



WATERSHED ALLIANCE OF YORK

2025

Year in Review



2025 A note from the President



Improving York County's water, making it cleaner and healthier for all

Greetings!

The Watershed Alliance of York (WAY) had a tremendous year filled with healthy challenges, huge rewards and continued forward momentum. As a critical partner in the implementation of the Countywide Action Plan (CAP) for Clean Water, WAY is heavily focused on project implementation and directly serving landowners to meet their water quality needs.

One of our biggest accomplishments of the year was hiring an Executive Director, Emily Neideigh, as WAY's first employee. With dedicated staff we were able to get so much more work done.

This annual report highlights projects and events from the year, summarizes our year in numbers, shares our financial standings and touches on goals for 2026. I hope that you find the information shared to be insightful. If you find yourself having questions, comments, or see an opportunity to partner with us at WAY please reach out. We are focused on growing the organization and partnerships are the best way to do so.

In Stewardship,



Rachel Stahlman, President & CAP Coordinator
rstahlman@ycpc.org | 717.771.9870 x 1763

2025 Board of Directors

- Rachel Stahlman, President
- Duane Hyson, Vice President
- Mark Lentz, Treasurer
- Cindy Pizziketti, Secretary
- Matt Attig
- Lettice Brown
- Ethan Daviau
- Ted Evgeniadis
- Rob Harvey
- Diane Oleson
- Jodi Sulpizio
- Andrew Miller, Attorney



Fishing Creek at Craley stream study



Winter along Codorus Creek



Completed Phase 1 restoration project at Lake Lehman



Giant Stonefly found in Fishing Creek during a stream study



Watershed Forestry planting



Tree tubes and shelters

2025 Summary Report



\$1.8+M

in grant funding received



15

water quality projects implemented successfully



16

project specific grants received

Education



2,700+

Watershed Week participants

351 individuals educated

16 Educational events hosted

Watershed Forestry

31.5
acres planted

129
landowners engaged

9,350
native trees and shrubs distributed

Project Implementation

2,575 linear feet of stream channel restored

2.5 acres of wetland restored

21 in-stream structures installed

Outreach

2,500+ emails sent to subscribers

4,100+ website visits

52%
growth in social media viewership

62%
donation increase

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2025

Financial Report



Total Revenue

\$1,919,545.11



Total Expenses

\$1,872,967.08



Net Income

\$46,578.03

Revenue

Grants

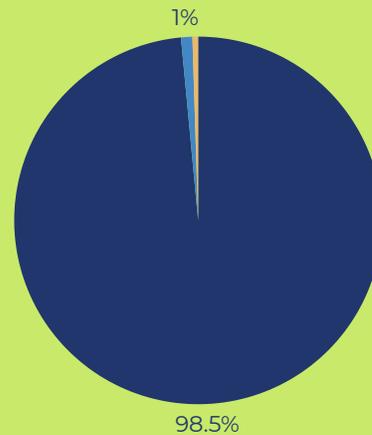
\$1,901,433.35

Fundraising & Donations

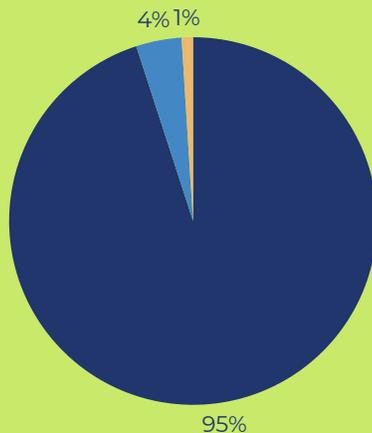
\$14,725.26

Interest

\$3,386.50



Expenses



Grants

\$1,783,563.56

Salary & Benefits

\$74,225.94

Operating

\$15,177.58

Photo Highlights



**Codorus Creek
Tributary (Lake
Lehman)**



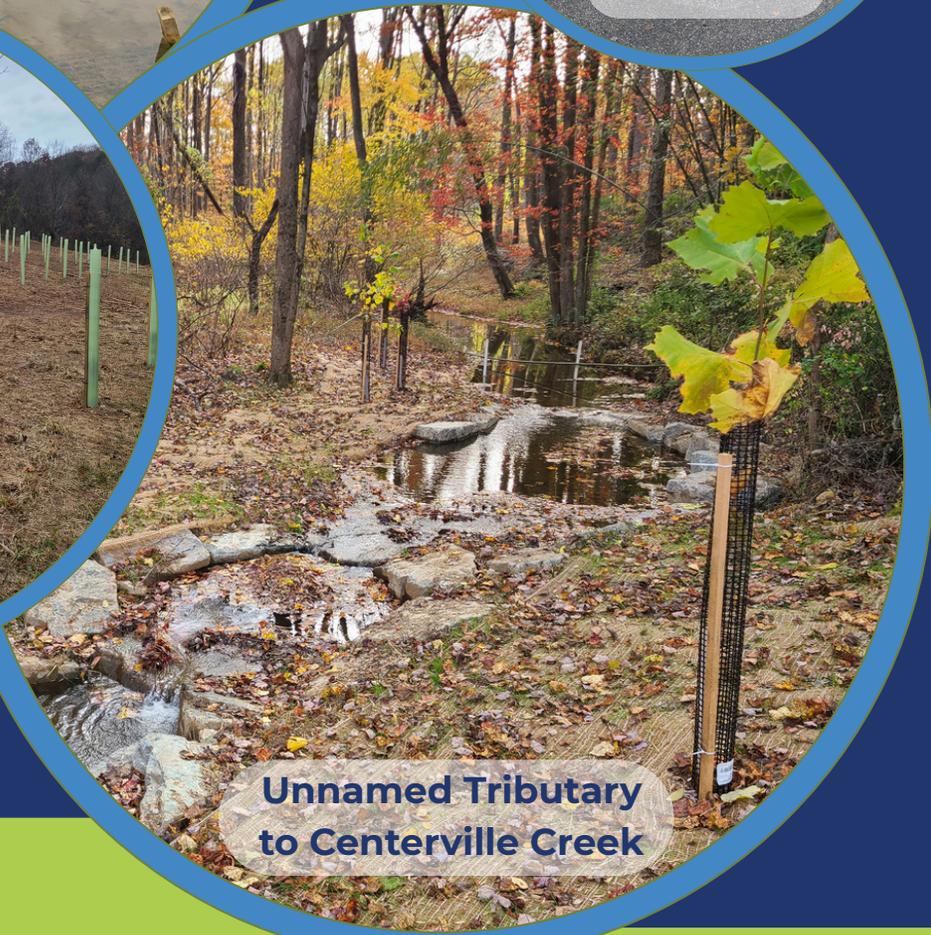
**Codorus TU
Watershed
Week Event**



K10 Trees



**Fishing Creek
Planting**



**Unnamed Tributary
to Centerville Creek**



**Willis Run
Clean Up**

Beetree Run in New Freedom Borough

Before



After



- Removal of two failed gabion baskets
- Regrading of approximately 440 linear feet of eroded stream bank
- Excavation and stabilization of two floodplain benches
- Installation of rock cross vanes for grade control
- Native tree and shrub planting

Unnamed Tributary to Little Conewago Creek in West Manchester Township

Before



After



- Removal and disposal of five concrete structures, including a small, low head dam
- Excavation and stabilization of a floodplain bench
- Regrading eroded stream bank
- Removal of railroad ties and installation of toe rock
- Installation of a grade control structure
- Native tree and shrub planting

Unnamed Tributary to Centerville Creek in Codorus Township

Before



After



- Removal and disposal of a concrete weir structure
- Regrading eroded stream bank and installation of rock toe
- Installation of in-stream structures to provide habitat
- Installation of grade control structures
- Native tree and shrub planting

Watershed Forestry Program



The Program planted 31.5 acres throughout the County.

20 Project 25 Spotlight

Lake Lehman

The scope for the Codorus Creek Tributary at Lake Lehman Floodplain Restoration project includes restoring approximately 4,500 linear feet of stream with legacy sediment removal, 10 acres of floodplain, and 7 acres of historical floodplain wetlands. The site is situated where the previous Lake Lehman and dam were located before the dam was breached and the lake drained. The draining of Lake Lehman resulted in an unstable stream system eroding through the old lakebed and transporting legacy sediment downstream of the site.

WAY and LandStudies decided to split the project into three phases to better tackle funding challenges. In the spring of 2025, WAY put the project out to bid, selecting Flyway Excavating as the lowest responsible bidder. By summer, construction was underway with Phase 1 work of the project completed in October 2025 which included 9.2 acres of riparian forest buffer, 2.5 acres of restored floodplain/wetland and 1,220 linear feet of existing stream channel restored with legacy sediment removed. Phase 1 received \$1,098,360 in CAP funding as well as funding from the York County Conservation District, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Kinsley Foundation, Warehime Foundation, and York County Community Foundation. The total project cost is estimated to be \$2,697,576.



Before construction during a surveying site visit.



Before construction site visit showing old dam infrastructure.

20 Project 25 Spotlight

Lake Lehman (cont.)



During construction in August 2025.

The purpose of the project is to remove legacy sediment and restore the floodplain to conditions that resemble as close to an approximation of pre-settlement conditions as reasonably possible, considering site constraints. Removing the legacy sediment from this system will eliminate a substantial sediment and nutrient source from the Codorus Watershed. The restored floodplain will act as a sediment and nutrient sink that will remove, and process nutrients supplied by the upstream watershed. The project will provide significant systemic ecological uplift and reestablish the floodplain connections to the active channel and groundwater. WAY is looking forward to continuing our work with LandStudies and Flyway on Phases 2 and 3. We plan to construct Phase 2 in 2026 and Phase 3 in 2027.



After construction of Phase 1 in November 2025.

20 Events 25 Highlight

23rd Annual Watershed Week

The purpose of Watershed Week is to increase awareness about the importance of clean water to community health and the practices we all do to keep our watersheds healthy. Watershed Week attendees get to know their watershed and the folks and organizations who are working hard to enhance, restore, and protect them. In September, we celebrated the 23rd Annual Watershed Week!



19 Events



>2,700 Attendees



>20,000 Online Engagements



During the kickoff event - a clean up of Willis Run - volunteers found freshwater mussels in the creek. This was surprising as the creek is small, annually cleaned, and mussels have not previously been found here!



U.S. Geological Survey partners were the featured Tap Talks speakers where they discussed the agency's water quality monitoring initiatives including York County's extensive monitoring program.



Farm and Natural Lands Trust and RES partnered with WAY to host Stream Restoration 101 where we visited the Davidson's property and toured their unique wetland and stream restoration project.



Codorus Creek Trout Unlimited (TU) hosted attendees for Intro to Fly Fishing. TU members collected macroinvertebrates (scuds pictured here) and later showed attendees how to tie flies that mimic different macroinvertebrates.



The Wallace Cross Mill Stream Study yielded many exciting macroinvertebrate finds. Attendees also enjoyed tours of the Mill during its Harvest Days.



The Pawpaw Festival during Horn Farm Center's Wild and Uncommon Weekend offers us the best opportunity to outreach to many people about water quality initiatives.

Thank you to our 2025 Partners



Master Watershed Steward Program



YORK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



pennsylvania DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



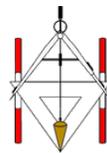
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission



FLYWAY EXCAVATING, INC.



Constellation.



HONOR ENGINEER CO.



The Kinsley Foundation



Improving York County's water, making it cleaner and healthier for all



POWDER MILL FOUNDATION

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Goals for 2026



Complete a 5-year Strategic Plan



Implement Water Quality Projects



Survey Freshwater Mussels in York County Streams



Apply for New Grants to Assist Landowners



Feature New Events during the 24th Annual Watershed Week



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making it cleaner and healthier for all

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