# Community Watershed Organization **Cumulative Successes** and Impacts **Assessment Report** 2021

# **Method of Data Collection**

- Developed an online survey using SurveyMonkey
  - included question logic, yes/no questions, select all of the above, and open ended question types
- Beta tested with select CWOs
- Created PDF of survey to assist with data readiness
  - PDF included all questions which would be asked, regardless of yes/no answer
- Distributed a document with survey background, why metrics matter, and how POWR plans to report and use survey results

- Request to complete survey sent via:
- Constant Contact
- Direct email
- Follow up phone calls

Each request reminded participants to complete the survey, provided survey PDF and a link to explanation document, and offered to assist with completion of the survey



# **Survey Results**

33

Total Responses

27

**Complete Responses** 

**Conservation and Restoration Project Metrics** 



## **Planting and Maintenance**

- → Approximately 11,500 trees planted
  - Approximately 70 planting sites maintained
  - An average of 4 planting sites maintained per CWO
  - Most CWOs maintained 1 or 2 sites





### **Invasive Species Management**

- → 44% of respondents engaged in invasive species removal projects
  - Approximately 40 total acres cleared
  - Most common species removed: knotweed
  - Also: tree of heaven, honeysuckle, and wild rose



## Water Quality Monitoring

- → Almost 80% of CWOs engaged in water quality monitoring
  - Approximately 220 water quality sites were monitored in 2021
    - Monitoring frequency ranged from twice yearly to twice monthly



## Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) / Storm Water Control Projects

- → Groups are beginning to get involved with GSI or storm water control projects,
- → Highlight: One
  project implemented
  manages 56,700
  gallons of water per
  year



## Acid Mine Drainage Remediation

- → 2 CWOs engaged in the installation of new AMD treatment facilities or infrastructure projects in 2021
- → 6 CWOs monitor/maintain at
   / least 1 existing AMD treatment project;



#### Photo Credit: Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition

Education, Outreach, and **Recreation Events Metrics** 

### **Educational Lectures and Presentations**

- > 75% of CWOs hosted one or more educational lectures or presentations
  - Over 8,000 attendees at all events combined
  - Average of 440
    attendees annually per group





Tabling or presenting at community events

CWOs engaged with almost 9,000 people, at community events in 2021

Average was about
 475 per group



Paddling Sojourn or Other Recreational Activities on Streams or Rivers

- > 34% of CWOs hosted/led a recreational event
  - Approximately 280 total participants
  - Average of 30 participants per group

School or scout trips, outings, educational field days, or similar

- > 50% of CWOs hosted/led an event
  - Approximately 3,600 total participants, the majority of which were students



### Most Popular Activities



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# **Other Successes and Impacts in 2021**

Streambank Stabilization projects

Dam Removal/Culvert Replacement Project **6** Partnerships with local municipalities for MS4 permit requirements

Successful Local Government Engagement: Spearheaded the effort advocating against a proposed zoning change that would have allowed for a massive warehouse/trucking center that would have endangered the integrity of the local stream and watershed. Request was ultimately denied.

# **Other successes shared:**

- 1. The Louisiana Waterthrush (LOWA) monitoring was exceptionally well received by our Master Birders and their friends/families. We plan to continue the monitoring beyond the project. LOWA were detected at 23 of the 26 sites that were monitored. Since this is an indicator species, these monitoring results will be used to help to continue to promote the importance of protecting this unique region.
- 2. The Buffalo Creek Water Festival was held in September 2021 and had 495 people in attendance. Activities included a macroinvertebrate and freshwater fish station, invasive species education, fish survey demonstration, native plant table, H2O! To Go interactive mobile display, water quality information, birds of prey, and much more.
- 3. A total of 52,657 lbs. of waste were collected in the Buffalo Creek Watershed, including 20,245 lbs. of electronics; 31,312 lbs. of household hazardous waste; and 1,000 lbs. of litter. A total of 12 local, state, and university partners participated.
- 4. Designed and installed three educational interpretive signs about habitats and benefits of macroinvertebrates, stream bank restoration and riparian buffers
- 5. Designated as one of the first local Riparian Ranger groups; We also were asked to provide information to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission for the Watershed Implementation Plans.

### Litter Pick-up Success (reported to Keep PA Beautiful)



> 35 CWOs and over 4755 volunteers collected 989 tires and filled 9320 trash bags during during clean up events in 2021

# Volunteers and Funding Metrics



Maximum number of volunteers reported : 2000, average was 238 Majority of CWOs reported least 60 volunteers engaged in 2021

Maximum reported volunteer hours: 8,000 Average reported volunteer hours: 1193 Majority of CWOs reported at least 550 volunteer hours Equivalent to 69 full working days (8 hours) of volunteer work

> Considering a volunteer pay rate of \$28.54... Maximum value of donated time: \$228,320 Average value of donated time: \$34,048



- → Grant Money Expended in 2021
  - Maximum of \$534,000
  - ◆ Average of \$83,000 .
- $\rightarrow$  Cash Match
  - Maximum \$75,000-
  - ◆ Average \$31,000 •
  - The majority of CWOs.
    cash matched over
    - \$24,000 ·
- → In-kind Match
  - Maximum \$105,000
  - Average \$22,665

# **Engagement Metrics**

Slightly more than 70% of the CWOs who responded engaged with their county conservation district in 2021. More than half of the CWOs who responded engaged with another watershed organization or association, a nonprofit organization, or a master watershed steward.

Watershed CWOs are beginning to reach out to faith-based organizations. One group engaged with a master gardener organization.



### Most Common Partner Organizations

# Template Annual Reports

Insert a photograph here!

HERE'S WHAT WE SPENT FUNDING ON

- 1. THIS THING WE SPENT THIS MUCH ON IT
- 2. WE SPENT THIS MUCH ON THIS
- 3. AND WE DID SOMETHING ELSE HERE WHICH WAS ALSO COOL!

Here's Our Logo

👔 BEACEBOOKNAME 🕅 EMAIL@EMAIL.COM

4. WE LOVE NUMBERS.



### PLANTING INFORMATION

THIS YEAR, WE PLANTED SUCH AND SUCH MANY TREES AND MAINTAINED SUCH AND SUCH NUMBER OF PLANTING SITES

### WATER MAINTENANCE

THES YEAR, WE MAINTAIN SUCH AND SUCH MANY water sites to make sure everyone is drinking nice, clean, clear water!

REMOVAL

WE REMOVED SUCH AND SUCH ENVASIVE SPECIES TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR NATURAL AREAS ARE BEING KEPT CLEAN AND SAFE. WE <u>ALSO</u> REMOVED SOME OF THESE, WHICH ARE HARMFUL FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: ONE AND TWO AND THREE AND FOUR.

TRASH PICKUP ที่

1234 BAGS OF TRASH 12345 TIRES 1234 Pounds of stuff that shouldn't be there!



#### HERE ARE SOME OF OUR SUPERSTAR VOLUNTEERS/MEMBERS!

FIRSTNAME LASTNAME FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

LASTNAME FIRSTNAME LASTNAME LASTNAME FIRSTNAME LASTNAME FERSTNAME LASTNAME FERSTNAME LASTNAME

HERE'S

WHERE

WE

ARE!

## WHATEVER YOU WANT CAN GO HERE!

WRITE A STORY HERE ABOUT A SUCCESS YOUR GROUP HAS HAD, OR ADD SOME QUOTES FROM MEMBERS OR VOLUNTEERS!



Insert a photograph here!

Insert a photograph here!

## **Our Success Stories...**

Write a story here about a success your group has had, or add some quotes from members or volunteers! You can write a whole lot, or you can write a little, the choice is really entirely up to you. Maybe you had one super long and super cool story this year that you just really really need to share with everyone because of how cool it is, and this space right here is certainly the place you have to do that. If you have too much room or vou need more room. just change the text size.

Write a story here about a success your group has had, or add some quotes from members or volunteers!



First Lastname, First Lastname, First Lastname, First Lastname First Lastname, First Lastname, First Lastname, First Lastname

#### Donors:

Members:



First Lastname, First Lastname, First Lastname, First Lastname First Lastname, First Lastname, First Lastname, First Lastname

#### Volunteers:



First Lastname, First Lastname, First Lastname, First Lastname First Lastname, First Lastname, First Lastname, First Lastname



The Compassion Cup

Volunteer Award

Firstname

Castname

Picture of award

winner here



The Money Bags Donor Award

Firstname Lastname

Picture of award winner here

The Helping Hand Member Award

Firstname Lastname

Picture of award winner here

**Our St**<sup>^</sup>r Supporters

# Sample Report: Little Lehigh Watershed Stewards



#### OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

THE LITTLE LEHIGH WATERSHED STEWARDS ARE VOLUNTEERS WHO ACT TO PROTECT, PRESERVE AND RESTORE THE ECOSYSTEM AND WILDLIFE OF THE LITTLE LEHIGH CREEK WATERSHED, THROUGH PROJECTS, ADVOCACY, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT.

Little Lehigh Watershed Stewards

@LITTLELEHIGHSTEWARDS

### 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

WATER QUALITY MONITORING We held <u>20</u> water testing outlings, Monitored <u>1</u> water quality sites

WATERSHED RESTORATION WE PLANTED ADDIT 250 THEES, DUSHES, AND LIVE STAKES THES YEAR, AND MALINTAINED 2 PLANTING STRES

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT WE REMOVED 3 FULL DUMP TRUCK LOADS OF KNOTWEED FROM LITTLE LERIGH!

TRASH PICKUP III) We removed <u>2.500 p</u>ounds of trash



# Thank You!

To all who took the time to assist with project development and implementation and to those who shared their successes with us . We are also grateful to our project funders and sponsors:





