



In Case You Missed It
June 2022



An Unlikely Team



A local water utility with an acid mine drainage problem. A liberal arts college with an ambitious carbon-reduction goal. A collection of nonprofits and government agencies working in reforestation. What do they have in common? They're all working together to restore native woodlands on a reclaimed mining site in Cambria County.

Watch

Tracking Infrastructure Funding Opportunities for PA

The \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 includes numerous federal funding opportunities of likely interest to nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, researchers, landowners, and other stakeholders in Pennsylvania.

With such a large and wide-ranging funding package, prospective grantees may have questions about what opportunities are available and how to access them. The **PEC Infrastructure Funding Tracker** is our attempt to meet that need.



[Learn More](#)

PEC Blog

Celebrating Native Species



Pennsylvania's first statewide [Native Species Day](#) was June 17th. Healthy ecosystems made up of native species provide us with valuable services and resources, like spaces for outdoor recreation and agriculture. Now is the perfect time to learn about how to support our native ecosystems and how to protect them from threats like invasive species and climate change.

Read more [here](#).

Getting Our Priorities Straight

After nearly 10 months of study and collaboration with partners, PEC's Gap Analysis of the Circuit Trails Network is finally here! The study – which we're calling the "Priority Trails Report" for short – focuses on meeting the needs of currently underserved communities.

The report is available on both [PEC's website](#) and the [Circuit Trails Resource Library](#).

Read more [here](#).



River Rally Adventures



PEC water team staff attended the annual River Rally Conference in Washington D.C. from June 4-7. The event brings together river and watershed advocates from around the nation and is hosted by **River Network**, a long-time collaborative partner of both PEC and POWR.

Read more [here](#).

The Value of Water

Recent PEC research puts the value of clean water within three watersheds of the Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape at 3.7 billion dollars. How can water be so valuable? Because of Ecosystems Services Benefits — the flow of benefits from ecosystems to people over given extents of space and time.

Read more [here](#).



Pennsylvania Legacies



Lay of the Landscape

An exit interview with program manager Marla Meyer Papernick as she departs from PEC and DCNR's Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape, where Marla has served as external lead since 2015.

We look back on what the effort has accomplished since then, and what the Landscape's new strategic plan says about its future.

Listen



Trawling for Nurdles

Almost everything made of plastic starts out as "nurdles": lentil-sized bits that can easily get loose and end up in rivers and streams.

On the heels of a train derailment that spilled carloads of plastic pellets and crude oil into the Allegheny River in May, western PA watershed groups are working with university researchers and citizen scientists to measure the presence of nurdles in the region's waterways.

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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