

WHAT IS A WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN?

A Watershed Conservation Plan is a comprehensive study of the natural and cultural resources of a particular watershed or stream corridor. Plans incorporate a strong community participation element to identify local needs and concerns. A completed plan compiles broad-based data about recreational, historical, socio-economic, and natural resources, along with information gathered through public outreach to develop recommendations for improving conditions in the watershed.

HOW ARE WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLANS FUNDED?

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, under its Rivers Conservation Program, can provide Community Conservation Partnership Grants for up to 50% of the project cost.

DCNR's funding comes from the Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund Act of 1993.



The first round of public meetings will occur
in September 2006.

The Connoquenessing Creek Watershed Conservation Plan is a joint effort between Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Connoquenessing Watershed Alliance.

For more information about the Connoquenessing Creek Watershed Conservation Plan, or to become involved in the Connoquenessing Watershed Planning Process, please contact:

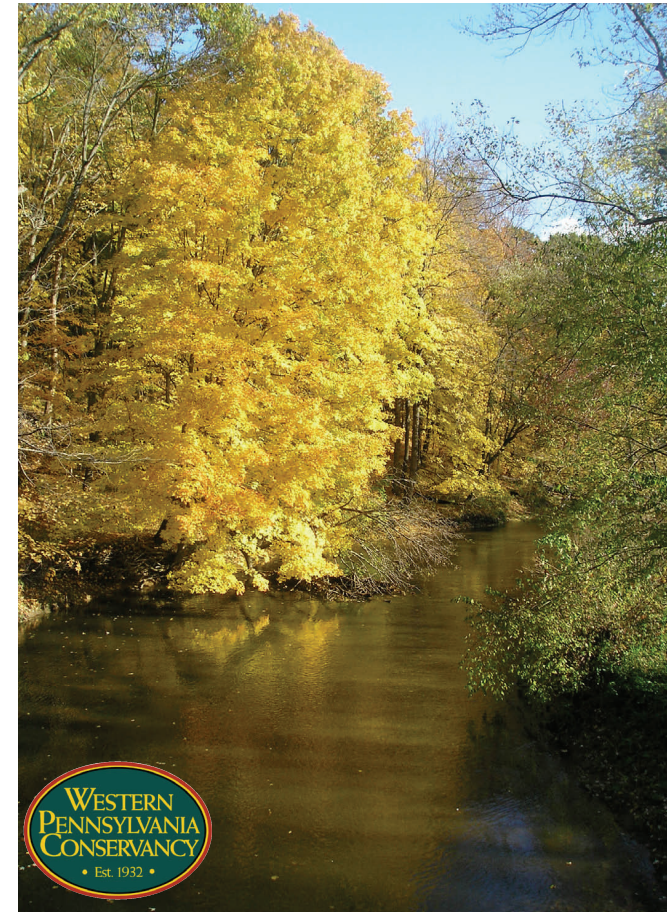


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For more information about other efforts in the watershed please contact:

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CONNOQUENESSING CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN



CONNOQUENESSING CREEK

In 2004, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) contacted the Connoquenessing Watershed Alliance to introduce the idea of jointly completing a Watershed Conservation Plan for the Connoquenessing Creek watershed.

In September 2005, WPC was awarded funding from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to develop a Watershed Conservation Plan for the Connoquenessing Creek watershed. (Slippery Rock Creek, although a major tributary to Connoquenessing Creek, was not included because it was thought that the watershed would be better served by developing a separate plan specific to its unique character.)

The development of the Connoquenessing Creek Watershed Conservation Plan will be guided by a diverse array of individuals from local businesses, agencies, and non-profit organizations in the watershed. This group will serve as the project steering committee throughout the planning process. A major component of the plan will be to reach out to the community, through surveys, interviews, focus groups, and public meetings, to identify the goals and visions that residents have to improve the quality of life in their watershed. The project will take several years to develop, with an expected completion date of June 2008, and will include multiple avenues for local stakeholders to participate.

Ultimately, the Watershed Conservation Plan will provide a comprehensive look at the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the region. Information contained in the various chapters of the plan was gathered from existing data and public comments obtained throughout the planning process and will be utilized in developing management recommendations that will help guide future conservation efforts in the watershed. Once completed, additional funding opportunities will become available to implement projects and recommendations identified in the plan.

