

THE RE-CAP

Watershed Alliance of York's (WAY) bi-monthly newsletter about the implementation of the County wide Action Plan for clean waters



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WAY BOARD

On March 19th several of our WAY Board of Directors joined local citizens and Master Watershed Stewards at an illegal dump in Fawn Township to continue work on cleaning it up. Vice President of WAY, Duane Hyson, who is familiar with the area estimates that the illegal dump is between 40-50 years old. This was the second go at cleaning it up and there is still more left to do! We filled a 30-yard dumpster to the brim in just a couple of hours. That's anywhere from 4,000 - 8,000 pounds of trash. We had three pick-up trucks that made 10 trips altogether to the dumpster, which we graciously were allowed to set up

at the Township building. It was a dirty, sad job but great company offered lots of laughs as we worked together to correct a mistake from the past!



WAY

BOARD OFFICERS

RACHEL STAHLMAN,
PRESIDENT
DUANE HYSON,
VICE PRESIDENT
EMILY NEIDEIGH,
SECRETARY
JASON SWARTZ,
TREASURER

BOARD DIRECTORS

LETTICE BROWN
TED EVGENIADIS
MATT ATTIG
DIANE OLESON
JODI SULPIZIO
MATT HARTMAN
MARK LENTZ
ROB HARVEY
ETHAN DAVIAU



In February, WAY Treasurer Jason Swartz tossed out the idea of expanding the Chesapeake Conservancy's Live Stake Collaborative into York County. Jason and I worked with Master Watershed Steward Coordinators Jodi Sulpizio and Holly Smith along with Cindy Pizziketti to plan a spring 2022 Live Staking Collaborative season in York. We had a very short window to pull off the harvesting and planting of live stakes this season because March is typically when trees begin to bud out (if the live stake is budding out, it will not survive as a live stake). If you missed the awesome live staking article in the last reCAP issue let me remind you what it is. There are several species of trees, such as willow, that have evolved to regrow when cut back and consequently, grow as a new tree when harvested and replanted successfully.

Replanting live stakes can be done in a wetland or river bank where they will regrow as new trees, stabilizing eroded banks and/or creating a riparian buffer.

We partnered with the Horn Farm Center for our first season where we were allowed harvest the stakes, and hold a workshop to teach others how to live stake. 36 participants came to our workshop on March 20th where Cindy and Wilson Alvarez (Horn Farm's Woodland Steward) led the group in a live stake demonstration and planting. We planted about 300 live stakes into a small section on the banks of a stream that is deeply eroded on the farm property.

Later, a group of us met up with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and planted 450 live stakes on a private landowners property in Lower Windsor Township. The landowner's riparian buffer had been partially ripped out by hurricane Ida last year. Lets hope the live stakes can take root and start protecting his stream banks!

We started the season off a little late, but all those involved feel that we had a great success implementing the first season of the York Live Staking Collaborative. If you're interested in learning more about the Collaborative or about live staking, reach out!



Rachel Stahlman
CAP Coordinator
rstahlman@ycpc.org

WAY SPOTLIGHT



Ted Evgeniadis is the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper. Ted in his role as the Lower Susquehanna RIVERKEEPER® works as an alliance builder, diplomat, and educator, but also, when the situation calls for it, an unrelenting defender and advocate of our right and the river's right to be healthy and prosperous. He utilizes education, chemical and biological monitoring, pollution patrols, partnership building, public events, research and legal action to improve the health of the Susquehanna's waterways.

I appreciate how graceful water is, we disrespect it, it evaporates, and it always comes back.

Jason Swartz works for Pennsylvania Sea Grant as an Outreach Specialist on climate and water projects in the Susquehanna River watershed. He is also a graduate student in Parks, Conservation, and Environmental Education at Slippery Rock University. Jason lives in northern York County in the Yellow Breeches watershed, and he enjoys kayaking and hiking.



Mark Lentz is a high school Biology/Environmental Science Teacher. Mark has lived in York County his entire life. He is an active Master Watershed Steward and a water quality monitor for ALLARM where he helps to monitor Mill Creek and Poorhouse Run, both are tributaries to the Codorus Creek.



"I am involved with WAY because I value the impact we can have when we work together to achieve cleaner water and healthier ecosystems."

Ethan Daviau has lived in York County since he was 3. Ethan has a passion for fly fishing which led him to care about the conservation of wild trout and clean water. As a result, Ethan has become an environmental scientist working in the field of stream and wetland restoration. Today, he spends his professional and personal time attempting to improve, conserve, and enjoy the resources that he loves, particularly those surrounding freshwater ecosystems. Other things that Ethan enjoys are fly tying, wood-burning, photography, and cooking.



Matthew Attig grew up in York County and has always tried to create a positive impact on the environment through his work and personal involvement. Matt's other passions include playing in a local baseball league, car racing, kayaking, and home remodeling.



Rob Harvey has been fascinated with water ecosystems since I was a kid, and always enjoyed splashing around in creeks. This passion is what drove me to study science as I grew older, and led to my decisions for undergraduate and graduate school. I joined WAY because as a scientist, and avid fly fisher, I understand the importance of healthy watersheds - and want to work to help restore and protect this resource.

COMMITTEE

COMMITMENTS

The Watershed Alliance of York (WAY) is always looking for new partners to help implement the York CAP. There are six (6) Committees and one Subcommittee all working together to help implement different aspects of the CAP. Contact Rachel at rstahlman@ycpc.org to join a committee!

Education & Outreach Committee (E&O)

Spread the word about why we need to clean up York's streams

The **E&O Committee** has been revisiting the language in WAY's vision and values statements and offering revisions. The workgroup for Watershed Week has also begun meeting!

Project Implementation Committee (PI)

Put projects on the ground

The **PI Committee** is working on the 2022 Riparian Rangers season. We need more Rangers! Contact Emily at eneideigh@yorkccd.org for information on joining this awesome group of volunteers that cares for the Riparian Forest Buffer projects across the County.

Revenue Building Committee (RB)

Grant writing and collaborating with sponsors to find funds

The **RB Committee** is still searching for volunteers. Give Local York is May 6th. WAY will be set up in beautiful Downtown York for First Friday. Come find us and say Hi!

Legislative & Programmatic Changes Committee (L&P)

Policy changes

The **L & P Committee** continues to work on developing a guidebook explaining why and how to incorporate green landscaping targeting residents and municipalities. Be on the lookout for the completed guidebook in the coming weeks.

Agricultural Committee (Ag)

Help us form this new committee

The **Ag Committee** is a work in progress. Ag focused pilot programs in York continue to develop. Keep your eyes peeled for an Ag Field Day coming July 28th.

Data Management Committee (DM)

Develop ways to calculate our progress

The **DM Committee** continues to meet for information sharing sessions. The Committee is looking forward to the coming USGS water quality report.

Adopt a Storm Drain Program

STEAM Academy

The Adopt a Storm Drain Program is a collaboration of between the City of York and the STEAM Academy Students and Staff. The Program was inspired by the popular the Adopt A Block program that many cities have and is made possible by an Educational Grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. For Phase 1 of the Program, we first divided the students into groups which they were interested in: website design, PR, map team, or spokesperson. The city provided 10 drains to plot onto a map and act as the test pilots of the Program. The students also recorded a video that was played at a DEP conference explaining their roles in the program and what they have done so far. That was so exciting for them!

Currently, we are working on our Public Relations campaign. This group of students met with the top Public Relations person for the York City School District. She gave the kids valuable information on how to properly reach their audiences, different methods of getting information to these audiences, and things to avoid. In order to connect the students to the place they are working hard to preserve, we want to take a field trip to the Susquehanna or to the Chesapeake Bay, as some of the students have never been to either location.



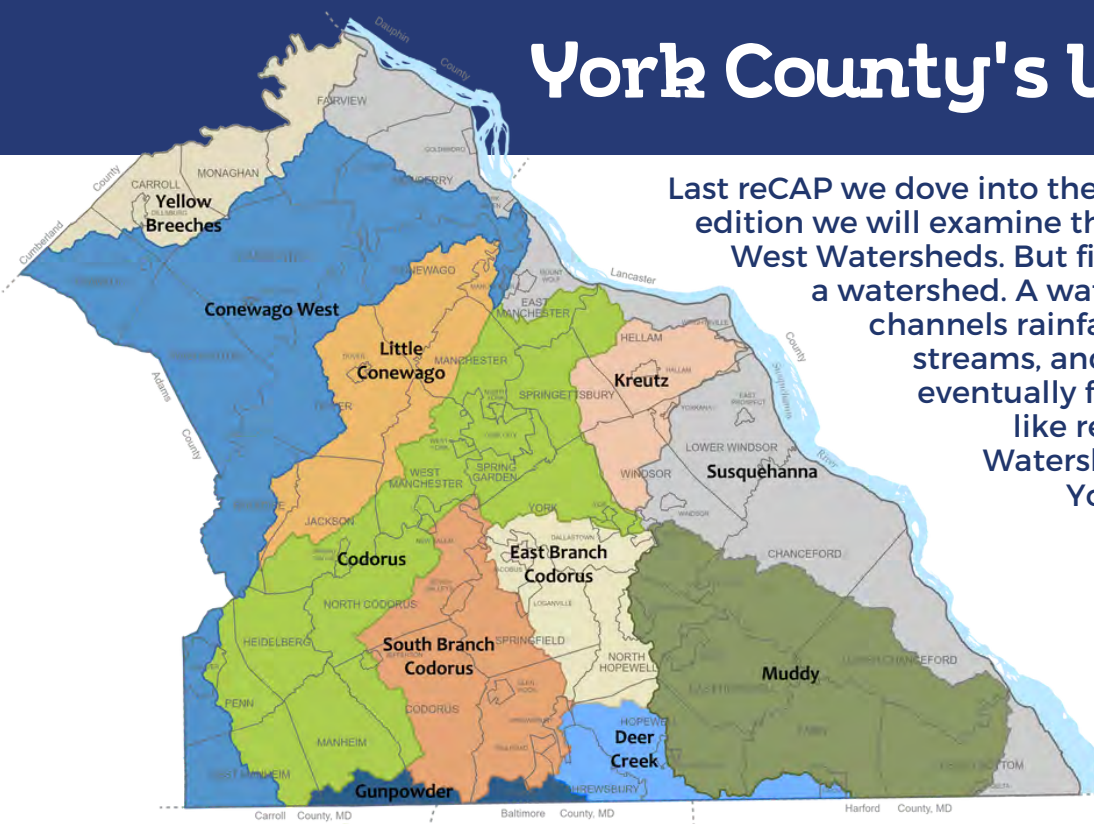
Going forward, we will continue to fine tune the website (where people can visit and gain more information about the program and about stormwater in general, and see which drains have been adopted and which are still available for adoption), ramp up the PR campaign, and continue to plan their field trip. The students have been having a really good time learning new skills and creating things for the program. During phase 2 of the program, we plan to have older students develop a medallion to put on the drains that have been adopted. The medallion will contain the name of the family or person who adopted the drain, as well as the date of adoption. The medallion must be weather resistant and easy to install and remove. We want the students to get very creative and invent something for this part of the program. We were also able to purchase them a 3D printer with the grant money which they may use to develop their prototype medallion/marker.



We are very proud of the students and hope that those behind them can take over and refine the program as technology progresses. We plan to roll out the program in the next few months! Stay tuned!

~Lettice Brown

York County's Watersheds



Last reCAP we dove into the Kreuzt Creek Watershed. This edition we will examine the Codorus and the Conewago West Watersheds. But first a quick synopsis of what is a watershed. A watershed is an area of land that channels rainfall and excess water to creeks, streams, and rivers. From there, the water eventually flows to larger bodies of water like reservoirs, bays, and the ocean. Watersheds can be all different sizes. York County is part of the Lower Susquehanna Watershed and includes many watersheds within it. Over the next year we are going to dive into the 11 main watersheds of York County.

Conewago West Watershed

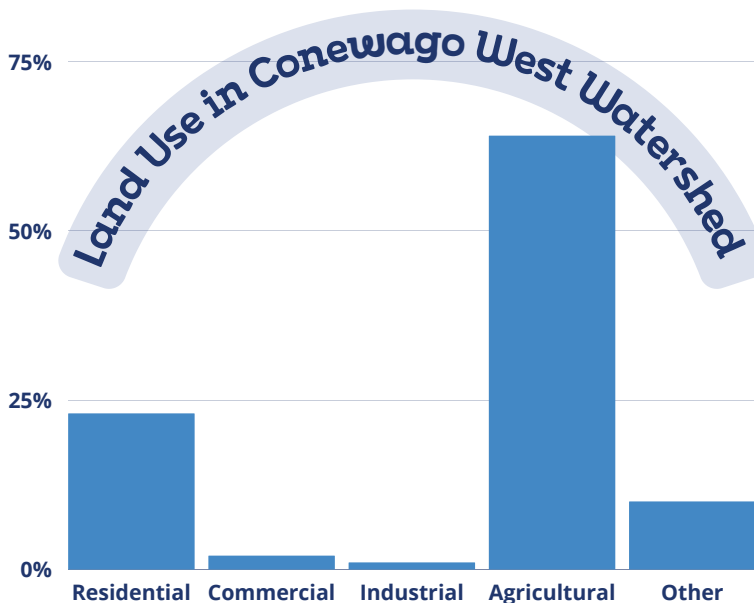
- The 2nd most populated watershed in York County. ~55,000+ people live here.
- Largest watershed in York County (180 square miles)
- Contains the most miles of streams- 377

The Bennet Run Restoration Project in Newberry Township will be moving to the construction phase later in 2022. It will include:

- 1,815 linear feet of stream restoration,
- 1.6 acres of wetland creation,
- 1.6 acres of wetland enhancement, and
- 4.2 acres of riparian reforestation.

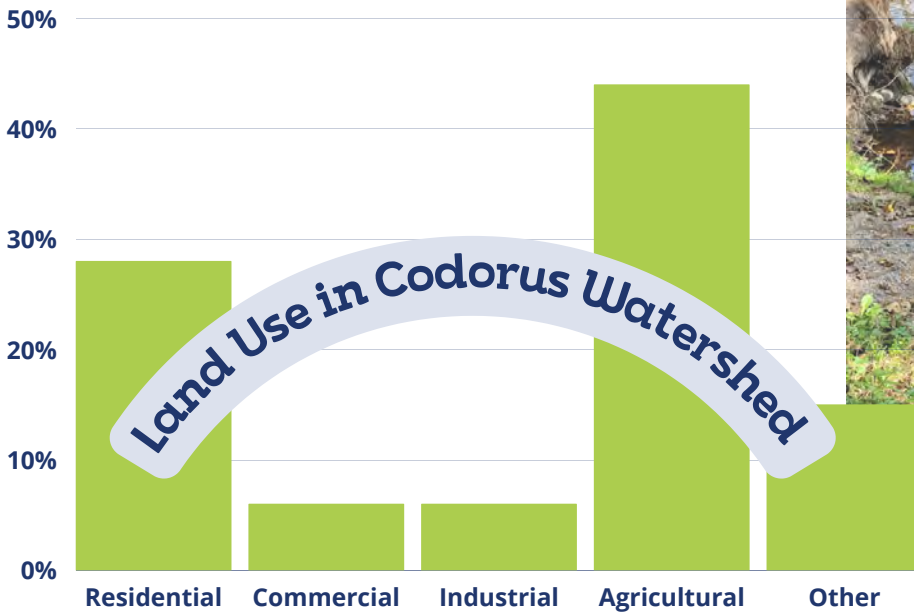
This stretch of Bennett Run will be restored and reconnected to its floodplain. The proposed wetlands and riparian forest will be beneficial during storm events and create resilient habitat. Estimated pollutant reductions include:

- 238,510 lbs/year of sediment,
- 1,524 lbs/yr of nitrogen, and
- 534 lbs/yr of phosphorus.



Codorus Watershed

- The most populated watershed in York County. ~148,000+ people live here.
- 2nd largest watershed in York County (161 square miles)
- Contains 258 miles of streams



Two notable projects have been completed in this watershed. The Beaver Street Stream/Swale Restoration project in Hallam Borough restored 675 lineal feet of an unnamed tributary and 125 lineal feet of an eroded swale. This project reduces 42,412 lbs/year of sediment, 71 lbs/year of nitrogen, and 61 lbs/year of phosphorus.



The other project is the stormwater facility upgrade on the County Prison property. This project included improvements to an eroded swale, a shallow inflow channel, and retrofitting two bioretention basins, to incorporate water quality features. This project reduces 10,553 lbs/year of sediment, 1.6 lbs/year of nitrogen, and 2.7 lbs/year of phosphorus.



Opportunities & Events

Drug Take Back

Water can be polluted by many different sources. Industry, atmosphere, agriculture, stormwater runoff, and, something many people don't even consider, drugs.

With the drug epidemic, people want to remove unused prescription medication from their homes. A common misconception about a safe way to dispose of unwanted prescription medication is to flush it or put it in the trash. In reality, those ways present many safety hazards, including polluting our waterways. Wastewater treatment plants are unable to "clean" prescription drugs from the water they were dissolved in. While the drugs are no longer an overdose danger to humans, they do pose a danger to our aquatic ecosystems. So what is the safe solution to medication disposal? The National Drug Take Back Event is held on **April 30th, 2022 from 10:00-2:00**. Locations in York County include:

- **Delta-Cardiff VFC Station-** 500 Main St Delta PA,
- **Minnich's Pharmacy-** 974 S George St, York PA,
- **Hanover Fire and Rescue-** 204 Clover Ln, Hanover PA
- **Conewago Twp Police Dept-** 541 Oxford Ave, Hanover PA
- **York Area United Fire & Rescue-** 50 Commons, York PA
- **Crossroads Middle School-** 535 Fishing Creek Rd, Lewisberry PA

Earth Day

April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

Every year there is a "theme" and this years theme calls on everyone to divest from unsustainable investments; support eco-conscious brands and products; and to use your own skills and voice to fight climate change.

There are also several ways to celebrate at home or your backyard using the concepts of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"

- Install a rain barrel
- Use a mulching mower
- Pick up dog poop
- Turn off water when brushing your teeth

Events in York County

April 22nd

11:00 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for NEW Refillism store

April 23rd

Nixon Park

8:30-4:30 Native & Invasive Plant Drop-In

2:00-3:30 Nature Walk

Rocky Ridge, Brown Thrasher Pavilion

11:00-2:00 DyEing with Mushrooms

York City

10:00-3:00 Go Green in the City Festival

Opportunities & Events, cont.

Hopewell Fish & Game Association

It has been said that fishing is defined as "a measure of line with a hook on one end and an optimist on the other". Fishing with kids helps to encourage a love of nature and teach them the long-term importance of respecting and taking care of the environment, including the fish they catch. Fishing clinics & derbies also provide great opportunities to teach kids about conservation. You can explain the concept of catch-and-release or only taking home what you will eat to help them understand the importance of ensuring healthy fish populations for the future.

Hopewell Fish and Game Association offers many Youth-Oriented Fishing Clinics on its club grounds and around York County including, but not limited to, the York Area Sportsmen for Youth FIELD DAY held the first weekend every June.

These programs give participants the beginner know-how to start fishing. Both kids and their parents or guardians. Our instructors and educators teach about aquaculture and the different species of aquatic life in lakes/ponds, streams, and rivers here in the commonwealth. After the classroom segment of the program, we move outside to learn basic knot tying, and then, when an attendee successfully ties the knot, they move on to casting, and then HANDS-ON fishing at the Hopewell Fish and Game Education Pond.

Calendar of Events

Daily from April 2nd to May 1st

On April 2nd, 2022 Hopewell Fish and Game Association's Youth Trout Fishing Area (15 and under only) will re-open.

For the first 30 days of trout season this area is Designated Exclusive Use Area for KIDS 15 and under ONLY. It is unlawful for a person other than a child 15 years old and under to fish in a designated exclusive use area. VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED.

For directions to our Designated Exclusive Use Area, please use this link:
<https://goo.gl/maps/37nZQFernHU2>

York Area Sportsmen for Youth FIELD DAY
June 4th, 2022 (ages 7 to 17)
https://hopewellfishandgame.com/york_are_a_sportsmen_for_youth_youth_field_day/

Fly Fishing Essentials for all ages
6:30pm to 8pm, 2nd Monday April-October
<https://hopewellfishandgame.com/flytying/>





Calendar of Events

- 04/20 & 23- Tree planting with Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (9-12pm)
- 04/13- Greener Codorus Initiative 2022 seasonal kick off. Weekly on Mondays (9-11am) and Wednesday (5:30-7:30)
- 04/20- Lake Pahogaco Riparian Buffer planting
- 04/23- Go Green in the City
- 05/06- Give Local York- your chance to support WAY financially!
- 05/07- Master Gardener's Native Plant Sale
- 05/11- Riparian Rangers Training and Work Session at the Northeastern Shallowbrook riparian buffer. Training (no experience necessary) with a work session to follow from 5-6:30pm. Meet in the parking lot for introductions and materials before setting out to learn hands-on how to maintain a growing riparian buffer. This is a great opportunity to get outside and to meet new friends! To register, find the event on the WAY website under the event tab.
- 2nd Mondays April-Oct- Fly Fishing Essentials
- TBD- Tap Talks @ Collusion Tap Works



Contact us if:

- You have a water quality project and you are unsure if it's being counted for credit
- You want to be part of the Watershed Forestry Subcommittee
- You want to be part of the brand new Ag Committee or join an existing one
- You have any questions



@WAYORKPA



/WATERSHEDALLIANCEOFYORKPA

The next WAY board meeting is scheduled for **April 28th** from 6:30-8:30 PM in person at 2401 Pleasant Valley Road, York, PA 17402 and on Zoom. WAY meetings will be held the 4th Thursday of the month for 2022. Zoom link can be found at watershedallianceofyork.org

The Watershed Alliance of York (**WAY**) is a group of volunteer stakeholders interested in improving local waterways for the betterment of the County and to meet clean water goals. If you would like to get involved, please contact Rachel Stahlman at rstahlman@ycpc.org