



Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve Forest Restoration Project, French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust



Healing our planet
is something
everyone can do.



KEEP PENNSYLVANIA BEAUTIFUL HEALING THE PLANET FINAL REPORT 2024

Healing the Planet Grants

Healing the Planet 2024 was a competitive grant program in support of native tree planting projects across The GIANT Company's operating area within Pennsylvania. Planting projects were on public land or for public use and benefit. The GIANT Company and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful awarded 31 Healing the Planet grants ranging from \$540 up to \$4,000, totaling \$104,765. 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 2024.

This is the fourth year The GIANT Company has partnered with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to offer Healing the Planet grants. More than \$1.2 million has been awarded to 142 recipients for projects which connected people and families to green spaces, improved or helped to protect local waterways and water resources, supported projects that addressed food waste prevention, reduction, and recovery and improving communities with native tree plantings.

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 omnichannel retailer proudly serves millions of neighbors across Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and New Jersey. With more than 36,000 talented team members supporting 193 stores, 132 pharmacies, 107 fuel stations, and over 185 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 and cleanup, community greening, proper waste handling and sustainable practices. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful works with many partnering organizations on the state and grassroots level to accomplish our vision 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.



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Reciprocity Community Food Forest

Wild Ones Pennsylvania Ridge and Valley Chapter, Blair County, PA

Volunteers from the Wild Ones Pennsylvania Ridge and Valley Chapter planted the area's first Community Food Forest, featuring edible and native species. This initiative has inspired local volunteers, elementary school students, neighbors and city officials. The 1.4-acre floodplain, previously maintained by the city, is now being adopted and cared for by the group.

This project, one of only 70 Community Food Forests in the nation, has also led to the hiring of a local environmental science graduate by the group's Ecological Landscaping Company. Long-term plans include visits from Penn State University students.



"We are very grateful for this grant and how it brought our community together. We planted 1.4 acres of a Native Plant Community Food Forest thanks to this grant! It is one of 70 in the nation of its kind! It will educate thousands of people and feed generations to come."

Jordan Sesame Wild, Project Director and President of Wild Ones Pennsylvania Ridge and Valley Chapter.



PARTNERS

Ecotopian EarthCare
Go Native



Street Trees

City of DuBois, Clearfield County, PA

A few years ago, major street reconstruction projects left Maple Avenue bare. To restore the greenery, a plan was approved to plant 70 trees. Fifty trees were purchased with funds from Healing the Planet, while 20 trees were received from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bare Root Grant Program. Community members, ranging from eight-year-olds to seniors in their seventies, came together to plant hope for the next generation. The trees were planted along Maple Avenue, Main Street, and City Park, where they will provide shade, wildlife habitat, water conservation and protection from soil erosion.

"This is a project the entire city will enjoy for generations to come. Someone once said "you do not plant trees for yourself, you plant them for your grandchildren."

Pat Reasinger
Mayor, City of DuBois, PA

PARTNERS

City of DuBois Public Works Department
Cub Scout Pack 27
Domtar
DuBois JC
Martins - DuBois
Xylem



Turtle Creek Park Restoration

East Buffalo Township, Union County, PA

The project planted 40 native hardwood trees along the south boundary of Turtle Creek Park to restore the natural forest ecosystem after the property was clear-cut by the previous owner in 2018. These trees will provide shade for park visitors, both human and canine, and create habitats for birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles. They will also screen the park from the heavily traveled Furnace Road, reducing noise and improving aesthetics.

Volunteers from Lewisburg Area High School, Scout Troop 538 and the general public planted the trees during two volunteer days on October 13 and 20. The park addresses a long-standing need for outdoor public recreation in this part of the township and county. Conserving this land prevents further development and the associated traffic, noise and stormwater runoff. The park protects an important, previously impaired section of the Turtle Creek watershed.

This project enhances the park's attractiveness, encouraging more community members to spend time exercising outside, thereby improving health and wellness. Close-to-home recreation and open space are well-documented to increase local property values. The new trees will help absorb rainwater runoff, improving the water quality of Turtle Creek. Additionally, they will absorb and sequester atmospheric carbon, contributing to the fight against global climate change.



PARTNERS

Community Volunteers
LAHS Environmental Studies Honors students
Scout Troop 538

"This project was a great opportunity to demonstrate to young people the practical value of community service and environmental stewardship."

James Knight, East Buffalo Township Supervisor



American Hornbeam Trees for the Mountain Creek Buffer at Pine Grove Furnace State Park

Michaux Forest Association, Cumberland County, PA

The 12 large American hornbeam trees planted made an immediate visual impact and will stabilize streambanks, especially near the historic tailrace at the old iron furnace. This highly visible area beside the Appalachian Trail had lost much of its tree canopy and will benefit from this buffer renaturalization project. The project received significant volunteer boosts from Gettysburg College and Shippensburg University. These groups will continue to support the project, fulfilling their need for community environmental involvement.

This phase of the project, funded by Healing the Planet, successfully fostered new relationships among environmental volunteers. Students from Gettysburg College Center for Public Service and Shippensburg University Green League collaborated for the first time and plan to collaborate on future projects. Students from Shippensburg returned to Pine Grove Furnace for the 2024 Fall Furnace Fest, while a Gettysburg student joined the project director for a tree planting at Gettysburg Montessori Charter School with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The project director also participated in a saw-whet owl banding project at King's Gap Environmental Education Center. The Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park are considering a similar tree planting project along another section of Mountain Creek in 2025.



PARTNERS

Chesapeake Bay Foundation - Keystone 10 Million Trees
Cumberland County Master Gardeners
Cumberland County Master Watershed Stewards
Friends of Michaux State Forest
Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park
Gettysburg College Center for Public Service
Michaux Forest Association
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - Conservation Volunteers
Shippensburg University Green League



"This is awesome! We love this area so much, and the hard work and dedication absolutely shows! It would be great to get hands-on helping with the upkeep." Volunteer

Keystone 10 Million Trees Mira Lloyd Dock Partnership Diversity Award Tree Planting Project

Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Lancaster County, PA

The Keystone 10 Million Trees Mira Lloyd Dock Partnership Diversity Award Tree Planting Project united all three 2023 awardees. Initially planned to honor one awardee's conservation and environmental justice work, it evolved into a collaborative effort demonstrating collective impact.

Held on November 9, 2024, at McCaskey High School in Lancaster, the project aimed to alleviate environmental burdens in disadvantaged neighborhoods. The trees planted will benefit students' health and well-being and honor Brother Frank Albrecht, a long-time educator and environmentalist.

Over 160 volunteers participated, led by awardees Marlisa Yoder-Bontrager and sisters Keisha and Tarsha Scovens. The project enhances campus beautification, reduces stormwater runoff, provides shade and wildlife support and offers long-term educational opportunities.

"We are grateful for the Giant Company and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful for supporting this collaborative tree planting effort in the City of Lancaster which brought together so many amazing community partners for the greater good of McCaskey High School and its surrounding community."

Brenda Sieglitz, Director of Major Giving, Pennsylvania



PARTNERS

City of Lancaster
Conservation Foundation of Lancaster
County/Watershed Leadership Academy
Department of Conservation & Natural
Resources
Let's Go 1-2-3
Let's Go Outdoors
School District of Lancaster
Frank Albrecht Memorial
Tree Pennsylvania



The Goshen Walking Trail Tree & Shrub Replanting, Newtown Square

Newtown Square in Bloom, Delaware County, PA

The emerald ash borer infestation significantly reduced the buffer trees along the Goshen Walking Trail between Goshen Road and the trail. This project aims to restore the tree canopy in Newtown Square and create a "Forest Drive" on Goshen Road to encourage slower traffic speeds. Volunteers contributed to strengthening the trail and enhancing its value and usability.

Tree enthusiasts and residents recognized the importance of trees, showcasing a successful collaboration between private and corporate funding, township and state government and community members. This project exemplifies collective efforts to achieve a common goal.



"The Healing the Planet grant allowed Newtown Square to solve a planting void by adding a beautiful buffer to a favorite township trail. This project engaged township committee volunteers and residents showing them how the benefit and ease of planting trees rejuvenates a depleted trail."

Paul Seligson, NSiB Chairman



PARTNERS

Commonwealth of PA
Newtown Township Public Works
Department
PA District 168, Representative Lisa
Borowski



Green Lane Nature Trail - Truman Reforestation

Excel Events, Bucks County, PA

The dilapidated forest overrun by porcelain berry vines had lost most of its old growth trees due to the vines blocking sunlight. Located at a busy intersection across from Truman High School, the Bucks County Conservation District sought county permission for the project. Bristol Township Public Works assisted with heavy equipment to clear an acre of forest overrun by vines.

Excel Events purchased 100 trees and shrubs for planting in Spring 2024 and organized a PA Game Commission Seedlings for Schools grant, involving Truman High School and Ben Franklin Middle School students and teachers. The Keep PA Beautiful Healing the Planet grant funded larger trees and caging, planted in October 2024, transforming an eyesore into a forest with native trees and shrubs.

The project aims to remove invasive plants, preventing their spread by birds and to plant native shrubs with berries to promote native seed dispersal. This effort remediates and expands the forest into a historically mowed field adjacent to the dilapidated forest.



PARTNERS

Ben Franklin Middle School
Bristol Township Public Works
Bucks County Conservation District
Bucks County Parks and Recreation
CFS (restorative justice volunteers)
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Keystone 10 Million Trees
Community Volunteers
SEWA
Truman High School Environmental Club



"We are removing invasive porcelain berry and establishing a new native nature trail, educating and enabling the community and local students providing the opportunity to fix what is rundown while creating native habitat for wildlife to enjoy." Jared Freddo, ExcelEvents.org founder and Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward

Valley Creek Tributaries Riparian Restoration

Open Land Conservancy of Chester County, Chester County PA

As a result of this project, 50 native trees and shrubs were planted with deer-browse protection at two sites along tributaries to the Exceptional Value designated Valley Creek. One site is located in the Open Lands Conservancy's George Lorimer Nature Preserve and the other in Tredyffrin Township's Crabby Creek Park.

The Open Lands Conservancy site was previously the location of an inline dam and small pond that suffered severe erosion from stormwater runoff. The removal of the dam and restoration of the stream channel, along with the planting of trees, will enhance resilience to stormwater runoff. The trees and shrubs, consisting of a red maple/black gum palustrine community, were selected to provide habitat for bird species of conservation concern, such as the Wood Thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler and Prothonotary Warbler.

This project contributes to the long-term strategy of increasing native species diversity in the Valley Creek watershed's natural areas in order to foster animal habitat, manage stormwater and provide attractive spaces for passive recreation. These sites are among the most visited in the community's open space network and are used for hiking, dog walking and bird watching.

"We are very grateful to Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Healing the Planet Grant Program supported by The GIANT Company, for the funding that provided 50 native trees, shrubs and deer protection, planted by over 35 volunteers, to keep the Exceptional-Value Valley Creek watershed resilient and beautiful."

Ray Clarke, Open Land Conservancy of Chester County and Anne Murphy, Tredyffrin Environmental Advisory Council

PARTNERS

Open Land Conservancy
Environmental Advisory Council of
Tredyffrin Township
Valley Creek Restoration Partnership



Riparian Buffer Restoration Along Shoemaker Run

*Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership,
Montgomery County, PA*

The Abington Club has been a cherished part of the community since the early 1900s. The original club and golf course opened in 1910, featuring Shoemaker Run, a stream that flows through the property and integrates beautifully into the golf course. Over the past 120 years, the Club has diligently cared for the stream. However, increased upstream development has led to higher stream flows during storm events and significant erosion issues.

This planting of 300 trees and shrubs, along with other on-site stormwater initiatives, aims to stabilize the streambank of Shoemaker Run in areas of high erosion through strategic plantings. These efforts will not only beautify the property but also highlight the stream's prominence on the golf course.

The visibility of this project has raised awareness among the Club's daily users about the stream, stormwater issues and the importance of native plants. Additionally, it has provided an opportunity to engage more with students from the neighboring Abington Friends School.

"It's great when we get an opportunity to work with an engaged community partner to help protect our headwater creeks by working to reestablish riparian cover near the source. This project was an all-around win; working to help improve and beautify a key asset for the Abington Club, while also achieving our goals of working to improve the health of our watershed through community participation."

**Ryan Neuman -Upstream Conservation Leader,
Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership**



PARTNERS

Abington Club
American Society of Civil Engineers Young Member
Forum Chapter
Abington Friends School
Chesapeake Bat Foundation - Keystone 10 Million
Tree Partnership

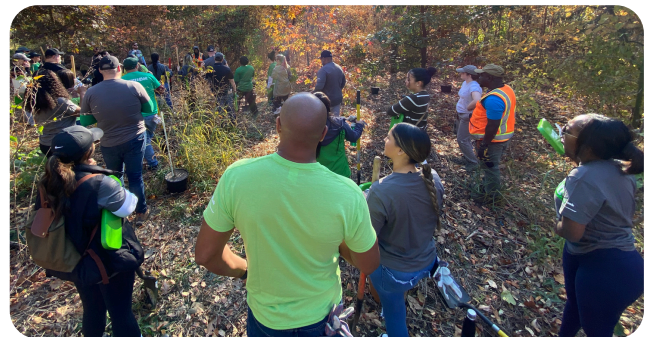
Haddington Woods Tree Planting

Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia, PA

The Haddington Woods Tree Planting project advanced the Conservancy's efforts to expand the tree canopy in Haddington Woods, a 40-acre urban forest within the 851-acre Cobbs Creek Park, near West Philadelphia. The 439 newly planted trees and shrubs will create a natural buffer between the Haddington restoration site and the future Cobbs Creek Golf Course.

Despite challenging dry, hard soils, 37 volunteers successfully planted the trees and shrubs, experiencing firsthand the impact of drought on urban forests. Conservancy staff highlighted the role of climate change in these conditions.

Philadelphia currently has a 20% tree canopy, unevenly distributed. This project supports the Philly Tree Plan's goal to increase the city's tree canopy to 30% in every neighborhood, prioritizing vulnerable and underserved communities. The area around Cobbs Creek Park is one of seven priority zones with the lowest canopy in Philadelphia.



PARTNERS

Arbor Day Foundation
TD Bank through the TD Tree Days Program
Greenland Nursery
PowerCorpsPHL



"Most of the historical evergreen buffer for the Haddington Woods legacy reforestation project was erroneously removed. With the site suddenly exposed and vulnerable, it was imperative to re-establish a thick evergreen buffer as an environmental screen to protect delicate habitat and species. This funding was crucial to purchase more pines, junipers, and hollies towards this end; each year the plantings will grow in more as a protective outer layer."

**Drew Rinaldi Subits, Natural Lands Manager,
Fairmount Park Conservancy**

Restoration of Saucon Park

Wildlands Conservancy, Northampton County, PA

Wildlands Conservancy has been restoring riparian buffers by planting native trees and shrubs along streams throughout the Lehigh Valley. In this project, 1,025 native trees were planted, providing numerous benefits for stream health and the surrounding communities. The deep root systems of these plants help prevent erosion, absorb excess water during storms, and filter harmful pollutants before they enter streams. This reduces runoff and flood damage, while also beautifying the landscape and providing shade and year-round color.

Restoring habitats along streams enhances opportunities for activities like fishing and wildlife watching. The trees also sequester carbon and purify the air. This project is especially important in urban areas like Bethlehem, where it benefits an Environmental Justice community by providing much-needed green space. Saucon Park, a key green space in the city, now offers more opportunities for residents to experience nature close to home.

“We are thrilled with the successful planting of native trees and shrubs to establish a riparian buffer along Saucon Creek in the heart of Bethlehem, made possible through our funders and volunteers from the community.”

Kate Ebel, Senior Restoration Ecologist, Wildlands Conservancy

PARTNERS

City of Bethlehem

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

PA Department of Environmental Protection
Saucon Creek Watershed Association

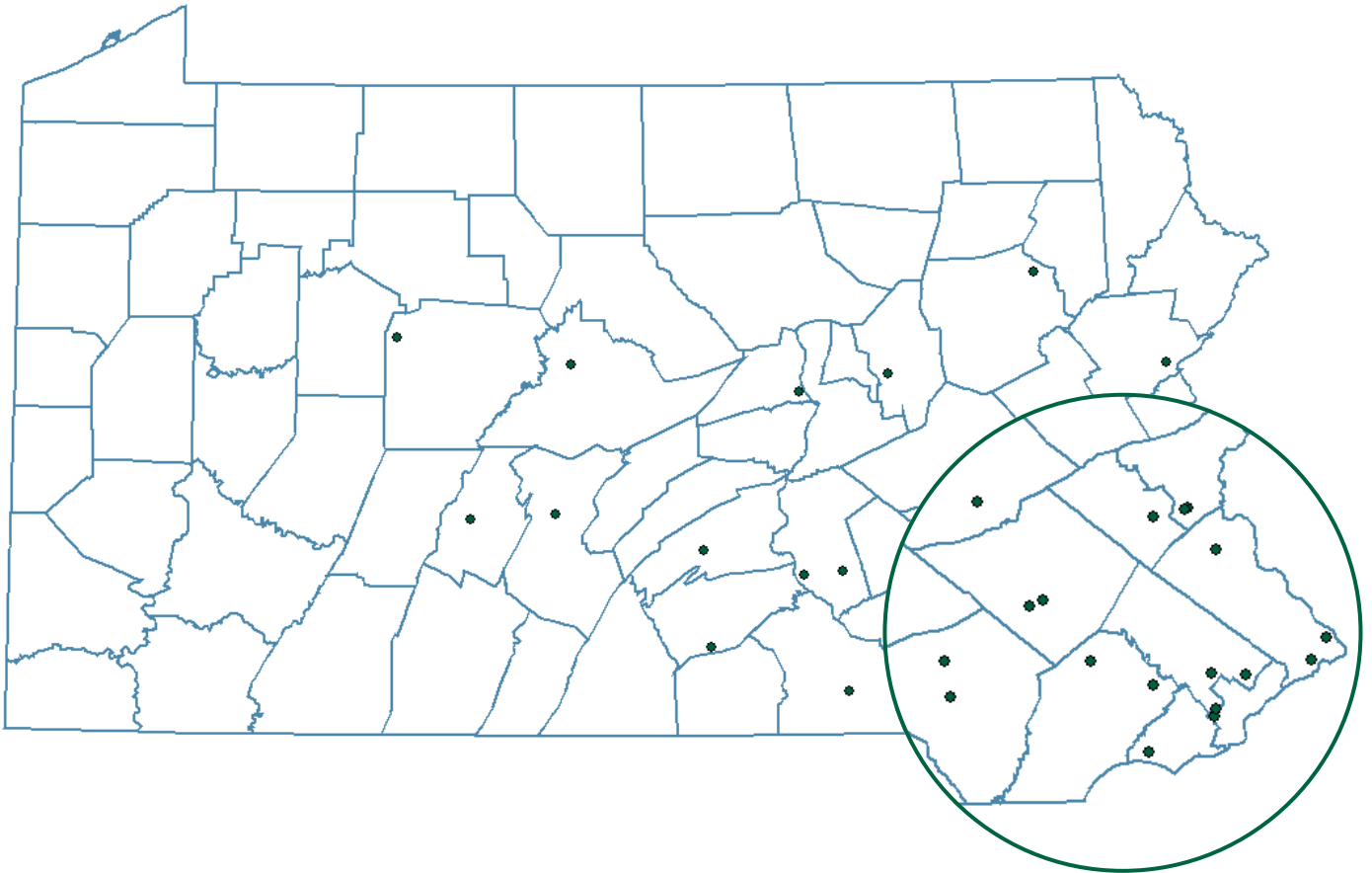


PROJECT LOCATIONS

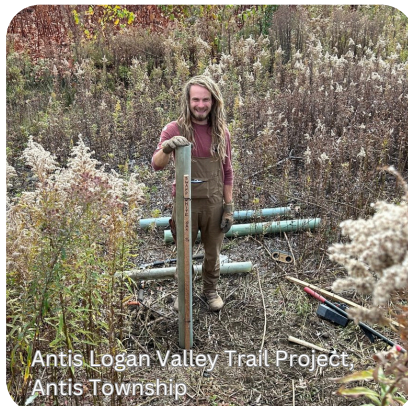
Healing the Planet projects were located in The GIANT Company's operating areas within Pennsylvania and were required to be on public land or be for public use and benefit.

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Projects in support of
native tree planting



Dansbury Park Tree Enhancement,
Borough of East Stroudsburg



Antis Logan Valley Trail Project,
Antis Township



Capital Area Greenbelt tree
replacement, Harrisburg

Healing the Planet 2024

Grant Recipients

Antis Township, Blair County, PA
Board of Supervisors of Derry Township, Mifflin County, PA
Borough of East Stroudsburg, Monroe County, PA
Borough of Wyomissing, Berks County, PA
Capital Area Greenbelt Association, Dauphin County, PA
Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Lancaster County, PA
City of Allentown, Lehigh County, PA
City of DuBois, Clearfield County, PA
City of Reading Public Works, Berks County, PA
Colonial Canopy Trees, Montgomery County, PA
Concord Township, Delaware County, PA
East Buffalo Township, Union County, PA
Excel Events, Bucks County, PA
Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia County, PA
French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, Chester County, PA
Izaak Walton League of America York, York County, PA
Juniata College, Huntingdon County, PA
Manada Conservancy, Dauphin County, PA
Michaux Forest Association, Cumberland County, PA
Mountain Top Area Swimming Pool Association, Centre County, PA
Newtown Square in Bloom, Delaware County, PA
Open Land Conservancy, Chester County, PA
Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Luzerne County, PA
Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, Bucks County, PA
Pennsylvania State University, Schuylkill County, PA
Snipes Farm and Education Center, Bucks County, PA
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lancaster County, PA
Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Montgomery County, PA
Town of Bloomsburg, Columbia County, PA
Wildlands Conservancy, Northampton County, PA
Wild Ones Pennsylvania Ridge & Valley Chapter, Blair County, PA

"Community tree planting fosters shared responsibility and stewardship, strengthening social ties. Native trees provide food and shelter for local wildlife, improve water conservation, provide protection from soil erosion and are more apt to survive with minimal care. Beautifying communities also tends to reduce littering and other illegal behaviors, making it a better place for all residents and providing a foundation for community and economic development."

Heidi Pedicone, Director of Programs, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

2024 HEALING THE PLANET GRANTS IMPACT

Number of trees planted	2,832
Number of shrubs planted	1,157
Number of people educated	11,811
Number of educational signs created	42
Number of volunteers	1,291
Number of volunteer hours	6,365
Pounds of carbon sequestered from all trees/shrubs planted*	2,991
Pounds of carbon sequestered from all trees/shrubs after 20 years	321,425

To calculate the total carbon sequestered, the iTree calculator was used with these assumptions: *Liquidambar* (Sweetgum) and *Amelanchier* (Serviceberry) were chosen as representative tree and shrub species, respectively, both with a 1-inch diameter. Harrisburg, PA, was used as the representative location, assuming partial shade and excellent conditions. Source: <https://mytree.itreetools.org>



BY THE NUMBERS

Total budget for 31 projects	\$434,741
HTP funding	\$104,765
Cash match	\$258,818
Inkind match	\$71,158
Value of Volunteer Time	\$213,155
Total budget + vol value	\$647,896

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

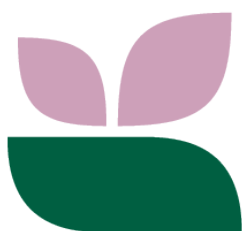
\$6 FOR EVERY \$1





"The Tiny Forest Project at Snipes Farm brought together volunteers from all over Buck's County to plant an amazing 1,500 trees over two days, providing both an environmental and educational benefit for the community."

Paula Walter, Tiny Forest Project Lead, Snipes Farm and Education Center



**Keep
Pennsylvania
Beautiful**

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Empowering Pennsylvanians to keep our communities clean and beautiful.