



KEEP PENNSYLVANIA BEAUTIFUL - NISOURCE FINAL REPORT 2024

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful partnered with Columbia Gas - Nisource Charitable Foundation to:



- Offer Young Ambassadors of PA a webinar focused on sustainability, led by the company's Environmental Department. Two to four students will have two opportunities to apply to participate in a job shadowing experience in the spring of 2024 in Pennsylvania. Selected participants will accompany Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania employees in the field to learn day-to-day responsibilities.



- Provide mini grants to four counties for the purpose of community greening and beautification. Grants totaling \$10,000 supported four community projects in Centre, Elk, McKean and Venango counties.

Young Ambassadors of Pennsylvania

The program seeks to build community stewards and civic leaders by inspiring, engaging, and empowering young Pennsylvanians to keep their communities beautiful. Thirty-three students were chosen through a competitive application process, and they have committed to eight months of service as an ambassador while representing and upholding the mission and values of KPB. From October through May 2024, participants will develop civic leadership skills and experience to champion and advocate for clean and beautiful communities across Pennsylvania.

PA CleanWays of Elk County

PA CleanWays of Elk County partnered with Elk County Solid Waste Authority, Elk County Conservation District and community volunteers for three public works nights to beautify West Creek Wetland Learning Center (WCWLC). Sixteen community volunteers spent 10 hours planting native trees and shrubs, trimming established apple and flowering dogwood trees and installing fencing to keep the wildlife out. In addition, volunteers pressure washed the pavilion, painted the pavilion and shed, trimmed back brush, weeded the rain garden, patched the observation dock, filled potholes in the roadway and picked up litter. Funding was used to purchase planting materials, stain for the pavilion and shed, a weed eater, work gloves, flowers for the native species rain garden, food for the hard-working volunteers and an educational sign to replace one that was recently damaged.

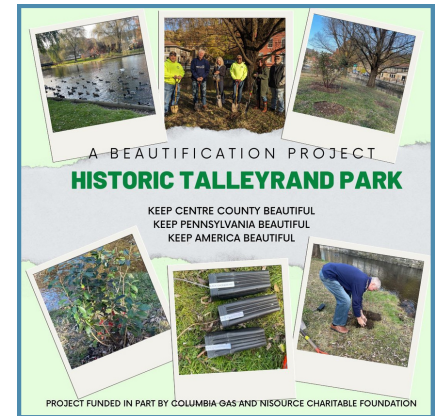


Thank you again for your support of this project! We were able to accomplish a lot of things that otherwise wouldn't have been completed. *Kate Wehler, District Manager, Elk County Conservation District*



Keep Centre County Beautiful

Keep Centre County Beautiful partnered with Clearwater Conservancy to clean up litter, remove weeds and plant an area and peninsula with native species of wildflowers creating a meadow near Talleyrand Park. A low fence was added to protect the plantings from the mowed area and a path was added so visitors can enjoy the plants up close. Talleyrand Park covers 3.5 acres along the banks of Spring Creek, close to the shops and restaurants in the historic downtown Bellefonte business district.



McKean County

Seven student volunteers and staff members from Smethport Area School District revived the landscaping at four entrances to the high school and an area adjacent to the science wing. Old, overgrown shrubs and weed mats were replaced with new native trees, plants and mulch. A new landscaped area was created at the entrance to the High School. The beautification projects coincided with Homecoming Week activities.



"Smethport Area School District was excited to participate. The timing is perfect for us as we are in the process of replacing doors and windows at our entrances."

*Mr. Brice N. Benson,
Superintendent of Schools
Smethport Area School
District*

PA CleanWays of Venango County

The Venango Conservation District (VCD) updated a 140 square foot space with a border garden of native and pollinator plants including phlox, dwarf crested iris, wild bleeding heart, milkweed, cone flower, bee balm, black eyed Susan and New England aster. A rain barrel was added at a downspout adjacent to the border garden for ease of watering the new plants. A new sign was installed, bringing awareness to the benefits of native and pollinator plants in backyard conservation as well as the benefits of using rain barrels to reduce non-point source pollution in the backyard. The space, near the district office where it can be easily accessed, is used for backyard conservation education events as well as self-guided tours.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to utilize these funds!

Lisette Lane, Venango Conservation District

