



SCHUYLKILL RIVER GREENWAYS

NATIONAL
HERITAGE
AREA

**MEDIA ALERT: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 30, 2023
Press invited to tour of Berks County Sites on 9/8**

SRG announces the recipients of over \$350,000 in grants to projects in the Schuylkill River Watershed.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection projects that every county in the state will continue to get warmer and wetter, with an average annual rainfall increase of eight percent, putting the health of the watershed at risk. In the face of those daunting projections, the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund is the catalyst for change, combining the generous funding of its sponsors with the innovation of local organizations and municipalities who are working to mitigate the impact of a changing environment on our landscape and drinking water.

As one of the founding partners of the fund, Constellation has been a guiding force in the process. "The Limerick Clean Energy Center is a 24/7 energy producer that is committed to provide reliable, carbon-free energy to move us all toward a safer, more sustainable future," said Mike Gillin, Constellation's Limerick Site Vice President. "We are proud to continue our partnership with Schuylkill River Greenways to drive local environmental progress to make the strongest possible impact, today and tomorrow."

The Schuylkill Action Network, along with Schuylkill River Greenways, will hold its annual Project Tour on Friday, September 8th to showcase previous grant winners and announce the 2023 projects that have been selected. This year's six grantees will share over \$350,000 in awards for their projects, the funds for which are donated by local companies and individuals who are invested in the health of our watershed.

"At Pennsylvania American Water, our commitment to the environment extends beyond the quality of our water into the heart of who we are - your local water company," said Kristi English, Source Water Protection State Lead. "We are stewards of the communities we serve and are proud to support the Schuylkill River Greenways Restoration Fund and the important work they do to protect our environment."

Anyone interested in the bus tour, which begins and ends at Earl Township Park, can register for the free event here: [SRRF Bus Tour & Press Event Tickets, Fri, Sep 8, 2023 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#). Showcase guests will enjoy a tour of two Berks County projects, Miller Farm and Pine Creek Streambank Restoration, both in Oley. The event includes lunch and awards presentation.

Created in 2006, the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund provides grants to government agencies and non-profit organizations for projects that improve the quality of water in the watershed. The goal of the Restoration Fund is to support projects in the Schuylkill River Watershed that are consistent with renewal and water management goals for the span of the

river basin. "The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) has been a proud contributor to the SRRF since the beginning. Through the incredible partnership and project coordination opportunities facilitated by the SRRF, PWD is able to protect and improve the quality of the Schuylkill River both upstream of and within the city to enhance drinking water, ecology, and recreation" shared Will Whalon, Watershed Protection Program staff scientist at PWD.

The grants focus on three major sources of pollution: stormwater runoff, agricultural pollution, and drainage from abandoned mines. Since its inception, the fund has distributed nearly \$5 million for over one hundred projects that protect and restore the Schuylkill River in perpetuity.

Marc Lucca, Aqua Pennsylvania President emphasized the importance of the fund, "Aqua Pennsylvania has been a proud funder of the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund since 2012. Together with our partners, we are safeguarding our river for future generations. A clean and healthy watershed benefits the environment and all who enjoy the river's beauty."

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ABOUT SCHUYLKILL RIVER GREENWAYS

The Schuylkill River Greenways NHA is a non-profit organization with the mission of connecting residents, visitors and communities to the Schuylkill River and the Schuylkill River Trail (SRT) by serving as a catalyst for civic engagement and economic development in order to foster stewardship of the watershed and its heritage.

About Schuylkill Action Network

The SAN seeks to achieve this mission through collaborative actions in partnership with local watershed organizations, land conservation organizations, businesses, academics, water suppliers, recreational communities, local governments, and regional, state, and federal agencies. Action is our middle name, and it's what makes the SAN a successful national model for source water protection, collaboration, and implementation. These actions are outlined in our 5-year Strategic Action Plan.

About Constellation

Constellation is the nation's largest producer of carbon-free energy and the leading competitive retail supplier of power and energy products and services for homes and businesses across the United States. Headquartered in Baltimore, their generation fleet powers more than 20 million homes and is helping to accelerate the nation's transition to clean energy with more than 32,400 megawatts of capacity and annual output that is 90 percent carbon-free. Already the lowest carbon emitter of any major investor-owned U.S. generator, they have set a goal to eliminate 100 percent of our greenhouse gas emissions by leveraging innovative technology and enhancing a diverse mix of hydro, wind and solar resources, paired with the nation's largest carbon-free nuclear fleet.