

Nearly a decade ago, Earth Conservancy (EC) appraised its progress. Having completed much of its plans for reclamation of its mine-scarred land off of Exit 1, SR 29, the organization was ready to move on to its next priority. Hanover 9 was it.

Under Blue Coal's ownership, Hanover 9 had been excavated and drilled in search of anthracite coal. Their quest, however, was unsuccessful. Blue Coal consequently abandoned the site, leaving it distorted and scrub-covered, marred even further by deep, water-filled pits. Illegal dumping over the years worsened its blighted state.

Despite the extensive damage, EC recognized Hanover 9's potential. It was

large and ideally located, its 390 acres extending into Hanover Township and the City of Nanticoke. Luzerne County Community College was situated directly across the street. The planned-for South Valley Parkway (SVP) would pass by its southern border.

Reclamation of Hanover 9 began in 2011. Work proceeded in phases, as funding allowed. In total, over 300,000cy of material were moved and seven stormwater management features constructed during the reclamation process. Work was completed in 2014. Both phases were supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Cleanup program and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener program. A tree planting along Espy Run was done by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, also funded by Growing Greener.

Since that time, EC pursued several avenues for Hanover 9's development. Unfortunately none came to fruition... that is, until NorthPoint Development evaluated the site. The Missouri-based developer recognized the opportunity Hanover 9 presented and, having previously worked with EC on its Huber Bank tract, supported EC's mission. Hanover 9's sale was finalized in late 2018.

NorthPoint has quickly transformed the property, proposing construction of three buildings. The first, seen above, is 600,000 SF and will house an e-commerce company. The second, at 1.4 million SF, will be the largest distribution facility in northeastern Pennsylvania, with national home improvement wholesaler True Value occupying the majority. NorthPoint representatives project 1,548 jobs will be created by the project. To improve access, EC is constructing a new roundabout and roadway, linking the property to the SVP, funded in part by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PADCED). This is what EC envisioned at its founding: Taking large swaths of mine-scarred land and transforming them into properties ready for positive, productive reuse.

Hanover 9



View of new development on Hanover 9

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Grading Activity on Bliss Bank, Phase II

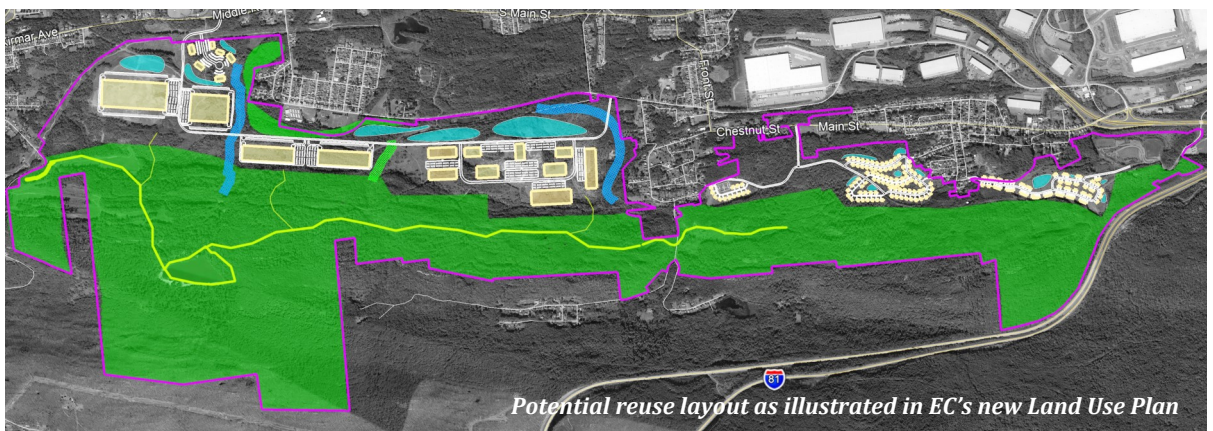
Bliss Bank & Espy Run Stream Restoration: Work on reclaiming the 200+ acres of Bliss Bank started in 2014. Phase I was finished in 2015; Phase II, seen above, is scheduled for completion in mid-2019. Engineering for Phase III has been finalized, with construction anticipated to start in 2019. Integral to repairing the mine-scarred tract is the restoration of Espy Run. Originally, the stream had flowed through the site; however, mining activity diverted it into the mine pools underground. Reestablishment will improve the area's hydrology, mitigate production of acid mine drainage (AMD), and repair habitat. Construction on the first 1,000 LF (Segment A) is underway. To date, over \$3.5 million has been invested in the two projects.



"Rapids" below the Askam Borehole

Askam Borehole AMD Treatment System: EC completed improvements to the Askam Borehole AMD Treatment system in Hanover Township, funded through a grant from PADCED's AMD Abatement and Treatment Program. Enhancements included placement of large rocks under and downstream from the borehole discharge to naturally increase aeration of the water; and installation of a valve to drain the settling pond during future removal of iron oxide buildup. Remaining funds have been placed in a trust fund to cover water testing, operation, and maintenance costs.

Land Use Plan: With Bliss Bank as the starting point, EC sought to better understand the potential for over 2,000 acres across Wilkes-Barre Mountain. The result was the *Master Plan for Bliss, Truesdale, Warrior Run, and Sugar Notch Lands*, compiled by local engineering firm Borton Lawson. The report evaluated topography, hydrology, and infrastructure features, and assessed reclamation opportunities and costs. EC's mission of balancing reclamation/reuse of mine-scarred tracts with preservation of greenspace was kept central to the effort, with 1,200 acres earmarked for greenspace. The plan may be viewed on www.earthconservancy.org.



Potential reuse layout as illustrated in EC's new Land Use Plan

About Earth Conservancy

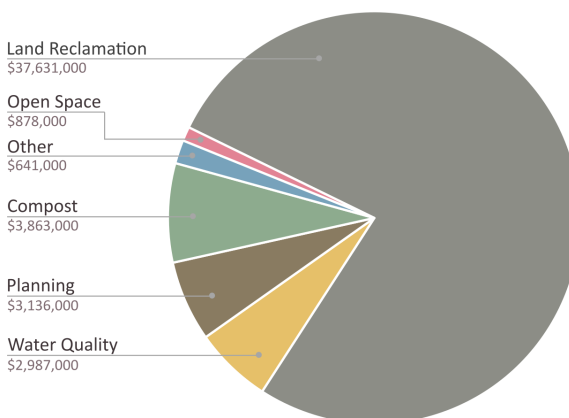
EC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the impacts of historical coal mining practices in northeastern Pennsylvania. EC seeks to lead our communities in the reclamation of mine-scarred lands and streams, returning strong economic, environmental, and social value to the region by creating 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.

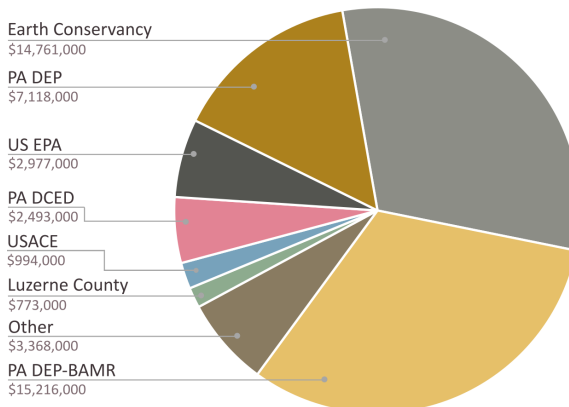


Project Expenses through 2018

Total Investment: \$49,136,000



Sources of Funding through 2018



Financial Overview

Conservation News

The sun was shining as we marked the transfer of over 1,100 acres of EC land into the Pinchot State Forest system through a Community Conservation Partnerships Program grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), which was awarded to North Branch Land Trust (NBLT). The area, located in Newport Township, is home to EC's Penobscot Ridge Mountain Bike Trail and offers excellent public recreational opportunities. The transfer, moreover, preserves habitat, protects wildlife, and boosts the region's environmental health. We are grateful for the partnerships that made this possible, including with DCNR and NBLT. On hand for the event was Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary of DCNR, who spoke about the wealth of natural resources in the Wyoming Valley. Other speakers included Nick Lylo, Pinchot District Forester; Mike Dziak, EC President & CEO; Rylan Coker, NBLT Land Protection Specialist; Rep. Gerald Mullery (D-119); and Senator John Yudichak (D-14).





EWT Program participants and faculty at closing ceremony, 2018

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.

PPL Foundation – Environmental Workforce Training Program

In 2018, EC was privileged to receive two grants from the PPL Foundation to help support the Environmental Workforce Training Program, which gives unemployed and underemployed workers in northeastern Pennsylvania a chance to gain new knowledge and skills in surveying, mapping, construction safety, and hazardous materials cleanup, with courses taught by faculty from the program's educational partner, Penn State Wilkes-Barre. The first award, a \$6,000 sustaining grant, will subsidize costs for the 2019 cohort. The second, a \$30,000 major grant, will underwrite a portion of the 2020 program cycle.

USEPA – Espy Run Stream Restoration, Segment C

This is the third \$200,000 grant from USEPA for work on restoration of Espy Run, which had been destroyed by mining operations on the Bliss Bank site. EC intends to reestablish this missing segment to improve local hydrology and the watershed's health. Segments A and B received awards from USEPA in 2016 and 2017, respectively. Part of a third grant award in 2017 will support work on approximately 1,000 feet of Segment D.

AML Pilot Program – Bliss Bank Reclamation, Phase III

EC received a major boost to its reclamation of Bliss Bank, with a \$3 million grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's AML Pilot Program, funded through a federal appropriation to the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement. Projects are competitively selected, with economic development and readiness emphasized. In addition to completing reclamation of Phase III's 22-acre pad, funds will support restoration of Espy Run, Segment D; construction of an access road; and establishment of gas, sewer, and electric connections on the site.

Growing Greener – Espy Run Stream Restoration, Segment E

The Growing Greener Program, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, supports environmental improvement projects, primarily related to watershed health. In 2018, EC received a \$500,000 award for reconstruction of Segment E of Espy Run (approximately 750 feet). The project will also include installation of a forested riparian buffer, which will help reduce stormwater runoff, stabilize and shade the stream, and boost the ecosystem's recovery. Most importantly, once the stream is fully aboveground, it will reduce acid mine drainage from leaching into the watershed and entering the Nanticoke Creek.

North Branch Community Stewardship Award

North Branch Land Trust (NBLT) has been one of EC's strongest partners over the years, most recently helping EC transfer over 4,000 acres of greenspace into the Pennsylvania State Forest system, as well as add in a critical section of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Trail. We were honored to join NBLT at its Annual Dinner & Auctions and receive its 2018



EC receiving NBLT's 2018 Community Stewardship Award

Community Stewardship award. Our thanks to NBLT and to all those who came out and supported the event. We look forward to many future collaborations to preserve green and recreational spaces in the region, for now and for future generations. Shown above, the presentation of the Community Stewardship Award, designed by students from the Environmental Club at the Wyoming Seminary Lower School. From left to right: Paul Lumia, NBLT Executive Director; Mike Dziak, EC President/CEO; Karen Warho, EC Administrative Specialist; Dr. Elizabeth Hughes, EC Director of Communications; Rick Ruggiero, Sr., EC Property Documentation Specialist & Survey Coordinator; and Geoff Shaw, EC Executive Administrator.

Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence

EC was honored to receive a 2018 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for its wayside exhibit at EC's Askam Borehole AMD Treatment System. Installed in 2017, the exhibit features four interpretive panels that examine the issues of acid mine drainage in our region and EC's attempts to mitigate them. Thanks must be shared with our partners who helped on the project – teachers Meredith Falchek and Jared Meehan and their students from Solomon-Plains Junior High School in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, who helped design the signs; and the staff at EPCAMR. Thanks also to those entities who supported the project through grants, including the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Luzerne County, and ARIPPA. We



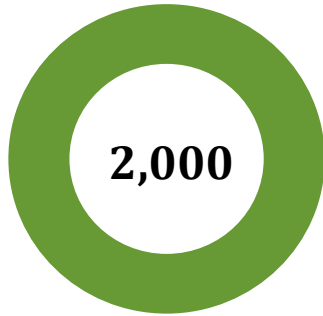
EC receiving 2018 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence

encourage everyone to visit. Information is available at www.earthconservancy.org. Pictured at left, from left to right: Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary of the Pennsylvania DCNR; Davitt Woodwell, President of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council; Dr. Elizabeth W. Hughes, Director of Communications, EC; and Patrick McDonnell, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. This is EC's seventh Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

Other News

Tree Planting & Trail Cleanup

On September 21, 2018, EC hosted a tree planting and trail cleanup on its Hanover Recreation Fields and Sugar Notch Trail. The event was led by DHL Supply Chain, which currently operates a distribution center on what was once EC's Huber Bank. More than a dozen employees volunteered their time, literally digging in to improve the two community resources. The group planted over 30 trees and cleared out dozens of bags of trash, efforts which reflect DHL's commitment to community involvement and sustainability. Also joining in the activities were EPCAMR and the Lackawanna River Conservation Association, the latter of which provided the maple, white birch, redbud, and oak saplings. As the young trees grow, they'll provide a beautiful backdrop to the playing fields, as well as contribute to EC's efforts to restore environmental health in the region. Our thanks to everyone involved.



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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