



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY
2020 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is with immense gratitude that I share this annual report, which highlights the work you made possible last year and reflects your commitment to keeping our region natural and sustainable.

The year 2020 certainly presented unforeseen challenges. In the early stages of the pandemic, we closed our offices, shifted to

working from home for those staff who could and shifted much of our programming to virtual. The transition came at a busy time of the year: the public tour season at Fallingwater had just opened and the tree and garden planting season, as well as the heritage, watershed and land stewardship fields seasons, were all about to begin.

As the weeks passed, staff faced novel situations and adapted. Your support helped us make those shifts, allowing the Conservancy to keep our work moving forward, facing the challenges with creativity and innovation. As difficult as the transitions were, we learned new ways to work and engage. Although the pandemic shutdowns tested our finances, technology and operations, our staff responded nimbly, and we have come out of this a stronger organization as a result.

A silver lining of 2020 was the public's increased appreciation for outdoor spaces and nature. At no other time in recent history have WPC-protected public lands, as well as our own nature preserves, been more important to our health and well-being. People turned to the outdoors to walk and explore, connect safely with others and find rejuvenation in nature. The pandemic seems to have deepened people's appreciation for conservation and for protected public lands close to where they live.

We at the Conservancy appreciated all the support, communications, encouragement and generous giving that helped to get our organization through such an unusual year and through the pandemic. As you read about some of the outcomes of last year and our current projects, please know that your membership, partnership and support during 2020 was more important to us than ever.

Thank you so much for supporting our work. Together we'll continue protecting and restoring the very best places in Western Pennsylvania.

Thomas D. Saunders
PRESIDENT AND CEO

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy



The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy protects and restores exceptional places to provide our region with clean waters and healthy forests, wildlife and natural areas for the benefit of present and future generations. To date, the Conservancy has permanently protected more than 255,000 acres of natural lands. The Conservancy also creates green spaces and gardens, contributing to the vitality of our cities and towns, and preserves Fallingwater, a symbol of people living in harmony with nature.

OFFICERS

Carolyn Rizza
Debra H. Dermody
Daniel S. Nydick
Bala Kumar

Chair
Vice Chair
Treasurer
Secretary

PRESIDENT AND CEO

Thomas D. Saunders

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David E. Barenfeld
Franklin Blackstone, Jr.*
Barbara Bott
E. Michael Boyle
Geoffrey P. Dunn
Beverlynn Elliott
Tataboline Enos
James C. Finley
Donna J. Fisher
Susan Fitzsimmons

Dan B. Frankel
Dennis Fredericks
Felix G. Fukui
Caryle R. Glosser
Stephen Guinn
Carolyn Hendricks
Candace Hillyard
Robert T. McDowell
Paul J. Mooney
Stephen G. Robinson

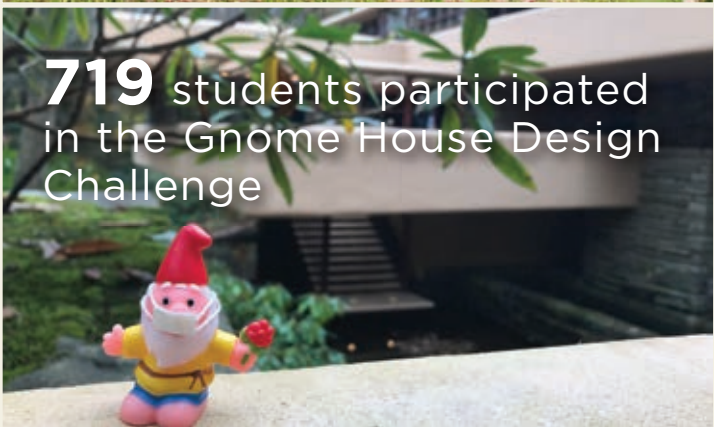
Samuel H. Smith
Alexander C. Speyer III
K. William Stout
Timothy R. Thyreen
Megan Turnbull
Joshua C. Whetzel III

*Emeritus Director

For information on WPC and membership | 412-288-2777 | 1-866-564-6972 | info@paconserve.org | WaterLandLife.org

ON THE COVER: Volunteers Pamela Macklin and her granddaughter, Bella, helped to plant the community garden at Ardmore Blvd. and Brinton Rd. in the Borough of Wilkinsburg, Pa.

2020 BY THE NUMBERS



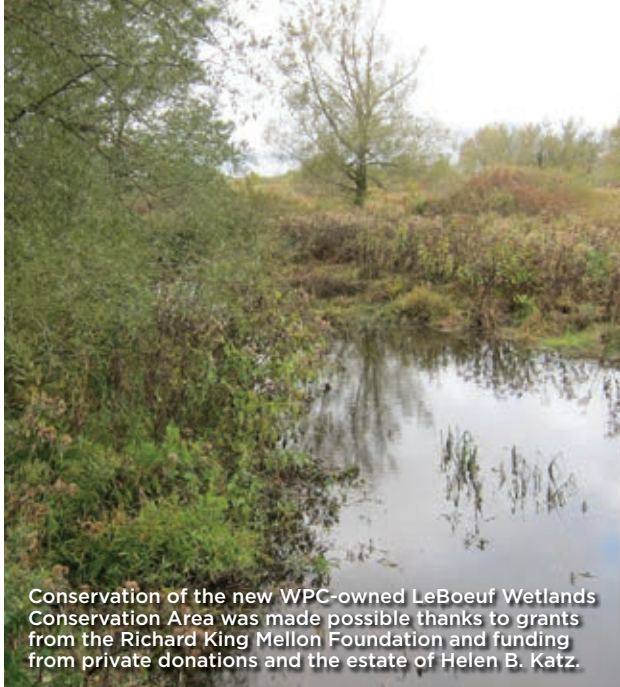


The permanent protection of 561 acres in Elk County for Moshannon State Forest brings the total to 8,382 acres that the Conservancy has acquired for protection in the Bennett Branch Valley corridor.

Record numbers of Western Pennsylvanians sought respite and refuge in nature last year for hiking, cycling, fishing and other activities. This demand on our forested trails and streamside paths further demonstrated the importance of conserving land for all to enjoy and for wildlife to thrive. Our land protection staff worked throughout 2020, protecting additional ecologically important properties totaling 2,188 acres. These projects permanently protect some of the most significant natural areas across the region that host rich wildlife habitat, streams, forestland, farmland and other open spaces.

NATURAL AREA ESTABLISHED IN ERIE COUNTY

Prehistoric continental glaciers sculpted the broad gentle valleys and rounded hills of northwestern Pennsylvania counties, where wetlands are abundant and the only natural lakes in Western Pennsylvania exist. It's within this area that the Conservancy permanently protected a 35-acre wetland and forested area within the French Creek watershed with streams that eventually feed into Lake LeBoeuf. Now named LeBoeuf Wetlands Conservation Area, this natural area is open to the public year-round for outdoor recreation, research and nature study. Lake LeBoeuf in Erie County is one of the



Conservation of the new WPC-owned LeBoeuf Wetlands Conservation Area was made possible thanks to grants from the Richard King Mellon Foundation and funding from private donations and the estate of Helen B. Katz.

largest of the natural glacial lakes in our region and feeds into French Creek.

Because of your support, the Conservancy has been able to protect a total of more than 5,600 acres within the mostly undeveloped French Creek watershed to date, starting with the Wattsburg Fen Natural Area in 1969. French Creek, a small river and major Allegheny River tributary, is nationally known for its abundance of freshwater mussels and fishes, including federally rare and threatened mussel species, making it one of the most ecologically biodiverse waterway in the Northeastern U.S.

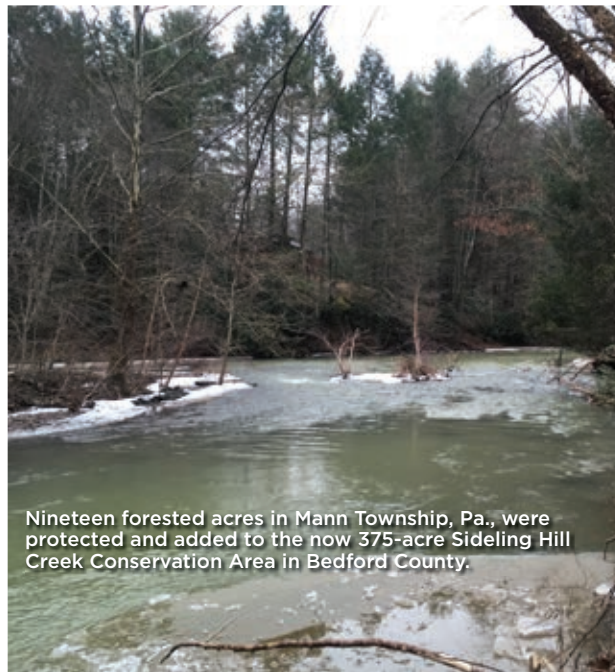
ADDING LAND FOR RECREATION AND WILDLIFE TO STATE FORESTS

We were fortunate to continue working with state and private partners in 2020 to help expand state forestland and safeguard pristine waters in two of our region's most important natural and wild areas. Located in the heart of Pennsylvania's elk range in the Pennsylvania Wilds, one property comprised 561 acres of forestland in Benezette Township, Elk County, which are now protected forestland within Moshannon State Forest. The land conveyed to the state hosts a mature floodplain forest, provides habitat for wildlife and protects the scenic views along State Route 555 between Medix Run and Benezette.

Made possible by a grant from the family of B. Kenneth Simon, 119 acres of black birch, hickory, blackgum and white pine trees in Bedford County are the newest addition to Buchanan State Forest. The land improves public access to the forest for hiking, mountain biking, hunting and other forms recreation, and enhances access for forest management activities. Much of the land protected by the Conservancy over the decades is now public land conveyed to local, state and federal entities as parks, games lands or forests. In a time when access to nature is more important than ever, these lands can be freely enjoyed by millions of Pennsylvanians and visitors.

MORE LAND FOR NEW LOCAL FARMERS

The Conservancy celebrated Earth Day 2020 with the purchase of 27 acres of farmland in South Huntingdon Township, Westmoreland County. The farm near New Stanton is now leased to local operators in need of farmland as part of our Farmland Access Initiative. The farmland safeguards the beautiful and historic farm property that had existed as a family farm by the former owners since 1827. As part of this initiative, the farm helps address the challenges of new farmers needing affordable farmland, and supports local food production for the Pittsburgh region. Conservancy President and CEO Tom Saunders notes, "This will ensure that the natural features of the farm are



Nineteen forested acres in Mann Township, Pa., were protected and added to the now 375-acre Sideling Hill Creek Conservation Area in Bedford County.



Colonies of water avens (*Geum rivale*) prefer wet, swampy, forested habitats such as WPC's LeBoeuf Wetlands Conservation Area.

protected while helping local farmers who want to provide organic local foods to people living in the region."

CONTINUED PROTECTION OF THE LOYALHANNA CREEK WATERSHED

Our longstanding land and water conservation efforts continued in the Laurel Highlands with the conservation of 50 acres in Ligonier Township, Westmoreland County. This forested property protects riparian frontage along Coalpit Run, a tributary to the ecologically significant Loyalhanna Creek and a Department of Environmental Protection-designated High Quality Cold Water stream. This protection is a continuation of our ongoing efforts with other partners to enhance the scenic character of the Route 30 greenway corridor, while restoring and protecting important lands near Loyalhanna Creek and its associated tributaries. The land has been conveyed to the Loyalhanna Creek Watershed Association subject to a Conservancy-owned conservation easement.



Land Stewardship Coordinator Amelia Marren prunes hemlock trees in the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid insectary at Bear Run Nature Reserve in Fayette County.

The Conservancy's land stewardship staff is grateful to have the support of dedicated volunteers and members, such as Cynthia Kramer, who help care for the 41 Conservancy-owned preserves, totaling 13,649 acres that are available for hiking, exploration, walking, hunting and fishing. In 2020 we also worked closely with landowners to monitor WPC conservation easements on 216 properties. These easements are agreements between private landowners and the Conservancy to limit future development.

We continued to care for and make improvements to our preserves in 2020, which included adding a new parking area at West Branch French Creek Conservation Area, and maintaining trails at Lower Elk Creek Nature Reserve and the Joshua C. Whetzel, Jr. Memorial Recreation Area.

Thanks to your support, improvements at Toms Run Nature Reserve in Allegheny County are completed. Staff and volunteers have worked over recent years to remove trash and derelict buildings, plug abandoned gas wells, create trails and expand the parking area to make the reserve a more welcoming place to explore nature.

Our staff also undertook both tree planting and maintenance at Plain Grove Fens Natural Area in Lawrence County and the Helen B. Katz Natural Area in Crawford County. To help stop the spread of invasive plants, staff and volunteers conducted invasive control projects at Wolf Creek Narrows Natural Area in Butler County and Lutzville Cliffs Natural Area in Bedford County.

INVASIVE REMOVALS ALONG WOLF CREEK

Cynthia Kramer became a Conservancy member in 2010 and soon began volunteering as a land steward at Bear Run Nature Reserve in Fayette County and Lake Pleasant Conservation Area in Erie County. She has helped care for our preserves by removing invasive plants, planting and maintaining trees, removing dumps, marking boundaries and more. At Wolf Creek Narrows, she has been a constant help with efforts to control garlic mustard, an invasive that can outcompete and kill native plants such as the reserve's large population of trillium.

Cynthia says volunteering helped her escape the day-to-day stresses of the pandemic, and it felt good to support nature in those difficult

days. "I was happy to have something else to focus on other than the news, work and coping with 2020. I like being outdoors and was able to see that I made a difference at this ecologically special and beautiful natural area." In addition to controlling invasive species at Wolf Creek, volunteers also helped map an extension of the existing trail, conducted cleanups and did some wetland restoration work.

WORK ON HWA INSECTARIES ADVANCES

Hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) is a small invasive insect that feeds by sucking sap of the most common evergreen tree in Pennsylvania, the eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), eventually killing it.

The Conservancy has created hemlock insectaries at Bear Run Nature Reserve and Wolf Creek Narrows Natural Area, where small groves of hemlock trees are being grown to support populations of a non-native predatory beetle, *Laricobius nigrinus*. This tooth-necked fungus beetle is native to the western U.S., and is considered to be an aggressive predator of HWA. There is no native predator of HWA in the eastern U.S., and, given the importance of eastern hemlock to many species in Pennsylvania, conservationists have decided it is worth introducing non-native predators that have been carefully vetted as to potential adverse impacts.

We continue to care for the trees by pruning, fertilizing, trimming and weeding, so as they establish, they will become strong enough to withstand an HWA infestation. At Bear Run in spring 2020, some adelgid-infested branches, found elsewhere on the reserve, were introduced into one of the insectaries to infest the trees—a process that could take up to two years. Eventually, predatory beetles will be released to feed upon the adelgid. At Wolf Creek Narrows Natural Area, HWA has not been confirmed, but we are trying to prepare for an eventual infestation. Our staff is also considering establishing an insectary at WPC's Bennett Branch Forest in Elk and Clearfield counties, because adelgid has recently been confirmed there.



This perennial flowering plant, blazing star (*Liatris spicata*), is part of a natural heritage area in Butler County.

In 2020, Conservancy and Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) staff scientists continued work to monitor species and natural habitats. Their efforts document and assess species across the state, particularly rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals, and natural communities. While restricted travel and social distancing hampered some work, they were still able to conduct field surveys and update more than 800 species records. This work helps to guide conservation decisions across the state and within the Conservancy.

In addition to the Conservancy, PNHP partner agencies include the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

RARE SPECIES IN OUR REGION INVENTORIED

Completing natural heritage inventories (NHI) for 10 counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania was no small feat in 2020, says WPC and Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Planning Coordinator Chris Tracey.

Created from field assessments, geographic information system (GIS) tracking and monitoring activities, NHIs are records of the amount and quality of rare, threatened or endangered plant and animal species in a particular county. Local, state and federal agencies use these inventories to guide conservation, development and transportation decisions in an effort to safeguard or improve species habitats. And where there is a cluster or population of rare, threatened or endangered species, a natural heritage area (NHA) is designated.

This project, conducted in partnership with the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission, was a comprehensive update to the NHIs for Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland counties. “We conducted two years of fieldwork to search for and update rare species records across the region,” Chris adds. Results yielded 643 NHAs across the region, 111 of which are habitats of global significance species, 67 are of regional significance, 457 are of state significance and eight are locally significant.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONNECTIVITY STUDY CONCLUDES

Charles Bier, the Conservancy’s senior director of conservation science, says climate change will likely alter the distribution and abundance of plant

and animal species in Pennsylvania. Some species will respond differently than others based on their biological needs, range and how dependent they are on factors affected by climate change, such as quality habitat. A 2020 study, conducted in partnership with DCNR, analyzed the most important habitats across the state, as well as the most functional connections between those habitats, in order to identify the ecological characteristics that maintain healthy species populations.

The data created baseline information to determine how species may be able to escape climate conditions that become unsuitable over time. Charles adds, “Species need to move around in landscapes to disperse to new habitats and to keep populations from becoming fragmented or unable to adjust as the climate changes. If not, they become vulnerable to extinction. So, having more intact, well-connected wildlife habitat is critical.”



Watch a recorded webinar featuring Charles Bier discussing climate change.

MONITORING THE MOVEMENTS OF EVENING GROSBEAKS CONTINUES

In the past 50 years, we have lost three billion birds across North America, with the steepest decline in the evening grosbeak population. An irruptive migration of boreal finches, including grosbeaks, occurred in 2020 in numbers unseen in decades. The movement was a result of sudden, but regular mass movements in response to habitat changes and diminished food sources in their environment.

As part of a multiyear effort, the Conservancy, Carnegie Museum of Natural History’s Powdermill Avian Research Center and the Finch Research Network are partnering and using new nanotag technology to track winter movements of evening grosbeaks to inform conservation strategies and decisions to help protect this vulnerable species.



Watch a recorded webinar about this work.



Despite the interior of the house being closed, Fallingwater continued to provide inspiration in all seasons to visitors on site and online.

The 2020 Fallingwater tour season had been underway for only one week when COVID-19 caused its closure to the public on March 15. The grounds were quiet except for the sounds of chirping birds, soft rains and the rushing waterfall. The extended closure of the house afforded staff the opportunity to assess how people around the world could still engage with this UNESCO World Heritage designated site, even when they couldn't stroll through the living room, gaze down the hatch to the stream or stand in awe on its cantilevered terraces.

EXTERIOR TOURS OFFER NEW PERSPECTIVE

Only 1,936 visitors were able to tour the house during the one week it was open in March 2020. We were thrilled to open the site on June 13 for exterior tours, allowing visitors to experience Fallingwater's exterior and its surrounding landscape in a new way. During self-guided exterior tours and Winter Walks, 30,937 visitors strolled the grounds at their own pace with a printed guide in hand, experiencing the house's intimate relationship with nature and even walking on the terraces to peek through the windows of the quiet house.

Guided exterior tours allowed 9,922 visitors in small private groups to have personal interaction and conversation with our expert educators.

Fallingwater served as a respite in a world that at times felt chaotic. "We brought our college-aged children to the Laurel Highlands to have some outdoor time with COVID quarantine," says visitor Amy Manson. "Our daughters reluctantly agreed and were so wonderfully surprised, inspired and calmed by the property. They said they were so glad that I 'made them go.' The 20-year-old said it was a spiritual experience!"

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING IS ENHANCED

We expanded our educational programming with virtual offerings for online audiences, including free monthly webinars featuring speakers and experts on topics ranging from the post-tensioning effort to the conservation of outdoor sculptures and more. Our new weekly interactive livestream tours from inside the house, called "A Closer Look," offer exclusive, behind-the-scenes views and discussions about unique aspects of house's interior and life at Fallingwater, such as the

hatch, the fine and decorative art collection and the experiences of the Kaufmanns' guests.

We created simple, thought-provoking at-home activities for families and children, transitioned our summer residencies to an online format and published recipes and essays that hearkened Fallingwater's history and local food culture. In the spring of 2020, when teachers and parents were searching for learning-at-home opportunities, educational programs like the Gnome House Design Challenge attracted much higher interest than previous years. The project challenges students ages 8 through 13 to design houses for gnomes and experience the architectural design process just like real architects, using creativity, math, science, technology and language arts skills to design tiny houses for their clients.

Through generous funding by our Lodging Partners, 20 teachers received Gnome House materials for free, contributing to the 651 classroom students who participated. Individual participation more than doubled to 68 homeschoolers. Through Zoom, students could virtually attend the annual Gnome House Design Symposium to share their finished projects and take a gnome's-eye-view tour of Fallingwater.



Limited preservation work continued, including repairs to the covered bridge roof, where we replaced the water membrane and drainage system for the rooftop terrace of the covered bridge.

Forest to Table dinners launched in 2020 to support the Fallingwater Institute, which provides equitable access to high quality, studio-based education programs for students and adults. These intimate culinary experiences marry seasonal flavors with the beauty of Fallingwater through a private house tour, four-course meal and wine pairings. The chef-prepared food reflects the local traditions and seasonal flavors of Appalachian Pennsylvania by highlighting ingredients sourced from nearby farms and foraged at Fallingwater.

KAUFMANN COLLECTION DEBUTS

Museum Store shoppers and collectors were introduced to a new line of items for purchase onsite and online. The Kaufmann Collection, which includes woven blankets, handcrafted ice buckets, Aalto-inspired glass vases and more, evokes the elegance and sophistication of the art assembled by the Kaufmann family for Fallingwater. Each piece embodies the highest level of quality and craftsmanship and serves as a distinctive reminder of one of the world's most dynamic houses.

OUTREACH HELPS FAMILIES, FOSTERS DIVERSITY

Families in the region who were struggling with food insecurity received Farmers to Family food boxes at our monthly drive-through food distribution, thanks to a partnership with 412 Food Rescue. Fallingwater staff distributed free boxes of farm-fresh produce and dairy in the Visitor Center parking lot. Partners in this ongoing project included Laurel Mountain Ministerial Association, Mountain Fellowship Center, the EAT Initiative, World Foods USA, Paragon Foods and Sysco Corporation.

In response to on-going nationwide racial injustice, in 2020 Fallingwater joined a regional Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice working group that includes staff from many regional museums and cultural institutions. Fallingwater was matched with a DEIJ accountability partner, The August Wilson African American Cultural Center. Staff support each other in better welcoming, supporting and serving diverse staff and visitor populations.

"This unique collaboration will help us examine our practices and join forces to rethink efforts to help dismantle discrimination, to help make museum sites more welcoming for all," says Fallingwater Director and Conservancy Vice President Justin Gunther.



Nearly 60 parents and 70 students participated in a new tour experience, Family Field Trips, offered for free for local families through our Lodging Partners program. Families learn about the science, technology, art and history of Fallingwater through a series of engaging activities.

We were grateful for the continued generous support of donors, when, as a result of the three-month closure and the limited capacity for visitors all year, revenue from public tours and café and museum sales dropped by nearly \$6 million. We were forced to make the difficult decision to reduce staff hours and put a hold on some important preservation projects. To raise much-needed operating dollars, we launched the Fallingwater Needs You campaign. It continues in 2021, as visitation and related revenue are expected to be 50 percent of normal.



Raised wooden planters, built by Conservancy staff and installed along Pittsburgh's downtown streets, created welcoming, beautiful buffers to traffic near outdoor dining areas.

The community gardens, hanging baskets, floral street planters and trees planted by the Conservancy in 2020 provided beauty, shade, habitat for wildlife and a sense of continuity during a year that was anything but usual. We were even able to safely welcome the help of garden volunteers, providing even more normalcy. And although our community forestry staff could not welcome volunteers last year due to social distancing protocols, our partners helped get 801 trees and thousands of restoration plants and perennials planted and growing.

GARDENS VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE BEAUTY DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES

With the help of 3,635 volunteers following COVID-19 safety protocols, our community gardens and greenspace staff planted 109 community gardens in 2020. Some volunteer garden stewards even volunteered to till and lay plastic sheeting in gardens when a reduced budget prohibited us from using contractors.

Tom Chandley, volunteer steward of the East Avenue and East Sixth Street garden in Erie for eight years, says neither the pandemic nor a

planting-day downpour dissuaded him or other volunteers. He says he continues to be motivated to volunteer by seeing pictures of a former dirt patch and witnessing flowers blooming there, and by the appreciation of others. "People driving by beep and give you a thumbs up. You take pride in the work," he says.

RAIN GARDEN BECOMES EXCITING LEARNING SPACE

Students can learn about pollinators, green infrastructure, stormwater and more, now that a community flower garden in Pittsburgh's Larimer neighborhood has been transformed into a rain garden.

The project was a partnership with the Conservancy, Pittsburgh Community Services and Pittsburgh Public Schools' Lincoln Elementary School, whose principal, Pamela Parks, says, "Students learned about the water cycle and the life cycle of plants, and how to care for them."

Although COVID-19 prevented students from planting, they informed the choice of plants for their new garden. Conservancy staff planted

nine trees, including redbud, serviceberry and American hophornbeam, and 262 native plants, including black-eyed Susan, iris, coneflower and more. Community members have access to and can volunteer in this revitalized greenspace.

GREENING PROJECTS STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS

Our ongoing partnership with the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership allowed us to help keep downtown Pittsburgh beautiful for people who live, work, shop and travel to the Golden Triangle. Our hanging baskets brought color to our iconic bridges and city neighborhoods, and floral street planters enhanced areas in the cultural district and near the Heinz History Center.



Staff from Landforce helped plant 29 redbuds and 125 shrubs at Point State Park. Landforce restores and maintains land and green assets while providing people from underserved communities or who have employment hindrances with opportunities to learn skills in the environmental field.

Jeremy Waldrup, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, says the planters, hanging baskets and other installations “create colorful experiences and spaces where the community feels welcomed. The positive impact of greenery to the urban environment cannot be overstated, and greatly improves the quality of life downtown.” He notes that the Conservancy “is a valued partner in our ongoing efforts to advance downtown Pittsburgh’s economic outlook through more beautiful streetscapes that create better living and working environments.”

ECOLOGICAL INVENTORIES ASSESS NEEDS IN COUNTY PARKS

In spring 2020, our community forestry and natural heritage program staff began conducting ecological inventories at Allegheny County’s Round Hill and White Oak parks. The work, set to finish in fall 2021, will produce an overview of areas visited, unique botanical features and a summary of major assets and challenges. For example, at Round Hill, a high-quality mature sugar maple forest was planted in the 1930s and has flourished continuously since. Restoration is needed in many areas of the park where young forests were overrun with invasive species.

PARTNERSHIPS ALLOW TREEVITALIZE PLANTINGS TO CONTINUE

We were fortunate to have partnerships that allowed us to continue our TreeVitalize tree planting work, despite being unable to utilize volunteers. With the help of the City of Pittsburgh Department of Forestry and contractors, our community forestry staff planted 473 trees in Clairton, Oakmont, Verona, Aspinwall, Whitehall, Carnegie and Coraopolis and the City of Pittsburgh neighborhoods of Allegheny West, Downtown, Garfield, Hazelwood, Homewood, Lawrenceville, Middle Hill, North Point Breeze, North Side, Polish Hill and Shadyside.

PITTSBURGH REDBUD PROJECT PLANTINGS PUT MORE PINK IN PITTSBURGH

Our community forestry staff planted more beautiful native redbud and restoration trees throughout the city, helping to make downtown Pittsburgh a springtime destination for visitors and the region’s residents to celebrate the beautiful pink and purple blooms. We planted 295 trees, 1,076 restoration plants and 1,594 perennials in the viewshed of Pittsburgh’s three rivers at Emerald View Park, Grant Street, North Shore, Point State Park, River Avenue and Station Square.

To improve the riverfront along the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, we removed non-native, invasive plants and planted 182 landscape and 600 restoration trees. The native trees and vegetation help decrease air pollution, improve wildlife habitat and reduce the amount of stormwater runoff and pollutants entering the rivers.



Thanks to funding provided by EQT and Waynesburg University, our Waynesburg Community Garden at 93 East High Street & Hooper Park was completely redesigned in 2020. Volunteers from EQT helped plant two serviceberry trees, 96 perennials and 150 bulbs.

NEW TOOLS MAKE FOR ECO-FRIENDLY WORK

Ecologically friendly tools, including two electric lawn mowers, a battery-powered weedwhacker, a hedge trimmer and a leaf blower, now help us do our work in a way that is safer for the environment. An anonymous donor donated rechargeable batteries. Local Roots Landscaping facilitated a gift of a Husqvarna self-propelled, electricity powered, emissions-free mower that uses guide wires and GPS-assisted mapping to carefully mow between plantings. In use at our 18,000-square-foot Fort Pitt Tunnel garden, it has a charging dock onsite throughout the growing season, thanks to PennDOT, which donates the electric power and installed the outlet. The landscaping company’s generous gift also included the installation of the mower, site prep and GPS fencing.



Watershed Conservation staff planted 16.9 acres of riparian trees in 2020, including along the Driftwood Branch Sinnemahoning Creek in Elk County.

From conducting freshwater mussel surveys in the Upper Allegheny River to planting trees with landowners and partners along streams, our watershed conservation staff worked diligently to protect or improve 33 stream miles throughout the region in 2020. Through a combination of plantings and other riparian enhancements, we also stabilized 57,073 feet of streambank to improve habitat along rivers and streams across the region.

Collaborating with partners and landowners wasn't completely halted by the pandemic, says Jenifer Christman, the Conservancy's vice

president of watershed conservation. "I'm grateful to my team, our members, partners and volunteers who continued to work together to improve our region's water quality despite all of last year's challenges."

CULVERT REPLACEMENTS IN ANF ALLOW PASSAGE

In partnership with local watershed groups and other partners, we completed three projects to remove in-stream barriers in Allegheny National Forest in 2020 to improve and connect aquatic habitat. Two culverts under dirt and gravel roads that traverse the wild trout streams of Hunter Creek and Bank Run were replaced with new,

larger structures. Simulated streambeds, designed to be as similar as possible to a natural channel were constructed at streambed level. At another tributary stream, large boulders were added to elevate the streambed to help control the grade and better retain streambed materials in the pipe. These three projects combined restored passage to nearly 2.5 miles of headwater habitat in the Spring Creek watershed of the Clarion River.

CLARION RIVER HABITAT IMPROVED

Along the Clarion in nearby Elk County, Conservancy staff, Jim Zwald Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Elk County Conservation District, LandVest and Seneca Resources partnered to implement 24 projects to stabilize eroding streambanks and improve in-stream habitat along 1,600 feet of the West Branch of the Clarion River. Live stakes of willow, dogwood and elderberry trees and blackberry shrubs were planted at a restoration project completed last year. Once these stakes establish, the roots will naturally strengthen and stabilize streambank soils. Approximately 4,500 tree stakes were densely transplanted across the riparian streambank.

WILD TROUT IN THE INDIAN CREEK WATERSHED DISCOVERED

Partnering with Mountain Watershed Association in the Laurel Highlands, staff conducted electrofishing to identify and count fish and aquatic diversity in sections of Indian Creek and some of its tributaries, including Camp Run, Champion Creek and Poplar Run. A healthy array of brook and brown trout were found in Camp Run, and in Champion Creek near Melcroft, Pa., in a section currently designated as an impaired stream, varying size classes of wild brown trout were found and documented. As a result of this work, this 1.5-mile stretch could be re-designated by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) as a naturally reproducing trout stream.

SPRUELL AMD REMEDIATION PROJECTS ADVANCE

Thanks to DCED and DEP's Growing Greener Plus Program, funding was secured to proceed with construction of two new systems to treat abandoned mine drainage (AMD) on Glade Run in Fayette County, a high-quality stream. Metals such



Oxidation of iron sulfide from an abandoned mine has caused Glade Run in Fayette County, a Youghiogheny River tributary, to turn orange. A project is underway to remediate this stream.



Several freshwater mussels were discovered in the Kiski River in 2020, including the common species of fat mucket and pink heelsplitter.

as iron, aluminum and manganese are commonly associated with AMD discharges, and the degraded waters from this abandoned mining site significantly impair aquatic life.

Watershed Scientist Greg Schaeztle, who is leading this project for the Conservancy, says this type of pollution is a leading cause of water quality issues in our region's waterways due to the high volume of mines across our landscape. This project has been a coordinated effort through multiple partnering agencies, including the Fayette County Conservation District, Chestnut Ridge Trout Unlimited and the Mountain Watershed Association. Work on additional discharges is scheduled to begin by the end of 2021.

74 SITES SURVEYED FOR MUSSELS

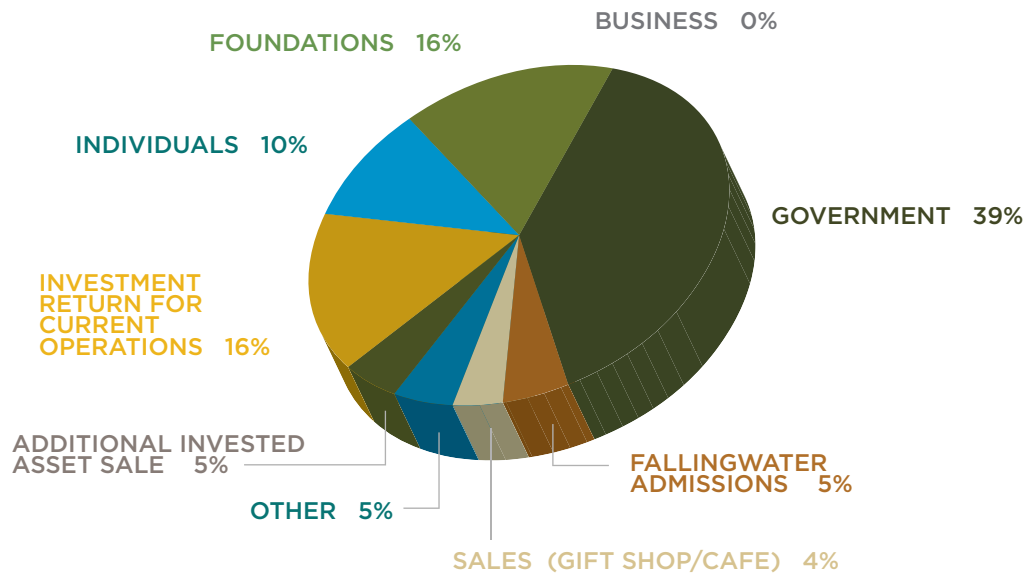
With waders and wetsuits in tow, our aquatic scientists surveyed multiple sites on four streams and rivers, including Four Mile Run and Loyalhanna Creek in Westmoreland County, Crooked Creek in Indiana County and Allegheny River in Warren County in search of mussels. Once our staff established the survey plots, mussels were retrieved, counted, identified and measured for shell length prior to placement back into their natural habitat.

Staff also conducted mussel surveys in the Kiski River in Armstrong County. In this river once thought to be absent of aquatic life, divers discovered eight species of freshwater mussels, including the common species of fat mucket, pink heelsplitter and black sandshell. It has been more than a century since these particular species were known to inhabit these waters. "Mussels are nature's filter feeders and indicators of good water quality," says Eric Chapman, director of aquatic science for the Conservancy. "It's always a good sign when you can find these important filters in our ecosystems."



See highlights of this work and underwater video, courtesy of Trib Total Media.

OPERATING REVENUES



Contributions, Grants and Memberships:

	Millions
Individual	\$ 1.9
Foundation	3.0
Business	0.1
Government	7.4
TOTAL	\$12.4

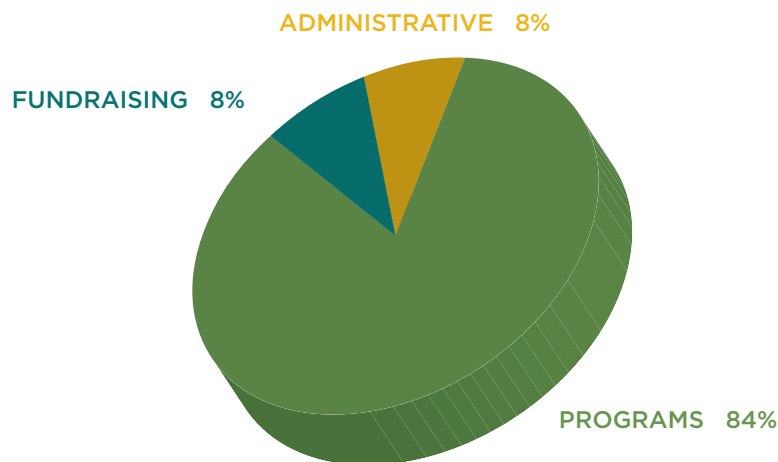
Earned Income:

	Millions
Fallingwater Admissions	\$ 1.0
Sales (Gift Shop/Café)	0.7
Other	1.0
TOTAL	\$2.7

Internal Income:

	Millions
Investment return designated for current operations	\$ 3.0
Additional invested asset sale	1.0
TOTAL	\$19.1

OPERATING EXPENSES



Programs:

	Millions
Conservation	\$ 10.3
Fallingwater	5.3
Community Gardens and Greenspace	2.9
Constituent Programs and Outreach	0.5
TOTAL	\$19.0

Program Support:

	Millions
Fundraising	1.8
Administrative and General Expenses	1.8
TOTAL	\$22.6

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy was supported by 9,976 private donors (individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations) that together made cash, stock and in-kind gifts totaling \$10,421,261 in 2020.

Their extraordinary support throughout a challenging year played a significant role in advancing WPC's mission of protecting water, land and wildlife in Western Pennsylvania.

We are also delighted to recognize both the generous future commitments of our Heritage Circle members as well as remember the legacies of those

who have passed on. Together, they provide transformational support for the Conservancy to care for our beautiful region now and in the future.

Donors making gifts totaling \$250 or more and Evergreen Circle members giving \$100 or more are listed in the following pages. We regret that space constraints prohibit acknowledging all supporters by name. We have made every effort to ensure that our donor lists are accurate and reflect gifts last year; however, should you find an error or omission, please contact Nicole Walsh, donor stewardship manager, toll-free at **1-866-564-6972** (ext. 2322) or via email at **nwalsh@paconserve.org**.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy relies on the support of nearly 10,000 member households and its volunteers to fulfill its mission to conserve water, land and life. Your continued involvement will ensure that our work continues. For more details, contact Kathy Patrignani, donor services associate, toll-free at **1-866-564-6972** (ext. 2340) or via email at **kpatrignani@paconserve.org**. Additional information can be found on our website at **WaterLandLife.org**.

HERITAGE CIRCLE GIFT PLANNING SOCIETY

The Heritage Circle recognizes donors who have made the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy a part of their legacy through their estate plans. By designating the Conservancy as a beneficiary of will, trust, IRA, retirement plan, life insurance policy or charitable gift annuity, individuals provide long-term, significant support for the Conservancy. Contact Julie Holmes, director of development, toll-free at **1-866-564-6972** (ext. 2312) or **jholmes@paconserve.org** for more details.

ANNUAL FUND

Gifts to the annual fund are essential in sustaining our daily operations. These vital contributions enable the Conservancy to carry out its mission throughout the year. You can also provide dependable income for WPC and Fallingwater by making your annual gift through convenient monthly deductions via credit card or debit from a designated financial account.

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE AND KAUFMANN SOCIETY

The Conservancy's Leadership Circle members, including Kaufmann Society donors whose gifts are directed for Fallingwater, have made the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's work a philanthropic priority. Members who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more are recognized through the Leadership Circle program. The Conservancy recognizes this significant commitment

by providing enhanced access to our programs, special outings and additional insights into our plans throughout the year. Become a monthly donor and make your \$1,000+ annual gift in convenient monthly deductions - a simple way to make a big difference!

EVERGREEN CIRCLE

Members of the Evergreen Circle have loyally supported the Conservancy for at least 15 out of the last 20 years. Some have been members for much longer - with memberships dating back to the 1950s! Their loyal and continuous support has been a crucial part of our successful work. We are deeply grateful for those who constantly support our efforts each and every year.

EMPLOYEE MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

Many companies and organizations will match employee contributions, greatly increasing the impact of your gift to WPC. Please contact your human resources office for further information.

SPECIAL GIFTS

The Conservancy deeply appreciates gifts of appreciated stock, real estate property, in-kind gifts and multi-year commitments in support of our programs. Please contact the Conservancy's development office at **412-586-2336** or **development@paconserve.org** for more information.

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy



800 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

412-288-2777
info@paconserve.org

WaterLandLife.org



Create a **LASTING LEGACY AT WPC**

You can create a long-lasting impact in Western Pennsylvania by including the Conservancy in your estate plans. Your legacy will contribute to our financial strength and ability to conserve Western Pennsylvania's most spectacular land, water and wildlife and to preserve Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece, Fallingwater. Bequests in a will or trust are one of the most common ways of making a legacy gift, and they are simple to establish!

If you would like more information or if you have already included WPC or Fallingwater in your estate plans, please contact Julie Holmes, director of development, toll-free at **1-866-564-6972** (ext. 2312) or jholmes@paconserve.org.