

# In Case You Missed It

## June 2020



## Amid Crisis, PA Trails Prove Their Worth



### REPORT

When people started to flood the trails around Pennsylvania (and beyond) in early March, PEC staff had a conversation about what all of the people on trails might mean. As PEC works to support more and better trails throughout the Commonwealth, this moment seemed to hold the promise of a new awareness of the power of trails, as well as further highlight the ongoing concerns around limited access, delayed maintenance, and confusion around trail etiquette.

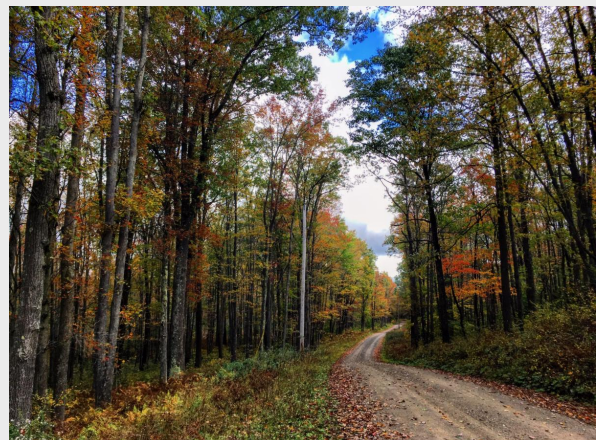
Across PA, in both rural and urban areas, people got outside in unprecedented numbers. To better document and understand this moment of increased trail usage, PEC commissioned a report capturing COVID-19's impact on multi-use trails statewide. The picture that emerged from that analysis supports the case for more trails, closer to home.

[Learn more](#) and read the [full report](#) on the PEC website.

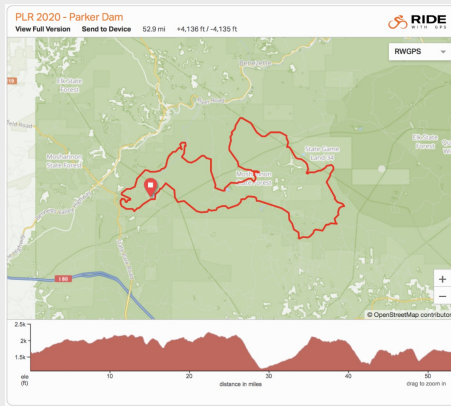
## 2020 Public Lands Ride: September 1-30

PEC's [Public Lands Ride](#) seeks to showcase state parks and forests across the greater central region of the state. Following a successful inaugural ride last year, the ride returns in "virtual" form for 2020.

Throughout the month of September, cyclists are encouraged to ride as many of the suggested routes as possible and share their experiences on social media. Find more details about this virtual event [here](#), and stay tuned for more route descriptions



to be published throughout the summer.



## Featured Route: Parker Dam State Park & Moshannon State Forest

This 53-mile route begins and ends at Parker Dam State Park, which offers camping, a lake and beach area, boat rentals, opportunities to hike and mountain bike, and historical landmarks within its 968 acres.

The route takes riders into the northwestern corner of Moshannon State Forest in northern Clearfield and Elk counties and offers myriad landscapes, from boulder-filled, rhododendron-lined gorges forged by rushing streams to upland bogs surrounded by evergreens that give the landscape a northern feel. Most of the roads are fairly smooth, packed gravel, with the exception of a few miles of grassy doubletrack and a mile or two of pavement.

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## Policy Update

A large portion of PEC's project work across the state is centered on expanding recreational features and opportunities, and our policy efforts mirror that focus.

This session, PEC has voiced [support](#) for several bills that would bolster our state's recreational assets. One PEC-supported measure -- [House Bill 1003](#), which requires improved safety markings for lowhead dams -- won final passage in the General Assembly on June 24, and currently awaits the governor's signature.



Keep tabs on legislation and policy proposals PEC is following via the [Bill Tracker](#).

## PEC Blog



### Clean Streets, Clean Water

Have you ever wondered how litter impacts the quality of our local waterways and neighborhoods? Do you know where rainwater goes after entering storm drains in our streets, or what happens to the trash and debris it carries? More importantly, do you know how *you* can help minimize litter while protecting our waterways and sources of drinking water?

READ

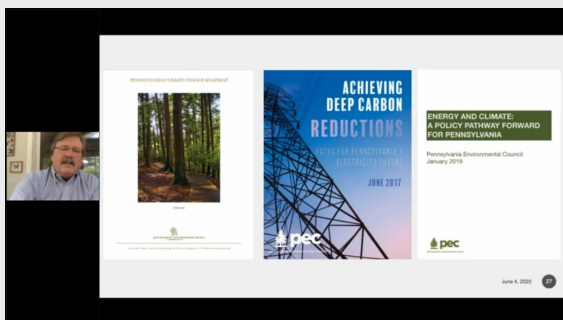




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## Tacony Creek Trail in the Spotlight

Philadelphia's Tacony Creek Trail has been named [Trail of the Month for June 2020](#) by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Through our partnership with the Philadelphia Water Department, PEC played an instrumental role in creating both the trail and its sponsoring organization, the [Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership](#).



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## **Carbon Capture & Pennsylvania's Energy Future**

In early June, PEC co-organized and participated in a conversation centered on one of our key [recommendations for decarbonizing power generation in Pennsylvania](#): encouraging technological innovation not only to reduce energy consumption and attendant emissions, but also to capture and store carbon dioxide before it enters the atmosphere.

We encourage anyone interested in the subject to check out the [webinar video](#) shared by [C2ES](#).



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## WSB Takes Flight

[New Jersey Audubon's World Series of Birding](#) (WSB) is the country's largest and most prestigious 24-hour birding competition—providing participants and financial contributors with a fun and interactive way to raise money for conservation projects.

PEC Development Director [Cindy Ferguson](#) dropped us a [note](#) from the 37th annual WSB, which took place in May with a re-imagined format to assure the health and safety of everyone involved.

## **Press Releases**

### ***Regional Environmental Efforts Selected for Awards***

Two environmental projects and a community leader from the Western Pennsylvania area will share \$15,000 from Dominion Energy and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) for outstanding contributions to the environment...

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## [Pocono Forests and Waters Conservation Landscape announces 2020 Mini-Grantees](#)

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On June 18, the PEC-administered Pocono Forests & Waters Conservation Landscape mini-grants program announced this year's 10 mini-grantees...

## [POWR announces 2020 Pennsylvania Sojourn Grant Awards](#)

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The Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 Pennsylvania River Sojourn Grants...

## Pennsylvania Legacies



"Every day is like a weekend day now," read one response to PEC's recent survey of Pennsylvania trail managers about outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dozens of respondents reported — and counter data confirmed — that statewide trail use had surged amid school cancellations, business closures, and stay-at-home orders during March and April. What can the data tell us about the role trails and greenways play in the lives of Pennsylvanians, especially during a crisis?

LISTEN



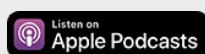
As the Department of Environmental Protection gathers public comment on a proposed rulemaking to cut emissions of climate-changing methane from Pennsylvania's natural gas industry, new data from the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) paints a stark picture of what's at stake: current emissions up to *fifteen times higher than official estimates*, and projected emissions of up to 14 million tons a year by 2030.

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](https://pecpa.org/audio) and are available on most podcast platforms.*



**SUBSCRIBE**

# PEC In the News

*New Castle News*

## Local leader Ken Rice receives environmental award



One of the creators of the Lower East Side Community Garden will receive the 2020 Western Pennsylvania Environmental Award.

“I am surprised to have been nominated,” Ken Rice said. “Let alone chosen.”

Rice has helped transform abandoned properties throughout New Castle into sustainable community gardens like on the city’s East and South sides...

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*Meadville Tribune*

## Allegheny College wins environmental award



Allegheny College is a winner of the 2020 Western Pennsylvania Environmental Award for a 13-year program to achieve carbon neutrality, becoming only the eighth college in the U.S. to realize this goal.

The Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards are presented annually by Dominion Energy and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) to local organizations that demonstrate leadership, effectiveness and results in making an impact on the environment...

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