



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Cumulative for 2022 (thru December 7)

Boosting Conservation Investments	1
Building and Improving Models for Conservation	3
Researching and Developing Guidance	4
Mapping, Analyzing, and Reporting	6
Communicating News and Information	8
Connecting, Educating, and Inspiring People	10
Directly Assisting Organizations and People	16
Supporting Trail Education	18
Advocating for Conservation	18

BOOSTING CONSERVATION INVESTMENTS

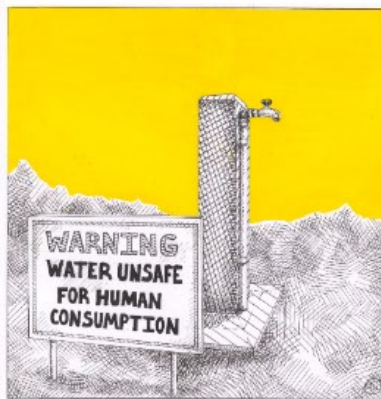
Following years of educating lawmakers and particularly intensive advocacy this past winter and spring, WeConservePA together with our Growing Greener Coalition partners and other allies succeeded in achieving a **\$100 million boost** in state investments for conservation, State Parks and Forests infrastructure, and recreation projects and a **\$220 million investment** in a newly created Clean Streams Fund.

There was nothing inevitable about the General Assembly approving these new investments. In the absence of our advocacy, there was no chance of even a single new state dollar going into conservation. Each person and organization that answered WeConservePA's calls to action and advocated for this money helped create the legislative dynamic and pressure that led to our success. We should all celebrate the new monies that are already starting to flow into new conservation, environmental restoration, and outdoor recreation projects because it would not have happened without us.

Both directly and as the managing partner of the Growing Greener Coalition, WeConservePA advocated continuously (via grassroots outreach, direct meetings with legislators in Harrisburg and their districts, coalition-building, etc.) this legislative session. Conservation is not a top priority for lawmakers, but our outreach and education can still deliver. In June, Representative Culver, the chief sponsor of Growing Greener legislation in the House, described those pushing for conservation investments as the third most prominent advocacy force in Harrisburg this year, outdone only by early education and care facility advocates. (Third place is a remarkable achievement in Harrisburg!) Our dogged and well-thought-out advocacy delivered for us this year as it has done on various conservation matters over the years.

For more than two decades, WeConservePA has led campaigns to boost state investments in land conservation, environmental restoration, and outdoor recreation and turned back numerous legislative pushes to eliminate or slash the investments made by the state's Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, the Environmental Stewardship Fund, and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund. WeConservePA's continuing efforts have ensured \$3 billion in state conservation investments in the new millennium.

Among this year's many outreach efforts, WeConservePA created a series of distinctive advocacy pieces and hand delivered seven of them in May and June to each of the 203 House and 50 Senate offices at the Capitol, a different piece delivered on each select day that legislators were in session. That adds up to 1,771 office visits, the visits often including a friendly exchange with legislative staff. Four of these pieces are shown on this and the following page.





BUILDING AND IMPROVING MODELS FOR CONSERVATION

WeConservePA develops and maintains model legal documents to help organizations and governments be effective and efficient in their endeavors. The easily adaptable models and their expansive commentaries enable attorneys to focus their time (and billings) on customizing the models to specific situations rather than reinventing the wheel for their clients. Each model involves research and analysis of best practices, scrutiny by legal professionals, and user review.

Model Trail License Agreement Introduced

WeConservePA developed the [Model Trail License Agreement](#) to encourage landowners to permit a trail that they otherwise would not for fear of creating a permanent situation and assuring easy termination of the permission if the trail use is not working out to the owner's satisfaction.

Wherever an existing or potential future trail is expected to someday have a great number of users, an *easement* (in contrast to a *license*) ensures that the public's access will not be lost. Much better for an organization to go to the trouble to establish permanent access in the near term than be faced with the permanent loss of the trail years later when it will likely be much harder to reroute or recreate the trail experience elsewhere. With that said, there are circumstances where a landowner simply will not consider a permanent trail easement.

WeConservePA developed the model license in part in response to litigation and legislation that heightened concerns that landowners might terminate existing handshake agreements or avoid new agreements with trail groups for trails through their lands.

Nine Models Refreshed

In response to user feedback, changes in law, and new understandings, WeConservePA updates the models and commentaries as appropriate. WeConservePA refreshed nine of its models in 2022, nearly all the substantive changes involving expansions and updates of the commentaries:

- [Model Consent, Non-Disturbance, and Subordination Agreement](#)
- [Guide and Model Policy for Conservation Easement Amendment](#)
- [Model Grant of Purchase Option](#)
- [Model Trail Easement Agreement](#)
- [Model Grant of Trail Easement](#)
- [Model Grant of Right of First Offer](#)
- [Model Grant of Right of First Refusal](#)
- [Model Declaration of Public Trust](#)
- [Model Permission for Encroachment](#)

RESEARCHING AND DEVELOPING GUIDANCE

WeConservePA published four new guides and refreshed 16 more this year. Each new guide is briefly described below.

Tree Law in Pennsylvania

At a WeConservePA land protection and stewardship staff roundtable, participants realized that: (1) no-one was confident as to what the rules are in Pennsylvania regarding trees and (2) they were operating under sometimes diametrically opposite guesses as to what those rules might be. WeConservePA responded by seeking out expertise and, with the generous donation of services by Gilbert High, Esq., developing the eight-page guide [Tree Law in Pennsylvania](#). The guide's short description reads as follows:

Trees benefit us all; they can also bring conflict. This guide provides legal insights on typical neighbor disputes and responsibilities concerning trees near property lines. It reviews roles and responsibilities regarding trees in public rights of way. The guide also addresses the issues of liability for injury as well as the damages a court might award for cutting down or harming someone else's trees.

The Durability of Conservation Easements

Favorable Law and Committed Holders Ensure Lasting Conservation

A number of land trust folks expressed the desire for a handout to give to owners of land subject to (or soon to be subject to) a conservation easement, the aim of the piece being to demonstrate the realness of the conservation easement and the seriousness of the land trust in upholding the easement. WeConservePA responded with the two-page guide [*The Durability of Conservation Easements*](#), a brief piece that land trusts can use in their landowner outreach. The guide's short description reads as follows:

Landowners grant conservation easements to conservation organizations ("land trusts") in perpetuity. The conservation objectives of the easement and the associated restrictions on how land can be used are intended to be permanent. Land trusts and their allies across the nation go to great lengths to ensure this permanence.

What Is Conservation?

The one-page guide [*What Is Conservation?*](#) outlines the dictionary definition of *conservation* as well as a WeConservePA interpretation. It summarizes the meaning as the act of caring for and wisely using land to ensure that the land's natural resources can continue to benefit people and wildlife over time, and, where the land is degraded, restoring its capacity to deliver these benefits. A portion of this guide's content serves double duty in WeConservePA's pending strategic plan.

Funding Conservation Easement Stewardship

Your Role as the Land's Owner and Conservation Champion

Written for landowners, the two-page guide [*Funding Conservation Easement Stewardship*](#) explains their important role in supporting stewardship of the conservation easement. The intention is for it to facilitate land trust requests for stewardship endowments, private transfer fees, and other funding arrangements from landowners.

16 Guides Refreshed

WeConservePA has developed more than 150 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, gaps identified in the guidance, and new research and understandings in the field. WeConservePA refreshed 16 guides in 2022 to improve their utility, the titles being:

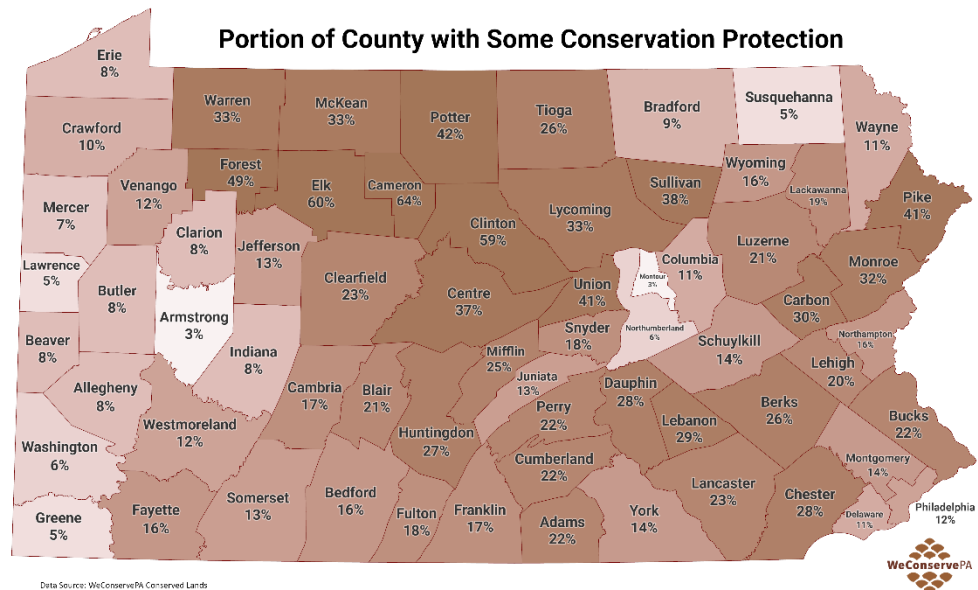
- [*Don't Regulate Rooftop Solar Without Compelling Cause*](#)
- [*Responding to an Encroachment: Oust or Give Permission with Conditions*](#)
- [*Right of First Offer and Right of First Refusal*](#)
- [*Lobbying Rules and 501\(c\)3 Organizations*](#)
- [*Pennsylvania Local Governments May Support Land Trusts*](#)
- [*Reversionary Interest*](#)
- [*Purchase Options: Gaining the Right Without the Obligation to Acquire Property Interests*](#)
- [*Guide and Model Policy for Conservation Easement Amendment*](#)

- [Not a Charitable Trust: The Conservation Easement in Pennsylvania](#)
- [Trail Easements](#)
- [Property Tax Exemption for Preserves, Parks, Trails, and Other Conserved Lands](#)
- [Restricted Gifts: Issues to Consider Before Making or Taking a Gift for a Specific Purpose](#)
- [Permits for Events, Hunting, Camping, and Other Uses of Conserved Land](#)
- [Installment Agreement](#)
- [Optimizing Direct-Mail Fundraising Appeals](#)
- [Endowments and More](#)

MAPPING, ANALYZING, AND REPORTING

WeConservePA developed, expanded, and refined its conservation-related databases, analytical tools, and other map-

ping and GIS information, which are available for all to use via the [GIS & Mapping page](#) at WeConservePA.org. In addition, WeConservePA directly assisted a half-dozen land trusts with mapping and geographic analysis needs in 2022.



Conservation Geodatabases

WeConservePA updated its immense, comprehensive [geodatabase of publicly and privately conserved lands](#) on an ongoing basis. (WeConservePA created the initial database in 2018.) We also made improvements to the [interactive, public interface](#).

We 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](#).

WeConservePA also created a geodatabase of all the trails documented in municipal parks and land trust preserves.

Census Report

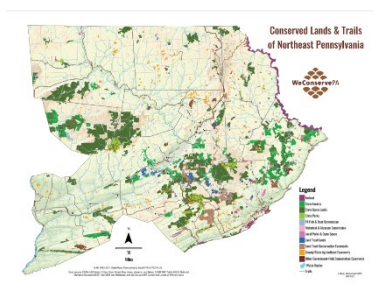
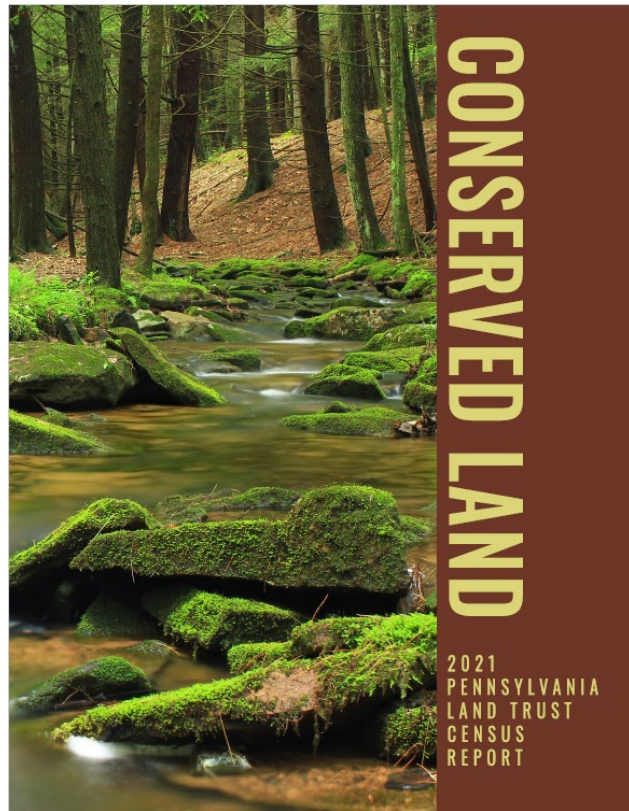
WeConservePA completed the 2021 land trust census—no small undertaking—and distributed the report in June. The report is also [available online](#).

More Projects

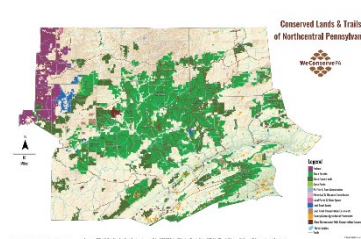
In WeConservePA's report, "[Lands Available for Conservation in Pennsylvania Townships That Have Open Space Taxes](#)," we identify the quantity of remaining unprotected open space in townships that have passed open space tax referendums.

WeConservePA partnered with DCNR and The Trust for Public Land in identifying [gaps in outdoor recreational access](#) for Pennsylvanians.

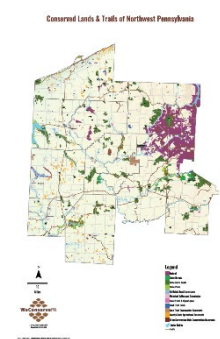
WeConservePA produced a series of high-resolution maps detailing conserved land in Pennsylvania. Download these and more at WeConservePA.org/gis.



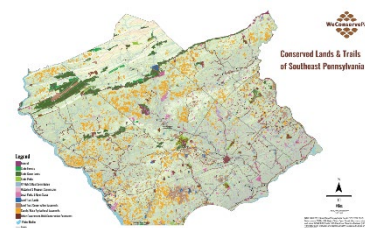
Northeast PA



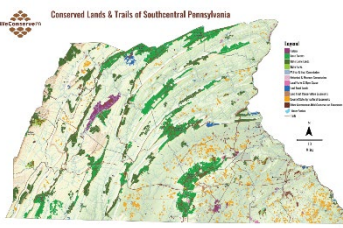
Northcentral PA



Northwest PA



Southeast PA



Southcentral PA



Southwest PA

COMMUNICATING NEWS AND INFORMATION

Land Trust Education Pieces and Spring Bulletin

WeConservePA developed a four-page land trust education piece entitled “**Helping People Care for, Wisely Use, and Enjoy What Nature Offers**,” which presents ten diverse example of land trust conservation work and provides brief descriptions of land trusts and conservation easements. This piece also served as the foundation for WeConservePA’s spring bulletin, which was mailed to land trust staff and board members among others. The intention behind providing this information to this audience

was to help people better understand the broader world of conservation outside of their particular organizations.

WeConservePA also developed a second, shorter, land trust education piece: “**Our Lands Are Our Lifeline**” to aid in outreach efforts.

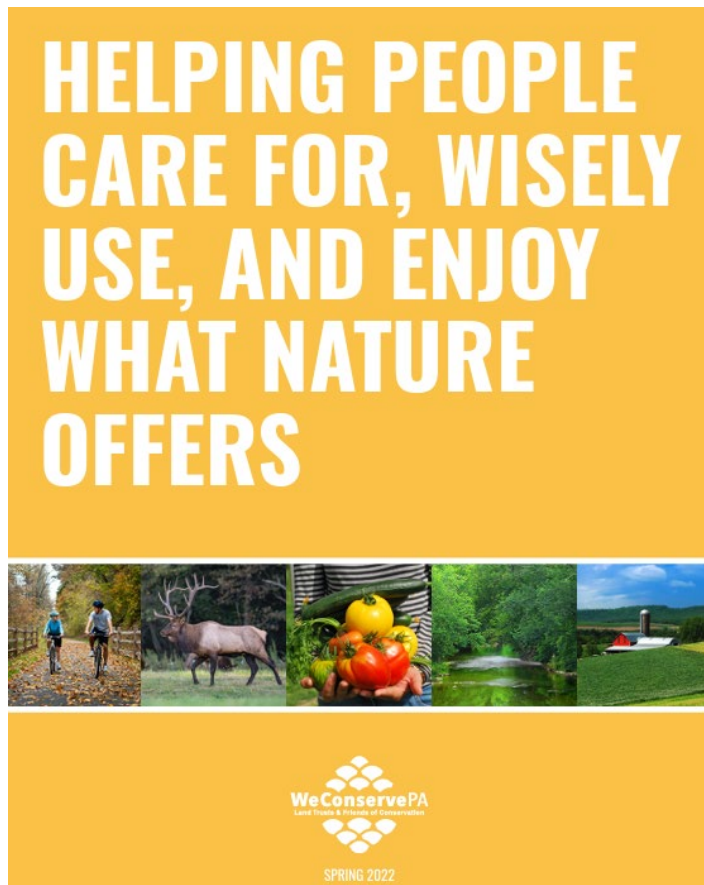
Both pieces are being provided to land trusts at no charge. *To obtain copies, email Michele Cook at mcook@weconservepa.org and let her know how many copies you can use.*

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, but staff follow a rough guideline of producing each of the e-newsletters once a month.

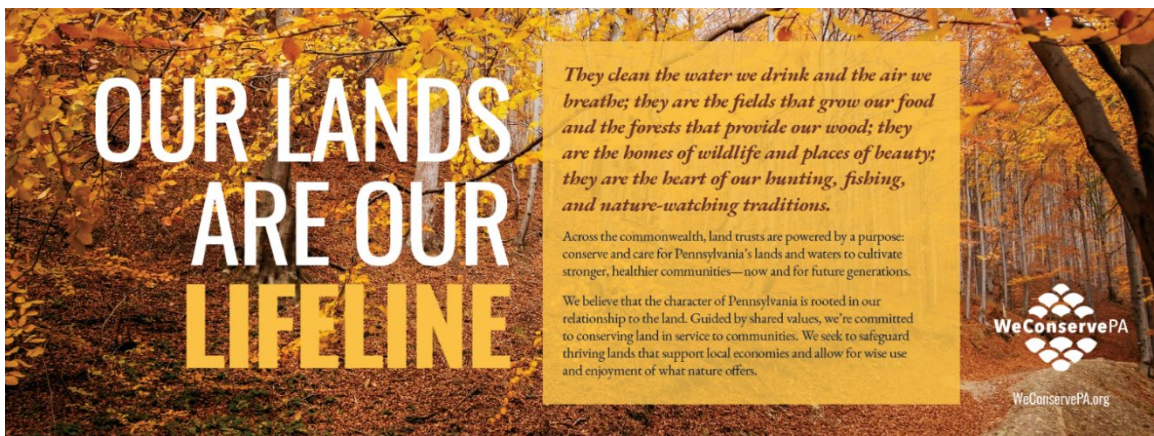
WeConservePA presently has 6,351 unique, confirmed mass email subscribers (in other words, no double-counting of people subscribed to multiple newsletters and only people actually receiving the emails). WeConservePA sends e-newsletters under several banners:







- **Conserve Land Update** reports news of significant new tools, guidance, events, issues, or other matters impacting conservation statewide.
 - 2,952 subscribers (as compared to 2,488 in 2021)
 - 13 issues through 2022
- **Project & People News** reports on land conservation projects and the people working and volunteering in conservation throughout the state.



- 2,937 subscribers (as compared to 2,420 in 2021)
- 12 issues through 2022
- **Greenway & Trail News** reports on what's happening regarding greenways and trails in Pennsylvania.
 - 2,106 subscribers (as compared to 2,017 in 2021)
 - 11 issues through 2022
- **EAC Network** reports to environmental advisory council members and other EAC supporters on WeConservePA news of interest.
 - 785 subscribers (as compared to 507 in 2021)
 - 13 issues through 2022

In addition, WeConservePA sends out **Conservation Advocate** action alerts to 2,173 subscribers (as compared to 1,685 in 2021). Our **Growing Greener Coalition** list reaches another 494 subscribers (as compared to 472 in 2021). Conservation Advocate subscribers receive all Growing Greener Coalition alerts; Growing Greener Coalition subscribers generally receive Conservation Advocate messages that address state funding matters.



	STEWARDSHIP Responsibly stewarding the land in our care, now and for future generations.	
	FAIRNESS Respecting the property rights of landowners as we conserve land and water.	
	INTEGRITY Committed to a work ethic based on honesty and integrity.	
	COLLABORATION Working in partnership with landowners and communities	
	FREEDOM Ensuring access for all to Pennsylvania's open spaces.	
	TRADITION Continuing Pennsylvania's rich tradition of connection to the outdoors.	

Social Media

WeConservePA continues to post regularly on social media, sharing conservation-related news and resources and growing the size of its audience on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

WeConservePA has 6,589 followers across the three platforms (as compared to 6,045 followers in 2021):

- Facebook – 3,414 followers (as compared to 3,121 followers in 2021)
- Twitter – 1,378 followers (as compared to 1,260 followers in 2021)
- Instagram – 1,797 followers (as compared to 1,664 followers in 2021)

In addition, the Growing Greener Coalition social media accounts managed by WeConservePA have 5,327 followers (as compared to 5,226 in 2021):

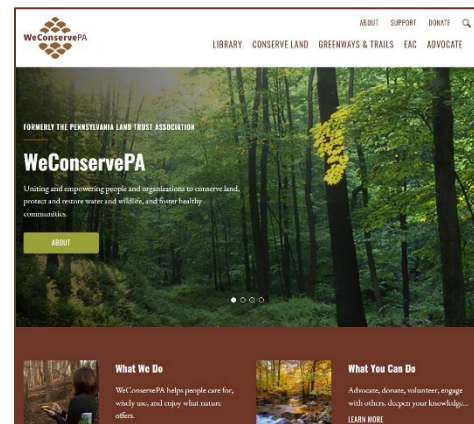
- Facebook – 2,551 followers
- Twitter – 1,615 followers
- Instagram – 1,161 followers

WeConservePA has established a modest [presence on LinkedIn](#) (207 followers, up from 65 a year ago), developing and sharing content such as grant applications, job opportunities, and educational event announcements specifically targeted to conservation professionals.

Websites

[WeConservePA.org](#)—now two years old—was updated almost every weekday of 2022 with the latest news and information. In 2022, we also refreshed and integrated the WeConservePA [Sign Gallery](#) into this main website.

We no longer emphasize the domain name but continue to use [ConservationTools.org](#) for our guides, models, library, expert listings, and Conservation Easement Assistance program. To facilitate people finding these resources, “Library” holds the first position on the WeConservePA.org menu.



WeConservePA maintains [KeystoneFund.org](#) and [ESfund.info](#) as distinct educational sites without WeConservePA branding. We do not want people to think that WeConservePA controls the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund and Environmental Stewardship Fund. (This mistake does happen.) Likewise, we maintain [PaGrowingGreener.org](#) as a distinct website to avoid confusing WeConservePA with the Growing Greener Coalition partnership that we lead and facilitate.

CONNECTING, EDUCATING, AND INSPIRING PEOPLE

In 2022, WeConserve organized a record number 25 conferences, seminars, workshops, and lectures, as well as seven roundtables—both in-person and virtually.

Carol Grayshaw maintains far more detail—multi-page reports for some events—than presented here. WeConservePA also records events when appropriate to the subject and agreeable to the presenters. For more information or a link to the recording for a particular event, contact cgrayshaw@weconservepa.org.

2023 AND 2024 MAJOR EVENT DATES TO NOTE

February 25, 2023: EAC Network Conference (virtual)

April 26-28, 2023: Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference in Reading

September 17-19, 2023: Pennsylvania Greenways & Trails Summit in Scranton

April 3-5, 2024: Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference in Bethlehem

See all published, upcoming events at [WeConservePA.org](https://weconservepa.org)'s [Learn & Network](#) page.

Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference

Following 2020's cancellation and a 2021 virtual event, the Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference returned in person to Gettysburg on March 16-18, 2022. Over the course of three days, we welcomed 240 attendees. This was our lowest in-person attendance since 2005 (or so) but notably higher than the 208 registrants for the 2021 virtual event.

Thirty-one individual workshops and two mobile seminars provided a total of 56 hours of instruction. Attendees rated the conference a 4.7 on a 1-5 scale (with 5 meaning "excellent"). The average session score was 4.7.

The attendees represented 96 unique organizations (with 16 people not listing affiliations). One hundred sixteen of the 240 attendees (48%) had either never attended the conference or had not attended in the prior four years.

For more detail, see <https://weconservepa.org/blog/thank-you-for-a-successful-2022-pennsylvania-land-conservation-conference/>

Environmental Advisory Council Network Conference

The 2022 EAC Network Conference was held virtually on Saturday, February 26, from 10am to 4:30pm. Registrants had access to 9.5 hours of training provided by 27 speakers. All sessions were recorded and shared after the event.

WeConservePA received 25 responses to the EAC Network Conference evaluation survey. The overall rating for the event was 4.8, with many respondents indicating the breadth of topics and speakers as the reason for their score. Individual sessions received scores between 4.5 and 5.0.

Total registration for the event was 124 individuals (including speakers) representing 55 entities. Workshop attendance ranged from 27 to 46 attendees, with an average of 35 in each session. The plenary session had an attendance of 88.

Smaller-Scale WeConservePA Educational Events**Solar Series**

Continuing the popular Solar Seminar Series of the summer of 2021, WeConservePA again 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 four sessions on issues surrounding grid-scale solar development in Pennsylvania:

- March 17: "Managing Grid Scale Solar Development in Pennsylvania"

- April 5: “Siting Considerations for Community & Grid Scale Solar Development”
- April 19: “Solar Ordinance Development”
- May 3: “Panel Discussion with Series Speakers”

On average, 20 individuals attended each session.

A total of 10 people completed the evaluation survey. Overall, the series rated a 4.6 out of 5.

- Managing Grid Scale Solar Development in Pennsylvania (March 17) 4.5
- Siting Considerations for Community & Grid Scale Solar (April 5) 4.7
- Solar Ordinance Development (April 19) 4.8
- Panel Discussion with Series Speakers (May 3) 4.3

Creating Meaningful Change for DEIJ in SEPA

On March 10, WeConservePA hosted an introductory discussion and brainstorming session focused on how land trusts in southeastern Pennsylvania (SEPA) can better integrate meaningful DEIJ approaches into their mission and actions. Leading off the discussion, [Todd Pride](#) of Legacy Land and Water Partners gave a presentation on the historical context of conservation in SEPA. Participants then broke out into small groups for discussion, reflection, and brainstorming on methods of creating meaningful change for historically underserved communities as conservation professionals.

Thirty-seven people representing 16 organizations registered for this event. Organizations represented included 10 land trusts, two government entities, and four other non-profit organizations. Twenty-one individuals ultimately attended the session. The event received a 3.5 out of 5 average rating with six evaluations submitted.

Creating Landscape Connectivity: PA Land Trusts and the Eastern Wildway

On April 21, WeConservePA welcomed speakers from the Wildlands Network for a presentation on their work on the Eastern Wildway. Discussion following the presentation focused on the critical importance of land trusts in protecting core habitat and maintaining or restoring landscape connectivity as well as opportunities for collaboration.

Fifteen people representing nine organizations registered for this event. Organizations represented included four land trusts, two conservation organizations, two businesses, and one university. Twelve individuals ultimately attended the session. Two individuals completed the evaluation survey for this event rating it a 4.5 out of 5.

Boots on the Ground, Boots in the Lab

On April 27, WeConservePA welcomed Dr. Tanisha M. Williams, Burpee Postdoctoral Fellow in Botany with Bucknell University, to present her lecture *Boots on the Ground, Boots in the Lab: Updating the Conservation Status of Rare Plants in Pennsylvania*. Forty-six individuals attended.

The event rated a 4.8 out of 5 on average with 11 evaluations submitted.

Planning for Trails in Wetlands and Wet Areas

On April 29 and 30, WeConservePA partnered with PennTrails and Allegheny Land Trust to present *Planning for Trails in Wetlands and Wet Areas*. This two-day, in-person workshop instructed participants in the methods of planning, design, construction, and prepared them for the ongoing management necessary to properly implement trails in these unique environments. The workshop was held at the Millvale Food+Energy Hub and onsite at the Girty's Woods Conservation Area, a holding of the Allegheny Land Trust.

Ten individuals representing seven organizations registered for and attended this event. Organizations represented by registrants included three land trusts, two parks and recreation departments, one planning commission, and one business. Two individuals submitted an evaluation survey, rating it a 5 out of 5.

Environmental Advisory Councils and Environmental Justice: A Roundtable

On May 25, WeConservePA and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Community convened a roundtable for current Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) members to examine the topic of environmental justice at a municipal level. In this roundtable participants shared thoughts, experiences, and inquiries regarding the advancement of DEIJ within their communities. The roundtable was preceded by a presentation on DEIJ terms and concepts by guest speaker Miica Patterson of the Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage National Heritage Area. Participants were provided a list of topic questions in advance and were invited to share additional questions or topics.

The presentation by Miica Patterson was recorded and shared with participants (but the overall roundtable was not recorded).

Twenty-seven individuals attended. Three individuals rated this session, scoring it a 4.7 out of 5.

Advocating for Bird Friendly Proclamations, Resolutions, and Ordinances

On June 2, WeConservePA partnered with Bird Town Pennsylvania to present *Advocating for Bird Friendly Proclamations, Resolutions, and Ordinances*. Connie Sanchez and Dr. John Rowden of National Audubon shared with participants the basics of using proclamations, resolutions, and ordinances (PRO) to promote healthier and safer habitats for birds. Guest panelists representing EACs and Audubon chapters then shared how they have successfully advocated in their communities.

Twenty-three individuals attended. The event rated a 4.7 out of 5 on average with nine evaluations submitted.

The Economic Impacts of Outdoor Recreation: A Conversation with Nathan Reigner

On July 19, WeConservePA presented *The Economic Impacts of Outdoor Recreation: A Conversation with Nathan Reigner*. Reigner is DCNR's director of outdoor recreation.

Thirty-seven individuals attended. Three individuals submitted an evaluation, rating this session a 4.7 out of 5.

The Journey Back to the Stars: Limiting the Harmful Effects of Light Pollution

On August 3, WeConservePA welcomed guest speakers Diane Turnshek (physics lecturer at Carnegie Mellon University) and Michael Lincoln (Director of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the International Dark Sky Association) for a lecture on the harmful effects of light pollution, and strategies for mitigation.

Twenty-one people attended. The event received a 4.1 out of 5 average rating (4.6 when controlling to remove highest and lowest scores) with nine evaluations submitted.

Review and Discussion of DCNR Draft E-bike Policy

On August 26, WeConservePA welcomed Nicole Faraguna, DCNR Director of Policy and Planning, for a review and discussion of the recently released draft e-bike policy.

Seventeen individuals attended. (No evaluation survey was distributed.)

Personal Injury Liability: RULWA Provides Protection

On September 8, WeConservePA welcomed Catherine “Kate” Harper, Esq. for an update on Pennsylvania’s Recreational Use of Land and Water Act (RULWA). RULWA offers protection from personal injury lawsuits to landowners who allow their land to be used without charge for recreational purposes.

Eighteen individuals registered for this event, representing nine land trusts, three trail management organizations, three governments, two other non-profits and one business. Seventeen individuals ultimately attended (an exceptionally high show rate for an online program). The event received a 5 out of 5 average rating with eight evaluations submitted.

Leave No Trace Trainer Course

On September 15-16, WeConservePA hosted the course at Willistown Conservation Trust’s Rushton Conservation Center with course instructors Marian Orlousky and Ryan Seltzer of Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Attendance was capped at 11 for this train the trainer event. Interest was high and 11 individuals registered for and attended the event, coming from three land trusts, two government entities, and two other non-profits. The event received a 4.9 out of 5 average rating with 11 evaluations submitted.

Lawn Conversion and Green Infrastructure

On September 21 and October 6, WeConservePA presented the two-part series *Lawn Conversion and Green Infrastructure: Why and How?* Speakers from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the Pennsylvania DCNR Bureau of Forestry shared information on support for lawn conversion, as well as tips for communicating its benefits and overcoming common barriers.

Part 1 had 47 attendees and part two had 40. Fourteen evaluations were received. Nine respondents rated part one a 4.6 out of 5 and five respondents rated part two a 5 out of 5.

Drones and Conservation

On September 29, WeConservePA hosted *Drones and Conservation*, a presentation and roundtable discussion around advances in drone technology and their utility in conservation work. Merlin Benner of Wildlife Specialists, LLC, shared up-to-date information on available technology, reviewed training and licensing requirements, and addressed ecological concerns around drone use.

Seventeen people attended. The event received a 4.8 out of 5 average rating with four evaluations submitted.

How to Engage with Municipal Leaders

On October 6, WeConservePA partnered with Bird Town Pennsylvania to welcome Steve Nelson of Eastwick Solutions for a primer on the structures and function of Pennsylvania's government for EAC members, Pennsylvania Bird Town leaders, and others interested in civic engagement.

Nineteen people attended. The event received a 5 out of 5 average rating with four evaluations submitted.

Securing Grants with the Redevelopment Assistance Program

On October 11, WeConservePA welcomed Cynthia Carrow of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to share the Conservancy's experience in securing grants from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP).

Twenty-three people attended. The event received a 4.3 out of 5 average rating with six evaluations submitted.

Grants: Finding, Writing, and Managing – Oh My!

On November 9 and 16, WeConservePA presented the two-part series Grants: Finding, Writing, and Managing – Oh My! Joanne Walker, environmental attorney and adjunct associate professor at Temple University, and Brandon Ford, Assistant Township Manager for Springfield Township (Montgomery County), led participants through process of identifying grant opportunities, the application itself, and what to do if successful in obtaining a grant.

Thirty-seven people attended part 1 and 39 attended part 2. The event received a 4.7 out of 5 average rating with nine evaluations submitted.

Roundtables

WeConservePA held seven roundtables in 2022 on various topics. A central purpose underlying all of them is building networks among the people engaging in the sessions. The roundtables included:

- Winter Trail Roundtable on February 23 to discuss planning, maintenance, and stewardship of trails. An opportunity was provided for folks to share issues and seek solutions, to share what is happening on their trails, and to identify resource and training needs. Twenty-two people participated.
- Land Protection and Stewardship Roundtable on July 27 was attended by 14 people.

- Trails and Outdoor Recreation Roundtable on August 31 was attended by 23 people representing seven land trusts, four trail groups, and others. The focus was on possible future programming by WeConservePA.
- Communications and Development on September 6 was attended by five people representing four land trusts and one trail group. The focus was on possible future programming by WeConservePA.
- “Organizational Operations in the Late Pandemic Era” was held for leaders of staffed Pennsylvania land trusts on November 7. Fourteen people attended.
- A roundtable to discuss human relations challenges for CEOs and COOs of land trusts represented on LTA’s Land Trust Leadership Council was organized and facilitated by WeConservePA on November 16. Twenty-seven individuals participated. WeConservePA organized a great number of national roundtables for land trust leaders in the early stages of the pandemic. This was the only one in 2022.
- Land Protection and Stewardship Roundtable on November 29 was attended by 31 people.

If you have an idea or need for a workshop or roundtable on a particular topic or would like to share your knowledge of a subject, please contact Carol at cgrayshaw@weconservepa.org.

DIRECTLY ASSISTING ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE

Supporting Forest Management Plans

In the fall of 2022, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation announced a grant of \$150,000 to WeConservePA, which will enable WeConservePA to offer a new grant program to easement-holding land trusts that operate in PA’s portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Specifically, WeConservePA will fund the creation of forest management plans and forest assessments for lands previously placed under conservation easement. The intent is to facilitate the proactive management of already eased lands (and to gain a better understanding of what is occurring on eased lands) so as to promote improved conservation outcomes. The program will give land trusts the opportunity to help landowners move past benign neglect—letting nature run its course or insubstantial management efforts—to actually taking proactive steps to improve conservation values. It will be an opportunity for land trusts to go beyond the role of basic educators, monitors, and enforcers of restrictions.

WeConservePA will be writing the guidelines for what will be a reimbursement grant program in the new year. To help shape those guidelines, WeConservePA held a discussion via Zoom with potential program users in November. Thirty-four individuals participated.

If all goes well, WeConservePA could seek to continue and expand the program statewide.

One-on-One Assistance

WeConservePA staff directly assisted people from many dozens of conservation organizations and local governments in 2022, addressing a broad range of issues, questions, and problems, topics including but not limited to: fundraising, strategic planning, staffing, landowner outreach

and relationships, real estate transactions, easement and land stewardship, standards and practices, accreditation, liability, mapping, and operation of open space programs.

Conservation Easement Assistance Program

In 2022 through December 7, WeConservePA awarded 22 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:

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

Since 2004, CEAP has helped create 352 new easements protecting 27,980 acres. For these projects, landowners donated \$63.1 million in easement value and land trusts secured \$2.8 million for stewardship.

WeConservePA made the following Conservation Easement Assistance Program grant awards in 2022 through December 7:

Organization	Project Name	Project Type	County	Award Date	Amount (\$)
Farm and Natural Lands Trust	Dual Valley Overlook Farm	Acquire New	York	11-Jan-22	7,500.00
Farm and Natural Lands Trust	Stambaugh 2021	Acquire New	York	11-Jan-22	5,932.50
Farm and Natural Lands Trust	Redding / Beefeater Amendment	Amend/Restate	York	11-Jan-22	5,397.50
Heritage Conservancy	Zeigafuse property	Acquire New	Northampton	18-Jan-22	1,000.00
Land Conservancy of Adams County	Shultz woods	Acquire New	Adams	20-Jan-22	2,055.11
Allegheny Land Trust	Getty Easement	Acquire New	Allegheny	8-Feb-22	8,000.00
Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy	Old Reading Road	Acquire New	Northumberland	21-Feb-22	2,334.96
Allegheny Land Trust	Chalfant Easement	Acquire New	Allegheny	28-Feb-22	7,500.00
ClearWater Conservancy	Belle Vista Farm	Acquire New	Centre	12-Apr-22	8,000.00
ClearWater Conservancy	Gray's Woods Preserve	Acquire New	Centre	12-Apr-22	8,000.00
Lebanon Valley Conservancy	Schaeffer Easement	Acquire New	Lebanon	25-Apr-22	1,534.50
Farm and Natural Lands Trust	Barndt 2022	Acquire New	York	17-May-22	7,355.00
Heritage Conservancy	Gifford Easement	Acquire New	Bucks	24-May-22	7,500.00
Berks Nature	Zuk Woodland Easement	Acquire New	Schuylkill	5-Jul-22	5,630.90
North American Land Trust	Tared Hill	Acquire New	Chester	26-Jul-22	8,000.00
Lebanon Valley Conservancy	Jegla Sign	Install Signs	Lebanon	23-Aug-22	600.00
ClearWater Conservancy	Dionisio Gray's signs	Install Signs	Centre	23-Aug-22	434.04
Farm and Natural Lands Trust	Doyle Farm	Acquire New	York	30-Aug-22	7,500.00
Natural Lands Trust	Isabella Furnace CE	Acquire New	Chester	24-Oct-22	3,461.25
Berks Nature	Ormai Easement	Acquire New	Berks	24-Oct-22	7,500.00
Farm and Natural Lands Trust	Reigart #1	Acquire New	York	24-Oct-22	7,500.00
Lebanon Valley Conservancy	Albert Minnich	Acquire New	Lebanon	27-Oct-22	1,365.25

SUPPORTING TRAIL EDUCATION

Trail Grants

With support from its trail grant from DCNR, WeConservePA awarded \$38,384.99 in “Regional Trail Workshop Grants” to the following organizations to deliver educational programming and training in regard to trails in 2022:

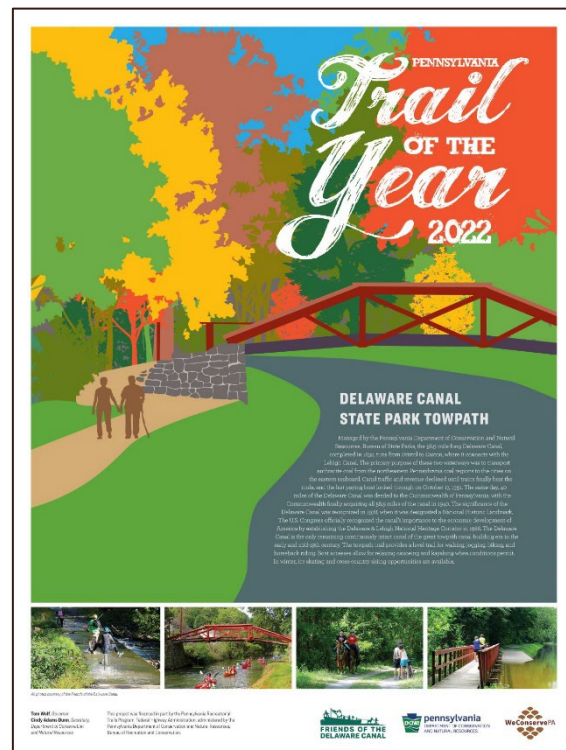
Grantee	Award
Susquehanna Greenway Partnership	\$3,805.87
Pennsylvania Environmental Council	\$5,000.00
Wildlands Conservancy, Inc.	\$4,988.48
Keystone Trail Association	\$3,000.44
LandForce Pittsburgh	\$5,000.00
North Country Trail Association	\$3,050.00
Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance	\$3,540.20
Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor	\$5,000.00
Impact Corry	\$5,000.00

Trail Annual Report

As it has done for the past few years, WeConservePA produced Pennsylvania’s [Annual Trails Report](#) for DCNR. The report summarizes trail accomplishments, updates on the “Top Ten Trail Gaps” and shares stories of how trail projects have benefited communities.

Trail of the Year

DCNR’s Trail Advisory Committee selected the Delaware Canal State Park Towpath as the 2022 Trail of the Year. With support from our DCNR 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. WeConservePA also awarded the Friends of the Delaware Canal an \$842 grant in support of trail educational programs related to the trail.



ADVOCATING FOR CONSERVATION

WeConservePA’s conservation advocacy in 2022 is described in greater detail in the “Advocacy Report.”