



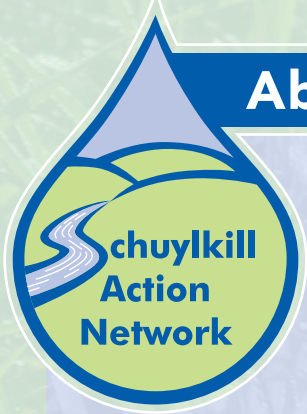
2022 Progress Report

Improving Schuylkill Waters Together Drop By Drop

Photo by E. F. Bacon

www.SchuylkillWaters.org

About the Schuylkill Action Network



The **Schuylkill Action Network (SAN)** is a network of over 370 organizations and individuals working collaboratively for a clean and healthy Schuylkill River Watershed through on-the-ground improvement projects, engagement and stewardship, and resource sharing.

2022 SAN Events:

- The Bus Tour and SRRF Grant Announcement was held on September 16 in collaboration with Schuylkill River Greenways. The event drew 36 attendees and returned to a bus tour format for the first time since 2019. Three stormwater management projects in Montgomery and Chester County funded by the Schuylkill River Restoration fund were featured on the tour.



- The SAN Annual Meeting was held on November 10th at Berks Nature's event space The Rookery. The meeting drew 62 attendees who were a great mixture of returning and new faces to the SAN. Discussion topics were centered on the meeting's theme of Watershed Wins. In addition, Nick Ramsey of USDA NRCS was awarded the 2022 SAN MVP recognizing his outstanding service to the SAN.



Photo by Kristen Cooney

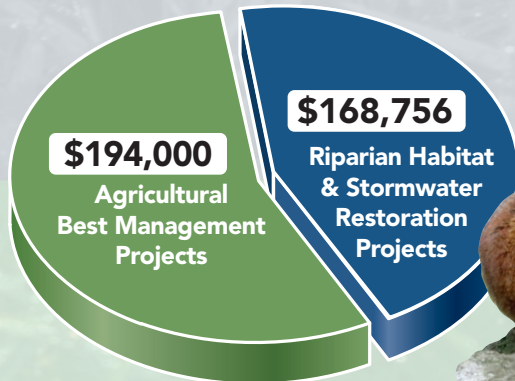
Schuylkill River Restoration Fund (SRRF)

The Schuylkill River Restoration Fund awards grants to government agencies and non-profit organizations for water quality improvement projects in the Schuylkill watershed. The grants target issues such as management of stormwater runoff, abatement of agricultural pollution and treatment of abandoned mine drainage. The fund was created in 2006 through a unique public/private partnership between Exelon, the Delaware River Basin Commission and Schuylkill River Greenways. In 2022, the following organizations contributed to the fund: Aqua, Exelon, Philadelphia Water Department, and Pennsylvania American Water.



Photo by E. F. Bacon

\$362,756 TOTAL SRRF Funds were awarded to 8 projects in 2022



The Schuylkill River Restoration fund has awarded over \$5M dollars and leveraged an additional \$10M to over 130 projects in the Schuylkill watershed since the grant program was initiated in 2006



Photo by Kristen Cooney

The Thomas P Bentley Preserve, in Gigertown, PA.

Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD)

Partners in the SAN AMD workgroup work in the headwaters of the Schuylkill River to build and maintain treatment systems that remove heavy metals and neutralize acidic pH levels from abandoned coal mine discharges that seep out of the ground and carry these contaminants into streams.

2022 Accomplishments:

- Maintained and monitored 4 treatment systems
- Continued limestone sand dosing at Big Creek and West Creek
- Completed Phase 1 of the Otto treatment system retrofit project including installation of new limestone channel and level spreader



A tour of the Otto treatment system.



BET 309 Pond mixing zone in Tamaqua.



Newly constructed manure storage facility at an organic dairy farm near Kutztown, Berks County.

Agriculture

SAN Agriculture Workgroup partners work closely with farmers in the watershed to implement agricultural conservation practices to protect clean water, improve land productivity and keep farming sustainable.

2022 Summary of Practices Implemented:

- 3 new/updated comprehensive nutrient management plans
- 6 manure storages installed
- 9 barnyard repairs
- 2 stream crossings
- 6 acres riparian buffer plantings
- Over \$2.2 million NRCS investment in the Berks/Schuylkill portion of the watershed
- In addition, partners sponsored a Soil Health Field Day in Kutztown

Engagement & Stewardship

The SAN Engagement and Stewardship workgroup works to engage residents about ways they can connect to the waterway through recreational opportunities and on actions each individual can take to improve water quality.

2022 Accomplishments:

- #ExploreTheSchuylkill was the social media tagline of 2022
- Nearly 14,000 volunteers collected over 2,600 tires and 27,000 bags of trash at over 50 cleanups during the 2022 Schuylkill Scrub
- 2022 Scrub n Pub event was one of many Schuylkill Scrub cleanups. This event was coordinated by PDE in collaboration with Schuylkill River Greenways and Conshohocken Brewing Company.
- In 2022 SAN sponsored a Schuylkill Sojourn Steward for a social media takeover highlighting the theme of the "River of Refuge". We also sponsored a family of 3 first time Sojourners for a 3-day Sojourn excursion.
- Sponsored 1 student for Schuylkill Acts and Impacts program



A happy kayaker at the Schuylkill Sojourn.



A volunteer at the Scrub n Pub event.

Photo by Kara Foran

Map of the Schuylkill River Watershed



Photo by Kristen Cooney

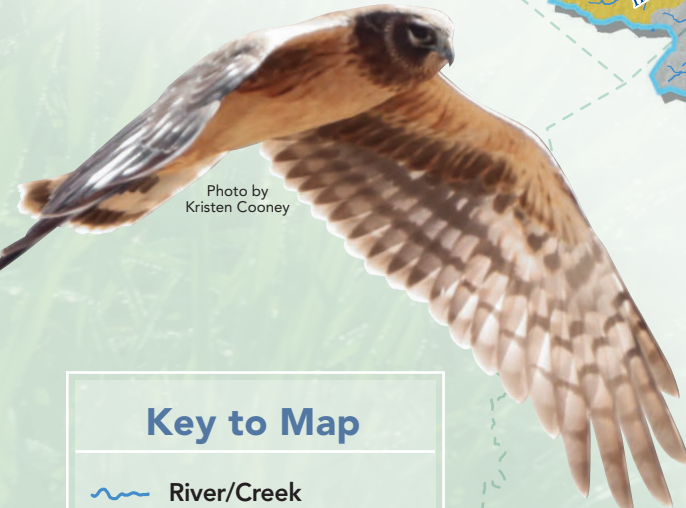



Photo by Kristen Cooney

Key to Map

-  River/Creek
-  Schuylkill River Watershed Boundary
-  Counties



0 5 10 15

Scale in Miles

Pathogens and Point Source

SAN Pathogens and Point Source partners share communications and educational resources on point sources that may impact downstream water users. This group also focused on education on emerging contaminants and best practices for cleaner drinking water for all.

2022 Accomplishments:

- The SAN hosted the 2022 Water Utility Forum as a hybrid event for 45 attendees on March 4 with an in-person portion hosted at Aqua's conference room and lab in Bryn Mawr, PA. In-person attendees participated in a tour of Aqua's lab following presentations
- Promotion of National Drug Takeback Day drew over 1,600 views on SAN social media
- In 2022 Delaware Valley Early Warning System grew to 450 registered users representing organizations including water suppliers, industrial, regulatory, and safety, with over 500 incidents in total reported
- The City of Philadelphia was awarded \$25 million for climate resiliency efforts including sewer upgrades and other flood prevention measures from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2022

SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH



FIND A COLLECTION SITE NEAR YOU!
[DEA.GOV/TAKEBACKDAY](https://www.dea.gov/takebackday)



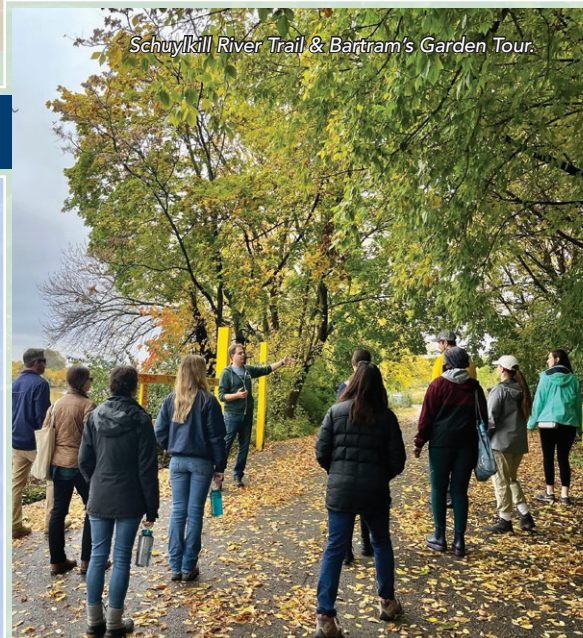
Stormwater

The SAN Stormwater workgroup provides education and supports installation of stormwater best management practices such as rain gardens, naturalized detention basins, pervious pavement, green roofs to slow and filter stormwater generated from impervious surfaces like rooftops, sidewalks and roads.

2022 Accomplishments:

- In 2022 Workgroup participants learned about available funding opportunities through American Rivers and Conservation District presentation at workgroup meetings.
- In October 2022 SAN Stormwater and Engagement & Stewardship Workgroups conducted a joint tour of Stormwater Best Management Practices and Public Engagement opportunities along the Schuylkill River Trail from 49th Street through Bartram's Mile to 61st Street Tour with Schuylkill River Development Corporation and Bartram's Garden.

Schuylkill River Trail & Bartram's Garden Tour.



Watershed Land Protection

Partners in SAN's Watershed Land Protection workgroup work to protect clean water through priority forest and farmland preservation which provides important filtering capacity particularly in the headwaters of the watershed.

2022 Accomplishments:

- In 2022, between agricultural land preservation and conservation easements protected land in the Schuylkill watershed increased by 2,723 acres!



Flower photo by E. F. Bacon

Great Marsh Preserve, Glenmoore, PA



Great Marsh photo by E. F. Bacon



Photo by E. F. Bacon

Planning Committee Partners






**Partnership for the
DELAWARE
ESTUARY**
*Connecting people, science, and nature
for a healthy Delaware River and Bay*

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Anyone can become a SAN member! Visit www.SchuylkillWaters.org and click **Get Involved**.
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