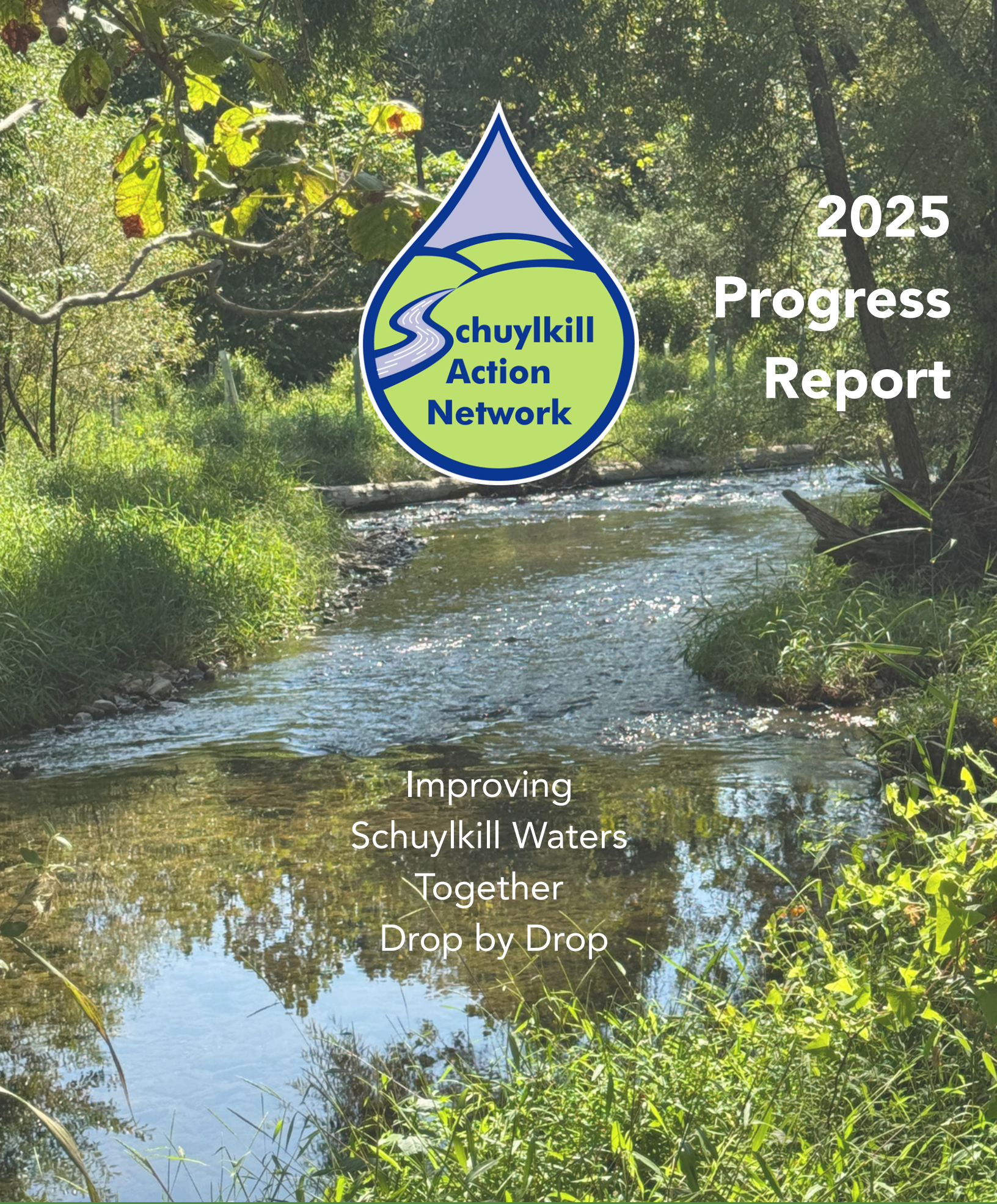


2025 Progress Report

Improving
Schuylkill Waters
Together
Drop by Drop

www.SchuylkillWaters.org

About the Schuylkill Action Network

The Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) is a network of over 640 organizations and individuals working collaboratively for a clean and healthy Schuylkill River Watershed through on-the-ground improvement projects, engagement, stewardship, and resource sharing.



2025 SAN Events:

- **The SAN Annual Meeting (SANnual):**

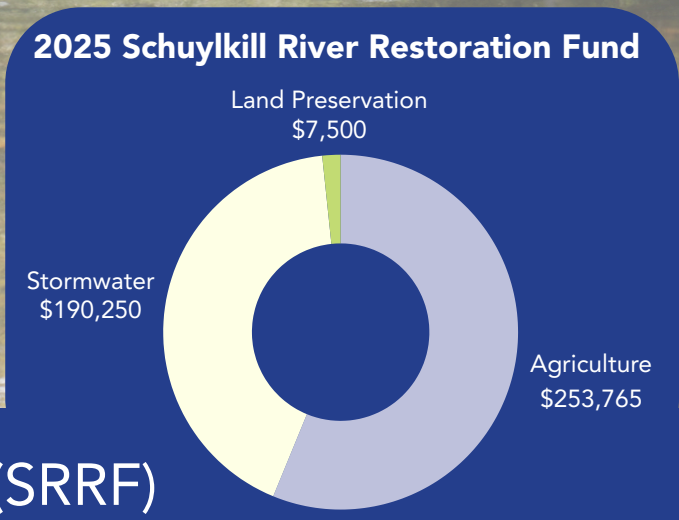
This annual event was held on November 9th at Albright College in Reading, PA. The meeting drew 51 attendees. Discussion topics included a salt snapshot by John Jackson of Stroud Water Research Center, a highlight on data centers by Michael Thompson of the Delaware River Basin Commission, and a strategic planning session for the whole group. In addition, Meghan Rogalus of the the PA Department of Environmental Protection was awarded the 2025 SAN MVP award, Dan Koury of the PA Department of Environmental Protection received the SAN Lifetime Achievement award, and Alexa Smith of the Schuylkill County Conservation District received the SAN Impact award, recognizing their outstanding service.

- **Schuylkill River Restoration Fund Bus Tour:**



The 20th Anniversary Schuylkill River Restoration Fund bus tour and awards presentation was held on September 12th in collaboration with Schuylkill River Greenways (SRG). The event drew 55 attendees and showcased three projects in Montgomery and Berks Counties: Longacre Dairy Farm, Masemore Dairy Farm, and Camelot Park stream restoration.

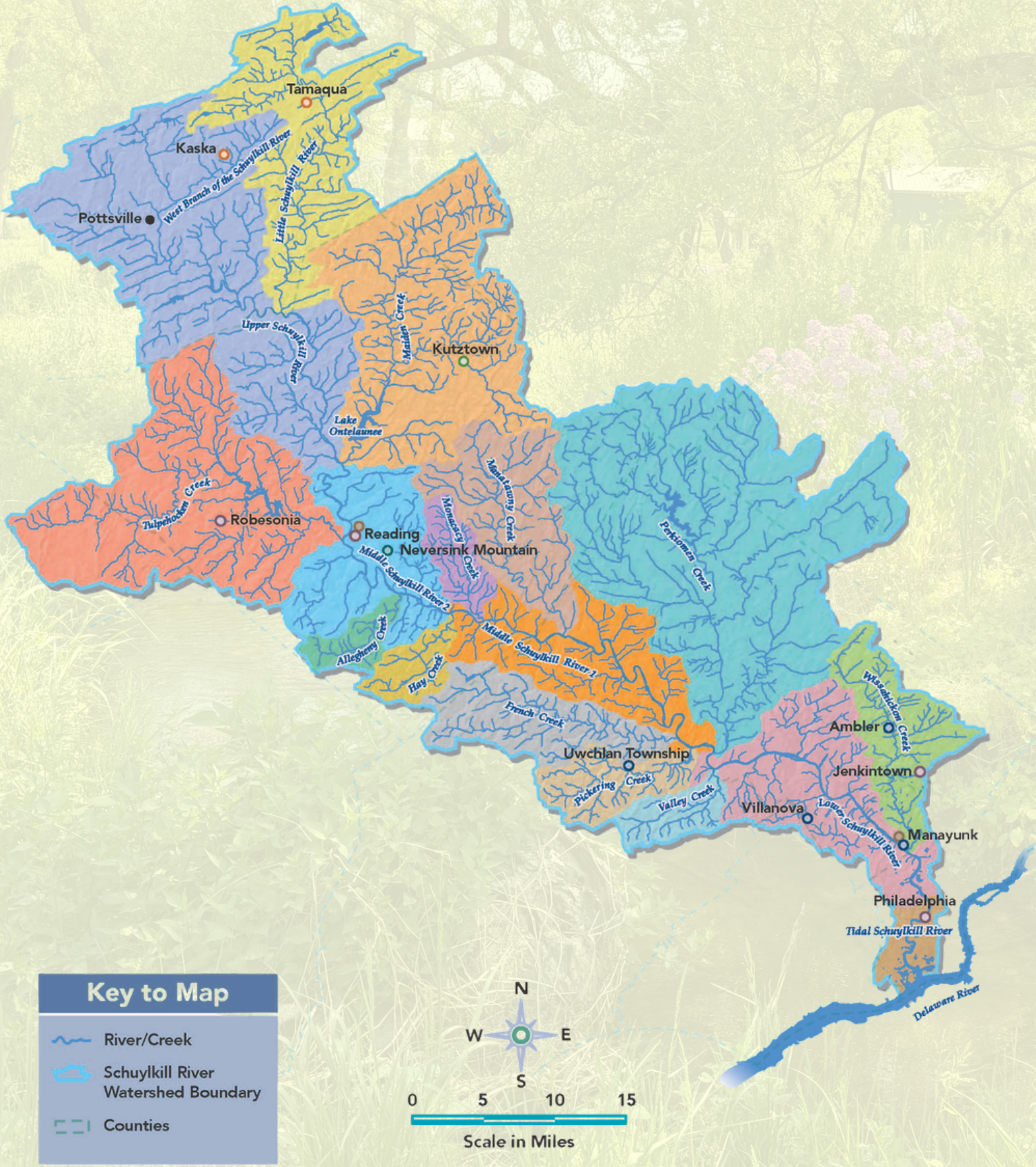
The SRRF has awarded over $6 million and leveraged an additional $15 million to support 150 projects in the Schuylkill River Watershed since the grant program began in 2006.



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 River 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 Constellation, the Delaware River Basin Commission, and Schuylkill River Greenways. In 2025, the following organizations contributed to the fund: Constellation; Philadelphia Water Department; Pennsylvania American Water; and Aqua, an Essential Utilities Company.

Map of the Schuylkill River Watershed



Key to Map

- River/Creek
- Schuylkill River Watershed Boundary
- Counties



Abandoned Mine Drainage

The SAN AMD Workgroup works 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.

2025 Summary of Accomplishments:

-The workgroup organized a tour of the Pine Knot/Oak Hill borehole discharges for 14 partners. On this tour, the group visited the convergence of mine drainage into the groundwater.

-Schuylkill County Conservation District was awarded a $379,085 AML/AMD Program Grant for the "Duncott Northeast and Newcastle Treatment Study", to collect data and conduct a feasibility study of treating the Pine Knot, Oak Hill, and Repplier AMD discharges.

Agriculture



The Agriculture Workgroup works to engage and educate farmers to implement the best agricultural management practices (BMPs) and to conserve and improve agricultural lands. These efforts ultimately improve land, habitat, and water quality by reducing the pollutants such as sediment, nutrients, pesticides, herbicides, and pathogens running off of agricultural land. The following is a summary of practices implemented in late 2024 and 2025.

2025 Summary of Accomplishments:

-2,400 linear feet of stream restoration
-20.5 acres of forested riparian buffers
-17,036 feet of streambank exclusion fencing
-2.5 acres of pollinator habitat
-17.8 acres of wetland enhancement
-8 farms with improved manure storage
-5 acres of rotational grazing
-98 acres of crop rotation
-8,060 pounds of nitrogen removed per year
-23,180 pounds of phosphorus removed per year
-12,133 tons of sediment removed per year
-7 farms with improved animal heavy use areas



Engagement & Stewardship

The Engagement & Stewardship Workgroup promotes environmental education, outreach, recreation, stewardship, and volunteerism in the Schuylkill River Watershed. It is designed to share resources and expertise among partners, promote environmental recreation and engagement opportunities to all communities, and ultimately enhance the perception of and connection to the watershed.

2025 Summary of Accomplishments:

-Welcomed new co-chair Ayashe Ramey of Schuylkill River Greenways.
-Sponsored Schuylkill Sojourn Scholar Brian Zalasky from Springside Chestnut Hill Academy. Brian's article about his experience on the Sojourn was published in the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary's Estuary News and the bilingual magazine Motivos.
-Hosted the Scrub and Pub Cleanup event on March 27th in partnership with Upper Merion Township, where 3,350 lbs of trash were picked up.
-Schuylkill Scrub 2025 Statistics: 24,301 volunteers, 3,615 tires, 74,610 lbs of trash
-Alexa Smith & Ayashe Ramey gave a presentation on the Schuylkill Acts & Impacts program to the workgroup.
-Ayashe Ramey debuted the "big map" of the Schuylkill River watershed and tested lesson plans for various age groups.

Pathogens & Point Source



The Pathogens & Point Source Workgroup shares information about water quality, wastewater, technological improvements, regulatory updates, effective water management best practices, and contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) among partners and the public. The workgroup emphasizes coordinated efforts among upstream and downstream water utilities and users engaged in protecting source water.

2025 Summary of Accomplishments:

-Welcomed new co-chair Maggie Reilly from Aqua, an Essential Utilities Company.
-SAN attended and tabled at the annual Berks County Water and Sewer Association to connect with and share resources with local operators.
-SAN Workgroup co-chair Philadelphia Water Department completed Flat Rock Dam Project, which restored successful flow to the Manayunk Canal.



Stormwater

The Stormwater Workgroup focuses on mitigating the impacts of stormwater runoff, including flooding and pollution, by promoting and implementing best management practices (BMPs). In the face of climate threats, aging infrastructure, and ongoing development pressure, it is crucial to manage stormwater through effective planning, education, collaboration, stewardship, and the implementation of BMPs.

2025 Summary of Accomplishments:

-Welcomed new co-chair Bethany Ayers-Fisher from City of Reading Public Works.
-The workgroup led a City of Reading Stormwater Infrastructure Tour on May 5th, 2025. On the tour, the group of 15 environmental professionals learned about the historical and modern approaches to stormwater management from visiting the 6th & Canal Outfall, Pendora Park, 6th & Amity Playground, and Reading Area Community College.



Watershed Land Collaborative

The Watershed Land Collaborative works towards a sustainable landscape in the Schuylkill River Watershed through strategic conservation and efficient land use/management. The workgroup seeks to protect natural lands and to conserve high-priority lands for drinking water protection, open space preservation, and climate resiliency. The work group was reinstated in 2024 after a multi-year pause.

2025 Summary of Accomplishments:

-The WLC workgroup, through the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, looked for opportunities to seek funding for landowner outreach.
-Held three virtual meetings to discuss ongoing land preservation issues and ideas.



Planning Committee Partners

AQUA SM
An Essential Utilities Company

Partnership for the DELAWARE ESTUARY

PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SCHUYLKILL RIVER GREENWAYS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

AMERICAN WATER

EPA

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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