



York Academy Upper School, York County, PA



KEEP PENNSYLVANIA BEAUTIFUL
HEALING THE PLANET
FINAL REPORT 2022

Healing the Planet Grants

Healing the Planet 2022 was a competitive grant program in support of projects aimed at improving the health and quality of waterways to help protect water resources and improve the overall health of communities. Projects funded included stream health and water quality monitoring activities, marine debris removal, storm water/MS4 education initiatives, lake/pond ecology, watershed education activities, watershed landscape measures, rain gardens, streambank restoration, erosion control, AMD remediation, rain barrels, pollution abatement and source water protection. Eligible applicants and proposed projects were required to be located in The GIANT Company's operating areas within Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia and to be on public land or be for public use and benefit.

The GIANT Company and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful awarded 45 Healing the Planet grants ranging from \$2,500 up to \$10,000, totaling \$300,000. Funding for the grants was provided by customers at GIANT, MARTIN'S and GIANT Heirloom Market stores who rounded up their grocery purchase to the nearest dollar from March through May.

The GIANT Company

The GIANT Company believes that no matter where or how, when meals happen, families connect, and when families connect meaningfully, good happens. Guided by its brand platform, For Today's Table®, the omni-channel retailer proudly serves millions of neighbors across Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and New Jersey. A Great Place to Work™ certified company with more than 35,000 talented team members supporting more than 190 stores, 133 pharmacies, 107 fuel stations, and over 175 online pickup hubs and grocery delivery service in hundreds of zip codes, The GIANT Company is changing the customer experience and connecting families for a better future. Founded in 1923 in Carlisle, Pa., The GIANT Company family of brands includes GIANT, MARTIN'S, GIANT Heirloom Market, GIANT Direct and MARTIN'S Direct. The GIANT Company is a company of Ahold Delhaize USA. For more information, visit the GIANT or MARTIN'S websites.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful has supported community improvement initiatives and has encouraged community leadership, responsibility and a respect for the environment since 1990. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's core programming focuses on litter and illegal dump prevention, cleanup, community greening, and proper waste handling and sustainable practices. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful works with many partnering organizations on the state and grassroots level to accomplish our goal of a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania. The Healing the Planet Community Grants are an appropriate way to support the noble and necessary work being implemented by area nonprofits, government agencies and local government to improve communities across the state and surrounding area.



Michaux State Forest Association • Cumberland County, PA

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Renaturalization of the Mountain Creek Buffer at Pine Grove Furnace State Park

Michaux State Forest, Cumberland County, PA

Volunteers cleared vast amounts of woody invasive vegetation including Privet, Japanese Barberry, Multiflora Rose, Bush Honeysuckle, and Asiatic Bittersweet, and replanted with 6 to 16 feet native trees, smaller native tree and shrub seedlings and live stakes, and native herbs. As the new plants establish, they will increasingly promote the ecosystem services of the riparian buffer, shading and cooling the stream, stabilizing the streambank, preventing erosion, slowing runoff, filtering pollutants and excess nutrients, and sequestering carbon. These native plants will also support communities of insects and higher secondary consumers such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, and birds. Clearing invasive species has also increased accessibility for visitors.



"I cannot praise you and your volunteers enough for all the wonderful work you are doing!"

*Angela McCarty, Environmental Education Specialist,
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural
Resources Bureau of State Parks, Pine Grove Furnace
State Park*

Partners

Cumberland County Conservation District
Cumberland County Juvenile Probation
Department
Cumberland County Master Gardeners
Cumberland County Master Watershed
Stewards
Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited
DCNR Conservation Volunteers
Dickinson College Alliance for Aquatic
Resource Management
Friends of Michaux State Forest
Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park
Gettysburg College Center for Public
Service
Keystone 10 Million Trees/Chesapeake Bay
Foundation
Michaux Forest Association
Shippensburg Township Parks
Shippensburg University Center for Land
Use and Sustainability
The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
The Giant Company
The Millport Conservancy

A Week in the Codorus Creek: Investigating Factors that Influence Stream Health in Urban vs. Rural Areas

York Academy Upper School, York County, PA

The York Academy 11th grade Diploma Programme students engaged in gathering and interpreting physical, chemical, and biological data at two locations along Codorus Creek to evaluate environmental factors that affect the water. The students brainstormed possible solutions to mitigate negative impacts with the goal of improving stream health in the local urban community. Students, wearing waders, used handheld microscopes to identify microorganisms and microplastics and to remove 200 pounds of debris from the creek. The three week project culminated with the students presenting their findings at an exhibition open to community members.



Our stream health investigation comparing urban and rural influences on physical, chemical, and biological factors was a huge success, boosting the academic and personal growth of the students involved. Additionally, community connections made during the project will help to develop this project in the coming years!

Roni Reed, International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Science Teacher

Partners

City of York
Codorus State Park



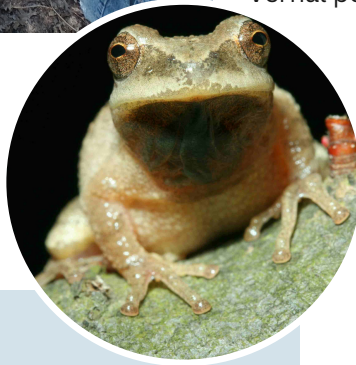


Innovative Techniques for Community Monitoring of Vernal Pools

Western PA Conservancy, York County, PA

Focusing on restored and unmodified vernal pool habitats, this project expanded and improved wetland monitoring programs at Gifford Pinchot State Park and Kings Gap Environmental Education Center. Staff and 154 volunteers installed 30 hydrological monitoring stations to track water depth and seasonal duration of flooding, and 15 photo stations at pools located near trails, which are used to track seasonal changes in these dynamic wetland habitats.

In addition, the Vernal Pool Phenology Project (VPPP), a regional monitoring effort led by the Ecological Research as Education Network, monitored water levels and water temperature, took photos, and recorded wood frog calls and amphibian egg masses and measured the leaf out stage in trees around the pools. The results will be used to help determine vernal pools selected for future monitoring.



Partners

Chronolog
CrowdHydrology - University of Buffalo,
Department of Geology
Diakon Youth Services
Friends of Pinchot State Park, Gifford
Pinchot State Park
Kings Gap Environmental Education Center
Mike Bertram and Kathy King
Penn State Master Watershed Stewards,
Cumberland and York Counties
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources, Bureau of
Recreation and Conservation
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources, Bureau of State
Parks, Resource Management and Field
Services
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

"The Forest Pools Area, Kings Gap EE Center's most recent property acquisition, is perhaps the park's most ecologically important and distinctive segment. The interactive vernal pool monitoring effort, established in partnership with the Western PA Conservancy, with support from Healing the Planet, will both inform our management of this valuable space, as well as engage and educate our recreational users."

Gavin Smith, Center Manager, Kings Gap Environmental Education Center

Rails to Trails East Bridge Replacement

Town of Mount Airy, Carroll County, MD

Word spread quickly around town as people learned a new bridge was coming. The Rails-to-Trails nature path in the Town of Mt. Airy follows the original 1830s B&O rail line. When the trail section was constructed several years ago, a small wooden bridge was installed allowing access to the trail from Watkins Park. The bridge was narrow, slippery when wet and was not even with the ground, causing challenges for strollers, wheelchairs, bikes, and pedestrians. The Healing the Planet grant funded the construction of a wider, safer, and more permanent bridge that is accessible to all, repairing the vital link between people and the town's history and culture. Visitors and residents can easily access the trail to exercise, relax in nature and reach downtown shops. With the new bridge completed, the town intends to continue environmental projects and activities such as planting and maintaining native flowers and grasses along the creek and near the bridge, installing an educational sign near the bridge to inform users about the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and how actions in Mt. Airy impact the health of the Bays as well as local waterways.

"This project not only completes a half mile of nature trail down an abandoned, historic railroad right of way, but the pastoral bridge invites and welcomes visitors to enjoy the rippling stream it crosses and explore the wildlife, nature and history that is infused in the trails entire length."

Larry Hushour, Mayor of Mt. Airy, Md.

Partners

Mt. Airy Public Works Department
Mt. Airy Engineering Department
Mt. Airy Parks Department
Mt. Airy Mayor, Larry Hushour's Office
Maryland Department of the Environment



Schuylkill River Park Arboretum

Friends of Schuylkill River Park, Philadelphia County, PA

Schuylkill River Park, the largest open green space in southwest Center City, plays a significant role in the daily lives of thousands of Philadelphia residents because of its central location and recreational opportunities it offers. Friends of the Schuylkill River Park wanted to raise awareness and interest in the park's trees that not only add beauty but also offer shade, help mitigate the heat island effect, and provide food and habitat for wildlife by having it certified as an arboretum. The first step was to identify, map and evaluate the health of the park's trees. Hazardous trees were pruned and five dead trees were removed. In addition, over 20 new trees were planted.

The certified level one arboretum designation inspired significant interest from the community. Signage was installed to educate park-users and local school children about the benefits of its trees. Increased awareness of the needs of the park's trees also attracted a significant donor, Center City Residents' Association, which has made a multi-year commitment to fund their care.



Partners

Bartlett Tree Experts
Center City Residents' Association
The Philadelphia School
Greenfield School
Markward Recreation
Local Girl Scout troop
CCRA Green PHS Tree Tenders

"Arboretum status of the park ensures that the park trees will get the attention and care they need to serve its many thousand annual visitors."

Lindsey Bingaman, president of FSRP

Wildlife Leadership Academy

Wildlife Leadership Academy, Centre County, PA

The mission of the Wildlife Leadership Academy is to engage and empower high school age youth to become Conservation Ambassadors to ensure a sustained wildlife, fisheries and natural resource legacy for future generations. In 2022, 100 youth participants and 20 youth mentors, from 40 counties across the commonwealth as well as one student each from District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, and Virginia were accepted to attend five field schools. This experience begins with training, including attending rigorous summer field schools taught by leading natural resource professionals that focus on wildlife and fisheries conservation, as well as leadership skills development. Through the next year, students equipped with knowledge and skills, give back to their communities through education, service, media engagement, the creative arts and outdoor mentorship. The Academy offers five field schools in total – two are aquatic related, PA Bass (warm water fisheries), and PA Brookies (Brook Trout and freshwater fisheries).

The Academy continues to mentor students and provide opportunities such as check-in video calls, college visit days, and an opportunity to attend professional meetings. From high school to college, Academy support includes college and jobs references, job experience as summer staff for the field schools, and informal career counseling.

Partners

American Fisheries Society
Back Country Hunters and Anglers
Bucknell University
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Clinton County Conservation District
Huntingdon County Conservation District
Kutztown University
National Deer Association
PA Conservation Heritage Project
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
PA Department of Environmental Protection
PA Fish and Boat Commission
PA Game Commission
PA National Wild Turkey Federation
PA Outdoor Writers Association
PA Trappers Association
Penn State Extension
Penn State University Dubois & Hazelton
Penn Vet | Wildlife Futures Program
Pennsylvania State University
Shaver's Creek Environmental Center
Southern Clinton County Sportsmen's Club
The Wildlife Society - PA Chapter
Trout Unlimited – Pennsylvania Council
US Fish and Wildlife Service
USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services



"The investment through the Healing the Planet Grant allowed the Wildlife Leadership Academy to continue to deliver a high-quality educational experience for this next generation of conservation leaders. This investment is multiplied as our students serve as Conservation Ambassadors, giving back to their communities through education, service, media engagement, creative arts, and outdoor mentorship."

Sara Mueller, Wildlife Leadership Academy Executive Director

Watershed Cleanup, Trail and Tree Maintenance

9th Street Community Center, Delaware County, PA

The 9th Street Community Center held 35 different events for the Environmental Youth Corps to do watershed and trail cleanups, tree trimming, and general maintenance. The estimated attendance at these events was 260. Students and other community members were engaged to support the park and trail areas and had fun while learning more about the importance of keeping their environment healthy. In the summer months of 2022, students helped with the Garden box project and many families were able to enjoy the abundance of vegetables that were grown. Now that the park and creek are clean, residents are visiting, trees are being planted and tended, and students are using the park during the summer months. Residents with dogs are utilizing the disposal sites.

Partners

Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association
Penn State Extension
Penn State Extension 4-H
Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
Riverfront Alliance
Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester



"Being in an underserved community creates challenges for the residents. Having circuit trails and the Delaware Estuary available for recreation and exercise supports the health and welfare of the residents."

Barron Lacy, Executive Director

Replanting Rouss Spring Hillside with Native Plants

Winchester-Frederick County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Clarke County, VA

The Winchester-Frederick County Convention and Visitors Bureau cleared invasive species and planted over 500 native plants including 34 trees, 91 grasses and sedges and 380 perennials on the historic and ecologically significant Rouss Spring Hillside. Stabilizing plants were strategically placed to reduce hillside degradation and act as a runoff buffer into the spring water source. Native plants were chosen to promote biodiversity, support increased pollination and help mitigate climate change as part of nature-based climate solutions. Replanting was done without chemicals as the spring feeds into Opequon Creek, which drains to the Shenandoah River and Chesapeake Bay. Opequon Creek is also the current water source for the City of Winchester.

Historically, Rouss Spring served as a Native American water source and the City of Winchester's water source for more than 60 years. The site is also the location of the oldest home in Winchester, Abram's Delight, that dates to the mid-1700's.

"We are so appreciative and humbled by this entire project, from the generosity of the Healing the Planet grant to our community volunteers to the numerous partners who stepped up in the community help make it happen. Even this small hillside can make a large impact on our local native ecology, from pollinators to a riparian buffer for our waterways to all of the trickle-down species of plants and animals that are impacted"

Justin Kerns, Executive Director,
Winchester-Frederick County VA CVB

Partners

Dr. Lara Lacher
Shenandoah University
City of Winchester Parks and Recreation



Monongahela River Story Map

PA Division of the Izaak Walton League, Fayette County, PA

Using a GoPro camera, the PA Division of the Izaak Walton League, photographed the Monongahela River from Pittsburgh to the Pennsylvania border, and completed 80 percent of the West Virginia portion of the Monongahela River and the Tygart, Cheat and West Fork rivers. The goal is a picture story map of the Monongahela River using 360-degree interactive maps using modern mobile mapping technology from EarthViews and Esri ArcGIS online mapping.

The maps will provide visual insights of the river's shoreline. This platform will play a significant role in conservation, economic, and recreational opportunities. Once the visual and graphic mapping is complete, layers describing conditions will be added such as history and recreational use, water quality and ecosystem type and health. Information will be available for public use.



"We hope that this virtual site will be used for education, to assist in grant writing and engage decision makers and communities in restoration efforts and to provide a digital historical record of the current environmental conditions of the rivers."

John Detisch, PA Division of the Izaak Walton League

Partners

Jessica Bryzek, Volunteer
Joe Kimmet, Volunteer
Three Rivers Waterkeeper

Storm Water Management & Education

Lehman Sanctuary, Luzerne County, PA

Lehman Sanctuary continued work on their teaching rain garden system infrastructure, adding erosion control measures, plantings, seed broadcasting, and perimeter fencing, deterring deer encroachment. Naturalists and environmental educator outreach on ecosystem and storm water management was expanded to local schools and community groups. Outreach included students from grades one through twelve, college students and adult groups. In all, 12 educators reached over 300 students. In addition, new storm water education television and outdoor public service announcement broadcasts reached an audience of over 10,000 and hundreds more viewed the numerous social media messaging posts.

Partners

Ernst Seed Company
Luzerne County Conservation District
Watershed Specialist
PA American Water
Penn State Extension Watershed Stewards

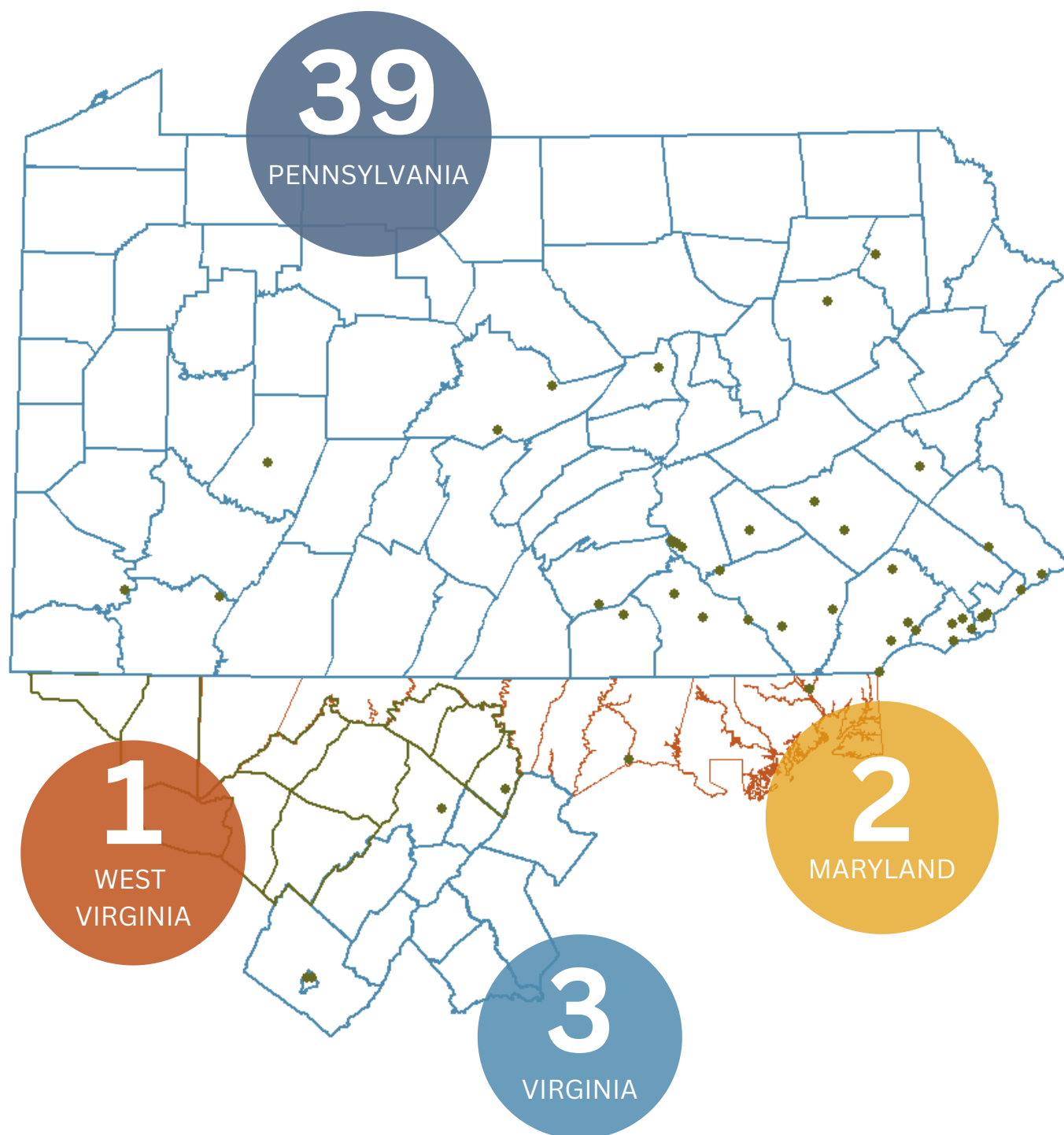
"The Lehman Sanctuary is grateful for this grant. We were able to advance our ecosystem and storm water education - reaching a large cross-section of our community. Our revitalized teaching rain garden infrastructure and these vital educational tools will serve the Northeast PA community for years to come."

Chris Miller, founder, Lehman Sanctuary



PROJECT LOCATIONS

Healing the Planet projects were located in The GIANT Company's operating areas within Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia and were required to be on public land or be for public use and benefit.



Maryland

The High 5 Initiative, Inc., North East
Town of Mount Airy, Mount Airy

Pennsylvania

9th Street Youth & Community Center, Chester
Abington Area Joint Recreation Board, Clarks Summit
Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club and Wilderness Park Association, Reading
Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority, State College
City of Harrisburg- Department of Parks and Recreation and Facilities, Harrisburg
East Bradford Township, West Chester
Friends of Schuylkill River Park, Philadelphia
Friends of Silver Lake Nature Center, Bristol
Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg
Glen Foerd Conservation Corporation, Philadelphia
Harrisburg Area YMCA, Harrisburg
Indiana Borough, Indiana
Kennett Area Park Authority, Kennett Square
Lancaster Conservancy, Lancaster
Lehman Sanctuary, Shavertown
Londonderry Township, Middletown
Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association, Wrightsville
Lundale Farm Inc., Pottstown
Michaux Forest Association, Hummelstown
Mountain Watershed Association, Melcroft
North American Land Trust, Chadds Ford
Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, Williamsport
PA Parks and Forest Foundation//Friends of White Clay Creek Preserve, Camp Hill
Pennsylvania Division of the Izaak Walton League of America, New Salem
Salisbury Township, Gap
Schuylkill River Development Corporation, Philadelphia
The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Philadelphia
The Da Vinci Discovery Center of Science and Technology, Inc., Allentown
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park
The Salvation Army, Harrisburg
Trout Unlimited 108 Doc Fritchey, Palmyra
Upper Darby Township, Upper Darby
Warrington Township, Chalfont
Watershed Alliance of Adams County, Gettysburg
Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley, Nazareth
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Pittsburgh
Wildlife Leadership Academy, Lock Haven
Willistown Conservation Trust, Newtown Square
York Academy Regional Charter School Upper School, York

Virginia

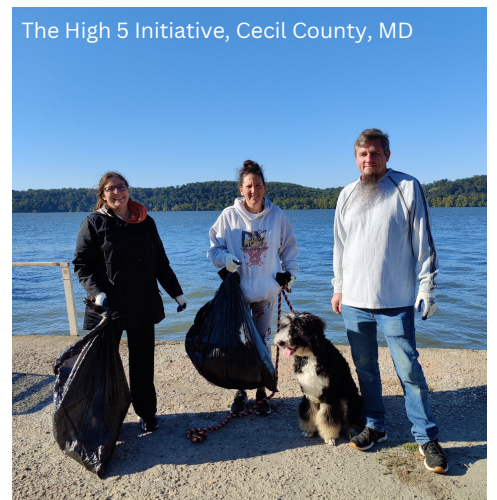
The Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Program, Harrisonburg
Virginia Clean Cities, Harrisonburg
Winchester-Frederick County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Winchester

West Virginia

Blue Ridge Watershed Coalition, Harpers Ferry

2022 HEALING THE PLANET GRANTS IMPACT

People Educated	122,903
Pounds Marine Debris Removed	12,345
Pounds Invasive Species Removed	8,149
Streams/Shores Cleaned or Restored	4,278
Trees and Shrubs Planted	4,070
Valuable Volunteers	2,739
Water Samples Evaluated	1,711
Education Signs Created	118
Cleanups	96
Rain Barrels Installed	76



BY THE NUMBERS

Total budget for 43 projects	\$1,543,837
HTP Funding	\$300,000
Cash Match	\$1,197,618
Total Volunteers	2,739
Total Volunteer Hours	17,446
Value of Volunteer Time	\$520,583
Total budget + Vol value	\$2,064,419

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

\$7 FOR EVERY \$1





Mountain Watershed Association, Fayette County, PA



York Academy Upper School,
York County, PA



The High Five Initiative, Inc.,
Cecil County, MD



Wildlife Leadership Academy,
York County, PA



Empowering Pennsylvanians to keep our communities clean and beautiful.

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