

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Mission Statement:

To protect, conserve and restore land and water for the diversity of the region's plants, animals and their ecosystems.

Through science-based strategies, collaboration, leadership and recognition of the relationship between humankind and nature, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy achieves tangible conservation outcomes for present and future generations.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) is Pennsylvania's first conservancy and is a private, nonprofit membership-based conservation organization.

Since its founding in 1932, the Conservancy has protected more than 212,000 acres of natural lands in Pennsylvania, restored watersheds and saved habitats for a diversity of life and uses.

Working in identified conservation areas, WPC fosters the integration of ecological protection with economic and social needs while building on the core values of the community.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has been responsible for the founding of six state parks in western Pennsylvania, including Ohiopyle, Laurel Ridge, McConnell's Mill, Moraine, Oil Creek and Erie Bluffs. In addition, WPC created the 300-acre Wildflower Reserve at Raccoon Creek State Park, and added land to Blue Knob State Park and other natural areas, game lands and state forests.

WPC also preserves Fallingwater®, the masterpiece home designed in 1935 by Frank Lloyd Wright for Edgar J. Kaufmann in Mill Run, Pennsylvania. In 1963, Edgar Kaufmann jr. (sic) entrusted WPC with the house, its contents and grounds. It is the only major Wright work to come into the public domain with its setting, original furnishings and artwork intact. Today, WPC continues its award winning preservation efforts and offers a wide variety of educational programs to more than 135,000 annual visitors. More than four million visitors from across the United States and world have visited Fallingwater since the Conservancy opened the home to the public. The preservation of Fallingwater is a symbol of living in harmony with nature.

Through the Community Gardens & Greenspace program, each year, WPC partners with nearly 4,000 volunteers and many community organizations and businesses to plant and maintain more than 140 gardens and greening projects in 19 western Pennsylvania counties.