

In Case You Missed It February 2021



Update to Spring 2020 COVID-19 Impacts Report

"This is a great time to have access to trails, and a challenging time to manage them."

In an effort to better understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Pennsylvania's recreational resources, for the past year PEC has been studying trail counter data and surveying trail managers from across the state.

In February we published an [update](#), following up on our [initial research](#) from the spring of 2020, that looks at the core of the 2020 season. The findings show a sustained increase in trail use all year, suggesting that lifestyle changes adopted in the early days of the pandemic have become a lasting habit for many Pennsylvanians.

REPORT

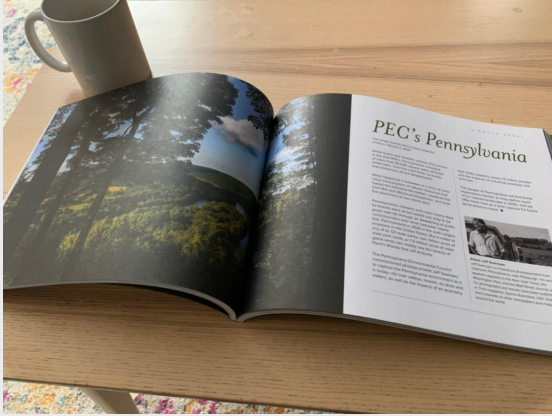
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC'S IMPACT ON PENNSYLVANIA'S NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS: FALL 2020 UPDATE

Increased Use, Added Strain, and a Newfound Appreciation



Speaking Volumes

In celebration of our 50th anniversary, PEC commissioned [OPR Group](#) to create a commemorative book exploring the past, present, and future of our organization and of the places we have worked to protect and restore.



While the print edition of this volume is no longer available, we invite everyone to flip through the digital version.

READ

PEC Blog

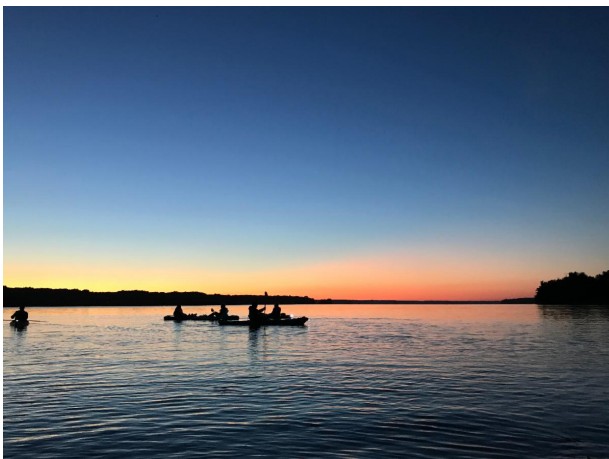
How to Finance a Forest

Since 2016, PEC has relied on private philanthropy to fund our reforestation work in State Forests and State Game Lands. But most of Pennsylvania's legacy mine lands are privately owned and require a different approach to funding.

Outcomes-based financing is a way to monetize the benefits of reforestation, generating new streams of revenue that can be used plant more trees. [Learn how PEC is leveraging outcomes-based financing](#) to support our projects through the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative.



The Shenango River, 2021 River of the Year



This year's [River of the Year](#) is the Shenango River. This is the first time the Shenango River and the nominating organization, the [Shenango River Watchers](#), have won the honor.

Sponsored by DCNR and administered by PEC's affiliate organization, the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR), the River of the Year program raises awareness of the history of Pennsylvania's rivers and their important roles as recreational and ecological hubs. Learn more [here](#).

Become a Citizen Scientist

Want to do something to protect and improve the environment around your home, community, and waterways? Interested in observing natural spaces and providing valuable information to scientists monitoring water quality, protecting wildlife, or studying climate change? You can do all of that and more by becoming a Citizen Scientist.

Learn more about how you can get involved Citizen Science programs [here](#).



Pennsylvania Legacies



2020 was the year our relationship with trails changed forever. A look inside PEC's newly updated research on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted trail use across Pennsylvania, and where we go from here.

LISTEN



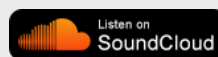
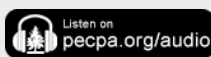
Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Paul Jacob of Rye Development join us for a conversation on low-impact hydropower, and why the County's recently announced investment in a 17.8 MW hydro facility on the Ohio River is only the beginning.

LISTEN



The Pennsylvania Legacies podcast features conversations with community leaders, experts, thinkers, and citizens on the most important environmental and conservation issues facing Pennsylvania.

New episodes are posted every other Friday at pecpa.org/audio and are available on most podcast platforms.



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