

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

The WAY Board of Directors wants to take this time to thank all of our sponsors, partners, and participants. The merger this year of York County Coalition for Clean Water with WAY could not have happened without your support. And without your ambition and generosity, we would not have had the successful year that we did! Our time with LUMI is coming to an end and we are thrilled with the outcome. Keep an eye out for new videography featuring some of our Board of Directors. We wish you and yours Happy Holidays and we look forward to new adventures in the new year!



WAY

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COORDINATOR'S CORNER

In early November, I attended the 2021 PA Statewide Conference for Watershed Organizations - my first in-person conference since 2019. It was a very fun opportunity to gather with many like-minded organizations for two days and learn of many interesting and unique projects across the state, and to network with people who are also dedicated to doing this work. This year's focus was adaptability, resiliency, and innovation. So many great sessions and conversations occurred during those two days around these subjects. A favorite session of mine was titled "Cool Things You Might Not Know About Fresh Water Mussels & Their Recovery in PA" presented by Eric Chapman, Director of Aquatic Science at the Western PA Conservancy. Eric shared some fascinating facts about PA's native freshwater mussels. PA has sixty-seven native species of freshwater mussels. In our basin, the Susquehanna, we are the home to twelve of those native freshwater mussel species. Pretty cool! Eric and his team have done some incredible freshwater mussel studies and assessments and there are some videos online about it. If you're interested, google search "Kiski River Freshwater Mussels", find the Triblive.com article, and follow the link for happy viewing!

It's been such an amazing year for our organization and we have been able to grow and evolve despite a pandemic. The time I was able to spend at the Conference for Watershed Organizations allowed me to reflect on WAY's past year and see that all the work we did and have set up for years to come, has been focused on adaptability, resiliency, and innovation. We have so much to be proud of and to celebrate!

Cheers to a great 2021 and look out 2022, WAY is coming through!

NEW

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Rachel Stahlman
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Little Creek RESTORATION

Restoration of 800 lineal feet of an Unnamed Tributary to the Codorus Creek (locally known as Little Creek) in Jackson Township's Little Creek Community Park caught the attention of the neighboring property owners. They were impressed with the improvements, which stabilized the stream banks and provided a riparian buffer to filter sediments and nutrients from entering the stream, as well as created essential habitat. The stream segment on their agricultural property was impaired and unstable, reflecting some of the original conditions of Little Creek on the Township's property.



Before



After



Jackson Township agreed to sponsor Phase II of the Little Creek restoration project and was successful in obtaining York County Stormwater Consortium (YCSWC) funding for design and permitting. Subsequently, the Township applied for, and received, funding from the YCSWC, York County Planning Commission CAP, and York County Conservation District Exelon Habitat Improvement Program.

Phase II involved restoration of an additional 737 lineal feet of Little Creek. Restoration of this stream stretch was achieved through a low floodplain bench, which varies in width from 20 to 50 feet, and allows increased stream flows to access the floodplain, reducing the erosive energy and allowing for sediment transported from upstream to deposit on-site. The stream banks were stabilized using bank grading techniques and planting native vegetation. Additional improvements included a riprap grade control structure at upstream limits of the restoration, a plunge pool at a stormwater discharge into the creek, and a riprap bank stabilization at the culvert under State Route 116. As a result of damage from Hurricane Ida, three coir logs were installed to help meander the stream channel and prevent future storm damage.

Benefits of the Little Creek stream restoration include healthier water quality in Little Creek, reduced flooding on adjacent roads and farm fields during heavy storms, and improved habitat for fish, aquatic insects, and birds. Moreover, this project helps to meet MS4 sediment reduction goals and CAP nitrogen reduction goals.

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!

<p>Education & Outreach Committee (E&O)</p> <p><i>Spread the word about why we need to clean up York's streams</i></p>	<p>Data Management Committee (DM)</p> <p><i>Develop ways to calculate our progress</i></p>	<p>Project Implementation Committee (PI)</p> <p><i>Put projects on the ground</i></p>
<p>Revenue Building Committee (RB)</p> <p><i>Grant writing and collaborating with sponsors to find funds</i></p>	<p>Legislative & Programmatic Changes Committee (L&P)</p> <p><i>Policy changes</i></p>	<p>Agricultural Committee (Ag)</p> <p><i>Help us form this new committee</i></p>

The **E&O Committee** continues to focus on outreach to municipalities via newsletter articles. The E+O team aims to have an introductory article to each interested municipality by the end of December. We also started brainstorming ideas to host a local event around the Mighty Beaver after being so inspired by “The Importance of Beaver seminar” at this years Watershed Week. Stay tuned!

The **DM Committee** is awaiting clarification from other entities regarding BMP reporting information.

The **RB Committee** is still dormant of volunteer activity but fundraising and money searching continues. WAY just participated in “Giving Tuesday” and had a fundraising apparel sale that garnished some funds!

The **L&P Committee** is revisiting the Sustainable Landscaping Ordinance and reviewing the Stormwater Management Ordinance (Act 167).

The **PI Committee** recently met for a regrouping after spending the Summer and Fall focused on the Riparian Rangers. All partners are forging ahead with projects. Recruitment is still open to join the Riparian Rangers – 2022 is shaping up to be a big year for them!

The **Ag Committee** is a work in progress. A brainstorming session was held to determine goals and objectives for this committee.

Trees, Trees, EVERYWHERE!

As the planting season draws to a close, I'm very excited to share the many successes of the year. Riparian buffers were installed all over the county including in Abbottstown, Airville, Dillsburg, Dover, Felton, Hanover, Hellam, Manchester, Stewartstown, and Windsor to name a few. These buffers are key to protecting our waterways and the thousands of trees planted will provide shade, filter excess nutrients, prevent erosion, and stabilize stream banks.



You might spot these future forests in your travels when you see rows of green tubes. Each tree is planted, and then to prevent them becoming deer lunch placed in a staked five-foot-tall tube. The tube top is covered with a net to prevent birds from being trapped or nesting inside. Participating in these projects is a really rewarding experience, and it is amazing to watch as members of the community come together and plant 700 trees before lunch. The only thing more rewarding than seeing a tree planting is watching this work come to fruition. The maintenance of these future forests is the work of our Riparian Ranger team and if you'd enjoy the opportunity to help this team, contact Alyssa Swartz at the York County Conservation District at aswartz@yorkccd.org.

As successful as this year was, we are not resting on our laurels. If you have or know of a property that would benefit from a buffer installation, please reach out to Rachel Stahlman at rstahlman@ycpc.org. We are looking to work with businesses, churches, farms, schools, and more. Many of these projects are done at little or no cost to the landowner.

Thank you to our partners The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the Keystone 10.

-Cindy Pizziketti

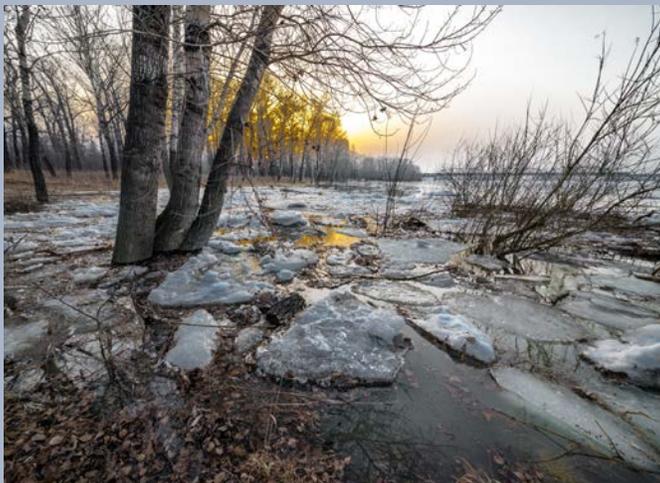


MELTING SNOW, IT'S STORMWATER TOO!



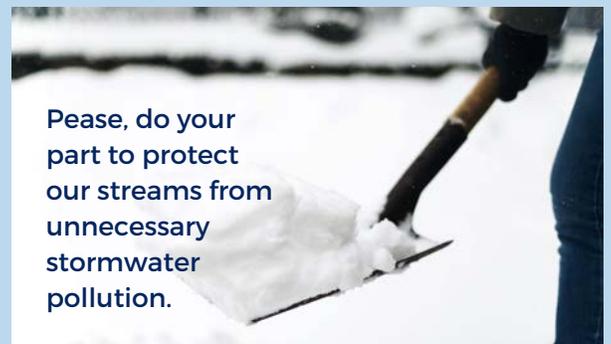
Just like when rain falls the rest of the year, melting snow turns into stormwater runoff. Heavy rains sweeping across your yard and driveway carry pollution and high volumes of water into our nearby streams, lakes, and other waterways. Melting snow does the same things. Both rain and snow melt can seriously impair Pennsylvania's waters when they travel over the land in our developed communities.

In winter, melting snow causes a few unique stormwater problems. Because the ground is often frozen at the surface, melting snow can't infiltrate into the soil the way a light or moderate rain is able to. So even a small amount of snow can cause localized flooding on your property. When snow builds up over several small storm events without melting in between, it can turn into large winter storm impacts when it finally does melt - leading to potential community wide flooding events. In both cases, that standing and flowing water on the ground is picking up all kinds of debris, pollutants (especially de-icing salts and chemicals), and litter that will find their way into nearby streams.



Here are some tips for managing your property for winter stormwater this season:

- When piling your snow after shoveling, choose locations where the snow will infiltrate instead of becoming stormwater runoff. Pile your snow in areas where you don't usually have ponding in the spring rains, on relatively flat areas, and away from sensitive areas like streams, ponds, and your private well or septic absorption area if you have one.
- Clear your downspouts to allow melting roof snow to flow and not collect at your foundation.
- Make sure your nearest storm drains are clear. Do not pile snow on storm drains and make sure your neighborhood plow is not piling snow over the drains too. Clear away any snow that may have been kicked onto the drains by passing cars.
- Use de-icing chemicals and salts judiciously. Use what you need to make your walkways and driveways safe, but try to avoid spreading around sensitive areas like waterways and your private well.
- Postpone outdoor construction projects in winter, when you can't establish new vegetation to reduce soil loss and muddy runoff.



Adaptation from the Penn State Extension and York Township

Horn Farm Update



You may have heard the news that on the night of October 25th, lightning struck the Horn Farm Center's historic farm house, destroying the 2nd and 3rd floors. As a partner to Horn Farm, WAY is devastated at the loss and hardship our friends at Horn Farm are facing in the time ahead.

In the spirit of the Holidays, WAY wants to share that our friends at the Horn Farm Center are still rebuilding and working through the tragedy of the fire that heavily damaged their historic farm house. In this season of giving, if you are searching for a way to give back monetarily, consider a donation to the Horn Farm Center. Our friends could use help with the following:

Gift Cards

Will allow the team to address specific immediate needs related to fire recovery.

- Staples
- Office Max
- Walmart
- Lowes
- Home Depot
- Staples
- GIANT

Gift Cards for Seeds

The entire seed inventory was destroyed in the fire. Below are a few seed companies from which Horn Farm sources untreated, organic seeds.

- Johnny's Organic Seeds
- Baker creek Heirloom Seed Company
- Strictly Medicinal Seeds
- High Mowing Seed Company



Physical Labor

- Mowing & Landscaping
- Fall Field Clean-up
- Garlic Planting
- Cover Cropping
- Trail Maintenance
- Weeding
- Invasive Removal



Materials and Professional Assistance

Specifically related to the set-up of our interim operational facility

- An additional mobile office unit or an RV/camper (loan or donation)
- Pellet Stove
- A pick-up truck (loan or donation)
- Gravel & Pavers
- Professional Plumbing Services
- Carpenter for structural repair of job trailer
- Waste Removal
- Building Supplies
 - Flooring: vinyl or wood, & flooring adhesive
 - Paint: interior & exterior (preferably self-priming for metal)
 - Lumber and plywood
 - Tools - table saw, saw horses, etc.

In-kind Contributions & Equipment

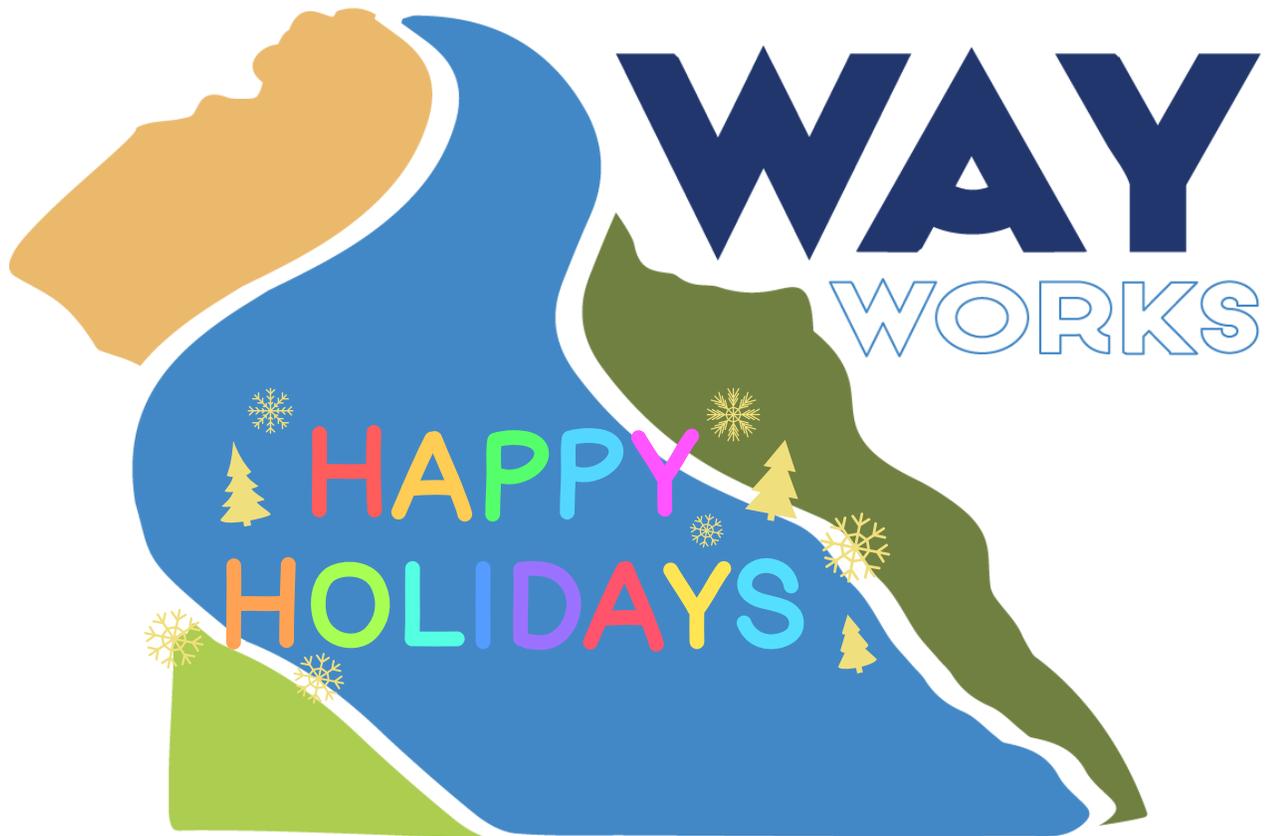
Helping to support the Horn Farm's general operational needs will enable allocation of more resources to fire recovery efforts

- Rotary Tiller
- Electric Lawn Equipment
- Push & Riding Mowers
- Garden Hoses
- Compost Bins
- Rain Barrels or Food Safe IBC Containers
- Flame Weeder
- Pop-Up Tents
- Hand Tools: broad forks, scythes, pitch forks, trowels shovels, digging forks



If you would like to donate or have questions of any kind, e-mail info@hornfarmcenter.org. Any contribution is greatly appreciated and goes straight to the needs of the Horn Farm Center. Time is also valuable so especially consider reaching out to volunteer for tree plantings.

"WE ARE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT TOGETHER WE WILL PERSEVERE. LET THE ASHES OF THIS TRAGEDY BE FERTILE SOIL FOR OUR FUTURE GROWTH AND RESILIENT COMMUNITY." ~HORN FARM



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 brand new Watershed Forestry Subcommittee
- You want to be part of the brand new Ag Committee or join an existing one

The next WAY meeting is scheduled for **January 27th** 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.

The Watershed Alliance of York (**WAY**) is a group of volunteer stakeholders interested in improving local water ways 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

