



Western Pennsylvania
Conservancy



water, land, life.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY
2021 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm pleased to share the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's 2021 annual report with you, our many members, volunteers and partners. This report highlights some of the outstanding outcomes and progress that were achieved because of your generous support. Thank you for helping to make our work possible!

The Conservancy undertook significant projects during 2021 that resulted in improved health of local rivers and streams, protection of our rare species and habitats, thriving community gardens and greenspaces, and advancements in land protection, land stewardship and tree plantings in many locations.

Fallingwater had a strong year, with operational changes because of the pandemic, and an emphasis on innovations in ways to offer Fallingwater experiences. We reopened the house for interior tours in May 2021 and offered Winter Walk experiences where visitors discovered the site's landscape at their own pace.

We also undertook a special campaign called 41 Places to celebrate the Conservancy's many preserves around our region. Since WPC's properties are receiving more visitor use than ever, the campaign raised funds to increase ecological management on the preserves and upgrade facilities such as small parking lots and trails.

In 2021, we also undertook a rigorous review of our work to develop a three-year strategic plan, with measurable goals and action plans to help guide and advance our conservation and preservation efforts in the region from 2022 through 2024. The culmination of months of planning resulted in fresh approaches to preserving ecosystems and to partnering with communities in all our work.

Thank you for your tremendous generosity and support for everything we do. Because of your commitment, we are making significant strides in advancing conservation efforts in our region and preserving Fallingwater for the world to experience.

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 264,000 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.

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

ON THE COVER: We purchased 33 acres of islands and floodplain forest along French Creek in Venango County to create our newest nature preserve, now known as the Franklin Line Canal Natural Area.

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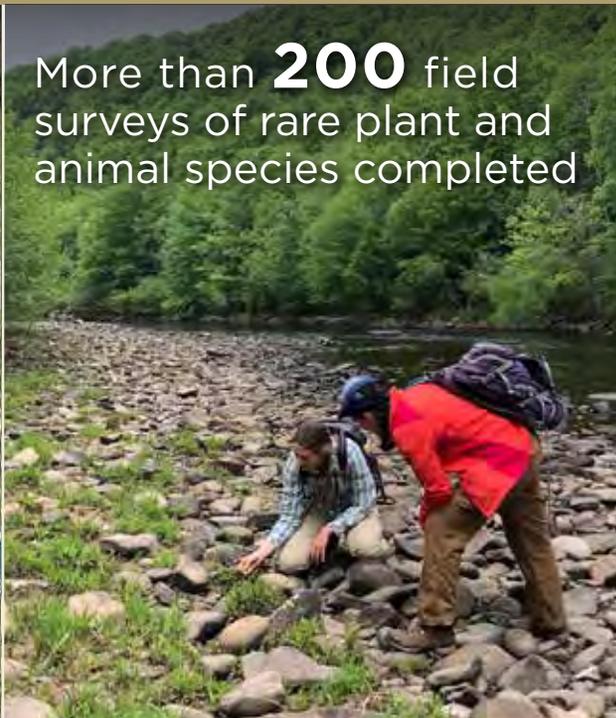
IN MEMORIAM: Four of our dedicated board members recently passed away: Jean Robinson, Steve Guinn, Ph.D., James C. Finley, Ph.D. and Timothy R. Thyreen. Each were beloved community members who made significant contributions to our work. Their leadership, guidance and philanthropy will never be forgotten.

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

THANK YOU
for making a difference!



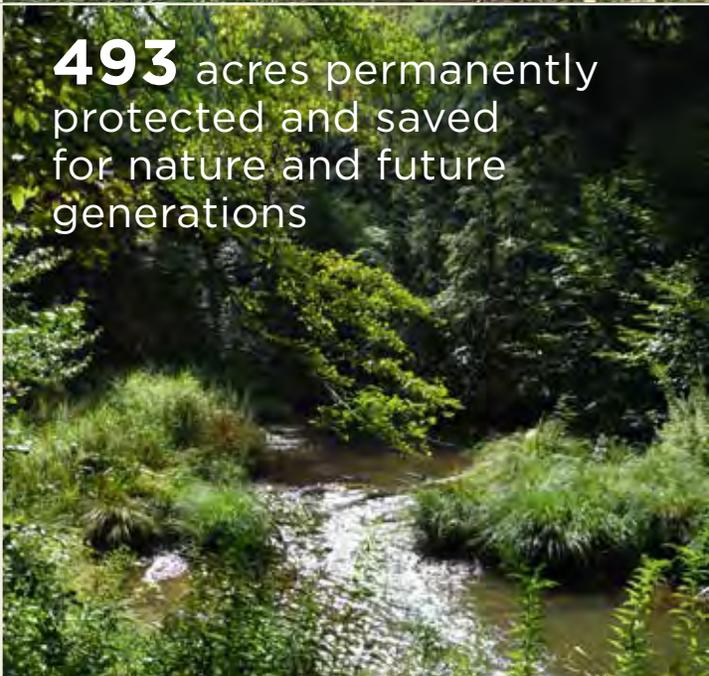
More than **6,000**
new riparian trees planted



More than **200** field
surveys of rare plant and
animal species completed



7,545 people volunteered
their time to help nature



493 acres permanently
protected and saved
for nature and future
generations



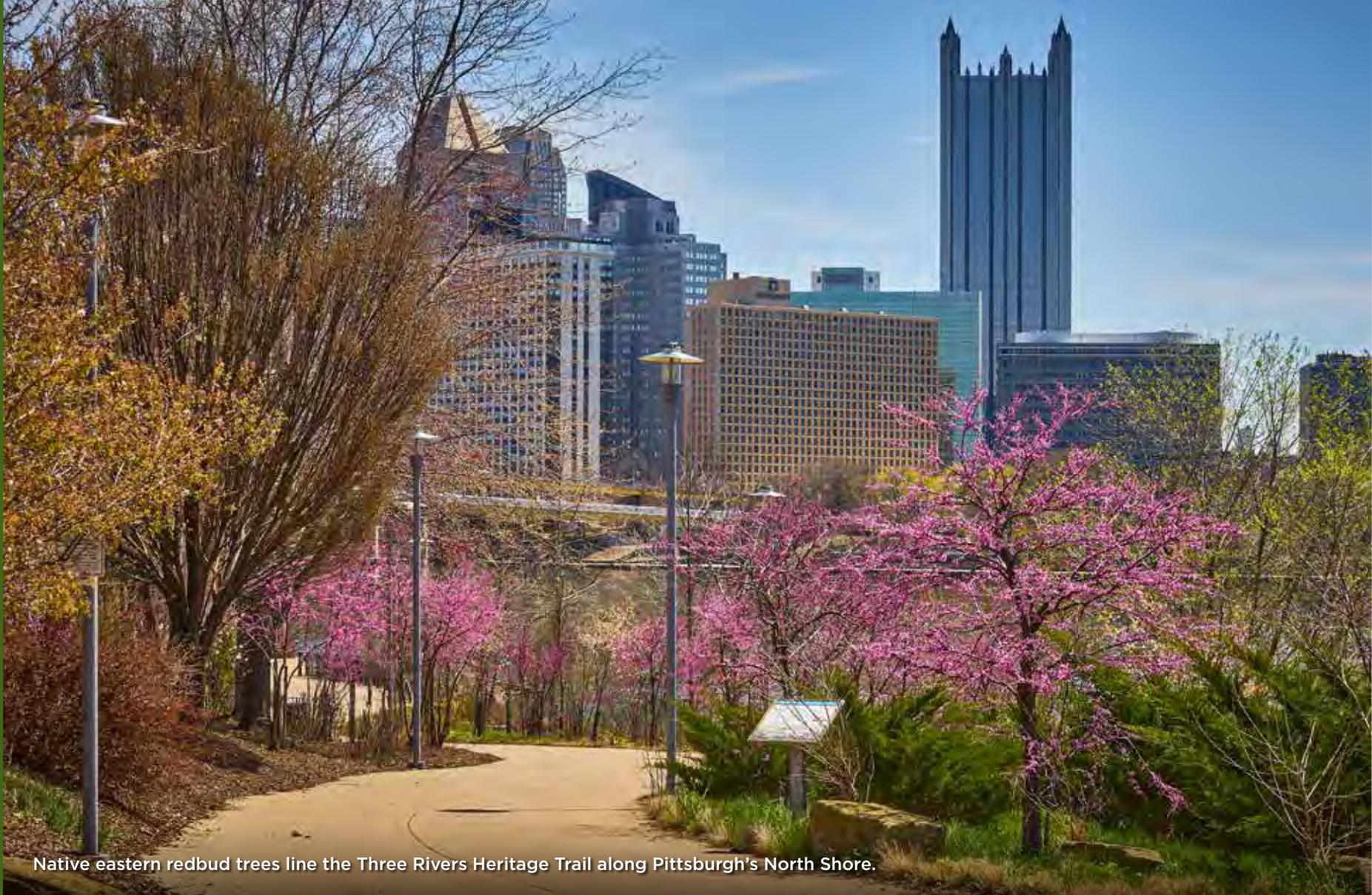
Cared for more than
14,000 acres of WPC-
owned preserves for
you to enjoy and
wildlife to thrive



587 landscape trees planted
in communities



204 people from 51 families
participated in Family Field Trips
at Fallingwater



Native eastern redbud trees line the Three Rivers Heritage Trail along Pittsburgh's North Shore.

Outdoor volunteering was a great way for people to spend time safely outdoors in 2021. More than 7,340 people safely volunteered to plant and care for our 130 community flower gardens throughout the region while being socially distanced. During fall, 423 community forestry volunteers planted trees in urban communities. We added color on Pittsburgh's riverfronts by planting more redbud trees, and sparked children's creativity and a love for nature with school grounds greening projects.

PITTSBURGH REDBUD PROJECT CELEBRATED FIVE YEARS OF "PINKING" PITTSBURGH

The Pittsburgh Redbud Project began in 2016 with the planting of 60 redbud trees along the Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Since then, the Conservancy, with help from volunteers and partners, has planted a total of 3,716 trees for the Pittsburgh Redbud Project—of which approximately 1,600 are native Eastern redbud—along the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, on the North Shore Riverfront Trail and in downtown Pittsburgh along the riverfronts.

Complementary tree species to the redbud, such as cherry, birch, spruce and hophornbeam, were also planted to bring natural color, multicolor blossoms and wildlife habitat to the riverfronts.

Plantings for the project continued in 2021 with 240 redbuds and 237 complimentary trees and shrubs to enhance the city's redbud canopy.

Jeff Bergman, director of community forestry and TreeVitalize Pittsburgh at the Conservancy, says the project is helping to beautify and reforest these highly visual areas and encourages the public to visit to see the vibrant blooms.

“The thousands of native trees and other vegetation also help reduce the amount of stormwater runoff and pollutants entering the rivers, improve habitat for wildlife and help decrease air pollution,” says Jeff. Pittsburgh Redbud Project partners include Riverlife and the City of Pittsburgh. The project is funded by Colcom Foundation.

POLLINATORS GET A GARDEN IN DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH

Conservancy staff and volunteers planted more than 1,000 perennial flowers, three trees, 24 shrubs and 55 grasses in the First Avenue and Grant Street garden in downtown Pittsburgh. Pollinating insects and birds are enjoying a safe nesting habitat full of nectar, pollen and berries provided by cranesberry geranium, inkberry compacta, false indigo, blazing star, prairie dropseed, whorled milkweed and more.

The colorful native plantings can help counteract habitat loss and other factors negatively impacting pollinating animals.

SCHOOL GROUNDS GREENING SPARKED CREATIVITY & LOVE FOR NATURE

Children are naturally curious about nature and learn by playing and exploring. Conservancy staff installed an outdoor classroom at Beechwood Early Childhood Learning Center, complete with plants, playground equipment that inspires movement and learning and playful, educational, multi-lingual pavers that create a meandering path for little feet to follow through the lush garden.

The garden features native, easy-to-care-for plants such as gro-low fragrant sumac shrub, perennial

flowers such as autumn bride coralbells and Schottland tufted hairgrass, all providing vivid blooms, interesting textures and habitat for insects and birds.

We provided instructions for routine plant care, a list of essential maintenance tools and resources related to perennial maintenance and insect and disease control.

Conservancy staff worked with Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) Early Childhood Center instructional coaches and classroom teachers to develop school greenspace teaching and learning kits for use at our early childhood center greenspaces. Fostering curiosity and encouraging caring for nature, the kits include kid-sized gardening gloves, rakes, watering cans and hand tools, binoculars, bugnoculars, specimen viewers, colorful scarves for imaginative play and a plant-growing viewer. Our “Teaching and Learning in Your School Greenspaces” guide, developed in collaboration with PPS Early Childhood Centers in 2020, also informed the kit development. In 2022, children in 10 schools serving 33 early childhood and Head Start classrooms began using the kits.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY PARK ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED

The Conservancy partnered with Allegheny County Parks and the Allegheny County Parks Foundation to conduct Ecological Assessment and Action Plans for Round Hill Park and White Oak Park, two Allegheny County parks. We evaluated the parks' ecological assets, such as mature, intact native forest communities and unique biodiversity features, as well as ecological challenges such as invasive species, forest canopy gaps and stormwater runoff management.

We'll use the data collected to create a plan to steward areas with the greatest ecological integrity by restoring tree canopy and managing invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, wineberry and autumn olive. We'll also address issues such as stormwater runoff and trail erosion in both parks and install deer fencing around sensitive biodiversity areas in White Oak Park. And, in Round Hill Park, we'll continue ecological management of fields, rights-of-way and early successional habitat, which includes vigorously growing grasses, shrubs and trees that provide excellent food and cover for wildlife but need disturbance to be maintained. 🌿

The outdoor classroom at Beechwood Early Childhood Learning Center includes multi-lingual pavers for the children to follow as they walk among the native perennials.





BEFORE

In 2012, we planted 800 trees and shrubs to create a two-acre riparian buffer along Ross Run at the Miller Farm in Indiana County.



AFTER

This photo, taken in 2021, shows the buffer on the Miller Farm, now with growing trees and dense shrubs. It creates vegetative cover along the streambank, decreasing erosion, increasing wildlife habitat, filtering pollution, shading waterways and providing food for pollinators.

The Conservancy's watershed conservation program staff continued with projects in 2021 that improved water quality in creeks and streams across the region. Many of the improved waterways are headwaters within the Ohio River and Chesapeake Bay watersheds. To restore streams, a variety of methods—both in streams and alongside them—were employed, including tree plantings, culvert replacements, streambank restoration, instream habitat projects and more. More than 6,000 new riparian trees were planted in 2021. To date, the

Conservancy has planted 66,600 native trees and shrubs to create riparian buffers.

REOPENING AQUATIC HABITAT BY REPLACING CULVERTS

Culverts serve an important function to pass streams under roads, trails, driveways and other infrastructure. But over- or under-sized culverts can have negative upstream and downstream impacts on stream systems by affecting the channel shape, slope and bottom,

and acting as barriers to aquatic organism movement, especially for brook trout.

In 2021, our watershed team restored fish passage and mobility by replacing culverts in four local streams. This work reopened and reconnected 8.42 miles of the upper reaches of local watersheds to fish and other organisms that previously could not access those areas, including in the Allegheny National Forest in Elk and Forest counties.

In Fayette County, replacing an eight-foot steel culvert pipe under Firetower Road in Ramcat Run, a small but steep mountain stream, resulted in more than four miles of this important wild brook trout fishery to once again reconnect to the Youghiogheny River.

The pipe in Ramcat Run that posed the barrier was replaced with a larger aluminum and bottomless culvert. This new culvert permits the stream channel to have a natural bottom and, due to its larger size, helps to slow stream velocities and reduce flooding during storms. “This is truly a win-win scenario that benefits water quality, nature and the local community,” says Greg Schaetzle, a Conservancy watershed manager who oversaw construction and organized project implementation activities.

This project is part of a much larger aquatic organism passage effort within the Youghiogheny River watershed. Over the past several years, with the help of our state and local partners, we also collaborated to repair dirt and gravel roads on Ramcat Run to eliminate unnecessary sediment affecting the stream.

Thus far, the Conservancy has helped remove 50 dams or culverts from streams across the region, opening more than 164 miles of new habitat.

WORKING WITH FARMERS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

In 2021, the watershed team completed several agricultural best management practices, or Ag BMPs, to help farmers reduce nutrient and fertilizer runoff into local streams. These practices, such as riparian tree plantings and fencing to

keep animals away from streams, are practical measures designed to improve water quality while maintaining agricultural production.

In the Chesapeake Bay watershed in Huntingdon County, work advanced in 2021 at two farms to help conservation-minded farmers. At the Whittaker Farm, 15 Ag BMPs were installed, including 700 feet of fencing, pasture grazing area improvements and watering system upgrades. A frost-free hydrant was also installed that will provide water year-round for animals. We also installed stream crossings and an animal walkway at the Grove Farm. These projects advanced, thanks in part to the Environmental Stewardship Fund, better known as Growing Greener, which has been Pennsylvania’s preeminent program for funding conservation priorities, including land protection and water quality projects.

ACCESSING FRESHWATER MUSSEL LOCATIONS

Clad in wetsuits and scuba gear, the watershed team completed 81 freshwater mussel surveys in 2021. Surveys occurred in headwater streams of the Youghiogheny River in Fayette County, Tionesta Creek in Warren County, Buffalo Creek in Armstrong and Butler counties, and French Creek in Venango County. Freshwater mussel surveys typically involve determining the presence or absence of native mussels in a stream, and documenting mussel species size, population and habitat conditions.

“This research helps update records and data for our state partners,” says Jenifer Christman, vice president of watershed conservation for the Conservancy. “Our longstanding work, expertise and leadership role in this area has led to a new National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant that will allow us to begin creating a freshwater mussel conservation plan for Pennsylvania.”

The watershed team also helped our natural heritage staff complete the first phase of analysis of a study where juvenile mussels were placed in 13 local streams, including in Little Mahoning Creek and the Allegheny River. Read more about this ongoing work on page 13. 🐾



BEFORE

Our watershed team replaced this undersized and raised pipe barrier (top, before) under Firetower Road in Fayette County with a larger, aluminum bottomless culvert (bottom, after). The new culvert reconnects Ramcat Run, a wild brook trout fishery, to the Youghiogheny River and permits fish passage upstream.



AFTER



Visitors experienced Winter Walks, discovering Fallingwater's natural winter landscape at their own pace.

The house reopened for much-awaited interior tours in May 2021 after only offering exterior tours during much of the 2020 season. Although the continued worldwide pandemic necessitated fewer visitors touring inside the house, it sparked inventive ideas that enrich experiences for onsite visitors, virtual visitors and Fallingwater fans worldwide. Fallingwater Director Justin Gunther says that the mix of virtual and in-person programs offered “fresh perspectives on Wright’s masterpiece of organic architecture as people explored Fallingwater in new and innovative ways.”

Our education staff continued to lead seasonal, live “A Closer Look” virtual experiences that offer exclusive, behind-the-scenes peeks at the house and collections. And staff and expert guests discussed art, design, architecture and preservation during free webinars that encouraged 1,278 viewers to learn more about Fallingwater, the Kaufmann family and Frank Lloyd Wright.

We celebrated the Gold designation of the Fallingwater Café by Sustainable Pittsburgh Restaurant, the Fallingwater + PG&H Maker Project at the Museum Store, and the 40th anniversary of the Visitor

Center, which was designed by Edgar Kaufmann jr.'s partner, Paul Mayén.

WORLD HERITAGE PRESERVED IS LAUNCHED

Frank Lloyd Wright designed Fallingwater as a living structure interposed with nature. However, the effects of time and weather on the materials that meld the house to its landscape now require extensive repairs to the house's flat roofs, terraces, windows and stone walls. To address preservation needs and uphold our commitment to protect Fallingwater as a building on the UNESCO World Heritage List, we publicly launched "World Heritage Preserved: A Campaign for the Future of Fallingwater," to enable us to undertake the most urgent and immediate preservation projects during the next five years.

BRIDGE AND BOLSTERS PRESERVED

Fallingwater's reinforced concrete bolsters that support the house's cantilevers were experiencing nonstructural surface cracking. In addition, the concrete walls of the car bridge over Bear Run stream were suffering from irreparable concrete degradation. Thanks to private donations and a matching Keystone Historic Preservation Grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, we reinforced the nonstructural cracks



Artist-in-Residence Stephen Towns created an oil painting of Fallingwater cook Elsie Henderson for his exhibition at The Westmoreland Museum of American Art.

in the bolsters with fiber mesh and repointed eroded mortar joints on the bolster footings. At the car bridge, we removed and reconstructed the walls. In 2022, we will stucco and paint the bolsters and ceilings, completing the project.

STUDENTS ENJOYED VIRTUAL SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS FOR THE FIRST TIME

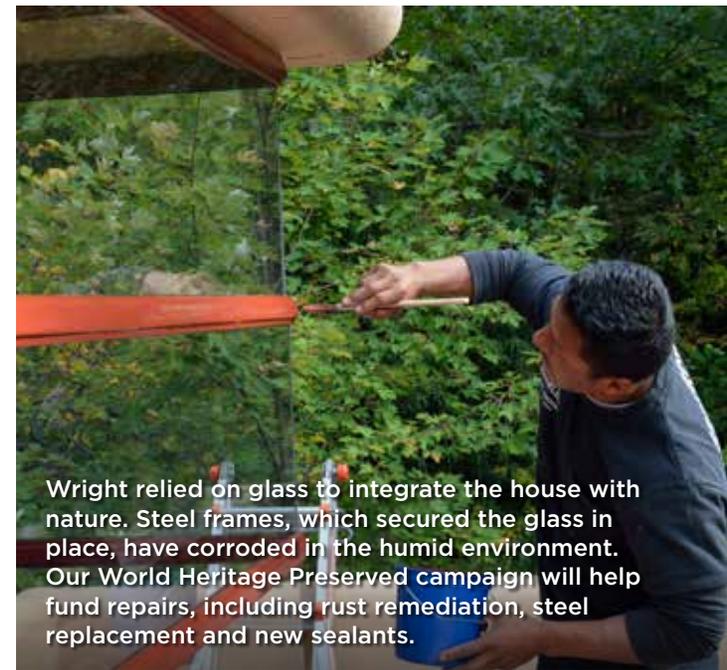
As the COVID-19 pandemic continued, schools reassessed traditional field trips that required travel. Because groups of students could not come to Fallingwater, we brought Fallingwater to them... virtually. Students around the United States who might never have experienced can now experience Fallingwater from their classroom. In addition, virtual field trips were available for free for schools in nearby Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland counties. In all, 1,925 students in grades three through 12 connected learning about Fallingwater with workshops in fine art, science, math, history or language arts in new, interactive field trips via computer screen, led by Fallingwater's educator team.

ARTISTS RECEIVED INSPIRATION FROM FALLINGWATER

Each year, Fallingwater Institute, Fallingwater's immersive program for creative collaboration and inspired thinking, honors the vision of Edgar Kaufmann jr. by welcoming visiting artists or scholars of exceptional talent to live, study and work on site. Eight artists-in-residence spent time at Fallingwater in 2021 to gain inspiration and a deeper experience of art and nature, including Nicolas Snyder, Emma Baiada, Jaime Inostroza, Petra Bachmaier and Sean Gallero (together known as Luftwerk), Ron Donoughe, Sara Greenberger Rafferty, Patrick Marold and Stephen Towns.

During Towns' residency, he created works for his exhibition "Stephen Towns: Declaration & Resistance" at The Westmoreland Museum of American Art and researched the life of Elsie Henderson, the cook at Fallingwater from 1947 to 1963. His portrait of Elsie was featured in the exhibition at The Westmoreland.

Other artists inspired by Fallingwater included Christopher Brody and Chef Amanda Wright, chocolatier and co-founder of A519 Chocolate, both of whom created items exclusively for sale through the Fallingwater Museum Store. Christopher, who



Wright relied on glass to integrate the house with nature. Steel frames, which secured the glass in place, have corroded in the humid environment. Our World Heritage Preserved campaign will help fund repairs, including rust remediation, steel replacement and new sealants.

specializes in art pottery, fine art, architectural mosaics and tile work, created one-of-a-kind, limited edition rhododendron vases featuring a hand-carved rhododendron leaf and blossom motif. "I wanted the design to straddle the organic and the structured, much in the way the house does," he says.

Chef Wright, who holds dual degrees in neuroscience and psychology and was trained at the Culinary Institute of America, pairs her scientific acumen with a passion to produce word class chocolate truffles featuring local ingredients. She gathered inspiration for artful handmade truffles from Fallingwater's elements of concrete, steel, stone, water and forest.

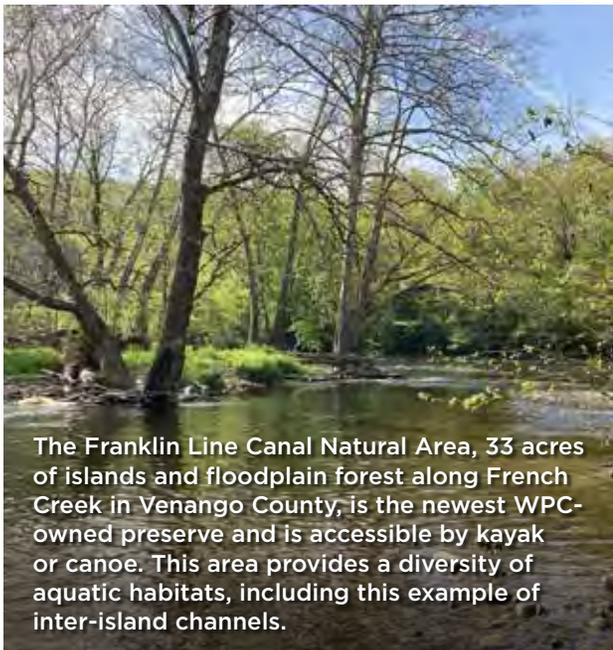
In partnership with Pittsburgh's Creative Business Accelerator, Fallingwater hosts regional makers each year for the Fallingwater + PG&H Maker Project. They were inspired by Fallingwater's architecture, history, land and artworks to create handmade items exclusively for the Museum Store. Artists included Rachel Saul Rearick creating monoprints, Jen Allen creating stoneware vases, Mary Mack Tremonte creating prints and Kate Marchand creating stoneware. 🍷



Nearly 90 forested acres in Summit Township, Potter County were permanently protected and added to Susquehannock State Forest in June 2021. The property includes the confluence of the wild trout waters of Borie Branch and Prouty Run, which form the First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek.

The Conservancy marked another year with important land conservation results that protected more local natural areas, including wildlife habitats, rare plant and animal species, wetlands, forests and streams.

In 2021, the Conservancy permanently protected seven properties in the region, totaling 493 acres. One of these properties has become the newest WPC nature preserve, now known as the Franklin Line Canal Natural Area, which consists of about 20 acres of islands in French Creek in Venango County. This preserve, which is free to all and only



The Franklin Line Canal Natural Area, 33 acres of islands and floodplain forest along French Creek in Venango County, is the newest WPC-owned preserve and is accessible by kayak or canoe. This area provides a diversity of aquatic habitats, including this example of inter-island channels.

accessible from the water, is one of the 41 preserves owned and managed by the Conservancy. Our work to benefit public lands continued, too, as 241 of the acres protected in 2021 were conveyed to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the enjoyment of all Pennsylvanians.

GIVING TO NATURE THROUGH A DONATED EASEMENT

Through a donated conservation easement, the permanent protection of a 100-acre property in Penn Township, Clearfield County was achieved.

The easement, which was donated by Jane McCartney, a Sister of Mercy, will keep her property in private hands while permanently restricting future development. The property is bordered by approximately 6,000 feet of stream frontage along Bell Run, a tributary in the headwaters of the West Branch Susquehanna River.

Sr. McCartney grew up exploring the property's woods and swinging from its grapevines. Her father purchased the property approximately 50 years ago with the intent to keep the forest and stream buffer intact in perpetuity. She was glad to permanently protect her family's homestead —giving the land back to nature and future generations of wildlife and people while fulfilling her father's wish. "This was important for me to do because of my family connection to this land and the Sisters of Mercy commitment to care for the Earth," she adds.

This is the first easement donated to the Conservancy by a private landowner in Clearfield County.

ADDING MORE LAND TO ANF

We transferred 532 acres of forestland along the Clarion River in Elk County near Ridgway, Pa., to the U.S. Department of Agriculture U.S. Forest Service to become a new addition to the majestic Allegheny National Forest (ANF). Established in 1923, ANF is Pennsylvania's only national forest, includes land in Elk, Forest, McKean and Warren counties, and provides recreation, natural beauty, wood products, watershed protection and abundant wildlife habitats. With the transfer to ANF, this land became a part of the Clarion River Remote Recreation Area within the now 514,185-acre national forest. This property is part of the Conservancy's longstanding effort, dating back to the 1970s, that has protected more than 13,000 acres along the Clarion.

INCREASING LAND FOR THE STATE FOREST SYSTEM

Conservancy staff protected two forested properties totaling 152 acres in the Pennsylvania Wilds along First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek. A 63-acre forest in Grove Township, Cameron



A donation of a conservation easement on more than 100 acres in Penn Township, Clearfield County helps protect Bell Run, a wild trout stream and tributary to the West Branch Susquehanna.

County was added to Elk State Forest. In Summit Township, Potter County, 89 acres were added to Susquehannock State Forest. This land protects the headwater streams, Borie Branch and Prouty Run, of First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek. The lands were immediately conveyed to DCNR's Bureau of Forestry in June 2021 to become public state forestland. In Bedford County, we protected 119 forested acres in Southampton Township that were also transferred to DCNR to become a new addition to Buchanan State Forest.

PROTECTING MORE VIEWS ALONG THE GAP TRAIL

Protected through a conservation easement, 50 acres of wildlife habitat and scenic views in the Laurel Highlands along the Great Allegheny Passage Trail in Black Township, Somerset County will remain forever intact. The Conservancy has an established history in and commitment to protecting land in the Laurel Highlands, with nearly 83,000 acres conserved since 1951.

To date, the Conservancy has protected more than 264,000 acres. These protected lands speak to the broad impact of the Conservancy's mission and work throughout the region. 🌿



We released more than 1,000 Ln beetles in two insectaries and in natural hemlock stands within Bear Run Nature Reserve to combat invasive hemlock wooly adelgid.

The Conservancy owns and manages nearly 14,000 acres where everyone is welcome to enjoy nature. With 41 preserves in Western Pennsylvania, there is likely a Conservancy nature preserve a short distance from where most Western Pennsylvanians live. Our dedicated land steward volunteers and staff work to sustain the ecological value of our preserves and improve the accessibility of these beautiful natural areas so that you and your family can enjoy nature experiences.

Last year, staff worked with landowners and monitored easements on preserves totaling more than 40,000 acres to ensure the conservation values are still intact.

41 PLACES CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

In August 2021, the Conservancy launched a fundraising and awareness campaign called “41 Places: Nature Near You Needs You.” The campaign supported efforts to steward our 41 nature preserves in 16 counties, which contain forests, streams, wetlands, meadows and unique natural features.

The Conservancy’s preserves are located near cities and towns as well as in rural areas. We maintain a total of 30 miles of trails across 13 of

the preserves, which are well-suited for nature lovers to enjoy walking, hiking, camping, nature exploring, fishing, birding and more. The other 28 preserves, consisting of about 4,000 wild and remote acres without designated trails, are more suited for experienced hikers and explorers.

The Conservancy’s land stewardship staff and a team of dedicated volunteers care for the preserves. Funds raised by the 41 Places campaign are helping us to remove traces of past damage to the land, control invasive plants that choke out desirable native species and build and maintain welcoming trails, signage and parking.

“There’s always a significant amount of work to do to address urgent needs and ongoing care of every preserve,” says Andy Zadnik, the Conservancy’s director of land stewardship. “Help from our members and volunteers is needed and appreciated so that the environmental and recreational benefits of these natural places can endure.”

LN BEETLES RELEASED TO COMBAT INVASIVE INSECT AND SAVE STATE TREE

One of many invasive species we are

combating, with the help of volunteers and specialists, is hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA), an insect that is killing some species of hemlock trees, including Pennsylvania’s state tree, the eastern hemlock. To possibly control the spread of HWA at Bear Run Nature Reserve, in November 2021 we released a natural predator, the Ln beetle, within a nursery habitat, or insectary. We hope to know by fall 2022 if the beetles are feeding on the HWA eggs and young adelgids.

NATURAL LANDSCAPE RESTORED AT LAKE PLEASANT CONSERVATION AREA

Lake Pleasant in Erie County is a true natural jewel that supports diverse species and a high-quality fishery. As part of the Conservancy’s efforts to restore the natural landscape at Lake Pleasant Conservation Area, we had two vacant houses removed that were across the road from the lake. We also improved the line-of-sight for drivers pulling out onto Lake Pleasant Road, making it safer to use the small launch area, which is now open to the public. And, we remind boaters to thoroughly clean their canoes or kayaks before entering the lake to help reduce the spread of invasive species.

VOLUNTEERS KEY TO CARING FOR OUR PRESERVES

In 2021, 76 dedicated land stewardship volunteers, ranging in age from teens to retirees, gave 825 hours to care for our preserves. On spring Saturdays, summer days and fall mornings they pulled invasive plants that threaten to choke out native plants that provide habitat and food for wildlife, dismantled old structures that cause safety hazards and built trails for everyone to enjoy.

Emily Tekelenburg began volunteering three years ago while in high school. “There is such a community that one immediately feels welcomed,” she says. “I recognize my membership in WPC as essential to my character and an opportunity to enjoy the simple things in life.”

Contact Andy Zadnik at 412-586-2318 or azadnik@paconserv.org if you are interested in volunteering, too! 🍌



Mary Walsh, the Conservancy's PNHP invertebrate zoology manager, led a study to assess local streams for housing baby mussels.

SCAN HERE to watch our webinar, "Meaningful Mussels"



The Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP), which is a statewide partnership that studies and inventories the Commonwealth's plant and animal species, helps guide the Conservancy's land and water conservation work and strategies. Data and research from our PNHP scientists also serve as leading sources of information for local governments, municipalities and businesses seeking to make informed science-based decisions about land use.

In 2021, the Conservancy's PNHP scientists and researchers conducted more than 200 field surveys for rare plant and animal species. The team also updated 350 natural heritage areas, which are ecologically important areas that provide habitat for rare plants, animal and natural communities. In addition, our PNHP staff undertook hundreds of surveys as part of various other studies that did not focus on our state's rarest plants, animals and natural communities.

RESTOCKING STREAMS WITH JUVENILE MUSSELS

Mary Walsh, the Conservancy's PNHP

invertebrate zoology manager, gets really excited about mussels and is pleased with the results of a unique mussel silo study that launched in 2021.

The Conservancy partnered with the U.S. Forest Service for the study. Mary explains, "We wanted to figure out which Pennsylvania streams made sense to restock with mussels. We chose streams where there are no longer mussels and places where they're doing poorly. These are ideal locations for restocking," she says.

Mary and her team used concrete bowls fitted with small sections of PVC pipe and mesh to create silos, which safely housed the baby mussels at the bottom of streams while allowing water to flow over them. They placed the silos at strategic spots in 13 streams, including the Little Mahoning Creek, Kiski River and Allegheny River, to test the survival rate of the mussels. The juvenile mussels, which are more sensitive than older ones, need quality food and water to survive. After a few months, Mary found, "We had an 87 percent survival rate of the mussels, which is outstanding!" Additional juvenile mussel studies related to this project are underway.

Watch a recording of our free webinar, "Meaningful Mussels," at WaterLandLife.org/Webinars or scan the QR code at the top of the page.

LISTENING FOR BIRDS IN CRAWFORD COUNTY MARSHES

Three billion North American birds have been lost over the past 50 years, including nearly a quarter of all waterbirds—herons, bitterns, rails and grebes. In Pennsylvania, many of these waterbirds are species of greatest conservation need due to declining populations statewide. To address the need for waterbird-specific wetland habitat conservation, the Conservancy's PNHP staff led an intensive marsh bird survey in Pennsylvania's largest contiguous wetlands—Conneaut Marsh, Pymatuning Reservoir and Hartstown Marsh—in Crawford County during spring and summer 2021.

David Yeany, a PNHP avian ecologist at the Conservancy, managed this project. Through difficult marsh terrain, the project team surveyed large wetlands by collecting bird abundance and occurrence data. They visited 123 survey locations five times and used vocalization playback to mimic bird calls and persuade birds to respond. Marsh vegetation was measured and mapped, too. The data included 27,438 bird detections of 148 species, including 27 species of conservation concern in the state. Our analysis of the data will inform wetland conservation for marsh birds in Crawford County and other wetlands across the state.

DELISTING THE PEREGRINE FALCON

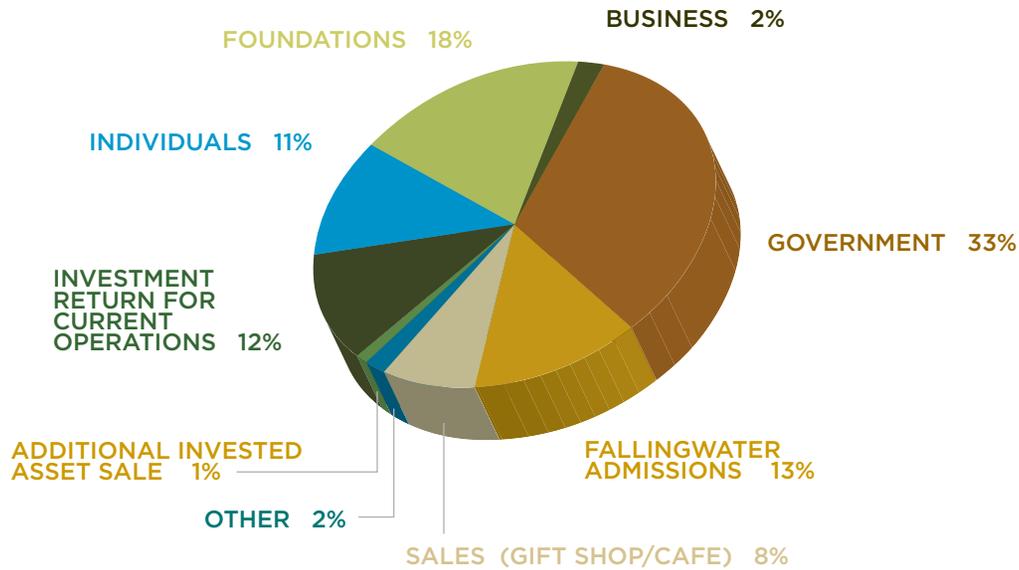
In September 2021, the Pennsylvania Game Commission delisted the peregrine falcon from its threatened species list. In 1989, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy staff members observed a pair of falcons hunting around Pittsburgh's skyscrapers. Before that, it had been 33 years since peregrine falcons had been known to nest in the region.

The Conservancy managed the nesting boxes from 1990 to 2006, at which point we turned over management to the National Aviary. The two Conservancy/Aviary nest sites were some of the most productive in the state, with 63 young hatching from the Gulf Tower alone between 1991 and 2010. The delisting is news to celebrate for this majestic species!



David Yeany, a PNHP avian ecologist at the Conservancy, scanning Conneaut Marsh in Crawford County for waterfowl.

OPERATING REVENUES



Contributions, Grants and Memberships:

	Millions
Individual	\$ 2.4
Foundation	3.8
Business	0.3
Government	6.9
TOTAL	\$ 13.4

Earned Income:

	Millions
Fallingwater Admissions	\$ 2.8
Sales (Gift Shop/Café)	1.7
Other	0.5
TOTAL	\$ 5.0

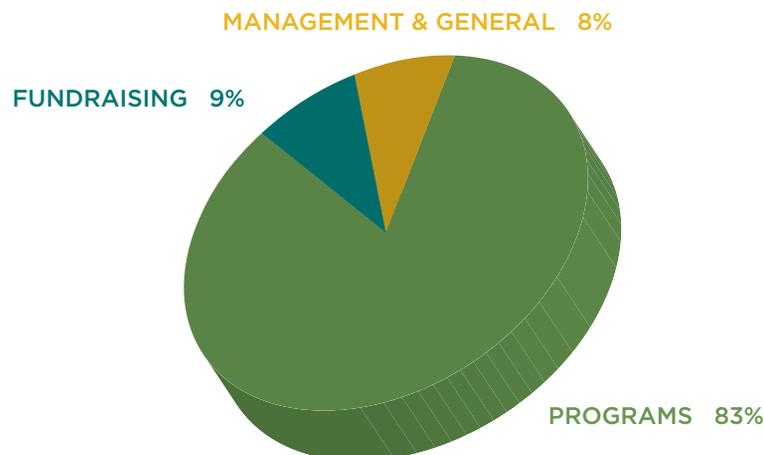
Internal Income:

	Millions
Investment return designated for current operations	\$ 2.6
Additional invested asset sale	0.2
TOTAL	\$ 2.8

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES

\$ 21.2

OPERATING EXPENSES



Programs:

	Millions
Conservation	\$ 8.5
Fallingwater	6.4
Community Gardens and Greenspace	3.1
Constituent Programs and Outreach	0.5
TOTAL	\$18.5

Program Support:

	Millions
Fundraising	\$ 2.0
Administrative and General Expenses	1.9
TOTAL	\$ 3.9

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

\$22.4

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy was supported by 10,799 private donors (individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations) that together made cash, stock and in-kind gifts totaling \$9,826,072 in 2021. Their extraordinary support 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 more than 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 goes on.

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. For more details, contact Julie Holmes, senior director of development, toll-free at **1-866-564-6972 (ext. 2312)** or jholmes@paconserve.org.

ANNUAL FUND

Gifts to the annual fund are essential in sustaining our daily operations and 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. For more details, contact Kathy Patrignani, development operations administrator, 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.

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.



800 Waterfront Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

412-288-2777
info@paconserve.org

WaterLandLife.org
Fallingwater.org



CELEBRATE 90 YEARS OF IMPACT WITH US!

We're celebrating our 90th year of protecting land, water and wildlife in Western Pennsylvania!

The Conservancy got its start in 1932, during the Great Depression, when a small group of public-minded Pittsburghers established what would come to be named the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The first major project was to secure and landscape a blighted hillside along a busy corridor of the City of Pittsburgh.

Thanks to members like you, we've accomplished a lot since then. Today, nine decades later, WPC continues to address new challenges throughout our region.

Consider making a special gift in honor of this milestone, and know that you are helping to green the region's communities, protect landscapes, streams and wildlife, and preserve and share Fallingwater for the next generation. You can make a gift using the enclosed envelope or by visiting WaterLandLife.org/Donate.

