



In Case You Missed It
February 2022



Policy Update



New Prospects for Investing in PA's Environment & Outdoors

With the Governor's budget address and a significant unspent balance of federal funding, there has been a flurry of proposals to invest in conservation, restoration, and energy projects throughout Pennsylvania. Funding proposals include new investments in Growing Greener, abandoned mine land restoration, oil and gas well plugging, and electric vehicle infrastructure.

[Learn More](#)

PEC Blog

Partnership In Action

The **Stourbridge Project** and the **Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society** were awarded 2021 Northeast PA Environmental Partnership awards for their work to build relationships with and improve their region.

Read more [here](#).



‘Good People’ Make the Difference



Recognizing Diane Kripas, former Division Chief for Planning within the DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, and her many years of partnering with PEC. Diane retired in December 2021.

Read more [here](#).

Catching a Wave



Organizations are working to **remove barriers** to participating in water recreation and conservation in Pennsylvania. **First Waves** collaborates with partners and supporters, including the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers' (POWR) **Sojourn Mini-grant** program, to host sojourns for youth from underserved communities. Program participants learn to river surf and paddleboard, all while documenting their experience through video. Watch the First Waves Johnstown program in action in the video above.

Pennsylvania Legacies



A Fruitful Endeavor

Many organizations are working to improve Philadelphians' access to the outdoors and its associated benefits. Many others are focused on food equity, food sovereignty, and public health. One group — the Philadelphia Orchard Project — is doing all of the above.

We speak with Executive Director Kim Jordan about their efforts to transform vacant lots into neighborhood green spaces that produce healthy food for residents.

[Listen](#)



Do Unto Those Downstream

Many religious traditions acknowledge the importance of environmental stewardship in their teachings — shared values that make religious organizations natural partners in watershed work. Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake operates on this principle, working with faith communities in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Washington D.C. to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. We discuss with Jodi Rose, IPC's Executive Director.

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

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Save the Date!

Save the Date



Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Western Pennsylvania Dinner:
Celebrating the Outdoor Recreation Economy

Wednesday May 18, 2022
Westin Pittsburgh

Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award

The Hon. Cindy Adams Dunn
Secretary, PA Department of
Conservation and Natural Resources



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