



## KEEP PENNSYLVANIA BEAUTIFUL HEALING THE PLANET FINAL REPORT 2025

## Healing the Planet Grants

Healing the Planet 2025 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 37 Healing the Planet grants ranging from \$700 up to \$4,000, totaling \$119,022.

This is the fifth year The GIANT Company has partnered with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to offer Healing the Planet grants. More than \$1.3 million has been awarded to 178 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 improved communities with native tree plantings.

## The GIANT Company

The GIANT Company is a modern, omnichannel grocer with more than 35,000 team members dedicated to serving millions of neighbors and making a difference in local communities across Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. Founded in 1923 in Carlisle, Pa., The GIANT Company is known locally as GIANT, MARTIN'S, and GIANT Heirloom Market with 194 stores, online grocery services, pharmacies, and fuel stations to meet the ever-evolving needs of today's customers. 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. To learn more, visit the [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) website.



Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens volunteers

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## Native Trees at Ruth Bennett Community Farm

*Chester Housing Initiatives, Chester, PA*

The community farm offers a robust schedule of free workshops focused on small-scale farming and gardening. As part of this programming, the orchard workshop series, facilitated by staff from the Philadelphia Orchard Project, covers essential topics such as winter and summer pruning, fruit thinning, and irrigation management. The new tree stock purchased through this grant will be incorporated into hands-on demonstrations during these sessions, enhancing their educational value. In addition, the farm will host volunteer planting days open to all community members interested in helping establish the newly purchased trees.

Ruth Bennett Community Farm (RBCF) plays an important role in enhancing the surrounding neighborhood, which is part of a public housing community. By planting native perennials and trees, the farm contributes to both beautification and ecological improvement of the area. The orchard spaces remain unlocked during the week, offering residents an open, welcoming environment to explore and enjoy. The addition of 30 trees across the farm's hillsides further increases the site's biodiversity and strengthens its environmental benefits.



### PARTNERS

Chester Housing Authority  
Villanova University  
Swarthmore College - Lang Center and  
Chester Fellows

*"The trees we planted on the hill look really nice, and I'm excited to see what fruit we get as they mature. I enjoyed learning how to use different power tools to cut the lumber for the boxes and assemble them."*

**Joe Joe Dukes, RBCF Staff**



## Millbrook Marsh Restoration Planting

ClearWater Conservancy, State College, PA

The restoration project at Millbrook Marsh Nature Center is creating a lasting ecological and community impact. As part of a larger effort along Slab Cabin Run in State College, PA, Trout Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed major in-stream and streambank improvements, while ClearWater Conservancy coordinated the planting of a forested riparian buffer. In total, 1,012 trees and shrubs were installed, significantly improving water quality, aquatic habitat, wildlife habitat, and carbon storage.

Because the project sits within a public nature center and along a popular bike path, its visibility and educational value are high. ClearWater highlighted the work during its Annual Meeting, and Millbrook Marsh's camps, preschool, and community programs ensure thousands will learn from it. The project stabilized eroding streambanks, reduced sediment pollution, improved habitat, and strengthened community understanding of watershed restoration. It also fostered new partnerships, supporting future conservation efforts.

*"These trees and shrubs will filter stormwater from State College, keep the water cooler over time, and improve habitat for aquatic and terrestrial life."*

***Jennifer Dombroskie, Riparian Program Manager***

### PARTNERS

Millbrook Marsh Nature Center  
Centre County Recreation and Parks  
College Township  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
First Energy



## Saving the Bees with Trees!

Friends of Johnston, Inc., PA

The bee garden initiative was a hands-on project developed by the summer campers as part of their curriculum on bees and pollinators. The project provided a valuable learning experience, allowing campers to participate in every phase, from planning and budgeting to grant writing and implementation.

The completed windbreak and bee garden now support and protect bees and other vital pollinators essential to the farm's productivity and the surrounding ecosystem. The project features native trees, shrubs, flowers, a pond, fencing, pathways, mulch, and educational signage, all designed to create a healthy and sustainable habitat.

Campers were joined by student groups from the local elementary school and area daycares, who visited the farm for service-learning days. In total, more than 1,300 individuals contributed to the success of the project, making it a truly community-driven effort.

*"Our bee garden may be little, but its impact is mighty! Youth volunteers can do great things with a little guidance, a lot of hard work, and a grant from The GIANT Company!"*

**Victoria Bastidas, President**



### PARTNERS

Bethlehem Area School District Elementary School  
Freedom High School  
Liberty High School  
Lowe's  
Northampton County Work Release  
Notre Dame Elementary School  
Palmer Township  
Spring Garden Elementary School  
The Home Depot  
The Tree Authority  
Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley



## Rail Park Tree Revitalization Project

*Friends of the Rail Park, Philadelphia, PA*

Through a Friends of the Rail Park–organized volunteer day, 30 neighbors and partners came together to plant 15 new native trees and shrubs, in addition to bulbs, restoring areas previously damaged by urban stressors and expanding the park’s tree canopy. The collaborative effort strengthened community pride and stewardship while enhancing habitat, improving air quality, and adding seasonal beauty to this vital green space. In addition, winterization efforts helped protect newly planted materials and ensured the landscape is well-prepared for a healthy, vibrant spring. Overall, the project strengthened community engagement, supported environmental resilience, and reinforced the Rail Park as a welcoming and restorative resource for all.

### PARTNERS

Callowhill Neighborhood Association  
Friends of the Rail Park’s Community Engagement and Programming Committee  
Philadelphia Parks & Recreation  
REI

*“Planting new trees at the Rail Park brought our community together and reminded us how powerful small acts of stewardship can be in strengthening the place we all share.”*

**Rebecca Cordes Chan, Executive Director**



## Bucks County Forest Health Planting Initiative

Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation, Doylestown, PA

The Bucks County Forest Health Planting Initiative restored and proactively protected critical forest habitats within the Bucks County park system. This effort addressed significant canopy losses caused by the emerald ash borer and began preparing forests for emerging threats such as beech leaf disease. By diversifying tree species and enhancing structural resilience, the project supports long-term forest health and ecological stability.

The plantings contribute to increased biodiversity in forests located within Important Bird Areas and state-listed core habitat regions. They also help stabilize soils, reduce erosion, and improve water quality, a particularly important benefit at Peace Valley Park, which safeguards a public drinking water reservoir. A total of 152 volunteers participated in planting 225 trees and shrubs, demonstrating strong community commitment to protecting and restoring Bucks County's natural resources.



*"This project was a meaningful opportunity for our students to put their learning into practice in a way that truly matters. It gave first-year students an opportunity to get their hands dirty and learn the science and the practice all in one project."*  
**Joseph Theesfeld, Project Director and Adjunct Professor**

### PARTNERS

Bucks County Parks Volunteer Alliance  
Bucks County YMCA Adventure Guides  
Commonwealth Charter Academy  
Penn State Master Watershed Stewards  
TEVA Pharmaceuticals



## Expanding Riparian Buffers for Live Stake Production & Agroforestry Education

Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education, York, PA

This project has created meaningful community impact by expanding an existing riparian buffer, engaging local residents, and increasing capacity for education and future restoration work. Originally planted from 2020–2023 with help from hundreds of volunteers, the site has evolved into a productive agroforestry area that now provides tree crops, natural materials, and locally sourced live stakes. In the latest phase, nearly 70 volunteers planted more than 540 additional trees and shrubs, strengthening both ecological function and community involvement.

By producing locally adapted live stakes, often difficult to obtain through nurseries, the project fills a critical supply gap for conservation partners and municipalities working on stream restoration. This supports broader statewide goals to reduce sediment and nutrient pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed while improving water quality, wildlife habitat, and regional biodiversity.

The site also serves as a hands-on learning hub, where volunteers, students, and partner organizations gain practical experience in restoration and stewardship. Through this work, community members can directly see the long-term benefits of healthy riparian ecosystems and continued investment in conservation.

**"We are so thankful for our partnership with GIANT and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. Together, through this tree-planting project, we are protecting our waterways, enhancing biodiversity, and providing valuable resources for the community and regional conservation efforts."**

**Alexis Campbell, Executive Director**

### PARTNERS

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



## **Urban Wetland Tree Planting at Wildwood Park**

*Friends of Wildwood Lake Nature Center, Inc., Harrisburg, PA*

The tree planting will expand the tree canopy along heavily used Harrisburg trails, strengthening the existing Roadside Beautification Project forested buffer and improving air quality for the many people who use the park and trail system to bike, jog, walk, exercise their dogs, and enjoy the flora and fauna. The added trees will visually and ecologically enhance the area, helping to screen the nearby highways and industrial zones that border the 200-acre marsh and its endangered species habitat.

Plantings were designed to fill remaining canopy gaps, reduce noise and air pollution, curb erosion, and manage runoff. A dedicated winter cover area for wildlife was also created by grouping White Pine and Norway Spruce along Wildwood Way Trail, following recommendations in the Park's Master Plan. Overall, the expanded canopy will create a more welcoming, healthy, and natural landscape for visitors while supporting local wildlife.



**"We are thrilled to announce the planting of 29 large trees in Wildwood Park, thanks to our public/private partnership with Dauphin County Parks and Recreation and Friends of Wildwood. We sincerely thank Keep PA Beautiful and The GIANT Company for this impactful opportunity."**

**Jim Caufield, President**

### **PARTNERS**

Dauphin County Parks and Recreation  
Friends of Wildwood Board

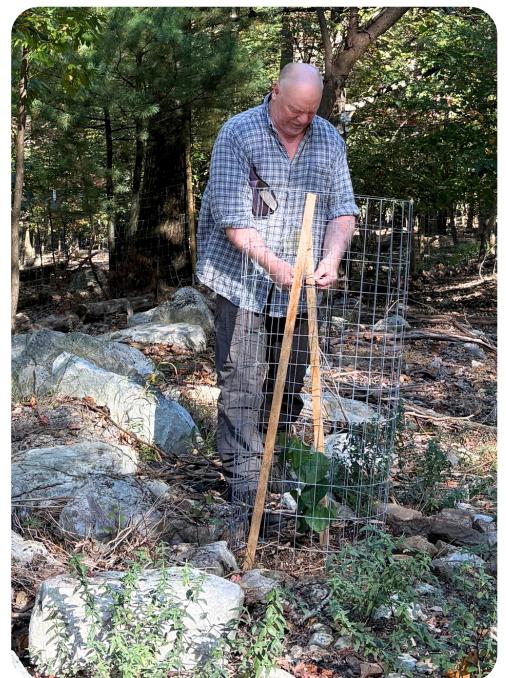


## Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Leading Edge Restoration

*Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, Kempton, PA*

This project has strengthened the local community by improving the ecological health, resilience, and educational value of a highly visible section of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Restoring the Leading Edge by planting nearly 300 native trees and shrubs, the project has increased forest stability along Hawk Mountain Road by reducing erosion, improving water quality, and protecting habitat for native wildlife, benefits that extend downstream and across the surrounding landscape.

The project has also deepened community engagement. Local residents, students, and conservation partners regularly visit the site during Stewardship-led forest management tours, where they learn practical and replicable techniques for invasive species control and native forest restoration. By showing that long-degraded areas can recover through sustained effort, the project fosters stewardship values and builds momentum for similar restoration work throughout Berks County and the region.



### PARTNERS

Pennsylvania Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

*"Restoring a forest is an act of faith in the future. Each native plant we assist in establishing is a promise that the lands of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary will thrive for decades to come."*

**Noah Rauch, Sanctuary Steward**



## Golden Tiger Food Forest

Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School,  
Hollidaysburg, PA

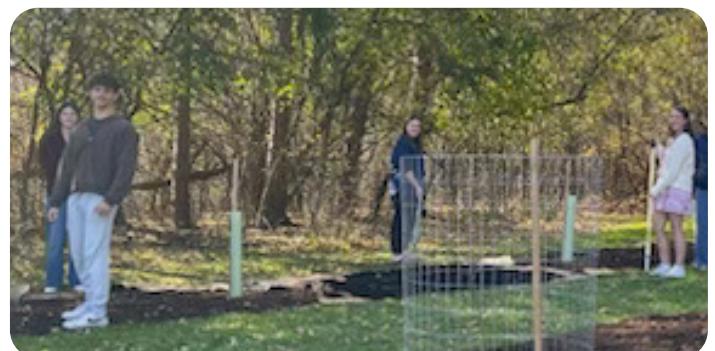
The Golden Tiger Food Forest is a collaborative effort between the Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School (HAHS) EcoAction Club and life science classes at Hollidaysburg Area Senior High School. The team selected the school's existing amphitheater as the site, as it already functioned as an outdoor classroom and offered easy community access. This small forest ecosystem, composed of native trees and shrubs, enhances biodiversity within the Borough of Hollidaysburg and provides a versatile outdoor learning space for students of all ages. The project's goal, to educate the public about native species and the importance of biodiversity in supporting a healthy ecosystem, has already shown positive results. Visitors consistently express excitement and enthusiasm, and the Golden Tiger Food Forest continues to inspire as it grows.

### PARTNERS

Borough of Hollidaysburg  
HAHS EcoAction Club  
HAHS Classes (Botany, Biology, AP Environmental Science, Technology)  
Intermunicipal Relations Committee

*Students were not initially sure what a Food Forest would look like. Now they are excited to see it grow.*

***Andrea Walters, Science Teacher***



## Habitat Enhancement at the Trailhead Entrance

*Lycoming Audubon Society, Williamsport, PA*

The habitat enhancements at the trailhead entrance to the Robert Porter Allen Natural Area (RPANA) are part of a larger community initiative to restore and strengthen the ecological health of the area. This effort includes removing invasive plants, reestablishing native tree species, and educating the public about the importance of healthy, functioning ecosystems. Beyond the direct ecological benefits supported by this project, its impact is also reflected in the strong community involvement. Volunteers from across the area came together to plant trees and shrubs at the trailhead, demonstrating broad local support and shared stewardship of RPANA.

### PARTNERS

Lycoming College  
South Side Recreation Authority  
• South Williamsport  
• Duboistown Boroughs  
• Armstrong Township

*Thank you to all the student volunteers from LEAF at Lycoming College for your efficient work and bright attitudes on a windy Sunday morning at the Robert Porter Allen Natural Area! We planted 13 large bare root trees, several shrubs and smaller trees, mulched the whole area, and secured deer netting to protect the plants. All in record time! We hope you enjoyed the autumn sun and helping to improve one of your local parks. Thank you!*

***Emily Bohlin, LEAF Advisor and Lycoming Audubon Volunteer***



## Youth Roots: Student-Led Native Tree Restoration

Pottsville Area School District, Pottsville, PA

The Youth Roots: Student-Led Native Tree Restoration project made a significant, lasting impact on the Pottsville community. Students planted 20 native trees across five school sites, helping rebuild storm- and construction-damaged tree canopy while improving air quality, reducing stormwater runoff, and creating habitat for wildlife.

The project also delivered strong educational benefits. Twenty-five students from Pottsville Area High School and Nativity BVM High School researched tree species, selected planting locations, and completed the installations. Their hands-on leadership strengthened environmental stewardship, civic engagement, and teamwork. Collaboration with the Pottsville Area School District, Nativity BVM High School, and the Pottsville Shade Tree Commission ensured proper species choices, high-quality planting, and long-term care plans to support the trees' survival.

One of the project's greatest successes was the high level of student ownership and participation in every stage of the work.



*"This grant allows our students to take the lead in restoring natural spaces that benefit everyone in Pottsville Area School District community."*  
**Adrian S. Portland, PAHS Science Department Lead Teacher and Ecology Club Advisor**

### PARTNERS

Pottsville Shade Tree Commission  
Nativity BVM High School



## Reiff Streambank Restoration - Part 2

Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, Schwenksville, PA

This stream bank restoration project enhanced both the ecological health of Jacob Reiff Park and the community's engagement in local conservation. By planting 150 native trees along the West Branch of the Skippack Creek, the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy and Lower Salford Township helped reduce streambank erosion, improve water quality, and restore riparian habitat along one of the watershed's most impaired waterways. In addition to these ecological gains, the project increased public awareness of stormwater challenges and demonstrated the importance of native vegetation in strengthening long-term resilience to flooding and severe storms. The restoration work has also enriched the park's natural landscape, creating a more enjoyable recreation space for visitors while contributing to the overall sustainability and environmental health of the surrounding community.

*"Planting 150 native trees at Jacob Reiff Park is a tangible step toward improving water quality, reducing erosion, creating habitat and building long-term resilience along the West Branch of the Skippack Creek. This project highlights what can be accomplished when local partners and community members work together to protect our watershed"*

**Jessie Kemper, Director of Conservation**

### PARTNERS

DOW  
Lower Salford Township  
Merk  
SEI Express, Inc.  
Workday



## Forest Habitat Restoration

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens, Devon, PA

The Forest Habitat Restoration project strengthened both the ecological health of Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens and the community that surrounds it. By planting 270 native trees and 25 shrubs across 19 acres of degraded woodland, the project began rebuilding a resilient forest canopy that will support cleaner water, improved habitat, and greater biodiversity for years to come. A total of 64 volunteers participated, giving community members a meaningful opportunity to engage in hands-on environmental stewardship. Many volunteers, from local residents to corporate groups, expressed pride in enhancing a public woodland they regularly walk through, live near, or share with their families. Although no formal signage was installed, volunteers received direct education in forest ecology, invasive species management, and the importance of native plants in building climate-resilient landscapes. The positive results of the restoration work are now visible from both the public garden and nearby roads, providing the broader community with a greener, healthier landscape that benefits people and wildlife alike.



*"Thanks to grant funding from Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Healing the Planet Grant Program with support from The GIANT Company, and a strong community backing, Jenkins has taken a huge first step in restoring our forest from decades of deer pressure, invasive species, and climate related stressors."*

**Steve Wright, Director of Horticulture/Curator of Plant Collections**



### PARTNERS

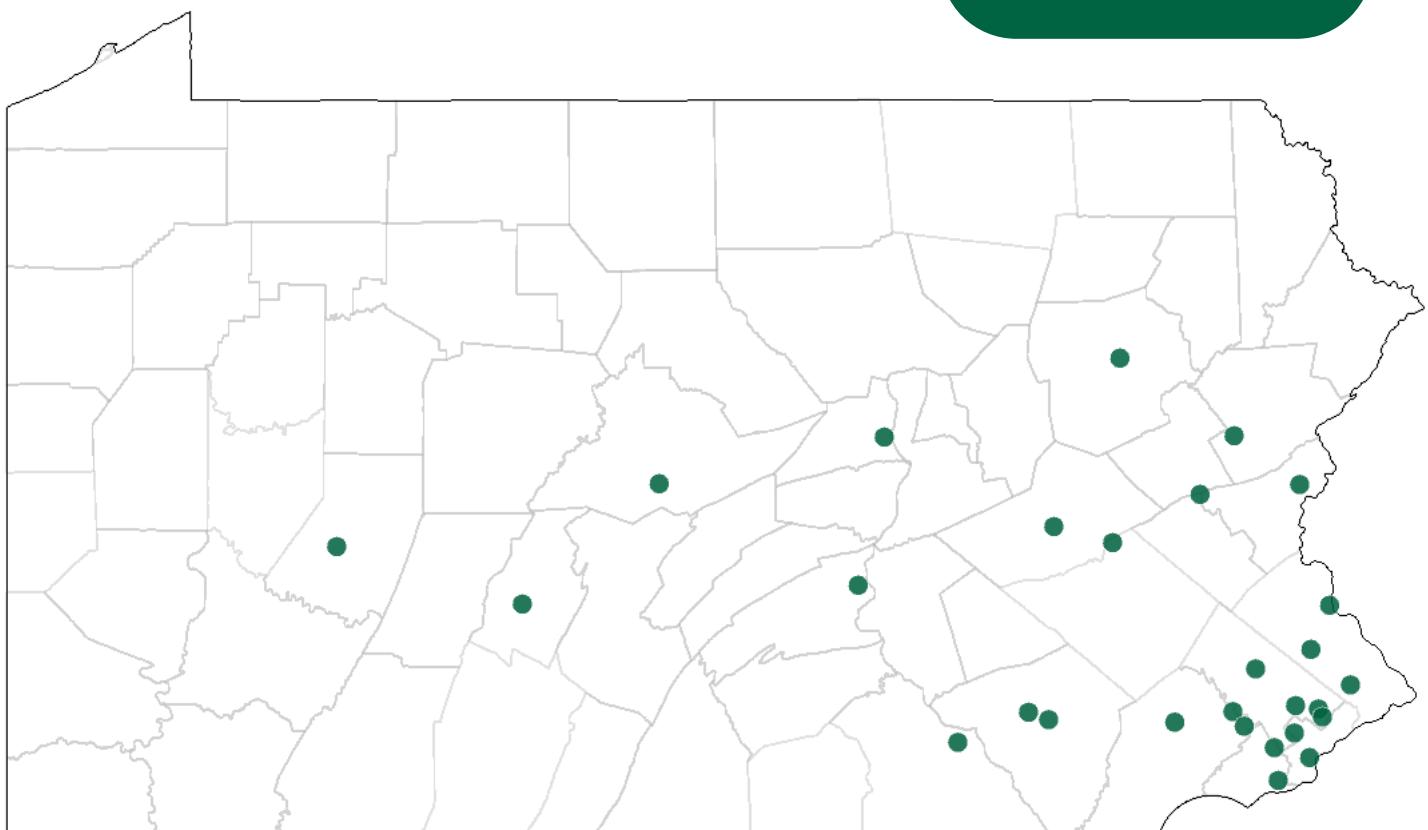
Brixmor Property Group  
Charles River Laboratories  
Chester County History Center  
Gene McMillen, ISA-Certified Arborist  
GreenWeaver Landscapes  
Vanguard

## 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.

37

Projects in support of native tree planting



Darby Creek Valley Association, Muckinapates Creek Riparian Restoration

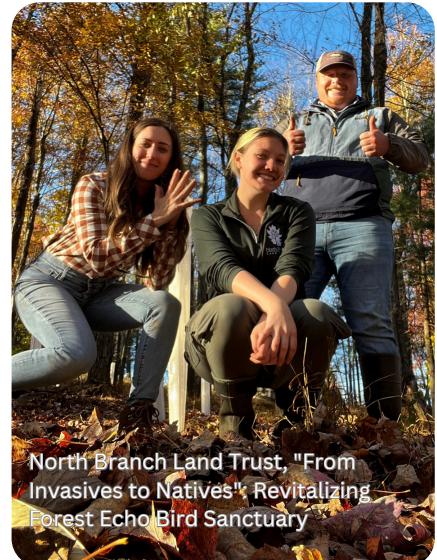
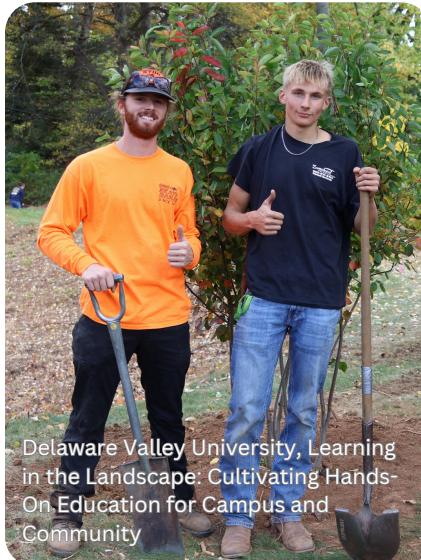
## Healing the Planet 2025

### Grant Recipients

Abington Township Public Library, Abington  
Chester Housing Initiatives, Chester  
Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association, Edgemont  
ClearWater Conservancy of Central Pennsylvania, State College  
County of Bucks, Doylestown  
Darby Creek Valley Association (DCVA), Drexel Hill  
Delaware Valley University, Doylestown  
East Buffalo Township, Lewisburg  
Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia  
Founding Forward, Valley Forge  
Friends of Churchville Nature Center, Churchville  
Friends of Johnston, Inc., Bethlehem  
Friends of the Rail Park, Philadelphia  
Friends of Wildwood Lake Nature Center, Inc., Harrisburg  
Haverford Township Civic Council, Havertown  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, Kempton  
Hollidaysburg Area School District, Hollidaysburg  
Honey Brook Community Library Inc., Honey Brook  
Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education, York  
Indiana Borough, Indiana  
Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens, Devon  
Juniata College, Huntingdon  
Lancaster County Therapeutic Riding, Inc., Lancaster  
Lycoming Audubon Society, Williamsport  
Manheim Township, Lancaster  
Marsh Creek State Park, Downingtown  
Martins Jacoby Watershed Association, Bangor  
Newberry Township, Etters  
North Branch Land Trust, Dallas  
Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, Schwenksville  
Pottsville Area School District, Pottsville  
Red Lion Borough, Red Lion  
Springfield Township Delaware County, Springfield  
St. Thomas Church Whitemarsh, Fort Washington  
Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Philadelphia  
Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley, Nazareth  
Wildlife Information Center, Slatington

## 2025 HEALING THE PLANET GRANTS IMPACT

Number of trees planted	2,645
Number of shrubs planted	1,985
Number of people educated	4,274
Number of educational signs created	97
Number of volunteers	3,631
Number of volunteer hours	10,245
Pounds of carbon sequestered from all trees/shrubs planted*	10,588
Pounds of carbon sequestered from all trees/shrubs after 20 years	779,071



\*In order to calculate the pounds of total Carbon sequestered, the iTree calculator was used with a few general assumptions in lieu of individual tree and shrub calculations. Individual calculations would have a higher accuracy in pounds but this would be minimal for the time needed for individual calculations. General assumptions were the tree species of Quercus or Oak spp used as a common native planted tree with a range in Pennsylvania. A one inch diameter was chosen to represent an average with some trees planted with larger 5-6 inch diameters versus saplings. The Amelanchier or Serviceberry spp was chosen as a representative shrub also planted often in Pennsylvania with range and also a one inch diameter. A location of Philadelphia was used as representative of all plantings without using each individual location used, however the location did not change the "Carbon Sequestered" measurement. Partial shade and excellent conditions were also used. Source: <https://mytree.itreetools.org>

## BY THE NUMBERS

Total budget for 37 projects	\$405,807
HTP funding	\$119,022
Cash match	\$231,134
Inkind match	\$56,151
Value of Volunteer Time	\$356,406
Total budget + vol value	\$762,213

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

\$6 FOR EVERY \$1





*"By involving community members and high school students in hands-on tree planting, this project is not only restoring our river habitat but also educating the next generation of environmental stewards."*

***Anna Costello, Office Manager & Program Specialist,  
Lehigh Gap Nature Center***



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Empowering Pennsylvanians to keep our communities clean and beautiful.