



Policy Updates

Nearing the End of Legislative Session

The Pennsylvania General Assembly's legislative session ends on November 30th. While taking a brief pause for the election, the legislature is expected to return next week to complete the state's operating budget. Normally the budget is finalized in June of each year, but due to the uncertainty of funding and expenditures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the Assembly at that time decided to pass a temporary five month "stop gap" budget.



With questions about the availability of further federal stimulus measures and ongoing revenue shortfalls, any number of decisions could be made with respect to repurposing special funds like the Environmental Stewardship Fund (aka Growing Greener) and the Keystone Fund that are used for environmental cleanup, recreation, and conservation projects across the state. With the outdoors proving to be one of the few respites available for Pennsylvanians during this pandemic, and the use of our public lands and recreational amenities skyrocketing, demand on these resources has underscored their importance. PEC has been working to help [quantify](#) this increase.

It is critical that representatives hear from their constituents that these resources matter, so we urge you to lend your own voice toward protecting the Keystone Fund and Environmental Stewardship Funds. To do so, you can identify your legislators [here](#).

Upcoming Events

You're Invited!

November 12
[Western Pennsylvania
Environmental Awards](#)

EVENT INFO

November 17
[50th Environmental
Partnership Dinner](#)

REGISTER

November 19
[Northeast Environmental
Partnership Awards
Dinner](#)

REGISTER

Events are open to all, however registration is required for the [50th Environmental Partnership Dinner](#) and the [Northeast Environmental Partnership Awards Dinner](#).

[Statewide Silent Auction: November 12-20](#)



PEC's Silent Auctions are combined for a statewide event as PEC celebrates its 50th anniversary. The auction will be presented online through the Bidding For Good platform.

[View Auction Items](#)

[50 Years of Impact](#)



Since 1970, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council has advocated for Pennsylvania's environment. From organizing coalitions to pushing for policy change, PEC's work has helped shape our land, water, and cities for the better.



In celebration of our [fiftieth anniversary](#), this timeline highlights just a few of the ways PEC has made a difference over the years.

[READ](#)

[PEC Blog](#)

[Take a Walk Along the Tookany Creek Trail](#)

We're entering the home stretch of the Tookany Creek Trail feasibility study! Over the past year or so, our team—consisting of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), the [Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership](#) (TTF), and [Campbell](#)

[Thomas & Co.](#) (CTC)—has collected roughly 500 survey responses; dozens of key person interviews; and conducted 7 public, stakeholder, and focus group meetings. Learn more about the project [here](#).



Public Lands Rides: A Big Success!



This past September, under many days of sunny skies and mild temperatures, cyclists from throughout the Commonwealth took to gravel roads as part of this year's edition of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's [Public Lands Ride](#). What began as a contingency plan in a year of cancelled events turned into an opportunity to expand beyond the one day, one route model and give riders the tools to explore a variety of areas on their own schedule.

Read more [here](#).

September Brings Progress on PA Trail Projects

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pennsylvania has seen a sustained increase in trail traffic across the state — a trend that continued into the fall, underscoring the importance of maintaining safe and accessible trails. September was especially eventful, both for trail projects themselves and for the discussion on supporting and sustaining them in the future. Read more [here](#).



Pennsylvania Legacies



Making History

After decades of struggle, Pittsburgh's Hazelwood neighborhood is poised for a



Reasons to Ride

Celebrating ten years of the PEC Environment Ride in conversation with

comeback. The industrial riverfront redevelopment at Hazelwood Green has rekindled hopes for a brighter future — but the neighborhood’s resident historian says there’s also much to celebrate about, and learn from, its past.

members of the 2020 team.

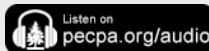
LISTEN

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.



SUBSCRIBE

Press Releases

- [2021 “River of the Year” Nominations Open](#)
- [ARC to Invest 1.5 Million in Pennsylvania Trails](#)
- [Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partners Announce Awards Dinner & Award Recipients](#)

PEC In the News

[NorthcentralPA.com](#)

[State Park Visitor Numbers Remain at Record-Breaking High Through Early Autumn](#)



According to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, [September visitor numbers](#) at State Parks broke all existing records with a 31% increase over last year – 4.7 million guests compared to last year’s 3.6 million...

In addition to the dramatic rise in State Park usage, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council has [reported](#) that trail use increased by 52%, with some trails experiencing a 100 or 200% increase in

[LancasterOnline](#)

[Safe Harbor bridge connecting rail-trails could become a national destination](#)



This time next year, Lancaster County residents should at last be able to walk out on the towering, curving 114-year-old Safe Harbor railroad trestle, look down through a glass panel at the mouth of the Conestoga River 110 feet below and take in a sweeping view of the Susquehanna so grand that it is believed people will come from near and far to see it...

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council, which helped coordinate the new greenway, predicted it would be “one of the

attendance.

most heavily trafficked in the commonwealth and will be a boon to local recreation and tourism, too.”

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