. Pathways to establishing these restrictions in Pennsylvania so that they are enforceable in the event of a breach are described in this guide. 6 pages. https://conservationtools.org/library_items/2165

Who May Get Involved in Conservation Easement Management Matters?

A Consideration for Amendment of Pre-June 2001 Easements

Occasionally a land trust will seek to amend a conservation easement. More often, the owners of land subject to an easement will ask for an amendment. In any case, the issue of who can insert themselves into easement management matters can be a compelling reason for the parties to agree to an amendment if the easement was created in Pennsylvania prior to June 22, 2001. 2 pages. https://conservationtools.org/library_items/2175

Working Forest Conservation Easement: A Property Rights-Based Tool for Conservation

A working forest conservation easement keeps forestland intact for timber production, providing support for rural economies. It is established by mutual agreement of a willing landowner and a private land trust or government. The conservation easement limits subdivision, development, and activities that would hinder the land's capacity to grow trees for industry or potentially provide recreational opportunity. 2 pages.

https://conservationtools.org/library_items/2174

Reserved Right Versus Permitted Use

In regard to conservation easements, the term “reserved right” is not interchangeable with “permitted use.” Depending on the specific wording of the granting document, the terms can deliver markedly different conservation outcomes. 1 page. [available upon request]

Six Guides Refreshed

WeConservePA has developed more than 140 guides—most featuring wholly original content—in the past dozen years. Keeping them accurate, relevant, and helpful requires regular review of their content and updates to address changes in the law, developments in the field, and newly understood needs. WeConservePA updated and improved six of its guides in 2021.

Realty Transfer Tax Exclusions for Conservation-Related Transactions in Pennsylvania

The substantial revision addresses changes in state law affecting conservation lands since the original edition.

Nonprofit Name Change

The refreshed guide adds two more descriptions of the name change process by organizations that recently went through the process.

Purchase and Sale Agreements for Conservation Projects: Guidance and Sample Provisions

Minor updates to improve readability and clarity were made.

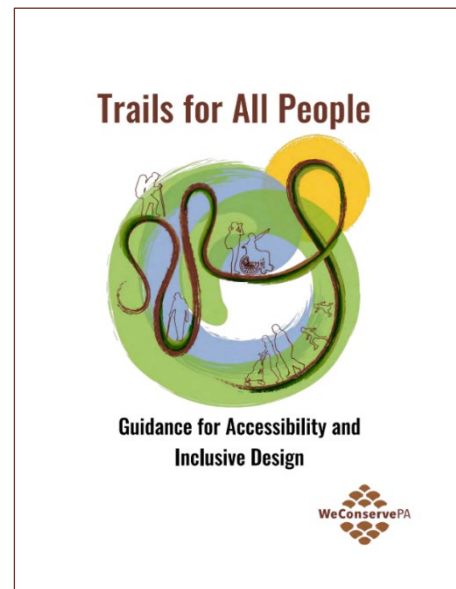
Trails for All People:

Guidance for Accessibility and Inclusive Design

How can trail groups, local governments, and land trusts responsibly plan, develop, and operate trails that provide better accessibility for people, including those with limited mobility? What are best management practices? What is legally required? When is universal accessibility not appropriate? This manual addresses these questions in detail.

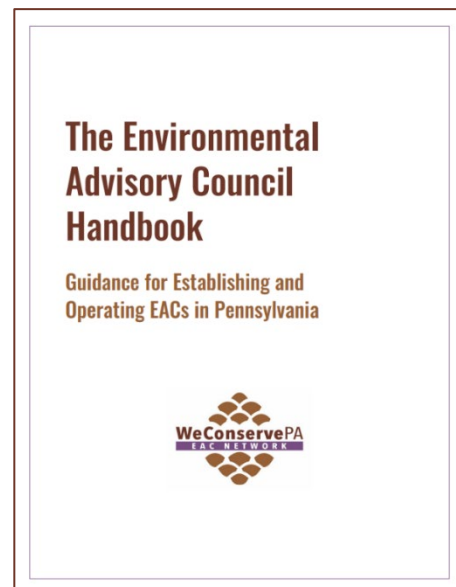
The first edition of this manual was published in 2014 under the title "Universal Access Trails and Shared Use Paths: Design, Management, Ethical, and Legal Considerations." This greatly improved and expanded edition features extensive additional content including a new chapter dedicated to signage, a new section on inclusionary planning that goes beyond disability-related issues, new case studies, and many new and improved illustrations. In addition, much of the original text is updated, edited, and sometimes rewritten for clarity and length. 133 pages.

https://conservationtools.org/library_items/1345



The Environmental Advisory Council Handbook: Guidance for Establishing and Operating EACs in Pennsylvania

WeConservePA published a substantially revised and expanded edition of [*The Environmental Advisory Council Handbook*](#). Last updated in 2014, this is the first edition developed by WeConservePA, which accepted responsibility for managing the EAC Network eight years ago. The new edition is viewable as a [web page](#) or in [pdf form](#) at WeConservePA.org.



Federal Tax Deductibility of Conservation Easement Donations

Minor updates to improve readability and clarity were made.

BUILDING NEW AND IMPROVED MODELS

WeConservePA developed one new model document and improved two others in 2021.

Model Assignment of Grant of Conservation Easement (1st edition)

The [*Model Assignment of Grant of Conservation Easement and Declaration of Covenants*](#)—published in December—assists organizations in transferring conservation easements (and their associated responsibilities and stewardship funding) to other responsible organizations.

Model Grant of Conservation Easement and Declaration of Covenants (update)

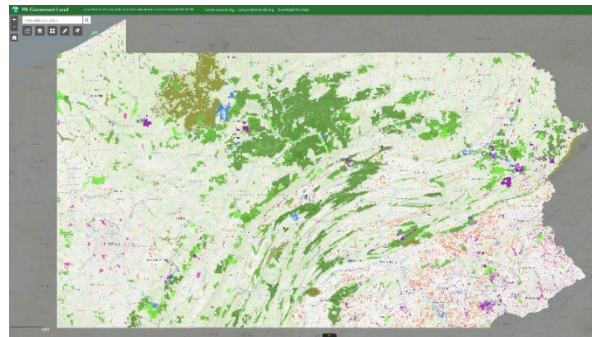
WeConservePA modified two provisions in the [Model Grant of Conservation Easement and Declaration of Covenants](#) to enhance clarity and broaden its applicability to various situations. The changes were preceded by peer and public discussion and review of the proposed changes. WeConservePA also expanded the model's commentary.

Model Amendment of Grant of Conservation Easement (upgrade)

WeConservePA improved and expanded its [Model Amendment of Grant of Conservation Easement and Declaration of Covenants](#) to address the specific scenario of adding land to an existing conservation easement. The model was introduced in 2020; soon after, user need for the expanded guidance became evident.

MAPPING, ANALYZING, AND REPORTING

WeConservePA developed, expanded, and re-fined its conservation-related databases, analytical tools, and other mapping and GIS information, which can be found via the [GIS & Mapping page](#) at WeConservePA.org.



Conservation Geodatabases

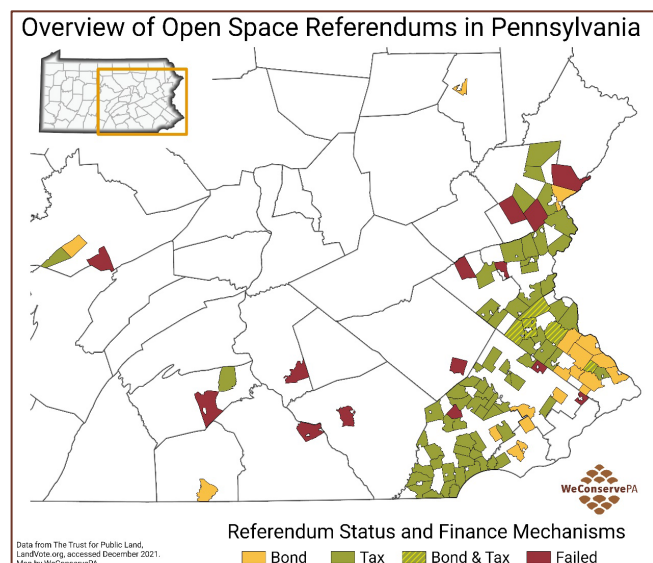
WeConservePA continually updated its immense, comprehensive [geodatabase of publicly and privately conserved lands](#), first established in 2018. This year, we also made improvements to the [interactive, public interface](#).

We continually updated our mapping of the service areas of land trusts, watershed associations, environmental advisory councils, and other organizations. We also updated the information accessed with the [grant project finder](#) for the [Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund](#) and the [grant finder](#) for the [Environmental Stewardship Fund](#).

Local Municipal Open Space Referendums in Pennsylvania

WeConservePA has just published "[Local Municipal Open Space Referendums in Pennsylvania: 2021 Status Report](#)." The report includes numerous maps and charts describing the 151 open space referendums offered to Pennsylvania voters at the local municipal level between 1996 and 2021. 24 pages.

More Mapping Projects



WeConservePA partnered with DCNR and The Trust for Public Land in identifying [gaps in outdoor recreational access](#) for Pennsylvanians. We also advanced or refined projects to:

- Determine whether parcellation of forest (a substantial challenge for good forest management) continues to occur in several northern Pennsylvania counties (We've determined that it does—contrary to belief by some—but the report is not yet complete.)
- Map trails managed by local government
- Determine the quantity of unprotected open space remaining in communities with dedicated open space taxes
- Identify and rank potential riparian planting sites in Pennsylvania on their ability to improve water quality

CONNECTING, EDUCATING, AND INSPIRING PEOPLE

From organizing conferences and summits to bringing together groupings of individuals with common interests for roundtable discussions, WeConservePA strives to build a community of conservationists (and subgroups within the community for those with common needs) in which people can lean on and learn from one another.

Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference

The 2021 WeConservePA Land Conservation Conference was held virtually on March 24 and 25 and was attended by 184 individuals. The event kicked off with a keynote address by Dr. Michael Suk, Chief Physician Officer of the Geisinger Health System and. Over the two days, WeConservePA welcomed 52 additional speakers presenting 20 workshops and delivering a total of 26 hours of instruction.

Total registration for the event was 208 individuals (not everyone showed as is typical for a Zoom event), representing 79 individual organizations. Over 100 individuals had either never attended the conference or had not attended in the prior three years.

The overall rating for the conference was 4.6, with the keynote address by Dr. Michael Suk scoring a 4.9 out of 5 (on a 1-5 scale with five meaning "excellent").

Breakdown by Organizational Affiliation

Land Trusts (53%)	Friends Groups/EACs (4%)
Government or State Agency (18%)	Educational Institutions (4%)
Other Conservation Organizations (6%)	Unaffiliated (10%)
Business (5%)	

A full event report is available upon request.

Environmental Advisory Council Network Conference

The 2021 EAC Network Conference was held virtually on April 10, from 10 am to 3:30 pm. The event kicked off with an EAC Hot Topics panel, bringing together panelists presenting on a range of timely issues affecting PA municipalities, including climate change and green infrastructure co-benefits, ReadyFor100, warehouses and distribution centers, and electric vehicles and EV Infrastructure. The morning program was followed by two afternoon breakout sessions

covering four additional topics: Community Engagement, Sustainability Planning, Pennsylvania Municipal Government and Healthy Communities.

Sixty-seven of the 94 people who registered attended, representing 46 environmental advisory councils and 4 other organizations. The average attendee rating of the event was 4.7 on a 1 to 5 scale with five meaning “excellent.” Most respondents indicated the breadth of topics and speakers as the reason for their score. Individual sessions received scores between 4.2 and 4.8.

Pennsylvania Greenways & Trails Summit

WeConservePA's second biennial Greenways & Trails Summit was held September 19-21—face-to-face in Erie. Over the course of three days, September 19-21, we welcomed over 190 participants. Thirty-seven individual workshops and four mobile seminars provided over 50 hours of training.



Attendees rated the summit a 4.6 on a 1-5 scale (5 being the best).

The continuing COVID 19 pandemic and concern for health and safety kept the planning team on their toes and required flexibility. Thankfully, the weather in Erie cooperated, allowing us to take full advantage of the outdoor spaces throughout the Bayfront Convention Center and Erie at large. A team of AV experts allowed presenters located in other states, as well as those facing travel and meeting restrictions, to participate virtually.

[Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman](#) provided our keynote address, *A Journey of Activism, Environmental Justice, Diversity and Sustainability*.

The Greenways & Trails Summit will return in 2023 and be held in Scranton.

Lecture and Annual Meeting

WeConservePA's annual membership meeting was held virtually on Monday, May 17. The main feature of the event was the lecture *Attempting to Understand the Disconnect Between African Americans and the Outdoors*, presented by photographer, author, and filmmaker Dudley Edmondson. 151 of 225 registrants attended. The recording of the lecture is available upon request *for member organizations only* (as agreed to with Mr. Edmondson).

Forest Conservation Seminar

On Wednesday, June 9, from 10:30 am to 4 pm, WeConservePA hosted speakers from Penn State University and the Center for Private Forests at PSU for a one-day training opportunity via Zoom focused on forest conservation. Topics included the economic value of forests for water resource protection, conservation-based estate planning for private forest owners, and adaptive forest management plans under conservation easements.

Registration for the event was 29 individuals, representing 18 organizations (13 land trusts, 2 universities, 1 county planning commission, and 2 businesses).

Building Relationships with Communities of Color

Held via Zoom on Monday, July 12, from 1 to 4 pm, this workshop was geared to individuals from predominantly white organizations and provided participants with strategies and tips for

building effective relationships with communities of color and the organizations that advocate for them. Speaker Marcelo Bonta drew from data, case studies, and his two decades of experience working at the nexus of conservation, environmental protection, and JEDI (justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion) to deliver the session.

Total registration for the event was 85 individuals, representing organizations based in 20 states. 52% of registrants represented organizations based in Pennsylvania. Participants rated the session a 4.5 on a 1-5 scale (where 5 is the best).

Solar Seminar Series

WeConservePA partnered with Thomas Murphy (Director, Penn State Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research) and Brook Duer (attorney with the Center for Agricultural and Shale Law at Penn State law) to present the Summer Solar Series. On four Tuesdays in August, topic experts were invited to co-present alongside Brook and Thomas for the 75-minute workshops. These workshops covered:

- Utility Scale Solar: Environmental and Siting Considerations
- Land Transitions During Solar Energy Expansion in PA
- Utility Scale Solar and Local Land Planning
- Government Policy and Solar

Thirty-nine individuals registered for one or more parts of the series, representing 9 land trusts, 8 other nonprofits, 7 environmental advisory councils (EACs), 3 municipalities, 2 businesses, and 1 university (5 registrants were unaffiliated). On average, 25 individuals attended each of the sessions.

With 35 responses to the evaluation surveys, the series rated a 4.8 on a 1-5 scale (5 being the best).

Planning and Management for Multi-Use Trails

WeConservePA tapped PennTrails, LLC to present this two-day in-person trails management workshop at the Welkinweir estate in Pottstown on September 10 and 11. Covered were some of the unique challenges and opportunities faced by trail managers in planning, design, and management of accessible multi-use trails.

A total of ten individuals participated on Friday, September 10, with eight registrants returning for both days. These individuals represented two municipalities, two trail management organizations, one land trust, one university, one watershed association, and one state agency. The session received a 4.7 on a 1-5 scale (where 5 is the best).

Understanding Funding Opportunities Through the American Rescue Plan

Held on Tuesday, September 28, this 75-minute session examined the various components of the American Rescue Plan (ARP), including allocation mechanisms, grant funding opportunities, application criteria and more. Speakers included Andy Loza of WeConservePA; Ted Martin, Deputy Director, DCED Governor's Center for Local Government Services; Christopher Casper, Economic Development Specialist, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce; and Silas Chamberlain, Vice President of Economic and Community Development, York County Economic Alliance.

229 individuals registered for this event, representing a wide range of organizations, including land trusts and other conservation groups, municipal governments, and state agencies.

Specialized DEIJ Training for Organizational Leaders

On Thursday, October 14 from 1 to 4 pm, WeConservePA consultant Marcelo Bonta led participants through a workshop tailored towards the unique role leadership plays in a DEIJ change process. Included was guidance on effectively leading and supporting the organization through DEIJ changes, and effectively integrating DEIJ values and principles into their leadership. Marcelo was joined by Scott Miller, who shared lessons learned from his experience in this process.

A total of 16 organizations (47 individuals) registered for this event. Organizations represented included nine land trusts, four government agencies, three nonprofit conservation organizations, and one state association. Thirteen of 16 organizations represented are based in Pennsylvania. Of the individuals attending, 17 are executive directors (or equivalent), 13 are from board leadership, and 17 are DEIJ change agents (staff). A total of 43 individuals attended the training. Participants rated the session a 3.7 on a 1-5 scale (where 5 is the best).

Land Protection and Stewardship Roundtables

WeConservePA's land protection and stewardship roundtables are open to people involved with acquiring and stewarding land and conservation easements. We hosted two 75-minute roundtables in 2021. The May 12 session was attended by 29 individuals representing 11 member organizations, 5 government and agency staff, and 4 other organizations. The second was held on November 30 and was attended by 35 individuals. The roundtables covered a wide range of topics of interest to the participants. Half of the November session was focused on tree and neighbor issues, the participants having been given a draft of WeConservePA's upcoming guide *Tree Law in Pennsylvania* and guide author Gilbert High, Esq., making himself available to answer questions.

Model Grant of Conservation Easement Roundtable

The 7th edition of the *Model Grant of Conservation Easement and Declaration of Covenants* reached its 5th anniversary in 2021. WeConservePA held a Zoom roundtable for users of the model on November 4 to (1) review recent changes to the model; (2) help with the finalization of a revised wording of the Highest Protection Area Conservation Objective (and alternatives offered in the commentary); and (3) share customizations of potential interest, ideas, issues, and concerns with the group. Twenty-five individuals from 20 different organizations participated.

Event Assistance

With organizations and agencies struggling to adjust to the virtual meeting and event landscape brought on by the pandemic, WeConservePA provided staff assistance for planning and hosting events, including:

- Spring and fall meetings of the **Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Association** (as well as fall 2020)
- The State Comprehensive **Outdoor Recreation Plan Work Group** to assist DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation (from the fall of 2020 through the summer of 2021)

Educational Recordings

WeConservePA shares recordings of our online educational offerings through our Vimeo account, <https://vimeo.com/weconservepa>. Although we record many online programs, staff recognize that a substantial portion of the value of workshops come from the real-time interactions amongst participants and instructors. WeConservePA refrains from recording events where staff believe that recording would unduly inhibit constructive engagement by participants.

COMMUNICATING NEWS AND INFORMATION

Email Communication

WeConservePA's mass email communications include single subject emails (e.g., event announcements and advocacy alerts) and e-newsletters. The frequency and timing of these emails are largely governed by current events and the rate at which staff identify or develop items worth reporting.

In late 2021, WeConservePA has 6,018 mass email subscribers, a 243-person (4%) net increase over 2020. The change involved:

- 637 additions by WeConservePA staff (e.g., adding new trustees and event attendees)
- 161 subscriber-initiated subscriptions
- 335 deletions by staff of inactive or invalid email addresses
- 220 unsubscribes by email recipients.

WeConservePA sends e-newsletters under several banners:

- **Conserve Land Update** reports news of significant new tools, guidance, events, issues, or other matters impacting conservation statewide.
 - 2,488 subscribers
 - 13 issues in 2021
- **Project & People News** reports on land conservation projects and the people working and volunteering in conservation throughout the state.
 - 2,420 subscribers
 - 7 issues in 2021
- **Pennsylvania Greenway & Trail News** reports on what's happening regarding greenways and trails in Pennsylvania.
 - 2,017 subscribers
 - 7 issues in 2021
- **EAC Network** reports to environmental advisory council members and other EAC supporters on WeConservePA news of interest.
 - 507 subscribers
 - 4 issues in 2021

WeConservePA sends out **Conservation Advocate** action alerts to 1,685 subscribers. Our **Growing Greener Coalition** list reaches another 500 subscribers. Conservation Advocate subscribers receive all Growing Greener Coalition alerts; Growing Greener Coalition subscribers generally receive Conservation Advocate messages that address state funding matters.

Social Media

WeConservePA continues to post regularly on social media with the handle @WeConservePA, sharing conservation-related news and resources and growing the size of its audience on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. In late 2021, WeConservePA has 6,045 followers across the three platforms:

- Facebook – 3,121 followers
- Twitter – 1,260 followers
- Instagram – 1,664 followers

There is some double (and triple) counting due to people following on multiple platforms.

In addition, the Growing Greener Coalition social media accounts managed by WeConservePA have a number of followers:

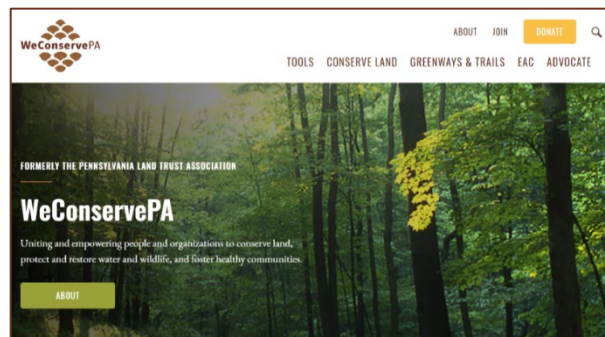
- Facebook – 2,438 followers
- Twitter – 1,531 followers
- Instagram – 1,112 followers

WeConservePA is still in an early stage of establishing a presence on LinkedIn, developing and sharing content such as grant applications, job opportunities, educational event announcements specifically targeted to conservation professionals. WeConservePA's LinkedIn page can be found at: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/weconservepa>

Websites

WeConservePA.org

WeConservePA debuted [WeConservePA.org](https://www.weconservepa.org) a year ago, bringing the content previously housed at ConserveLand.org, GreenwaysandTrails.org, EACnetwork.org, and ConservationAdvocate.org under one umbrella. We update the site almost every weekday.



ConservationTools.org (WeConservePA.org/tools)

We continue to use the [ConservationTools.org](https://www.conservatortools.org) domain for our guides, models, library, and expert listings, but we no longer emphasize the domain name. To facilitate people finding these resources, “Tools” holds the first position on the WeConservePA.org menu.

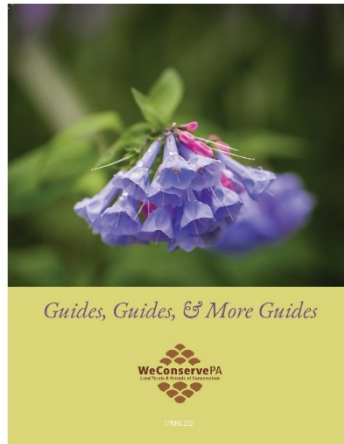
Other Websites

WeConservePA maintains [KeystoneFund.org](https://www.keystonefund.org) and [ESfund.info](https://www.esfund.info) as distinct educational sites without WeConservePA branding. We want to avoid people thinking that WeConservePA controls the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund and Environmental Stewardship

Fund. (Legislators have made this mistake.) Likewise, we maintain paGrowingGreener.org as a distinct website to avoid confusing WeConservePA with the Growing Greener Coalition partnership that we lead and facilitate.

Educational Mailings

To better reach people who don't always get or read our emails and social media posts, WeConservePA mailed three bulletins in 2021, each eight to 12 pages. 1,672 individuals now receive these publications. WeConservePA also sent two postcards highlighting WeConservePA's upcoming trail-focused educational opportunities and our virtual lecture by Dudley Edmondson.



DIRECTLY ASSISTING ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

One-on-One Assistance

WeConservePA staff have directly assisted people from many dozens of conservation organizations and local governments in 2021, addressing their questions and problems via videocalls, telephone, email, and—after a COVID-related hiatus—a few in-person meetings. A broad range of issues were addressed: fundraising, strategic planning, real estate transactions, easement stewardship, accreditation, liability, mapping, operation of open space programs... The list goes on and on.

Conservation Easement Assistance Program

In 2021 through December 10, WeConservePA awarded 29 Conservation Easement Assistance Program (CEAP) grants, providing organizations the means to use best practices in their easement projects. WeConservePA administers CEAP to increase the quantity of special places protected as well as increase the quality and long-term viability of easements. The grants are broken down as follows:

- 23 grants to complete new easement projects
- 2 grants to amend/restate conservation easement projects
- 3 grants to upgrade baseline documentation
- 1 grant to install signs on an eased property

Since 2004, CEAP has helped create 329 new easements protecting 26,616 acres. For these projects, landowners donated \$61.8 million in easement value and land trusts secured \$2.5 million for stewardship.

WeConservePA made the following Conservation Easement Assistance Program grant awards in 2021 through December 10:

Organization	Project Name	Project Type	County	Award Date	Amount (\$)
Allegheny Land Trust	Goswell Farm	Acquire New	Butler	29-Nov-21	7,500.00
Lancaster Farmland Trust	Gehr, Lee S.	Acquire New	Lancaster	29-Nov-21	5,000.00
Delaware Highlands Conservancy	Baldwin Hill I	Baseline Doc	Wayne	22-Nov-21	2,500.00
Delaware Highlands Conservancy	Baldwin Hill IIb	Baseline Doc	Wayne	22-Nov-21	2,500.00
French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust	Maxwell Conservation Easement	Acquire New	Chester	15-Nov-21	7,000.00
Heritage Conservancy	Noberini Property	Acquire New	Bucks	12-Nov-21	7,500.00
Berks Nature	Coyle Easement Amendment and Restatement	Acquire New	Berks	29-Oct-21	7,500.00
Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County	Bupp 2021	Acquire New	York	29-Oct-21	5,784.30
Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County	Stoneberger 2021	Acquire New	York	29-Oct-21	7,500.00
Lebanon Valley Conservancy	Jegla Easement	Acquire New	Lebanon	31-Aug-21	7,299.25
Land Conservancy of Adams County	Scheer property conservation easement	Acquire New	Adams	17-Aug-21	7,500.00
Heritage Conservancy	Jarinko Property	Acquire New	Northampton	14-May-21	2,920.00
Heritage Conservancy	McCarthy Conservation Easement	Acquire New	Bucks	7-May-21	1,500.00
North American Land Trust	Miles Property	Acquire New	Chester	27-Apr-21	7,500.00
Berks Nature	Smith Easement	Acquire New	Berks	13-Apr-21	7,500.00
Land Conservancy of Adams County	Johnson meadow/woods	Acquire New	Adams	9-Apr-21	1,981.65
Manada Conservancy	Multiple CE signsMultiple	Install Signs	Dauphin	12-Mar-21	2,503.61
Central Pennsylvania Conservancy	Strickler 2 Easement	Acquire New	Franklin	9-Mar-21	7,500.00
Delaware Highlands Conservancy	Butterfly Barn	Baseline Doc	Wayne	5-Mar-21	2,500.00
Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy	Marvin Easement	Acquire New	Union	5-Mar-21	306.25
Manada Conservancy	Pronio Phase 2	Amend/Restate	Dauphin	2-Mar-21	4,628.75
Allegheny Land Trust	Beeson Farm	Acquire New	Allegheny	9-Feb-21	7,500.00
Tinicum Conservancy	Barnhurst Conservation Easement	Acquire New	Bucks	26-Jan-21	7,500.00
Central Pennsylvania Conservancy	Diakon Wilderness Center Easement	Acquire New	Cumberland	21-Jan-21	7,500.00
Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County	North Muddy Fish & Game Association - Part 2	Amend/Restate	York	21-Jan-21	4,172.50
French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust	Holman	Acquire New	Chester	21-Jan-21	3,500.00
Tinicum Conservancy	Balukas Conservation Easement	Acquire New	Bucks	10-Jan-21	7,500.00
Mid State Trail Association	Ram Warehouse Former Woolrich Mill	Acquire New	Clinton	10-Jan-21	1,000.00
Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York County	Berkstresser	Acquire New	York	5-Jan-21	6,437.50

HELPING ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

WeConservePA continued to support environmental advisory councils and those who seek to create new EACs in Pennsylvania. We identified eight newly formed or reinstated EACs in 2021 for a total of 150 EACs.



Technical Assistance

Staff provide ongoing, small-scale assistance to EAC members, typically pointing people to specific resources created by WeConservePA, answering questions, and directing them to regional EAC partnerships and others addressing similar matters.

As noted above, WeConservePA published a substantially revised and expanded edition of [*The Environmental Advisory Council Handbook*](#).

Educational Programs

Based on feedback received after the 2021 EAC Network Conference, WeConservePA will continue to present the annual conference virtually, but we have moved the event to February to better assist newly appointed EAC members and avoid competition with good spring weather.

WeConservePA is testing interest in holding a smaller, regional, *in-person* event in the fall of each year. Site selection will be made by RFP to be issued in the winter of 2022.

Communications

In January, the new EAC Network communications forum at WeConservePA.org/eac/join-discussion was introduced; in December, we shut down our longstanding EAC Network Google Group. The forum is intended as the platform for EAC members to *share with each other*. In contrast, the EAC e-newsletter WeConservePA introduced in 2021 is for one-way communications from WeConservePA to EAC members.

Trail of the Year

DCNR's Trail Advisory Committee selected the D&H Rail-Trail, managed by the Rail Trail Council of NEPA, as the 2021 Trail of the Year. With support from our DCNR greenway and trail grant, WeConservePA oversaw the manufacture of the Trail of the Year trail head marker, as well as the design and creation of a series of posters and postcards in recognition of the designation. The Rail Trail Council of NEPA was also awarded a grant of \$5,878.95 in support of trail educational programs related to the D&H Rail-Trail.

PURSuing EQUITY IN CONSERVATION

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Community

WeConservePA began the formation of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) community for conservationists in 2020. The purpose of the community is:

To provide a forum for people to share experiences, learn about and advance effective practices, and identify opportunities to individually and collectively promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice in conservation work and environmental organizations.

A committee of 23 self-selected individuals worked from October 2020 through March 2021 to develop a set of core strategies in going forward. WeConservePA's DEIJ consultant, Marcelo Bonta, facilitated the effort. In the spring, the group self-selected into a steering committee co-chaired by Carissa Schnabel and Reneé Carey and smaller working groups, dubbed "pods." Other steering committee members include Sara Painter (point person for WeConservePA) and self-selected pod leaders: Margaret Hodgkiss-Lilly and Lina Berón Echavarría. The steering committee meets monthly and provides support for the pods. The pods address relationship building, programming, structure, planning, and workplace improvement.

Grappling with the inequities that are so deeply baked into our systems is challenging on many levels. Katie Hess of the South Mountain Partnership and Appalachian Trail Conservancy writes that:

WeConservePA has always taken the lead on the big issues, and the DEIJ group is a massive and important undertaking, and I am so, so thankful for your leadership.

I am in turn thankful that the steering committee and pod members are working and leading to address the challenge.

Assistance

In addition to conference programming, WeConservePA delivered two freestanding, equity-centered workshops (as described earlier in this report).

Conservation professionals were surveyed in May by the Programming Pod to discover what [their needs and issues](#) are to help with the planning of relevant and useful education programming. Eighty-six conservation professionals from dozens of organizations throughout PA and the Mid-Atlantic Region completed the survey.

Staff provided over 25 hours of direct DEIJ technical assistance to 15 conservation organizations, including member land trusts as well as other state associations.

Staff worked with a donor to create a scholarship fund to support attendance by BIPOC students at our conference (with expectations of supporting two students in 2022). Staff worked with another donor to fund payments to people of color engaging in WeConservePA's programming work. (To avoid the DEIJ Community of consisting of only white people talking to white people, it is equitable and necessary to financially support the engagement of people who would not otherwise be participating in WeConservePA activities.)

Among other activities, staff serve on the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed's Mid-Atlantic DEIJ working group and have been interviewed for purposes including academic research and news articles.

WeConservePA's curated resources regarding DEIJ can be found at <https://weconservepa.org/diversity-equity-inclusion-justice/>

ADVOCATING FOR CONSERVATION

Our substantial efforts will be discussed at the December 14 policy council meeting.