

The Re~CAP

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



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WAY BOARD

The WAY Board currently has five vacant seats. If you have been thinking of expressing your interest of being a Board Director, now is your chance! Attend our next Board meeting on August 24th at 6pm - visit www.watershedallianceofyork.org for meeting details. Our September WAY Board meeting will be a bit different. Join us on September 16th (the 3rd Thursday instead of 4th) at Collusion Tapworks for our kick off Watershed Week event and your chance to meet, greet, and network with the WAY Board. Visit the Watershed Week section on the website for all the details. See you soon!

WAY

BOARD OFFICERS

RACHEL STAHLMAN,
PRESIDENT

DUANE HYSON,
VICE PRESIDENT

EMILY NEIDEIGH,
SECRETARY

BOARD DIRECTORS

LETTICE BROWN
TED EVGENIADIS
MATT ATTIG
JEFF HELWIG
DIANE OLESON
JODI SULPIZIO
MATT HARTMAN

Watershed Alliance of York is feeling the excitement and changes that our merger and rebranding have brought us! Since our last reCAP we have continued the launch of our campaigns (have you been following us on social media?!), finalized a Sponsorship Deck for Watershed Week (do you want to sponsor us?!), approved a Watershed Week logo, completed our Branding and Messaging Guide, had a professional photoshoot in a Watershed Friendly certified yard, and nailed down many details for the next several weeks around content creation. I sincerely hope that you've started to notice the excitement and changes as well!

The planning of our 19th Annual Watershed Week event is underway and this year we are organizing over 20 events! You will not want to miss out on any bit of this fun so make sure your calendars are marked for September 16 - 25! Visit the Watershed Week section of the WAY website for all the details...

Also getting some attention currently is our 4th Annual Street 2 Creek City of York art exhibition! Have you ever noticed the beautifully painted storm drains Downtown near the Codorus Creek, in the Square, and in Royal Square? That is a Street 2 Creek! The art exhibition, brought to us in partnership with the Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards, will bring four new painted storm drains to our City this year in an effort to raise awareness of what happens to the water that goes in our storm drains. Don't miss the unveiling of the new artwork at the York Fine Arts Festival the last week of August...

In other WAY news, our Committees continue to meet and move our mission and goals forward. We are seeking volunteer involvement on our Ag, Legislative and Programmatic Changes, and Revenue Building Committees - these three Committees currently have no volunteers so joining one could mean you are part of the new WAY Committee infancy where your ideas will be heard and discussed. Reach out to me if you are interested in having a conversation about anything mentioned or water quality related!



NEW

KEEP UP-TO-DATE
WITH US AND
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



@WAYORKPA



/WATERSHEDALLIANCEOFYORKPA

Rachel Stahlman
CAP Coordinator
rstahlman@ycpc.org



Building a Better York County: The County of York's Strategic Planning Process is underway

For the first time, the County of York is engaged in a strategic planning process. The **Building a Better York County** initiative is being led by the York County Commissioners and key staff in County government. The County is working with a professional consulting company (Wakeen and Company) to facilitate this process.

The vision of **Building a Better York County** includes:

- Working collective to develop a long term vision for York County Government and our community as a whole
- Prioritizing actions to move us toward that vision
- Challenging ourselves to collaborate in new ways and think differently about addressing community issues

This initiative will be strongly shaped by input from both County employees and County residents. To gather important feedback from residents, a countywide survey has been developed. Funded by the Powder Mill Foundation, it is occurring in two phases. The first phase is administered by the Arthur J Glatfelter Institute for Public Policy at York College of PA. Surveys were sent via US Mail to a statistically valid sample of households in York County, with the first mailing sent 6/21/2021. If you received this survey in the mail, please fill it out!

In the second phase, the survey is open to all County residents for completion at www.buildingabetteryorkcounty.org. The survey, along with demographic information, asks respondents about the priorities they have for their community, what County services have they used, and how they would rate and prioritize County services.



Let's
build it
together.



Survey Time!

The countywide survey opens 7/13/2021 and will remain open through 8/13/2021. Your input is vital, please participate! The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. Every York County resident that responds to the survey will be eligible to enter a drawing to win 1 of 5 \$100 gift cards.

A link to the survey and information regarding Building a Better York County can be found at www.buildingabetteryorkcounty.org.

Committee Updates

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

Education & Outreach Committee (E&O)-spread the word about why we need to clean up York's streams and how we can accomplish it

Data Management Committee (DM)- develop ways to calculate our progress

Project Implementation Committee (PI) or our newly formed Watershed Forestry Subcommittee- put projects on the ground

Revenue Building Committee (RB)-grant writing & collaborating with sponsors to find funds

Legislative and Programmatic Changes Committee (L&P) - policy changes

Agricultural Committee- help us form this new committee!

Contact Rachel at rstahlman@ycpc.org to join a committee today!

JOIN US!
Rachel Stahlman
717-771-9870 x 1763
rstahlman@ycpc.org

Riparian Rangers, a "branch" of the Watershed Forestry Subcommittee

The Watershed Forestry Subcommittee is making waves as York County welcomes their first Riparian Rangers Branch! The subcommittee, in partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, has established a branch of the Riparian Ranger program focused on our local reforestation plantings. The Riparian Ranger program was founded by The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in 2019 and works to monitor and maintain the reforestation efforts funded by The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. In early July, the York County Riparian Ranger Branch formed, received training, and committed to the same goals - monitor, maintain, and ultimately boost tree survivorship for any reforestation effort locally. The Rangers will be visiting reforestation sites monthly, March through October, during the first three years of the planting. The goal of the program is to enhance collective capacity by monitoring throughout the growing season. Each Ranger is assigned a site and responsible for a variety of tasks such as straightening and securing shelters, removing invasives, removing bird nets and tree shelters, identifying mortalities, and helping to replant. The Rangers also report back to the Branch Leader if the buffer is being impacted severely by invasive species pressure, flood damage, animal browsing, or low tree survivorship. This monitoring and maintenance ensure a higher tree survival rate which will lead to more effective restoration efforts throughout York County. If you are interested in volunteering as a Riparian Ranger in York County, please contact the Branch Leader - Alyssa Swartz at aswartz@yorkccd.org or (717) 840-7430.



POORHOUSE RUN

Poorhouse Run is a stream that flows through York City beginning near PSU York and running through Veterans Memorial Park, next to Hannah Penn Middle School. It then flows entirely underground until it resurfaces near the old prison on Chestnut Street. The stream finally empties out into the Codorus Creek.

The stream banks through Veteran's Memorial Park and next to Hannah Penn Middle School were severely eroded to where the creek was essentially sinking. The erosion made the creek very separated from the park as the banks were extremely steep drop-offs. There was a very old footbridge that was used to cross the creek.



Before



During



After



The restoration was planned and completed by LandStudies who worked tirelessly to design a beautiful, natural, yet functional area for residents, visitors, students, and wildlife. The banks were regraded to reconnect the natural floodplain to the creek. This included knocking down old trees, digging up the banks, redirecting the creek in some areas, and flattening the steep, eroded banks. The dirt that was removed from the bottom and banks of the creek were used to both regrade the football field at Hannah Penn Middle School and create a platform for the new pickleball courts in Memorial Park. A new footbridge was placed across the creek allowing access to the pickleball courts from the other side of the creek. A new blacktopped walking path was also created to give our walkers, runners, and bikers a stable area to walk and enjoy the creek and its amenities. Benches and trash cans were dotted along the path to make sure we keep our park clean.

It is nice to see new wildlife and visitors to the park exploring the creek. The final addition will hopefully be educational signage installed along the path so visitors can learn more about the restoration, the history of the creek, conservation ideas, and why the restoration was necessary.

Ways to learn, dig in, and get your feet wet!

Greener Codorus Initiative



What is the Greener Codorus Initiation? Volunteers chop vegetation weekly along the banks of the Codorus Creek in York City to keep harmful chemicals like herbicides from being sprayed along the banks. They have all the tools and safety equipment. Please wear long pants, shoes with good ankle support, and bring your own water bottle. Meet at Foundry Plaza/Codorus Boat Basin. The schedule for the foreseeable future is the **1st & 3rd Monday 9:00-11:00AM** and **2nd & 4th Wednesday 5:30-7:30PM**. Evening times will change later in the season due to daylight. See you out there! Please do not come out if it's wet or raining, we cannot do this work in wet conditions. All volunteer hours count towards any required community service obligations.

Tree Planting Volunteer Days at the Horn Farm Center

Looking for a dynamic, full-body workout? Want to get outdoors and get your hands dirty? Interested in learning more about perennial plants, ecology, and protecting our local waterways? We have the perfect opportunity for you, AND we really need your help! Join us as we continue to install our 6 acre riparian buffer project this fall and help us plant over 10,000 new multifunctional trees. Mondays from 12pm-3pm and Wednesdays from 8am-11am in October.

Sign up at hornfarmcenter.org.



Street2Creek at the York Arts Fest



Want to see who won the Street2Creek contest? Join us August 28th & 29th at Yorkfest. Yorkfest is York's weekend-long premier fine arts festival! It is held along the Codorus Creek in historic downtown York, and features over 100 fine artists from all around the country, free entertainment, and hands-on art activities.

Tire Challenge Fundraiser!

Hats off to John Naylor and his supporters for reaching his goal to pick 100 tires out of the Susquehanna River and meeting their \$2,500 fundraising goal as well!



19TH ANNUAL WATERSHED WEEK

Next month is Watershed Week! Starting September 16th and running through the 25th, events will be happening all over the County! The purpose of Watershed Week is to increase public awareness about the importance local watersheds play to community health, sustainable economies, and the environmental quality of the Chesapeake Bay. Participants can get to know their watershed and the folks and organizations who are working hard to enhance, restore, and protect them. Watershed Week is fun for the whole family!

Many events are planned, and some are in progress of being planned but they are in need of funding. Are you able to be a sponsor? Check out watershedallianceofyork.org for more information!






Event details can be found at watershedallianceofyork.org

List of Events

- Street2Creek Tour
- Tap Talk @ Collusion...meet the WAY Board & drink some Watershed Week Beer brewed just for us!
- YCCD Clay Shoot
- Zimmerman Center
- Native Plant Nursery Tour
- Kiwanis Lake Rain Garden Planting
- Horn Farm Paw Paw Fest
- Red Lion Municipal Authority Tour
- Youth & Family Family Fishing & Conservation Day
- Stream Study @ Cross Mill
- Greener Codorus Initiative Clean Up
- Beaver Talk
- Virtual Rain Barrel Workshop
- Yoga @ Highpoint
- York County Parks Native Plant Sale
- Dive Deeper Summit
- Poorhouse Run Stream Restoration Tour & History
- Water Quality Monitoring Tour
- Dam Bridge Challenge & Celebration with LIVE MUSIC!!!



	WATERSHED WARRIOR \$1,000
	ECOSYSTEM ADVOCATE \$500
	CLEAN WATER CHAMPION \$250



The next WAY meeting is scheduled for **Aug 26th** from 6-8 pm

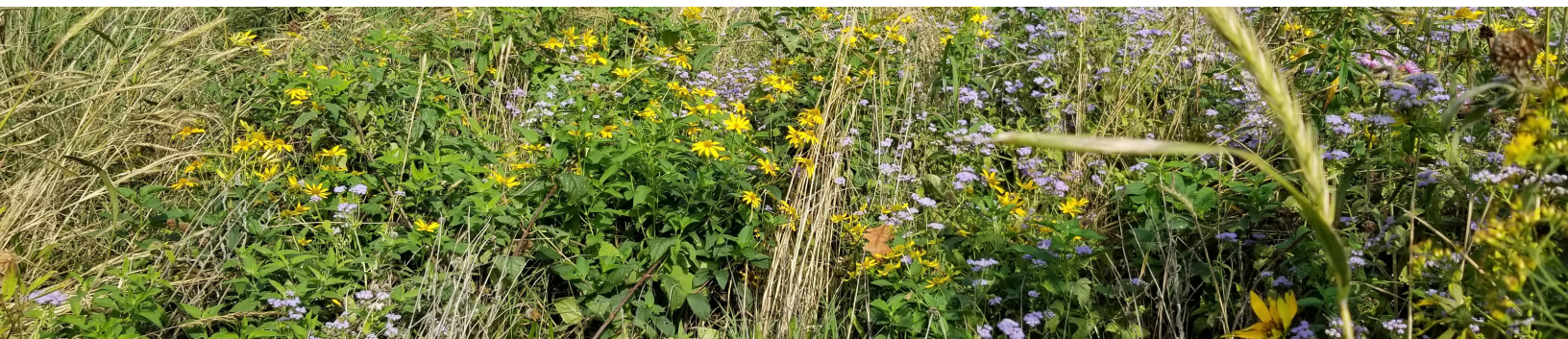
(see pg 1 for details)

Contact WAY if you:

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

Dates to Remember:

- August 26th WAY meeting
- September 16-25 Watershed Week
- 1st & 3rd Monday mornings and 2nd & 4th Wednesday nights for Greener Codorus
- Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings in October for Horn Farm Tree Planting



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