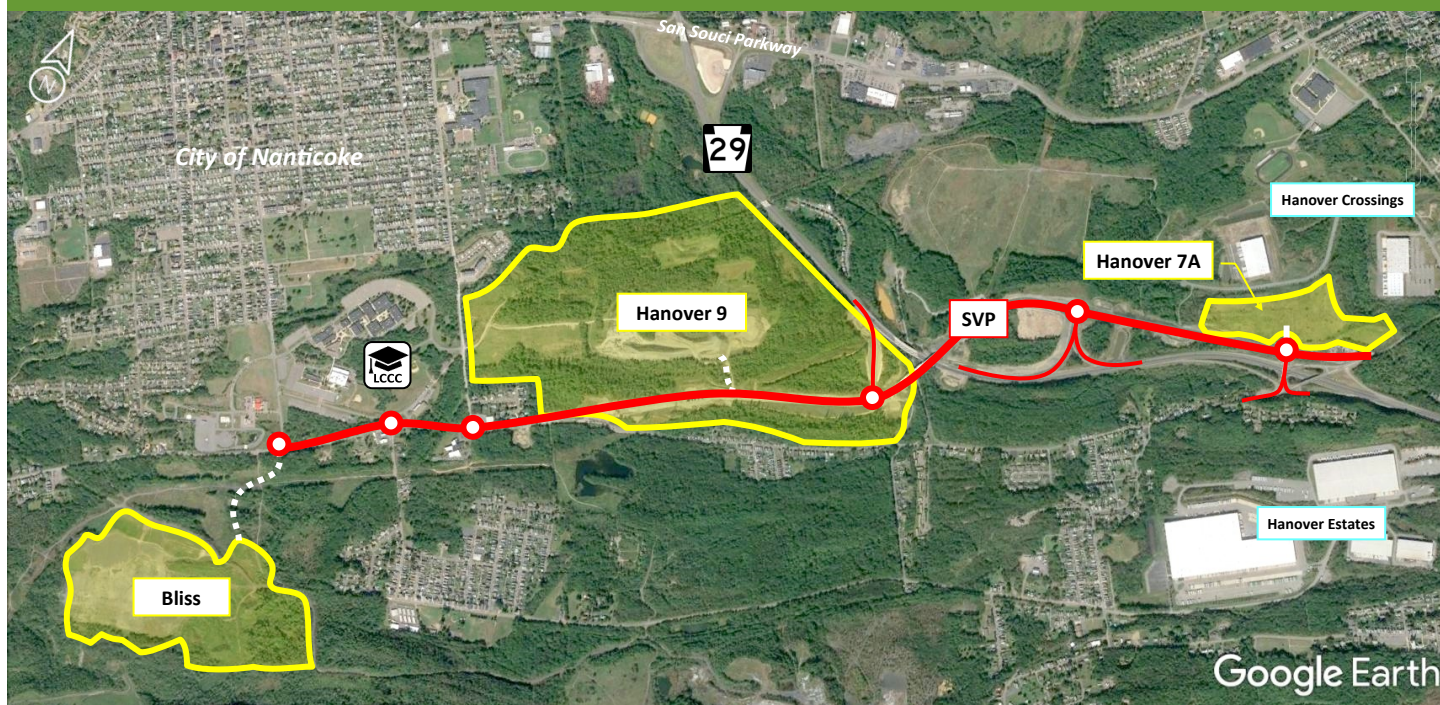


SVP Access Roads



Earth Conservancy (EC) received exciting news near the end of 2017: State Senator John Yudichak announced the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) had awarded EC a \$2 million grant through the Multimodal Transportation Fund, which is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PADCED). The monies will construct three access roads from the South Valley Parkway (SVP) to three key parcels of reclaimed EC land.

Roadways might seem outside of EC's usual purview. However, infrastructure has always been integral to EC's revitalization strategy. In 1995, the original land use planning committee recognized that only through transportation linkages could EC's legacy minelands be put into productive reuse. The SVP was one of their chief recommendations, not only improving traffic flow and safety, but also giving access to EC's at-the-time unreclaimed lands. EC donated 70 acres of land in support of the project, valued at \$1 million.

Although PennDOT started design of the roadway in 2001, it wasn't until 2016 that construction began. EC, meanwhile, kept reclaiming mine-scarred properties, first targeting the tracts abutting Exit 1 of S.R. 29, including Huber Bank, then moving on to the 350-acre Hanover 9 site across from Luzerne County Community College (LCCC). After EC finished Hanover 9 in 2014, EC started on the 200-acre Bliss Bank. Work there is ongoing.

For all these projects, progress never seemed to move quickly enough. Yet the wait has proven fortuitous. The SVP's completion and reclamation of EC's lands has aligned with an improving economy and extensive local development, especially on the Huber site. Taken together, they have created an attractive opportunity for economic growth in the region, and bolstered the need for the three connections between the SVP and the Hanover 7A, Hanover 9, and Bliss properties. When complete, the roads will offer a direct route from these tracts to S.R. 29 and I-81, thereby encouraging the economic development EC envisioned over two decades ago.

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Construction on Colours new facility on Huber II, with the future Adidas building in the background

Huber Bank: Progress continues on the reclaimed Huber Bank. An upscale mini-market and gas station has been announced for Huber I, with construction expected in 2018. On Huber II, automotive paint distributor Colours is constructing a new 40,000sf warehouse and executive office space. Directly above Colours on Hubers III and IV, work carries on at NorthPoint Development's Hanover Ridge Trade Center. In addition to the now-operational Chewy.com, two new tenants have committed to the 360,000sf and 843,000sf buildings. It is anticipated the three NorthPoint facilities will support 2,000 new jobs.

NBLT Transfer: EC donated 47 acres of land, including three miles of railbed, to North Branch Land Trust (NBLT) for inclusion into the 165-mile Delaware & Lehigh Heritage Trail, which will connect the Seven Tubs Natural Area to Wilkes-Barre Township. The property will become part of the State Forest system when trail construction is complete. EC also is continuing its efforts to transfer another 435 acres in Plains Township and 1,110 acres along Little Wilkes Barre and Penobscot Mountains to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, as part of a Community Conservation Partnership grant with NBLT.

Askam Borehole AMD Treatment System: Funded by a grant through the AMD Abatement and Treatment Program by PADCED and CFA, EC has been making several improvements to its AMD treatment system on the Nanticoke Creek, which will increase iron fallout from the Askam Borehole discharges. Monies also have been allocated to assist with water testing, operation, and maintenance costs.

Hanover 9: Although it wasn't to be, EC's reclaimed Hanover 9 property was one of six sites featured by Penn's Northeast in its pitch to host Amazon's second headquarters. The 350-acre reclaimed site has much to offer. Not only is it large with direct access to the SVP, but it also sits opposite 2,000 acres of developable EC land with potential for corporate expansion, mixed-use development, or recreational opportunities.

Askam Wayside Exhibit: In May 2017, EC completed work on its wayside exhibit at the Askam Borehole AMD Treatment System. In addition to the installation of four interpretive signs, a parking area and walking path were constructed. Since then, numerous school, college, and professional groups have toured the site, as have local residents, fulfilling the project's intent of increasing education of AMD in the region and the efforts of groups like EC to mitigate its impacts.



Askam Wayside Exhibit Welcome Sign and Walking Path

EC Hosts US EPA Press Event

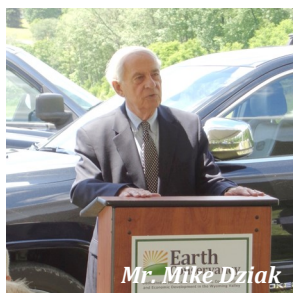
Although the winds bested all signs and displays, they failed to hamper the enthusiasm during EC's press event for the USEPA on June 1, 2017. There, the Mid-Atlantic Region's former Regional Administrator, Cecil Rodrigues, announced three \$200,000 brownfields cleanup grants to aid EC's continuing work on reclaiming Bliss Bank and restoring Espy Run. Also revealed: EC had received a fourth \$200,000 grant from the USEPA's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program for its new initiative, the Environmental Workforce Training (EWT) Program. In addition to Mr. Rodrigues, speakers included EC's Executive Administrator, Geoffrey Shaw; EC's President/CEO, Mike Dziak; Congressman Lou Barletta's District Director, Conrad Falvello; and Penn State Wilkes-Barre's Chancellor, Dr. Dale Jones. Penn State Wilkes-Barre serves as EC's educational partner for the EWT Program.



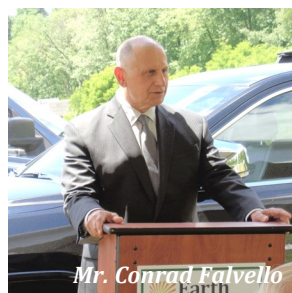
Attendees at the USEPA Press Event



Mr. Cecil Rodrigues



Mr. Mike Dziak



Mr. Conrad Falvello



Mr. Dale Jones

PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference

In June, EC presented at the 19th Annual PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference at the Genetti Hotel in Wilkes-Barre. The day featured many interesting speakers who shared their thoughts and plans of dealing with abandoned mineland impacts across the country, and in some cases, the world. EC also hosted a large group of attendees the day before at its Askam Borehole AMD Treatment System, highlighting the issues of acid mine drainage in the anthracite region and innovative ways of addressing its impacts.

National Brownfields Training Conference

EC was one of approximately 30 posters selected for presentation at the National Brownfields Training Conference in December, 2017, in Pittsburgh, PA. Held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, the event,



Dr. Elizabeth Hughes with the EC Poster in Pittsburgh

co-sponsored by the USEPA and the International City/County Management Association, is the largest gathering of stakeholders focused on cleaning up and reusing formerly utilized commercial and industrial properties. EC's poster provided an overview of the organization, emphasizing the role of land use planning in its reclamation work, and its ongoing commitment to preserving greenspace.



Participants practicing in the field during the Environmental Workforce Training Program

EC values the assistance we receive from funders at the federal, state, and local level, as well as that from individual and corporate grants and donations. Thank you to all those who support EC in its efforts towards revitalizing the environment, economy, and communities of the southern Wyoming Valley.

Environmental Workforce Development & Job Training Program

EC was one of 14 organizations nationwide to receive a \$200,000 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) award from the USEPA. Called the Environmental Workforce Training (EWT) Program, the program is being done in partnership with Penn State Wilkes-Barre and intends to train 50 unemployed/underemployed individuals from northeastern Pennsylvania in surveying skills and technologies over the course of two years. A diverse group of twenty-five students from four counties were enrolled in the first cohort, with a wide-range of ages, educational backgrounds, and professional experiences represented. Nearly a third were veterans. This was a priority during enrollment, as we saw a strong alignment between numerous military skills and the training's focus. Classes are slated to end by mid-April, 2018, and will be followed by a closed career fair at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. Other partners of the EWT Program include PA CareerLink, the Luzerne-Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board, the Lackawanna County and Pocono Counties Workforce Development Boards, the Northern Tier Regional Planning Development Commission, EOTC, and EPCAMR.

Multimodal Transportation Fund – Local Access Roads

As detailed on our cover story, EC was awarded \$2 million by the CFA through PADCED's Multimodal Transportation Fund to construct three access roads from the SVP to reclaimed EC properties. Design work on the first road for the Hanover 7A site, which is part of the Hanover Crossings Business Park, is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2018.

Bliss Bank Reclamation, Phase III

In 2017, EC was awarded two \$200,000 USEPA Brownfields Cleanup grants for Phase III of the Bliss Bank reclamation. Bliss Bank, covered by massive stretches of mine spoils, spans over 200 acres. Work on Phase I finished in 2016, reclaiming 36 acres. Phase II, which is 22 acres, is underway. Another 22 acres will be reclaimed during Phase III, and will also include reconstruction of 1,000 feet of Espy Run.

Espy Run Stream Restoration, Segment B

This is the second \$200,000 grant from the USEPA for work on Espy Run. Espy Run, a tributary to the Nanticoke Creek, once ran through what is now the Bliss Bank site. Unfortunately, mining operations destroyed the stream's natural flow. EC intends to reestablish this missing segment to improve local hydrology and the watershed's health. The USEPA awarded EC a \$200,000 Brownfields Cleanup grant in 2016 to support the first phase of work, which will restore 1,000 feet of channel.

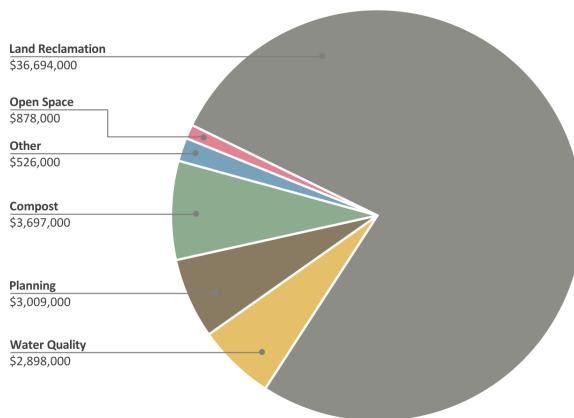
About Earth Conservancy

EC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the impacts of historical coal mining practices in northeastern Pennsylvania. EC seeks to lead our communities in the reclamation of mine-scarred lands and streams, returning strong economic, environmental, and social value to the region by creating a well-planned, vibrant valley, protected by green ridgetops. To this end, EC develops sustainable land-use plans; leads reclamation efforts of damaged minelands and watersheds, and guides their reuse; commits to provide 10,000 acres for recreation and open space; partners with local communities to achieve our mission; and educates the community on our work.

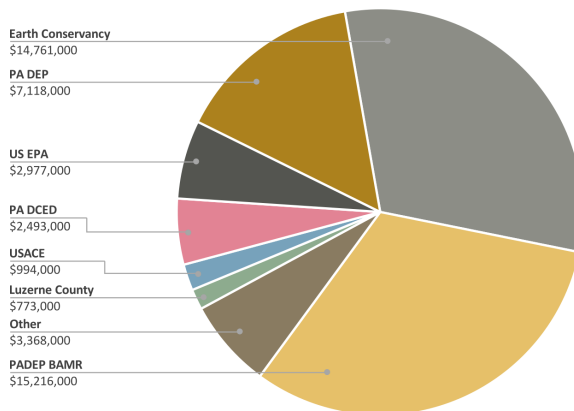
Financial statements are audited annually by an independent accounting firm. Overviews of EC's project expenses and funding sources since inception are provided in the charts at right.



Project Expenses through 2017



Sources of Funding through 2017



Financial Overview

Staff News

Although no longer "new," EC has added two individuals to its team over the past several years. In 2014, Geoff Shaw, CPA, became EC's Executive Administrator, overseeing EC's financial operations and reporting. He is a Certified Public Accountant and graduate of

Shippensburg University, with over thirty years of experience specializing in the financial management of not-for-profit organizations. Geoff and his wife, Beth, reside in Clarks Summit. They have one grown daughter and one spoiled black Labrador retriever.



In 2015, Dr. Elizabeth Hughes joined EC as its Director of Communications. In addition to handling grant-writing and marketing, she also oversees EC's community garden, educational outreach, and the Environmental Workforce Training Program. Elizabeth earned her BS at the University of Scranton, her MA at Case Western Reserve University, and completed her doctorate at Binghamton University. Previously, she served as Director of Education at the Everhart Museum in Scranton. She resides in the Back Mountain with her husband, Eric Hunt, and daughter, Eliza, who is also spoiled.



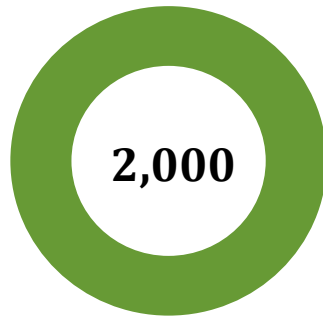
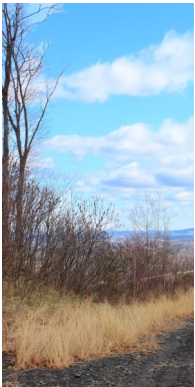
Other News

Jacqueline Munro Trail

On National Trails Day 2017, EC officially renamed part of its Sugar Notch Trail after our late colleague, Jackie. Beginning in the Broadhead Avenue playground in Sugar Notch, the Jacqueline Munro Trail features an updated sign with a memorial penned by Jackie's friends and co-workers. It reads: "Jacqueline Munro (1962-2014) was a smart and spirited member of Earth Conservancy's team for 11 years. Throughout her life, she graced the world with her generosity, optimism, and wit. For those who knew Jackie, her kindness and affection were boundless – especially for her four-legged friends. We dedicate this trail in celebration of her memory." Committee members included Karen Warho, Dr. Marleen Troy, Janet Sweeney, Angela Vitkosky, Dr. Holly Frederick, and Julie McMonagle. EC also organized a cleanup of the Sugar Notch playground earlier in the spring with help from Wilkes University's Environmental Club.



New Jaqueline Munro Trail sign at Trailhead in Sugar Notch



acres reclaimed



million invested



green acres preserved

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Earth Conservancy is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation and is dedicated to conducting its affairs in compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and fiduciary responsibilities. Board meetings are open to the public and are held on a quarterly basis at 8AM at Earth Conservancy's offices, 101 South Main Street, Ashley, PA 18706. Call the office at 570.823.3445 for more information on meeting dates and times.

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