

About the Schuylkill Action Network

The Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) is a collaborative network with over 150 partner organizations all working together to protect and restore the Schuylkill River and its tributaries. The SAN protects this valuable resource through collaboration, implementation of clean water projects, and promotion of long-term stewardship.



Special thanks to Tom Davidock for his strong leadership in coordinating the Schuylkill Action Network for the past 8 years!

Honoring Schuylkill Action Network Founders

At the Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) Annual Meeting, Jon Capacasa, Howard Neukrug, and Chris Crockett were awarded the SAN Founders Award. Together, these three envisioned the idea of the SAN after the Philadelphia Water Department conducted its source water assessment of the Schuylkill Watershed in 2003. Their vision became a reality in 2004 when SAN received its first funding – a \$1.49 million dollar Targeted Watershed Implementation Grant from EPA. Since then, Jon, Howard, and Chris have been instrumental in protecting and restoring the Schuylkill watershed. Their strong leadership and vision is clear in the successful and sustainable Schuylkill Action Network.

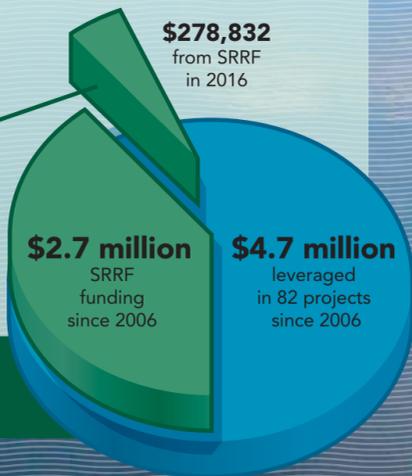


Schuylkill River Restoration Fund

In 2016, \$278,832 in grants were awarded to organizations to implement projects that improve water quality in the Schuylkill Watershed through the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund (SRRF). The grants focus on three major sources of pollution: stormwater runoff, agricultural pollution, and abandoned mine drainage.

2016 GRANT AWARDS:

- Berks County Conservation District Meyers Horse Farm - \$8,332
- Berks Nature Durkin Farm - \$95,000
- Berks Nature Zettlemoyer Farm - \$50,000
- Borough of Pottstown Stormwater Filter Project - \$40,000
- Schuylkill Headwaters Association Big Creek Limestone Project - \$40,000
- North Light Community Schoolyard Stormwater - \$37,500
- Berks Nature St. Lawrence Property - \$4,000
- Natural Lands Trust Kulp Property - \$4,000



SCHUYLKILL RIVER RESTORATION FUNDING AND LEVERAGED FUNDING SINCE 2006

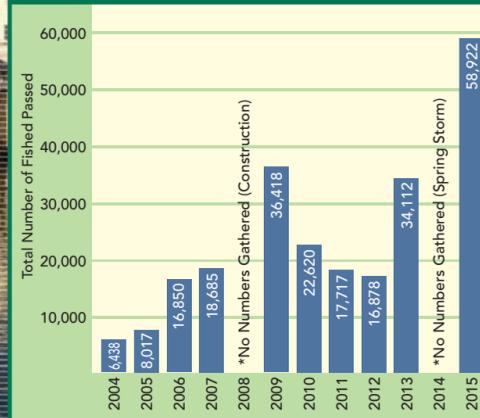
Fairmount Dam Fishway

The fishway at Fairmount Dam allows fish such as American shad to swim upstream and spawn. Since 2004, the number of fish using the passageway has increased drastically – even an otter was spotted in the fishcam!



Photo by PWD

TOTAL NUMBER OF FISH PASSED DURING PEAK MIGRATION (APRIL 1 – JULY 1)



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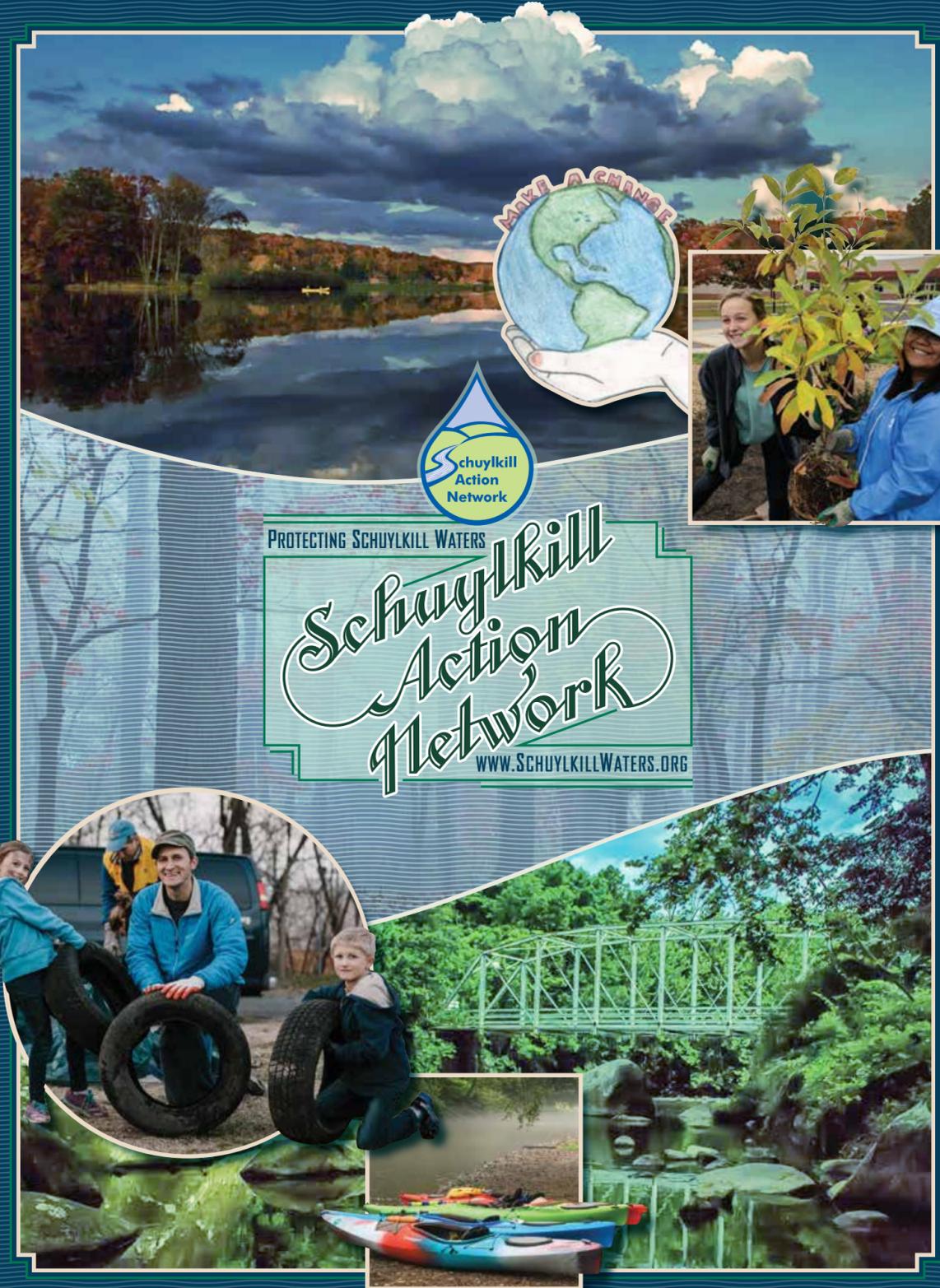
Anyone can become a member! Just visit www.SchuylkillWaters.org and click **Get Involved**.
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Abandoned Mine Drainage

PROBLEM: In the headwaters (or beginning) of the Schuylkill River, rain enters the many abandoned underground coal mines and becomes contaminated with heavy metals. The polluted acidic water then enters the headwaters, impacting fish and other aquatic life.

SOLUTIONS:

- Treatment systems help to remove heavy metals and improve pH.

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The many completed treatment systems, like the Bell Colliery treatment near Mary D, PA, have significantly improve water quality in the headwaters so the workgroup can now begin habitat improvement projects.

- Added 330 tons of limestone to the Big Creek near New Philadelphia. This project will restore 3.9 miles of stream to a healthy ecosystem.
- Installed a stream restoration project in New Philadelphia to restore habitat in the stream.



Habitat restoration stream project in New Philadelphia, PA.



BEFORE



AFTER

At the Rice farm in Kempton, manure is now being stored inside the new barn instead of outside where it was running off into a tributary of the Maiden Creek.

Agriculture

PROBLEM: Manure, pesticides, fertilizers, and sediment run off of farms into nearby waterways or soak into groundwater, contaminating our drinking water sources.

SOLUTIONS:

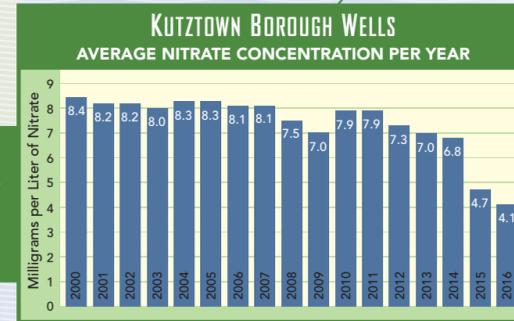
- Nutrient management plans identify ways to better manage manure as a natural fertilizer on farms.
- Storage facilities hold manure, storing it for when farmers need to fertilize their crops.
- Stream crossings allow cows to cross a waterway at a designated location, limiting the negative impacts that cows have by trampling the streambed.

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Wrote 29 comprehensive nutrient management plans.
- Installed 13 manure storage facilities.
- Completed 12 barnyard repairs.
- Installed 11 stream crossings.

HOW DO WE KNOW AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS WORK?

In the Saucony Creek Watershed, where agricultural projects have been implemented since 2004, we've seen a significant decrease in nitrates in the Borough of Kutztown's well water data. Nitrates are an indicator of water quality and can be a human health hazard if present at or above 10 mg/l in drinking water.



Watershed Land Protection

PROBLEM: Conversion of natural areas to developed ones leads to more impervious surfaces, increasing pollutants running off into streams.

SOLUTIONS:

- Tools such as the Schuylkill Watershed Priority Lands Tool helps SAN partners to prioritize critical areas for protection.
- Conservation easements permanently protect high-priority lands that ultimately help protect water quality.

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Preserved 1,731 acres in the first 3 years of the William Penn Foundation's Delaware River Watershed Initiative.

Preserved Warwick Furnace Farm in Elverson, PA.

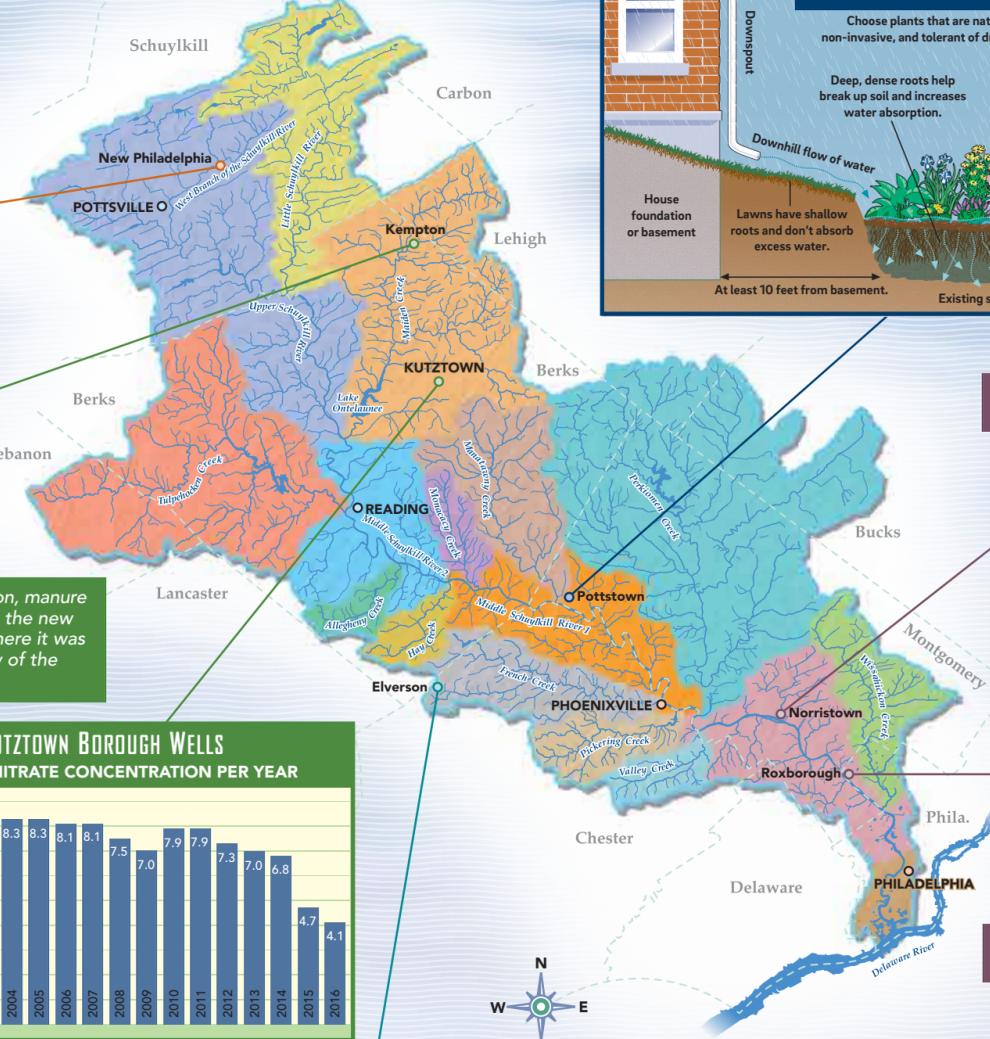


Photo by Schuylkill Headwaters Association



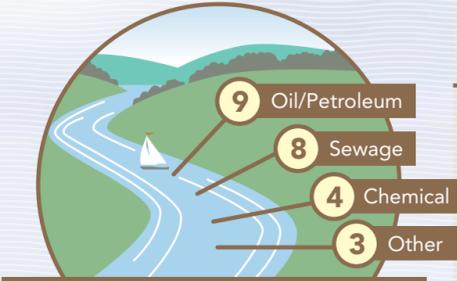
Iron sludge settles out at the Silver Creek Treatment System in New Philadelphia, PA.

MAP OF THE Schuylkill River Watersheds



KEY TO MAP

- River/Creek
- Schuylkill River Watershed Boundary
- Counties



EVENTS REPORTED IN THE DELAWARE ESTUARY

Stormwater

Students help install a rain garden at Pottsgrove High School in Pottstown, PA.

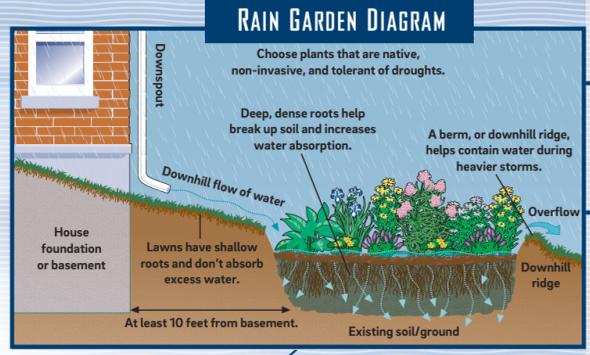
PROBLEM: When rain hits impervious surfaces, such as roads, sidewalks, parking lots, and roofs, it cannot naturally soak into the ground. Instead, stormwater runoff is created, picking up pollutants and carrying them to local waterways.

SOLUTIONS:

- Green infrastructure, such as rain gardens and naturalized basins, allow for stormwater runoff to be absorbed and infiltrated into the ground, naturally filtering out pollutants.

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Held the second "Green Saves Green" workshop for engineers, planners, and more.
- Expanded the Schuylkill Action Students program, including a new:
 - Rain garden at Pottsgrove High School.
 - Floating wetland at Angelica Creek Park.



Kristin Olinger helps to install her drawing that was transformed into street art.



Students at Green Woods Charter School show off their Scholastic Award.

Education & Outreach

PROBLEM: Many people are unaware that their everyday actions can negatively impact the environment. For example, many think that all storm drains lead to a waste water treatment plant, not to local streams.

SOLUTIONS:

- The SAN strives to educate and engage residents about simple behavior changes that can help protect the environment.

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Participated in organizing many Schuylkill Scrub events in 2016.
- Awarded three schools the *Schuylkill Scholastic Drinking Water Awards* for their efforts in protecting the environment – Phoenixville Area Middle School, Perkiomen Valley High School, and Green Woods Charter School.
- Received over 200 entries in the Schuylkill Street Art Contest.
- Installed 4 storm drain art designs from the winners of the Schuylkill Street Art Contest.

Pathogens and Point Source

PROBLEM: Point source pollution comes from a specific location, such as a wastewater treatment plant or factory. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) ensure discharges from these point sources are properly treated, but sometimes accidental spills can negatively impact water quality.

SOLUTIONS:

- By tracking and reporting incidents to the Delaware Valley Early Warning System, downstream water suppliers are notified and can be better prepared to make decisions and protect drinking water.

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Alerted downstream water suppliers of incidents with potential to impact intakes.
- Reported 24 events to the Early Warning System in the Schuylkill and Delaware River Watersheds.
- Hosted a workshop on emergency response and emerging contaminants for water suppliers.
- Promoted the 76 drug take back locations in the watershed.

2016 STATS

- 797 cleanups
- 29,377 volunteers
- 516,365 pounds of trash removed
- 2,771 tires collected

