

Wildlands Conservancy holds strong and lasting partnerships with government agencies, municipalities, local organizations, non-profits, businesses and individuals. Through these partnerships, Wildlands Conservancy created a significant impact on the environmental health of the Lehigh Valley and Lehigh River watershed, while improving the quality of life for its residents. For the past 35 years, Wildlands Conservancy has been working to preserve and protect the environment through land conservation, improving the water quality of the Lehigh River, trail and greenway development, and providing opportunities to inspire environmental stewardship through recreation and education.

To-date, Wildlands Conservancy has protected more than 48,000 acres of open space, created more than 90 miles of land and water trails, completed numerous stream restoration projects, and provided first-hand experiences with our natural resources to more than 300,000 individuals. With a staff of 19, Wildlands Conservancy relies on working collaboratively with others to accomplish the broader goal of ensuring a quality of life for now and future generations.

Wildlands Conservancy has established itself in the conservation community as an entity that is reliable, proactive, genuine and able to get projects accomplished in a timely manner. Many other agencies and organizations turn to Wildlands Conservancy as the facilitator of large scale projects and programs due to these qualities.

Wildlands Conservancy's resume of accomplishments include the protection of land and water quality affecting the Lehigh River watershed, the current focus of the organization. The Lehigh River, once being the only privately owned river in the United States, has experienced the dramatic negative effect of coal transportation. Owned by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company for over 100 years, the effect of transporting coal from Carbon County to the city of Easton left the river in the state of degradation. Through the collaboration with many partners, Wildlands Conservancy has been the leading organization dedicated to restoring the water quality in the Lehigh River, which impacts more than 550,000 people who rely on the resource for drinking water and recreational opportunities.



Wildlands Conservancy has the privilege of working with partners on the local, state, national and global level to make significant advancements in the goal to create a sustainable environment. Worldwide, Wildlands Conservancy was one of four organizations to be awarded a Community Partnership grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation to be used to implement recommendations made in the organization's Lehigh River Watershed Conservation Management Plan. The plan identifies problems, seeks solutions and lists recommendations for the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the Lehigh River and its watershed.

In 2007, Wildlands Conservancy, with the support of the community and partnerships with the County of Lehigh and Lehigh County Executive, Don Cunningham, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Lehigh County Farmland Preservation Program, State Representative Doug Reichley, and Federal U.S. Representative Charlie Dent (PA-15), worked diligently to have the 104-acre Leister Farm agriculture easement condemnation withdrawn.

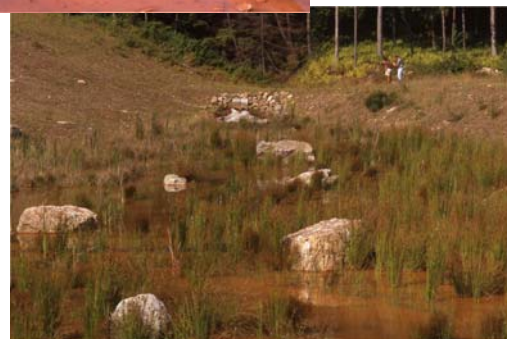


The condemnation issue had state-wide and national significance and far reaching ramifications to the land trust community and individuals wanting to preserve their property. The withdrawal of the condemnation by Lower Macungie Township ensured that the 104-acre Leister Farm agricultural conservation easement would remain intact, while meeting the recreational needs of the community.

Wildlands Conservancy works closely with state government agencies on various projects, including the completion of Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) Restoration Projects, which take years to complete and require significant funding. Working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and



Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Wildlands has completed two AMD projects and has begun work on a third. Abandoned mine drainage is surface water that emanates from an area disturbed by mining activities and is typically characterized by low pH and elevated levels of sulfate, acidity and metals such as iron, manganese, magnesium, zinc and aluminum. Abandoned mine drainage is undoubtedly the largest negative impact to water quality in the Lehigh River watershed. Each day, the Lehigh receives approximately 75,000 pounds of AMD related pollutants. In 2000, Wildlands developed a comprehensive action plan to remediate the eight AMD discharges entering the Lehigh River, the largest of which was the Lausanne Tunnel, which enters Nesquehoning Creek in Carbon County. Wildlands assembled a team of 22 project partners and raised nearly \$525,000 to address the negative impacts of the Lausanne Tunnel. The remediation project became operational in 2004. By 2007, the system was preventing 120 pounds of iron and 45 pounds of aluminum from entering Nesquehoning Creek and the Lehigh River each day.



Encouraged by the success of the Lausanne Tunnel project, Wildlands has been working to remediate the second and fourth largest mine drainage impacts to the Lehigh—the Owl Hole discharge and the Buck Mountain #2 discharge, which together, contribute approximately 14,000 lbs/day of metals to the Lehigh River. The Buck Mountain #2 remediation project involves the

construction of a passive treatment system consisting of a flushable oxalic limestone drain (OLD) followed by an aerobic wetland basin to neutralize acidity and reduce metals loadings from the discharge. Upon completion, the treatment system will raise the pH and alkalinity of the discharge and promote the precipitation of dissolved aluminum and other metals. It will greatly reduce AMD loadings from the Buck Mountain #2 Tunnel to Buck Mountain Creek and the Lehigh River.

Of Wildlands Conservancy's significant accomplishments, its work done facilitating the change in the management of the Francis E. Walter Dam, along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and partnering with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, Delaware River Basin Commission, Kayak and Canoe Club of New York, Lehigh Valley Canoe Club, Whitewater Challengers and Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance has helped establish the organization as a leader in environmental protection.



Each year, representatives from whitewater-boating companies, sport-fishing organizations, and environmentalists gather to review the upcoming year's Flow Management Plan and provide feedback on how the impact of dam releases effect the ecology of the river. Staff from Wildlands Conservancy were facilitators at the annual Public Meeting on the Flow Management Plan for the dam.

The improved management of the water from Francis E. Walter Dam marks a unique opportunity to enhance the river's ecology, provide for enhanced recreational opportunities, provide significant economic benefits to the region, and return the river to the centerpiece of our communities; all the while ensuring that the primary function of the dam, flood control, is not jeopardized.

In 2008, Wildlands Conservancy helped facilitate the \$1.65 million purchase of the 482-acre Maple Tract, located in Tobyhanna and Tunkhannock Townships, Monroe County. This parcel of land contains natural resources of ecological significance. Another important feature is the Tunkhannock Creek, a tributary of the Lehigh River, which runs through the property from west to east. The acquisition of this land prevents loss of natural habitats, including Hemlock-Northern Hardwood forest, Leatherleaf-Bog Rosemary Peatlands and globally rare Mesic Barrens (comprised of pitch pine, mixed heath, and scrub oak shrub lands). These habitats are known to support a variety of wildlife including rare moths and



butterflies, migrating birds, and rare plants. The 482-acre property is also connected to 5,365 acres of already preserved land.

Wildlands Conservancy plans to allow public access to the Maple Tract property for recreational opportunities such as nature watching, fishing, hunting, and hiking. The Maple Tract is a significant natural resource, has a rich biodiversity and will remain as open space in perpetuity. This project was accomplished with the generous support of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Monroe County and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and donations received from private organizations and individuals.

Other major accomplishments include:

In 1998, Wildlands Conservancy acquired over 150 acres of land and one and one-half miles of Lehigh River shoreline in Salisbury Township from Bethlehem Steel, with a partnership of municipalities.

In 2004, Wildlands Conservancy completed a comprehensive management plan for the Lehigh River watershed.

In 2005, Wildlands completed an ecological inventory and assessment of the Trexler Nature Preserve (except the Lehigh Valley Zoo), resulting in a comprehensive stewardship management plan for the property.

Restored more than 1,000 feet of flood-plain along the Saucon Creek and reduced agricultural pollution in the headwaters of the Monocacy Creek.

On a local level, Wildlands Conservancy lends its expertise and foresight to local municipalities on numerous environmental projects, including trail development and fostering of protected lands. County, city and township officials know that they can depend on Wildlands Conservancy to help facilitate and monitor environmental projects that preserve the quality of life for their constituencies.



Wildlands Conservancy works daily to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This organization is able to focus on a broad range of issues that affect our environmental agenda, but to help accomplish this work, Wildlands continues to maintain our strong partnerships. Through our joint ventures, Wildlands Conservancy promotes environmental quality of place as an important part of sound economic practice. The Conservancy is often asked by government agencies for help, or works in partnership with other local outdoor organizations, or works cooperatively with educational institutions or foundations. Through this organization's dedication to quality work and honesty, it has established the trust of local organizations and agencies to carry out the protection of our natural environment. Each year Wildlands, an organization created solely for public benefit, secures more than two million dollars in funding from local and state government to carry out their projects and recreational opportunities. These

funding sources rely on this organization to monitor and manage large-scale projects that may have been overlooked or not handled by any other organization in the area. Wildlands Conservancy helps secure funding many ways but mainly through being able to show that the organization is well-respected and supported by the local community.

Wildlands Conservancy's staff is involved with, and helps execute numerous programs and projects, aimed at protecting and enhancing our natural and recreational resources, while providing educational outreach to our community. What makes this organization unique is our ability to put our vision into effect, creating tangible good for the community, with picks and shovels, if necessary. Working together to find a solution is what this organization does every day.