



Schuylkill River Greenways, in collaboration with The Philadelphia Water Department, Aqua Pennsylvania, PA American Water, and Constellation announce \$500,000 in grant awards for 2024.

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 grants focus on three major sources of pollution: stormwater run-off, agricultural pollution and abandoned mine drainage.

Thanks to increased funding from the Philadelphia Water Department, this year's nine grantees will share just under a half million dollars 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.

"PWD has long been a proud supporter of the SRRF, which funds projects every year that advance the city's goal of protecting and enhancing the Schuylkill River Watershed," said Marc Cammarata, Deputy Water Commissioner, Planning for the City of Philadelphia. "We know that the quality of our drinking water relies upon the health of our rivers and streams, and that everything that affects the Schuylkill upstream of the city eventually makes its way down to us. Beginning this year, PWD is more than doubling its annual contribution of \$100k to \$250k. With this extra funding, the department will be able to build further upon the grant program's many successes and support even more restoration projects within the city's borders."

With major storms on the rise, dealing with stormwater management is increasingly important to the health of The Schuylkill River, the watershed, and drinking water for 1.5 million people in our region.

According to Todd Duerr, Aqua Pennsylvania's VP of Operation, "The work of the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund is essential to protect drinking water for our customers across southeastern Pennsylvania, and we are grateful for our partners on the program." When asked what makes for a good project, Duerr said, "Any projects that can decrease the amount of sediment and excess nutrients running into our waterways

will be beneficial to water quality and the operations at our drinking water plants. Another big concern for drinking water providers is pathogens, so when farmers are doing their part to clean up after their animal operations, that's a win-win."

The Restoration Fund was created in 2006 through a unique public/private partnership that has funded over \$5 million in project since its inception, thanks to the support of partners like one of the original founders, Constellation.

"The Limerick Clean Energy Center is a 24/7 energy producer that is committed to provide reliable, carbon-free energy to move our community toward a safer, more sustainable future," said Mike Gillin, Limerick Site Vice President. "We are proud to continue our partnership with Schuylkill River Greenways to drive progress on our precious water resources to make the strongest possible impact, for many generations to come."

The collaboration between the grant funders and grant recipients has brought and will continue to bring significant changes throughout the watershed, with projects as varied as the communities it encompasses. That protection aligns closely with the mission of companies like PA American Water.

"At Pennsylvania American Water, we place great importance on restoring, improving and protecting our local watersheds, but we can't do it alone," said Kristi English, Source Water Protection State Lead for the company. "We are grateful for the dedicated organizations, like these grant applicants, who are working to make meaningful, positive change in the environment we all share. We thank Schuylkill River Greenways for allowing us to participate in the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund, and on behalf of our customers and the communities we serve, to contribute to the grant recipients' successes."

The program partners will be hosting a tour of related project sites in Philadelphia on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, followed by a press conference to formally announce the awardees.

More information about the upcoming events and the annual grant process can be found on the Schuylkill River Greenways website at <https://schuylkillriver.org/>

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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.

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Members of the press are encouraged to attend our annual bus tour and press conference:

Date: Thursday, September 5th

Time:

9:00 am – 1:00 pm Environmental project site tours (more details below)

1:30pm Partner Remarks at The Discovery Center, 3401 Reservoir Dr, Philadelphia, PA 19121

Scheduled Speakers:

WELCOME

Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area  
Elaine Schaefer, Executive Director

COMMENTS

Adam Ortiz – Regional Administration Region 3  
Environmental Protection Agency

Chad Pindar, Manager – Water Resource Planning  
Delaware River Basin Commission

Nick Favorito, Director of Organizational Performance  
Constellation - Limerick Generating Station

Marc Cammarata, Deputy Commissioner Planning &  
Environmental Service Philadelphia Water Department

Todd Duerr, Vice President of Operations  
Aqua Pennsylvania and the Essential Foundation

Schedule below

Project Tour and Press Event

Date: Thursday, September 5th

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Bus Pickup/Dropoff & Lunch Location: The Discovery Center, 3401 Reservoir Dr, Philadelphia, PA 19121

The SRRF Bus Tour and Press Event will feature the following highlights:

- 10:10 – 10:30 am Visit the native riparian planting restoration project at the East Falls Development Corporation Schuylkill River water trail access site, improving habitat value, water quality and stormwater management on-site.
- 11:20-11:40am Stop at the Brewerytown Community Garden where 2 parcels were permanently protected with support of the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund, protecting this beloved community green space into perpetuity & providing important environmental benefits.
- 12 – 12:30pm Discuss how freshwater mussels are key to a vibrant ecosystem and water quality benefits to the Schuylkill through Fairmount Water Works and Audubon's Mussel Maniacs program
- 12:30 – 2:30pm Lunch and a Press Event highlighting the 2024 SRRF awardees will be held on the patio overlooking East Park Reservoir at the Discovery Center.

## 2024 Restoration Fund Grant Recipients

Berks County Conservation District -	Weinsteiger Farm \$ 31,000.00
Berks Nature -	Bitler Farm \$60,000.00
Berks Nature -	Masemore Farm \$99,750.00
Friends of the Wissahickon -	Pachella Gully \$100,000.00
Montgomery County Conservation District -	Sterner Farm \$100,000.00
Montgomery School -	Raingarden \$20,000.00
Natural Lands -	Breinig Property \$7,500.00
Natural Lands -	Reading Materials Property \$7,500.00
Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy -	Reiff Park Phase 2 \$74,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b> <b>\$499,750.00</b>