

Lancaster County  
Conservancy

SAVING NATURE

2017 ANNUAL REPORT AND NEWS

LAND.  
WATER.  
COMMUNITY.

A man wearing a blue baseball cap and a grey long-sleeved shirt is leaning over a stream, holding a young child. The child is holding a green fishing net. They are surrounded by lush green vegetation and reeds. The scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment with a stream and large logs in the foreground.

## CONSERVANCY STAFF

### Jerry Fulmer

Finance Administrator, Consultant

### Kate Gonick

In-House Counsel, Director of Land Protection

### Brittany Grear

Community Relations Specialist

### Beth Hacker

Office Manager, Executive Support

### Lydia Martin

Director of Education

### Steve Mohr Jr.

Stewardship Field Coordinator

### Faith Musngi

Associate for Development & Grants

### Dave Myer

Land Steward

### Christian Przybylek

GIS Specialist, Stewardship Project Manager

### Fritz Schroeder

Director of Urban Greening

### Brandon Tennis

Director of Stewardship

### Jenn Teson

Land Protection Coordinator

### Phil Wenger

President & CEO

## CONSERVANCY BOARD

### John McGrann, Board Chair

Owner, Penn Stone

### John F. Pyfer Jr., Board Vice Chair

Retired Attorney, Pyfer & Reese

### Andrea Campbell, Board Secretary and Chair of Urban Greening

Producer and Director, Natural Light Films

### Curtis L. Miller, Board Treasurer

Audit Senior Manager, KPMG, LLP

### Carol Simpson, Immediate Former Board Chair

Former President, Manheim Township Board of Commissioners

### Spike Brant

Co-Founder & CEO, Nimblist

### Betsy Chivinski

Chief Risk Officer, Fulton Financial Corporation

### David R. Dobbins Ph.D.

Retired Biology Professor, Millersville University

### J. Michael Flanagan

Attorney, Founder,  
Flanagan and DiBernardo, LLP

### Chris Ginder, Chair of Land Protection

Senior Investment Analyst,  
Sageworth

### Mark W. Kaiser, Chair of Stewardship

Retired Senior Director,  
Eurofins Lancaster Laboratories

### Sara Lamichane D.M.D.

Former Owner, Sara Lamichane DMD Family Dentistry

### Richard A. Minnich

Retired Hospitality Leader, Lancaster Country Club

### Jamie Morrison

Vice President of Self-Perform/Project Executive,  
Wohlsen Construction Co.

### Alan S. Peterson M.D.

Retired Family Physician, Emeritus Director of  
Environmental & Community Medicine, Lancaster  
General Health

### Carl Pike Ph.D., Chair of Education

Retired Biology Professor,  
Franklin & Marshall College

### Alex E. Snyder

Attorney, Partner, Barley Snyder, LLP

### Stefanie B. Valar, Chair of Development

Retired Director of Gift Planning,  
Franklin & Marshall College



Lancaster County  
Conservancy

Saturday, June 9, 2018  
Climbers Run Nature Preserve  
1:30 pm to 8:00 pm

PICNIC ON THE  
PRESERVE

For more information, please visit [lancasterconservancy.org](http://lancasterconservancy.org) and click on Events.

## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO, PHIL WENGER

# On multiple fronts, 2017 was a breakthrough year for your Conservancy.



Phil Wenger

I OFTEN SAY that building an organization that has strength and sustainability starts with a great foundation made up of talented leaders. The strength of our Directors, whose outstanding work is reflected in this report, combined with our exceptional board of community servants, creates an organization with unlimited potential.

In 2017, we focused on a new plan, setting goals for Year 2020—a plan that calls us to more aggressively acquire and protect this region's precious forested tracts, work harder to clean our impaired waterways, and increasingly energize our community around the importance of conservation. The four program areas of Education, Land Protection, Stewardship and Urban Greening are being refocused on Land, Water and Community. Please spend some time reviewing the plan in this report.

*Let me call out a few key developments and statistics we can brag about:*

- ▶ **Your Conservancy protected an additional 575 acres valued at over \$4 million.** This is nearly another square mile of woodlands protected for future generations to enjoy in perpetuity that brings the total acreage under our care to 6,124.
- ▶ Your foresight and generosity resulted in an **additional \$200,000 in unrestricted giving and over \$1.1 million** in private donations to purchase and conserve land.
- ▶ The number of **members/donors grew by 20%**.
- ▶ **More people connected with the Conservancy** on social media and through our printed and electronic newsletters than ever before.
- ▶ **New staff members were hired** in Stewardship and Land Protection. These individuals joined a group of leaders who are gelling as a team, ready to accomplish amazing things.
- ▶ **2017 ended with a strong financial surplus.**

*As much fun as it is to look back at a very successful year, our eyes are on 2018 which is full of opportunities and challenges. This year, we will:*

- ▶ **Conserve over 1,000 additional acres** along the Susquehanna River in York County, directly across from the Northwest River Trail Nature Preserve in Lancaster County. This area, called Hellam Hills, is just north of Route 30 and includes five tracts of land with a value of over \$7 million. A campaign to raise major land acquisition dollars from York County donors is underway.
- ▶ **Expand the Conservancy's Water Week** initiative so everyone in Lancaster County is talking about our impaired waterways and what they can do to help clean them.
- ▶ **Build stronger partnerships with our corporate backers.** Businesses understand the importance of protecting land and water. They also know that having beautiful places to hike and bike is important to attracting top talent.
- ▶ **Begin implementation of the master plan at Climbers Run Nature Preserve** in Pequea into a model training facility for environmental education, a hub for native plants research, and a center where people of all ages can learn why protecting nature is so important.
- ▶ Create a **Pollinator Park** at Holtwood in Manor Township and an **edible forest** at the Northwest Lancaster County River Trail in Conoy Township.
- ▶ Continue to **expand our member/donor base.**

**Our Mission: Providing wild and forested lands and clean waterways for our community. Forever.**

These are powerful words that focus our efforts and inspire us every day. Thank you for supporting our work. *We couldn't do it without you!*

Cordially,

Philip R. Wenger, *President & CEO*

# 2020 PLAN

## Dear Conservancy Friends,

**FIRST, ALLOW ME TO** take this opportunity to say “Thank You” for your ongoing support of the Lancaster County Conservancy! We’ve had an exciting two years since December 2015 when Phil Wenger joined the organization as our CEO and President. We’ve accomplished a great deal, most notably renewing our focus on preserving natural lands and strengthening the Conservancy’s financial foundation. Our success in both of these areas is due primarily to the generosity of our many donors—individuals, businesses and other mission-minded organizations.



John McGrann

The momentum we experienced during this time caused us to reflect on our past and contemplate our future, and during the final months of 2017, our Board and staff launched an initiative to explore strategic goals for the next three years. With the support of an excellent facilitator, we proceeded through a series of discussions to define our priorities, establish measurable goals associated with each key objective, and plan specific next steps to pursue these goals. Our Board and staff were enthusiastic about participating, and all who were involved found this planning process to be intensely focused and extremely productive.

## PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE OUR WORK:

### *Protect LAND*

- ▶ **Our highest priority is to purchase and to protect natural lands.**
- ▶ **Our focus is Lancaster County and the lower Susquehanna Valley including York County.**
- ▶ **We care for our land, taking the long view, to preserve biodiversity and community benefit with proper planning and documentation.**

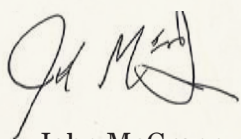
### *Clean WATER*

- ▶ **Our land protection efforts prevent degraded streams and protect headwaters.**
- ▶ **We promote healthy ecosystems to protect and clean waterways on both our preserves and private properties.**
- ▶ **We help Lancaster City’s efforts to prevent harmful runoff from entering our rivers and streams by planting trees, educating and engaging people about clean water.**



**THE END RESULT IS A PLAN** that we are very proud to share with our supporters and the community. It provides Conservancy leadership with clarity on what's most important during the next three years, and defines a path towards a bright future for the Lancaster County Conservancy. As you review this Annual Report, I hope you'll take a few extra moments to carefully review our 2020 Plan. We want to accomplish a lot in the next three years, and I invite you to join me, the Board of Directors, staff and Conservancy friends as we unite to provide wild and forested lands and clean waterways for our community. *Forever.*

Sincerely,



John McGrann, *Board Chair*



## 2020 GOALS

**INCREASE THE LAND PROTECTED by 50%**, with an additional 2,500 acres protected or under agreement to purchase. (We have acquired 5,208 acres in 48 years. Securing an additional 2,500 acres in three years will take tremendous effort.)

**GENERATE AN ADDITIONAL \$100,000** in unrestricted net revenue. (Earned income is essential to grow and protect us from economic downturns and diversify current revenue from grants and donations.)

**EDUCATE AND ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY** about protecting land and water to expand our circle of supporters. (In 2017 we have 2,800 donors and 4,000 Facebook Friends—we need to double these numbers.)

**INCREASE UNRESTRICTED ANNUAL FUND to \$1 million.** (Constituencies, corporations and York prospects are new frontiers to expand donors.)

## *Engage* COMMUNITY

- ▶ We build partnerships with other organizations to leverage our impact.
- ▶ Our Climbers Run Nature Preserve functions as a community engagement hub.
- ▶ Our lands are open to everyone for recreation and science.

## FOUNDATION

- ▶ We will adhere to Accredited Land Trust Standards, practicing professionalism.
- ▶ We will strengthen the financial foundation of the organization.
- ▶ The Conservation Landscape Initiative is critical to guiding our efforts to protect land and water, and engage communities as we expand into York County.



# SHARING THE PASSION FOR PRESERVATION

## *Dick Minnich's Legacy as a Conservancy Donor, Volunteer and Leader*

If you have ever attended the Conservancy's Dine on Harvest Moon or any of our events, chances are you either personally met Dick Minnich or experienced his steadfast influence. This year marks the end of Dick's service on our Board of Directors, and it is more than fitting we celebrate his passion for preservation.

Dick's connection to the Conservancy had an interesting start. In 1994 he and his sister Brooke protected their family property through easements with the

**"I don't want to halt progress, but the urban sprawl is changing the county from the garden spot it once was. Open land is quickly being gobbled up."**

Lancaster Farmland Trust and the Conservancy, creating a unique bridge between to the two local preservation non-profits. As a land donor, he received mailings about the Conservancy and learned more about our work through his sister's involvement on the Board. In 2009 Brooke recruited him to serve on our Board of Directors.

We are very thankful for all the hours our Board of Directors give

to the Conservancy as they attend numerous Board and committee meetings each year, and Dick is no exception. Ultimately, he became Chair of the Board of Directors in 2012.

Dick's 27 years of stellar service as General Manager of the Lancaster Country Club were a gift to the Conservancy as his attention to detail and his affinity for selecting delicious wines helped the Conservancy host what, in Dick's opinion, "has grown to be one of the most popular fundraising events in the community." The great time hundreds have had at our Dine on Harvest Moon gala the past eight years is in large part

due to Dick's leadership and his natural ability to make everyone feel welcome.

Over the years, Dick has had the privilege of working with several Conservancy leaders: the visionary Ralph Goodno, the passionate educator Mike Burcin, and our current dynamic conservationist, Phil Wenger. Dick is excited at what the future holds for the Conservancy under Phil's leader-



*Dick Minnich*

ship. He sees more young people attracted to the Conservancy's mission because "they recognize the importance of nature," and we're "getting our message across better than we used to do. Before, people didn't know who we were and what we did."

Looking toward the future, Dick continues, "I don't want to halt progress, but the urban sprawl is changing the county from the garden spot it once was. Open land is quickly being gobbled up." He is encouraged that the Conservancy is focused on purchasing and preserving natural lands as fast as we can, and he's excited that "more people are stepping up to the plate to give more land [and dollars] for acquisition." He is especially energized by the Conservancy's focus in York County and the Susquehanna Riverlands.

***Join the Conservancy staff and Board of Directors in celebrating Dick Minnich's decades of involvement and nine years of leadership.***

## LAND PROTECTION HIGHLIGHTS

**95** acres acquired

**480** acres slated  
for protection

**575** total acres of  
land protected

# LAND.

**It is the core of the Conservancy's mission. We save it. We care for it. We invite the public to enjoy it. Our important work begins and ends with our precious natural lands. We are grateful for the success we had in 2017 thanks to public and private donations!**



Many projects were completed at Welsh Mountain Nature Preserve in 2017

The Conservancy's focus is on protecting land with significant natural, scenic, cultural and water resource value. The forests (trees, streams, wetlands) we protect have a measurable impact on water quality in Lancaster and York counties, and the entire Chesapeake Bay region. Natural lands protected ensure sources of drinking water are safeguarded and the public's opportunities to enjoy our waterways are enhanced.

Lands prioritized for protection also support large landscape preservation efforts, like the Susquehanna Riverlands and the Pennsylvania Highlands. Connecting preserved natural lands to each other multiplies the environmental and ecological benefits. The natural processes that clean water and air work better in large areas, and corridors for wildlife and plant life to live in and migrate through are created. Look for more work in these areas over the next several years.

Finally, we are creating a new model to identify land protection priorities using Geographic Information Systems. This exciting undertaking will bring together local, regional, and national voices in the public and private sectors to help identify where the

## Our Partners in Preservation

**Land Protection had an amazing year.** The number of "partners in preservation" has increased every year, and 2017 was no different. They included the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Brookfield Renewable, Lancaster and York Counties, the Lancaster County Community Foundation, the Conservation Fund, the Ressler Mill Foundation, Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, Talen Energy, the Welsh Mountain Committee, East Earl Township, Caernarvon Township, Salisbury Township, Chester County Solid Waste Authority, many more organizations, and, of course, our private donors.

The addition of 44 acres to the Steinman Run Nature Preserve was made possible through a part donation/part sale of property by Jim and Penny Bunting in combination with grants from the PA DCNR, the Lancaster County Community Foundation, the Steinman Foundation and the Willis and Elsie Shenk Foundation.

The 23-acre Northwest River Trail Preserve was acquired because of the generosity of the Pine Tree Conservation Society, Inc. This project focuses on increased bird habitat and the installation of a demonstration edible forest riparian buffer.

## Goals for 2018 and Beyond

**Our Land Protection goal for 2018** is to work with our partners to acquire and preserve 1,000 additional acres. Our long-term goal is to have under agreement or have acquired more than 7,500 acres by 2020. With your help, we will achieve it.

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Conservancy should focus land protection efforts.

Once the Conservancy legally protects natural lands, our work does not end with the filing of paperwork. Our Stewardship Team develops a specific plan for each preserve based on its unique characteristics and needs. Their work begins from the ground up.

Soil is the foundation of a forest. During 2016 and 2017, the Stewardship Program was rebuilding its 'soil.' To do so in a regenerative and self-renewing way requires a programmatic strategy with a vision. In 2018, Stewardship will begin to implement a vision that is ecological in design and approach.



## RECENT ACQUISITIONS



22  
ACRES

### NORTHWEST RIVER TRAIL PRESERVE

22 acres [Conoy Township, Lancaster County]  
FUNDING: The Pine Tree Conservation Society, Inc.

This preserve located in the Susquehanna Riverlands was acquired in January 2017. The Northwest Lancaster County River Trail bisects the property. The Conservancy is working with Conoy Township to move the River Trail onto this Preserve and away from a private residence. The Falmouth Boat Launch borders the Preserve on its western edge. The Stewardship team is working to install Falmouth Forest Garden, a multifunctional riparian forest buffer which will be used as a demonstration area.



44  
ACRES

### STEINMAN RUN NATURE PRESERVE ADDITION

44 acres [Martic Township, Lancaster County]  
FUNDING: Jim and Penny Bunting, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Lancaster County Community Foundation, Steinman Foundation and the Willis and Elsie Shenk Foundation.

The Conservancy had worked with Jim and Penny Bunting since 2010 toward conserving their 44 acres in the Susquehanna Riverlands that abut to the Steinman Run Nature Preserve. In June 2017, the Conservancy acquired these 44 acres through a part-purchase-part-gift transaction and added them to the Steinman Run Nature Preserve. With a stream, two springs, two seeps, and numerous rocky outcroppings, the former Bunting tract protects a wonderfully biodiverse ecosystem. The newly-enlarged Preserve now contains 315 acres of contiguous forest. During the 2017 BioBlitz event, important data was gathered for our management plan.



30  
ACRES

### HELLAM HILLS 4 - DUGAN RUN

30 acres [Hellam Township, York County]  
FUNDING: PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Brookfield Renewable and private donations

With over 320 feet of Susquehanna River frontage and portions of Dugan Run, Hellam Hills 4 is a spectacular 30-acre property within the Susquehanna Riverlands. An existing trail on the property looks down upon Dugan Run providing breathtaking views of the stream and instantly transporting you to the serenity of a remote forest. The PA DCNR announced the grant award in December 2017. Because of their help, Hellam Hills 4 will be protected in perpetuity by Spring 2018. During 2018, Brookfield Renewable will donate the DCNR-required match in the form of land.



## Projects

In 2017, a half-mile forested trail at Welsh Mountain Nature Preserve was awarded ADA certification. A backlog of projects there were also completed including improving the trailhead's look and function and resolving large areas of erosion.

In addition, specific 2018 projects at other preserves were planned and prepped, including enhanced visitor experiences, habitat integrity, ecosystem function, natural material production, and wild edible yields. In 2018 we will launch the Pollinator Park at Kellys Run Nature Preserve, the Falmouth Forest Garden at the Northwest River Trail Nature Preserve, and the Wilton Meadows Nature Preserve comprised of black locust coppice groves, successional meadows, and an integrated Mason-Dixon Trail.

## Routine Maintenance

From May through October 2017, Stewardship engaged volunteers with Work Day Thursdays. Trash was cleaned up, invasive plant species removed, and

trails were cleared of brush. In 2018, the routine maintenance volunteer season will be extended to establish self-directed work group volunteer days.

## Outreach and Engagement

**Interpretive Rangers:** From May through October 2017, our Interpretive Rangers interacted with more than 700 visitors across the Conservancy's six most popular preserves in the River Hills. They perform many services including being the face of the organization, addressing visitor needs, distributing trail maps and other materials, patrolling trails, enforcing rules and regulations, and talking with Conservancy property neighbors. The Interpretive Ranger program will continue in 2018.

**Tending the Susquehanna Riverlands:** During 2017, the Stewardship Program continued to identify and work with partners such as the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Susquehanna Heritage, Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York, and the Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education. The

Stewardship Program also hosted the two-day Tending the Susquehanna Riverlands lecture and workshop with Dave Jacke that attracted over 90 participants and focused on agroforestry land management techniques (agriculture that incorporates the cultivation and conservation of trees) applied to Conservancy properties as a model for farmers, homesteaders, and other land owners. In 2018 two of these projects will be launched at the Wilton Meadows and Northwest River Trail Nature Preserves and will be open to the public.

**Emergency Response Plans:** Also, in 2017 the Conservancy hosted a search and rescue training session, organized by the Eastern York County Emergency Management Agency and PA Southcentral Search & Rescue and attended by local first responders. In 2018 the Stewardship Team will develop Emergency Response Plans for our largest and most visited preserves. The goal is for preserve visitors and dispatched first responders to have the best information possible, so both will be safe in our most wild and natural places.

### Program Development

**Staff:** In 2017, the Stewardship team continued to build and professionalize. It has a Director, a Preserves Manager, a Geographic Information System Specialist & Project Manager, a Senior Land Steward, Interpretive Rangers, and a Stewardship Crew. In 2018 a three-, five-, and ten-year staffing plan will be developed.

**Equipment:** During 2017, our equipment received badly-needed upgrades through the purchase of a F450 dump truck, a 60-horsepower tractor with loader and brush mower, a 22' custom trailer, and a commercial mower. In 2018, data collection capabilities will be upgraded by investing in field-to-office technology.

**Training:** In 2017, Stewardship staff earned basic first aid, CPR, Wilderness First Responder, and Professional

Timber Harvester (PA SFI) certifications, and began a series of chainsaw operator skills and safety certifications. During 2018, staff will continue to achieve certifications in the numerous skill sets required to manage our nature preserves.

### Accreditation Standard and Practices

In 2017, the Conservancy's entire portfolio of nature preserves and conservation easements was converted into individual parcels to improve data collection and baseline documentation practices. During 2018, the portfolio will be reconfigured into groups of preserves, identified as Conservation Areas, with unified management plans, and improved online mapping and preserve signage.

### Generated Revenue

During 2017, the Conservancy opened an Airbnb at Wildcat Bluff Nature Preserve. Within 5 months, it was awarded a Superhost designation, with all guests rating their stay as a five-star experience. 2018 will bring continued brainstorming, feasibility assessment, and planning for other creative ways to generate revenue to offset the significant cost of maintaining preserves and sustaining Conservancy programs.



## Inspired by how the Conservancy stewards the land it protects?

Join other Conservancy friends at a Volunteer Work Day at one of our preserves. For complete information, visit our website at [www.lancasterconservancy.org](http://www.lancasterconservancy.org)

For specific questions, contact Christian Przybylek, GIS Specialist, Stewardship Project Manager, at 717.392.7891 ext. 206 or [cprzybylek@lancasterconservancy.org](mailto:cprzybylek@lancasterconservancy.org)

## WATER PROTECTION HIGHLIGHTS

**3.3** miles of streams protected

**20** Olympic pools of water protected

**74,000** people kept alive for one year by the water saved by the land we protected in 2017



# WATER.

**Our 2017 success began with *Protecting Land*, and it continues to *Cleaning Water*. We cannot ignore the fact that water unites all our programs. From the streams that flow through many of our preserves, the city and county, water connects us all. We are so proud of how our community joins together around the universal cause of clean water.**



Big Spring restoration, part of a successful Water Week 2017

## The Importance of Water

Land Protection preserves the soil around our precious streams. Stewardship manages riparian buffers that filter rainwater before it gets into the streams. Urban Greening teaches Lancaster City residents about the importance of trees in managing storm water. Education teaches people about the importance of clean water. Our four program areas flow together in helping clean water for our community. And our community helps us achieve our goals with all their volunteer hours!

## Land Protection and Water

Conserved land helps clean our water, but it can be difficult to visualize the effects. During 2017, the Conservancy protected 3.3 miles of streams across 575 acres of natural land. These streams have forested buffers, which help protect the species living in the streams and filter the water running through them. The forests on this land conserve approximately 20 Olympic swimming pools worth of water each year, which is enough water to keep almost 74,000 people alive for that same period.

Forests recharge groundwater resources. They reduce erosion on unprotected or developed soil, which in turn reduces runoff into our streams and waterways. Tree canopy also helps slow raindrops before they hit the ground, which keeps the soil intact. Tree roots absorb and filter water before releasing it back into the air. Protecting forests prevents land from becoming a source of pollution, so saving our forests saves our water.

Under the guidance of Lydia Martin, Director of Education, the Water Quality Volunteer Coalition (WQVC) monitored 25 stream sites donating 1,000+ hours on ten preserves. Thanks to the Chestnut Grove Foundation and a Department of Environmental Protection mini-grant, we purchased new equipment. In 2018 WQVC looks forward to connecting with York County partners to expand watershed education.

## 2017 Water Week

2017's Lancaster Water Week was a huge success! At its core, it is a public awareness and marketing campaign. With 15 events over 8 days, the community response was excellent with well over 1,300 people attending one or more activity. Over 1,100 trees were distributed and planted, and over 2 tons of waste and litter was removed from the Conestoga River. In addition, over \$30,000 in grants were awarded for on-the-ground implementation. A mix of public events and social marketing reached over 60,000 people, with over 5,000 individuals visiting the Lancaster Water Week website over a 30-day period. Water Week 2018, Friday, June 1 through Saturday, June 9, 2018 promises to be even better so mark your calendar now!



## Water Week 2018 is Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> through Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Water connects us all!

Are our waterways fishable, swimmable, and drinkable? The almost 1,500 stream miles in Lancaster County start as small springs or streams in the headwater regions of Lancaster, Lebanon, and Berks Counties. As they make their way through Lancaster County, many streams become polluted, however this is a solvable problem. Water Week 2018 will focus on action steps that everyone can take to make our local rivers and streams more fishable, swimmable and drinkable.



WATER WEEK LAUNCH AT MARKET ALLEY



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE BIKE TOUR



PEDAL TO PRESERVE



FREE STREET AND YARD TREES



CONESTOGA CLEAN UP



CHIQUES CREEK EXPO

LANCASTER  
**WATER  
WEEK**  
June 1-9, 2018

## Lancaster's 2017 Water Week was a huge success!

- ▶ 15 events enjoyed by 1,376 people; attendance ranged from 20 to 300 people and several events sold out
- ▶ 2 tons of refuse removed from the Conestoga River
- ▶ 800 native trees planted along Mill Creek and 375 native trees distributed to local residents for planting
- ▶ \$15,750 in grants awarded to 8 community organizations to support wildflowers, meadows, rain gardens, forest buffer restoration, water quality monitoring and youth education
- ▶ \$15,000 grant awarded to the City of Lancaster to create more small-scale green infrastructure projects, including rain gardens, dry wells, and permeable pavers

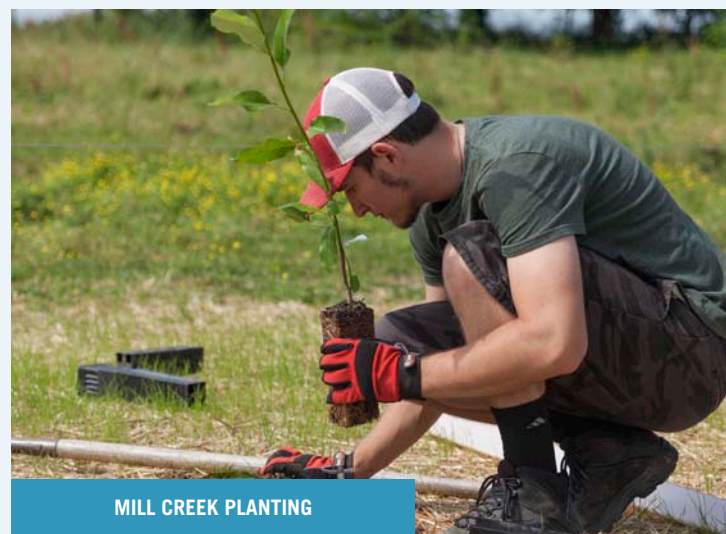
Join us for Water Week 2018!



TELLUS 360 MOVIE NIGHT



BIG SPRING RESTORATION



MILL CREEK PLANTING



## The Susquehanna Riverlands: A Conservation Landscape



**The Susquehanna Riverlands includes all the townships that touch the Susquehanna River in Lancaster and York Counties. Through funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Conservancy is tasked to protect forested and sensitive environmental areas along the river, improve water quality, expand river access and recreational opportunities, and revitalize the river towns.**

Our work includes many partners on both sides of the River: *Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Susquehanna Heritage, National Park Service, Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, Lancaster and York County Planning Commissions, Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.* One of the Susquehanna Riverlands' key projects in 2017 was to create a Conservation/Management Plan for the Climbers Run Nature Preserve and Education Center in Pequea. With funding from DCNR and the Thomas

A. and Georgina T. Russo Foundation, the Climbers Run Study Committee, comprised of partners including the Lancaster County Planning Commission, Martic Township, NorthBay, Penn Manor School District, staff and volunteers, did remarkable work holding public meetings and many interviews. What emerged is a Susquehanna Riverlands plan to turn Climbers Run into a community engagement hub of education and activity. Together we will improve and protect our beautiful natural resources for generations to come! For more information, visit [www.susquehannariverlands.com](http://www.susquehannariverlands.com).

### Want to become involved in cleaning our streams or planting trees?

Visit [lancasterconservancy.org/urban-greening/trees](http://lancasterconservancy.org/urban-greening/trees).  
For specific information, contact Fritz Schroeder,  
Director of Urban Greening, at 717.392.7891 ext. 207 or  
[fschroeder@lancasterconservancy.org](mailto:fschroeder@lancasterconservancy.org)



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
HIGHLIGHTS

**540** Volunteers  
in 2017

**4,000+** Hours of time  
donated

**700+** Students experienced  
Service Learning

# Community.

**If the Conservancy's mission starts with Protecting Land, it ends with Engaging Community. We serve our community 365 days a year by providing beautiful places to explore nature. Our volunteers give passionately of their time to help us educate city residents about the importance of trees for clean air and healthy streams. They also care for the preserves and monitor the many species of flora and fauna found there. Volunteers are essential to our continued success and growth! Together, we engage our community about the importance of preserving our wild places and protecting them for everyone – forever.**



2017 Bio Blitz



## Community.

In 2017, our education and community engagement programs continued to grow, positively impacting thousands of people especially our youth! The Conservancy's Climbers Run Nature Preserve in Pequea continued to be a center for these activities. For example:

- ▶ Field trips provided connections to nature for over 230 students and adults from the Penn Manor, Lancaster, Solanco, and Warwick School Districts. Over 700 young people experienced service learning by planting trees for wildlife habitat, caring for trails and waterways, and removing invasive species. Our partners and funders included NorthBay, PA Master Naturalist, Dine on Harvest Moon Special Appeal donors, the Joseph Bumsted Memorial Fund and many volunteers.
- ▶ Climbers Run served as headquarters for a BioBlitz, which inventoried flora and fauna at our Steinman Run Nature Preserve. Collaborators were Millersville University and 20 other partners. Over 140 young people and adults took part and over 530 species were documented. Highlights included recording a hoary bat, tie-dying with black walnuts, and finding brook trout in Steinman Run.
- ▶ Special events such as a Suburban Landscape Workshop that focused on using native trees and plants, a Shenks Ferry Wildflower Hike, Winter Tree Identification Workshops, and more brought many members of the public to Climbers Run.

- ▶ Boy Scouts, members of the Millersville University Entomology Club, and Willow Valley Retirement Community residents benefited from experiential learning as they explored Climbers Run.

## Volunteer Highlights

During 2017, over 540 volunteers and partners gave 2,300+ hours of their time to monitor, protect, and enhance land and water resources on 15 preserves in Lancaster and York Counties during 44 work days organized by Education and Stewardship. Just two examples:

- ▶ Boy Scout Troop 393, Highmark Construction, and private volunteers completed the stage at Climbers Run, with funding from the Dr. Henry Huffnagle Memorial Fund, the Ressler Mill Foundation, and Willis and Elsie Shenk Foundation.
- ▶ The Water Quality Volunteer Coalition monitored 25 stream sites donating 1,000+ hours on 10 preserves. Thanks to the Chestnut Grove Foundation and a Department of Environmental Protection mini-grant, we purchased new water-testing equipment.
- ▶ In 2018, a new mobile trailer with supplies for planting trees and cleaning landscapes will be put to work. Heartfelt thanks to the Willis and Elsie Shenk Foundation, which funded this equipment to benefit volunteer work and service learning opportunities on our preserves and projects.

## 2017 Outreach Highlights

Expanded regional and municipal outreach with our partners enhanced community conservation within the Susquehanna Riverlands and beyond.

- ▶ In 2017, the Conservancy hosted the 300-attendee Pennsylvania Land Trust Alliance Conference and led a Climbers Run Wildlife Habitat & Stream Workshop and a Susquehanna Riverlands Tour for the participants.
- ▶ The Community Conservation Team was organized to broaden our audience with municipal and elected officials in Lancaster and York Counties.





# Lancaster Tree Tenders

Expanding our urban canopy

185

STREET TREES  
PLANTED

296

YARD TREES  
DISTRIBUTED

220

RIPARIAN  
BUFFER TREES  
PLANTEDOVER  
935PLANTING  
SITES  
IDENTIFIED

152

VOLUNTEERS

OVER  
487VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

A collaborative effort, Lancaster Tree Tenders is an initiative of the Lancaster Conservancy, City of Lancaster and Lancaster City Alliance.



Lancaster County  
Conservancy  
SAVING NATURE



# 2017 | CELEBRATING OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**2017 MARKED LANCASTER TREE TENDERS** second year as an initiative to increase and enhance Lancaster's urban forest by engaging and empowering neighborhoods to plant and care for trees.

Through a crowdfunding campaign, over \$15,000 was raised allowing us to offer free street and yard trees to property owners. This was possible due to the support of many donors including Penn Stone, National Novelty Brush, AMERIGreen Energy, East Chestnut Street Mennonite Church, and local residents.

### WHY TREES?

- Trees are a key part of the City of Lancaster's strategy to reduce stormwater pollution in our streams and rivers
- Trees shade houses and sidewalks, and can reduce home cooling costs
- Trees improve health by reducing air pollution
- Trees can instill a sense of community pride, reduce crime, and increase pedestrian traffic in shopping areas

### JOIN US IN 2018 TO:

- Identify more street planting locations
- Plant and maintain riparian buffers
- Distribute or plant yard trees
- Participate in a community tree planting

Partners include Mid-Atlantic Ecological Landscapes (MAEscapes), Donegal Trout Unlimited, Harvey's Gardens and community advocates. The Conservancy delivered well-received presentations to representatives of 42 Lancaster and York municipalities with a focus on three major concerns: (1) Habitat Loss, (2) Invasive Species, and (3) Degraded Water Resources. In 2018 we anticipate offering new community events.

- ▶ During 2017 volunteers in all our programs gave over 4,000 hours to support the Conservancy's community engagement efforts in Lancaster and York Counties.

## The Conservancy's community of volunteers is amazing!

To learn more about how you can become involved, visit our website at [www.lancasterconservancy.org](http://www.lancasterconservancy.org)

For specific questions about all our volunteer events, contact Lydia Martin, Director of Education, at 717.392.7891 ext. 215 or [lmartin@lancasterconservancy.org](mailto:lmartin@lancasterconservancy.org)



# Financial Report

**2017 WAS ANOTHER STRONG YEAR of growth for the Conservancy. We work hard to be responsible stewards of the gifts from our donors and grantors to acquire land, clean waterways and energize people about our critical work.** Over the last year, our asset growth increased 6% to \$47,000,000, representing almost a 3 million dollar increase in land and gifts. Our Annual Fund of unrestricted gifts increased by 40% to \$730,000. Our annual Picnic on the Preserve and our Dine on Harvest Moon gala raised \$150,000 in additional unrestricted income. We also received over a million dollars in grants. Our net operating profit exceeded \$54,000 in 2017 allowing us to continue to build our reserves. Our donors are critical to our success!

*Thank you for your support.*

— Curtis Miller, *Board Treasurer*

*Note: All amounts are unaudited.*



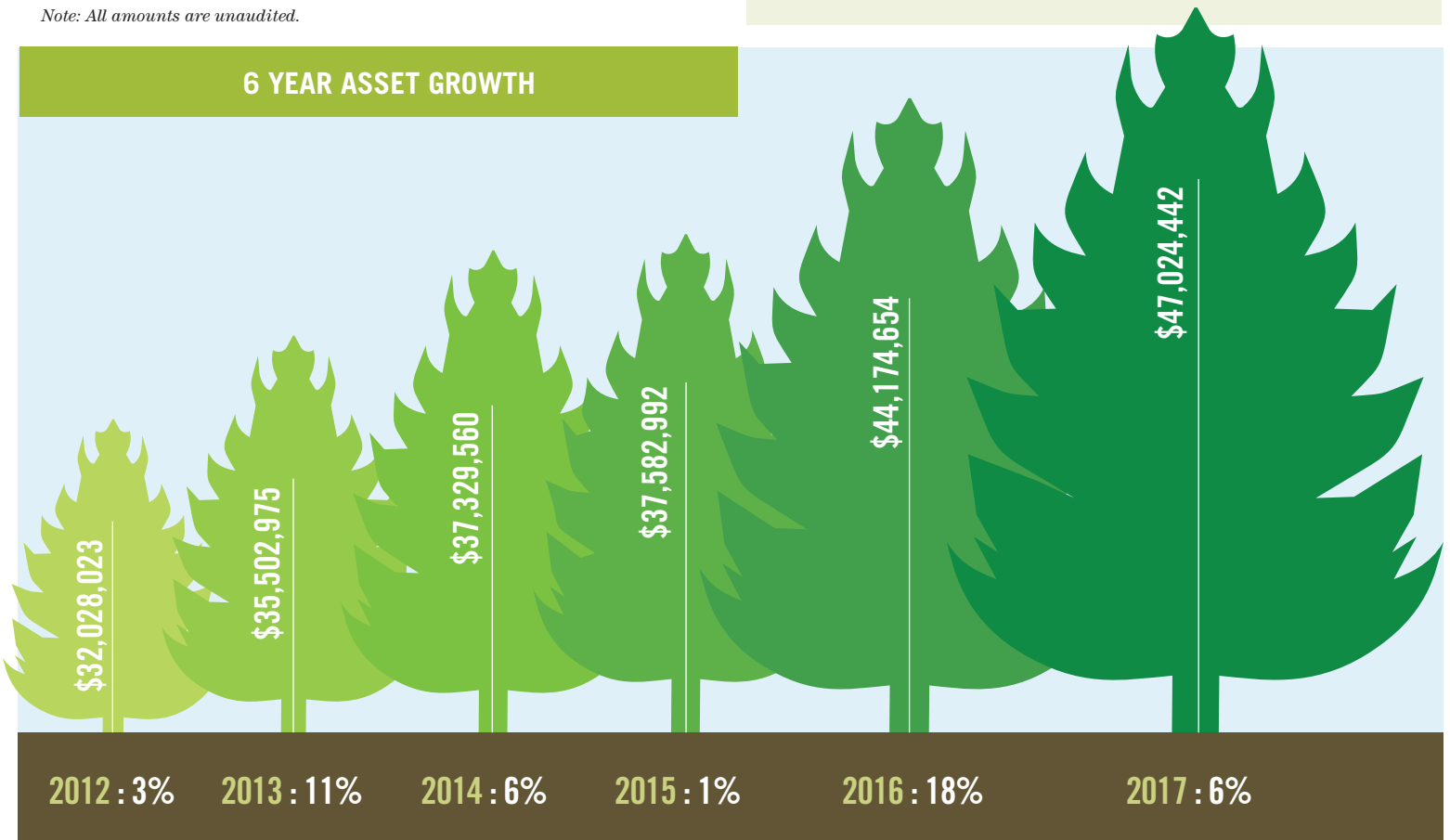
IN LATE 2016, the Conservancy created an opportunity for donors to unite in their desire to preserve natural lands by establishing the Penns Woods Fund. Substantial private donations are placed in this Fund for the specific purpose of acquiring wild lands and the costs of acquisition. Friends of the Conservancy may “buy land” before it is lost to development by donating specifically to the Penns Woods Fund.

**WE ARE EXCITED TO REPORT** that in 2017, the Penns Woods Fund received donations of \$1,083,424 that helped protect over 325 acres of land. If you want to join our effort to fund the Conservancy’s top priority—to preserve and protect natural lands before they are destroyed—please reach out to Kate Gonick, Director of Land Protection at (717) 392-7891 x203 or [kgonick@lancasterconservancy.org](mailto:kgonick@lancasterconservancy.org)

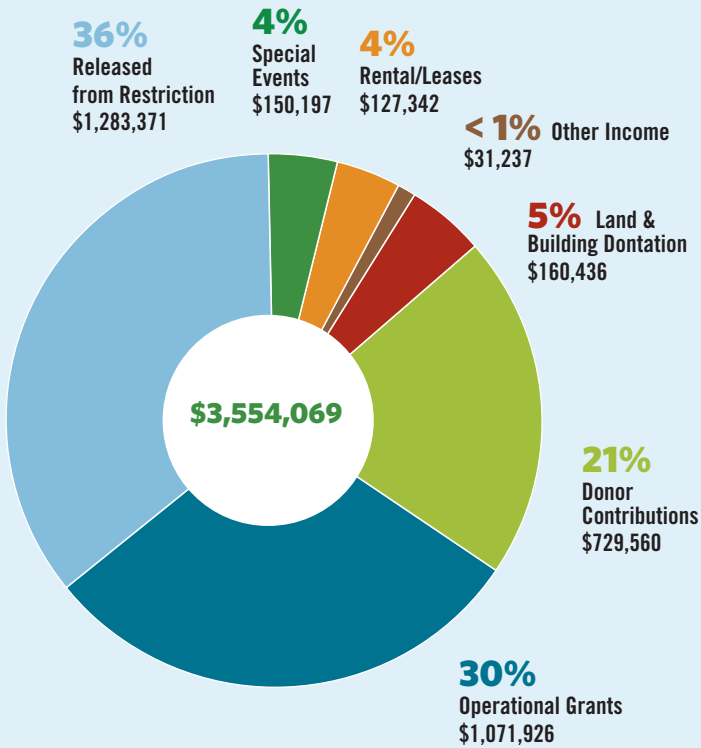
**2017 PENNS WOODS FUND RAISED:**

**\$1,083,424**

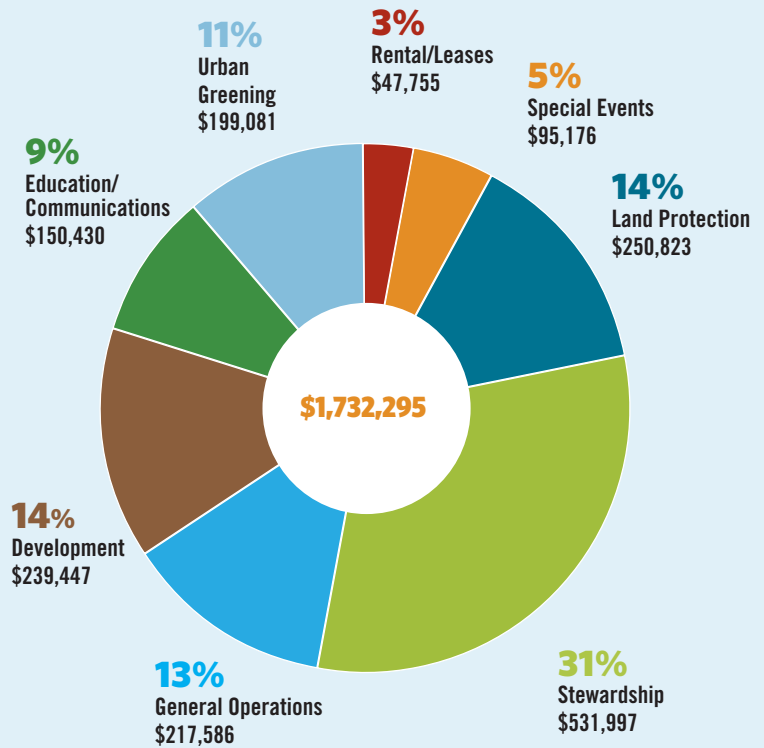
## 6 YEAR ASSET GROWTH



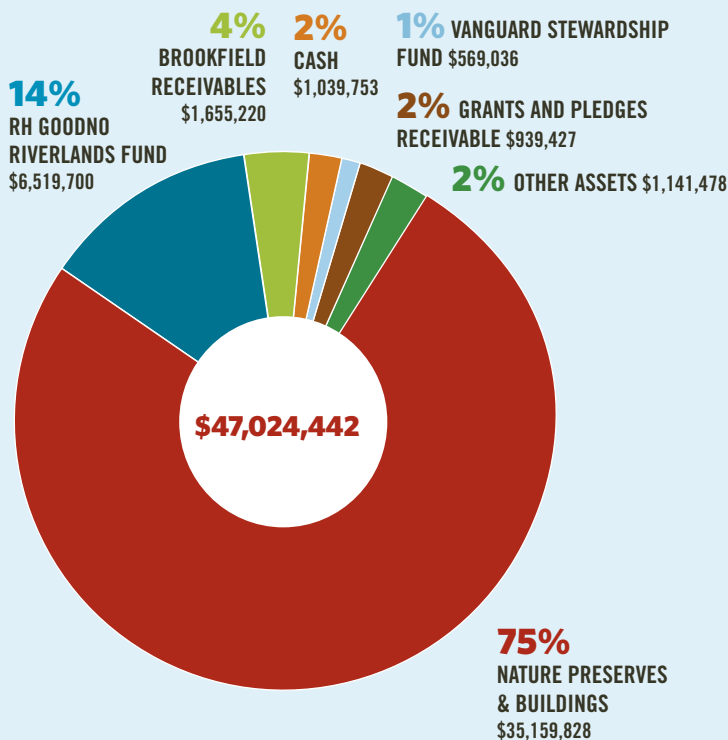
## 2017 UNRESTRICTED REVENUE



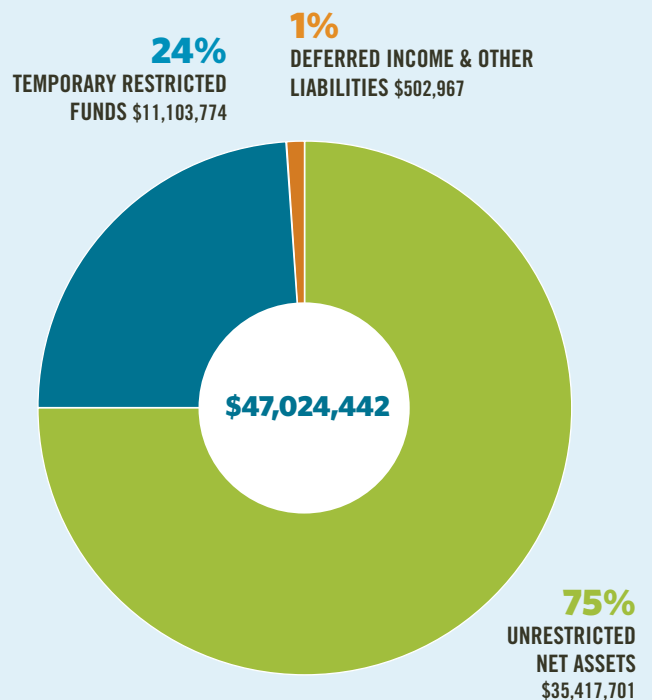
## 2017 EXPEDITURES



## 2017 ASSETS



## 2017 LIABILITIES & CAPITAL



# Upcoming 2018 Events



PHOTO: MARK KAISER

## Falmouth Volunteer Work Day

**Thursday, May 17, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

*Falmouth Boat Launch*

Help the Stewardship team and other Conservancy volunteers to install a forest garden.

## Lancaster Water Week

**Friday, June 1 – Saturday, June 9**

*Multiple event locations*

Join the Conservancy and other organizations across the county as we come together to create habitat, protect water, and explore the outdoors. Events will include the Chiques Watershed Expo, Green Infrastructure Bike Tour, Conestoga Clean-Up, and the 4th Annual Clean Waters Golf Tournament.



Visit [www.lancasterwaterweek.org](http://www.lancasterwaterweek.org) for more information and the full event schedule.

## Riverlands Trail Festival: Wilton Meadows Preserve Opening

**Saturday, June 2**

*Wilton Meadows Nature Preserve*

The Conservancy is hosting a public launch event at our Wilton Meadows Nature Preserve as part of the Riverlands Trail Festival. Wilton Meadows is unique for being designated the Conservancy's first hike-in only preserve in York County, and is accessible via the Mason Dixon Trail. This event will feature a 3-mile hike with excellent views as it traverses through meadows and woodlands and ends at the John Wright Restaurant, where our featured Water Week beer will be on tap.

## Picnic on the Preserve & Annual Membership Meeting

**Saturday, June 9**

*Climbers Run Nature Preserve*

Following the Annual Meeting, enjoy fun outdoor activities like creek snorkeling, an animal show, a wild edibles workshop, and much more! Enjoy a delicious BBQ meal and live music in the meadow.

**Tucquan Glen/Pyfer Volunteer Work Day****Thursday, June 14, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm***Tucquan Glen/Pyfer Nature Preserves*

Join the Stewardship team and other Conservancy volunteers for some trail work.

**Pollinator Workshop****Saturday, June 23, 8:30 am – 2:00 pm***Kellys Run Nature Preserve: Pollinator Park*

This public workshop with our partners will feature opportunities to understand pollinator diversity and native plants essential to landscapes at homes, schools, farms, and businesses. There will be lectures and a walking tour of the park. This Workshop coincides with National Pollinator Week, June 18 – 24.

**Kellys Run at Pinnacle Volunteer Work Day****Thursday, June 28, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm***Kellys Run at Pinnacle Nature Preserve*

Come help the Stewardship team and other Conservancy volunteers with trail brushing.

**Rannels Kettle Run Volunteer Work Day****Thursday, July 12, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm***Rannels Kettle Run Nature Preserve*

Join the Stewardship team and other Conservancy volunteers for trail brushing and invasives removal.

**Ferncliff Volunteer Work Day****Thursday, July 26, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm***Ferncliff Nature Preserve*

Help the Stewardship team and other Conservancy volunteers with invasives removal.

**Conowingo Pond Volunteer Work Day****Thursday, August 9, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm***Conowingo Pond Nature Preserve*

Come help the Stewardship team and other Conservancy volunteers with a trash clean up.

**Donegal Highlands Volunteer Work Day****Thursday, August 23, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm***Donegal Highlands Nature Preserve*

Come join the Stewardship team and other Conservancy volunteers for invasives removal.

**Shiprock Volunteer Work Day****Thursday, September 6, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm***Shiprock Nature Preserve*

Join the Stewardship team and other Conservancy volunteers to help with pruning and cleaning out the barn.

**Windolph Landing Volunteer Work Day****Thursday, September 20, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm***Windolph Landing Nature Preserve*

Help the Stewardship team and other Conservancy volunteers with a trash clean up.

**Pawpaw Fest****Saturday, September 22 – Sunday September 23***Horn Farm Center*

Join the Conservancy and our partners to learn more about the country's largest tree fruit! The event will celebrate the native fruit through pawpaw tastings, foods made with pawpaw, an orchard tour, and pawpaw trees available for purchase.


**Dine on Harvest Moon****Friday, October 5***Lancaster Country Club*

Our 9th annual dinner and auction event! Join us for food, friends, and fun, all benefiting our natural lands and waterways.

**Extraordinary Give****Friday, November 16***LUCA*

An extraordinary party not to be missed!

Help us set a new record!



More information about  
our events can be found at  
[www.lancasterconservancy.org](http://www.lancasterconservancy.org).

# Thank you to our Donors

We sincerely thank our community of generous supporters for all they do to further the Conservancy's work of protecting and stewarding our natural lands, greening our cities, and sharing nature with children.

## Gifts of Land

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#### \$50,000 +

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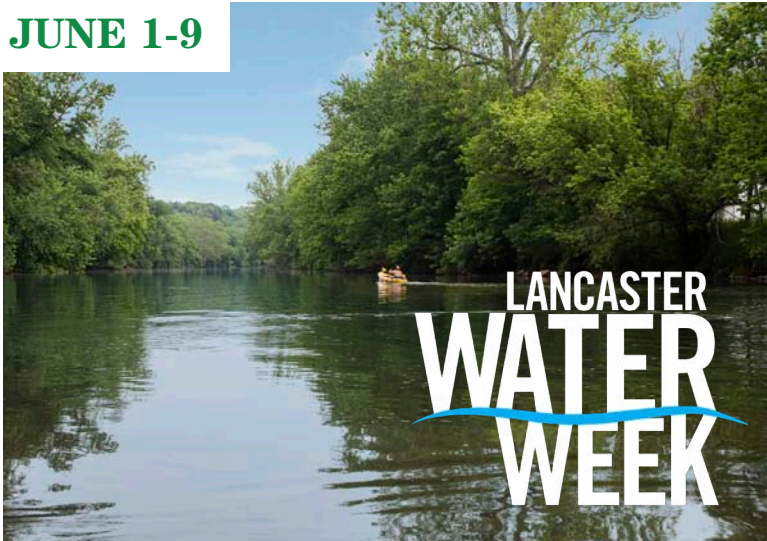
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