

# CLEAN WATER CHRONICLES:

LYCOMING COUNTY COUNTYWIDE ACTION PLAN NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2024



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Offering new breakthroughs in the Lycoming County CAP progress and funding.

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### LEGISLATION WATCH

Legislated news and updates from around the commonwealth and locally in Lycoming County.

## SAVE THE DATES:

Lycoming County CAP Grant Application Due:  
August 30th, 2024

Notice of Award from DEP:  
December 2024

Funding Award:  
January 2025

## LYCOMING COUNTY CAP NEWS

The Countywide Action Plan (CAP) in Lycoming County is kicking off this spring with enthusiasm, as numerous field visits underway to engage potential applicants for the 2025 round. These visits attended by Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Staff, have gained positive feedback from our county, offering valuable insights to those considering applying. Potential applicants expressed deep appreciation for the ongoing support for this field visits with DEP, providing invaluable guidance on future projects.

Additionally, a CAP presentation was recently delivered at the Lycoming County Planning Commission Meeting on March 21st. This presentation educated members on the plan and showcased past funded projects. The also presentation highlighted the significance of water quality and emphasized how CAP can contribute to its enhancement . For more information, viewers can access the slide presentation on our website [here](#).

Furthermore, the 2023 Countywide Action Plan annual reports, two-year milestone updates, and progress snapshots are now conveniently publicly accessible on the DEP's websites, offering stakeholders comprehensive insights into our ongoing initiatives and achievements. To view these reports, click [here](#).

The CAP newsletter is also welcoming contributions for it's next issue in June. If you have any questions regarding submission or inquiries about the Countywide Action Plan, please don't hesitate to reach out to our coordinator for assistance.— Alexa Bixel, [abixel@lyco.org](mailto:abixel@lyco.org) or (570) 329-4761.

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## EDUCATIONAL CORNER

### UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF URBAN RUNOFF ON WATER

In the pursuit of clean water and sustainable water sources, communities are increasingly turning their attention to the often-overlooked culprit: urban runoff. With urbanization on the rise, impervious surfaces such as roads, sidewalks, and rooftops have become prevalent, altering the natural flow of water and posing significant challenges to water quality.

#### THE CULPRIT

Urban runoff, also known as stormwater runoff, occurs when rainwater flows over impervious surfaces, picking up pollutants such as oil, grease, heavy metals, pesticides and litter along the way. This contaminated runoff ultimately finds its way into streams, rivers, and lakes, significantly degrading water quality and threatening aquatic ecosystems.

#### CONSEQUENCES FOR WATER QUALITY

The impact of urban runoff on water quality is multifaceted and far-reaching. High levels of pollutants discharged into water bodies can lead to a variety of environmental and public health concerns. Nutrient runoff, for instance, contributes to the proliferation of harmful algal blooms, which can produce toxins harmful to aquatic life and human health. Additionally, chemicals from automotive fluids and household products can contaminate drinking water sources, jeopardizing public health and necessitating costly treatment measures.

#### IMPACT ON AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Urban runoff poses a significant threat to aquatic ecosystems. Pollutants carried by runoff disrupt the delicate balance of aquatic ecosystems, leading to declines in biodiversity and the proliferation of invasive species. Sedimentation from runoff can smother aquatic habitats, while toxins can bioaccumulate in the tissues of fish and other aquatic organisms, posing risk to both wildlife and humans who consume such organisms.

#### MITIGATION STRATEGIES:

Addressing the impact of urban runoff on water quality requires a multifaceted approach that combines regulatory measures, infrastructure improvements, and community engagement. Moreover, public education and outreach play crucial role in raising awareness about the importance of mitigating urban runoff. By empowering communities to adopt water-friendly behaviors such as proper disposal of household chemicals.

#### CONCLUSION

As we continue to grapple with the challenges posed by urbanization, understanding the impact of urban runoff on water quality is paramount. Remember, every drop counts in safeguarding our waterways for future generations.



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## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



## BROWN FARM FISH HABITAT PROJECT

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP | LAUREL RUN | COLD WILD FISHIES | 2023 CAP

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The collaborative effort between the Lycoming County Conservation District, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and the Lycoming County Planning Commission resulted in a transformative bank stabilization project, funded by CAP. This project aimed at enhancing fish habitat along the waterway of Laurel Run, a tributary of Little Muncy Creek in Lycoming County. Multiple best management practices were employed, included mudsill cribbing, single log vanes, and log deflectors. With the support of the USDA and NCRS, a 9.0 acre CREP buffer was also planted in a former pasture. This comprehensive approach not only stabilized the banks, but also helped further the restoration and conservation efforts in the area.



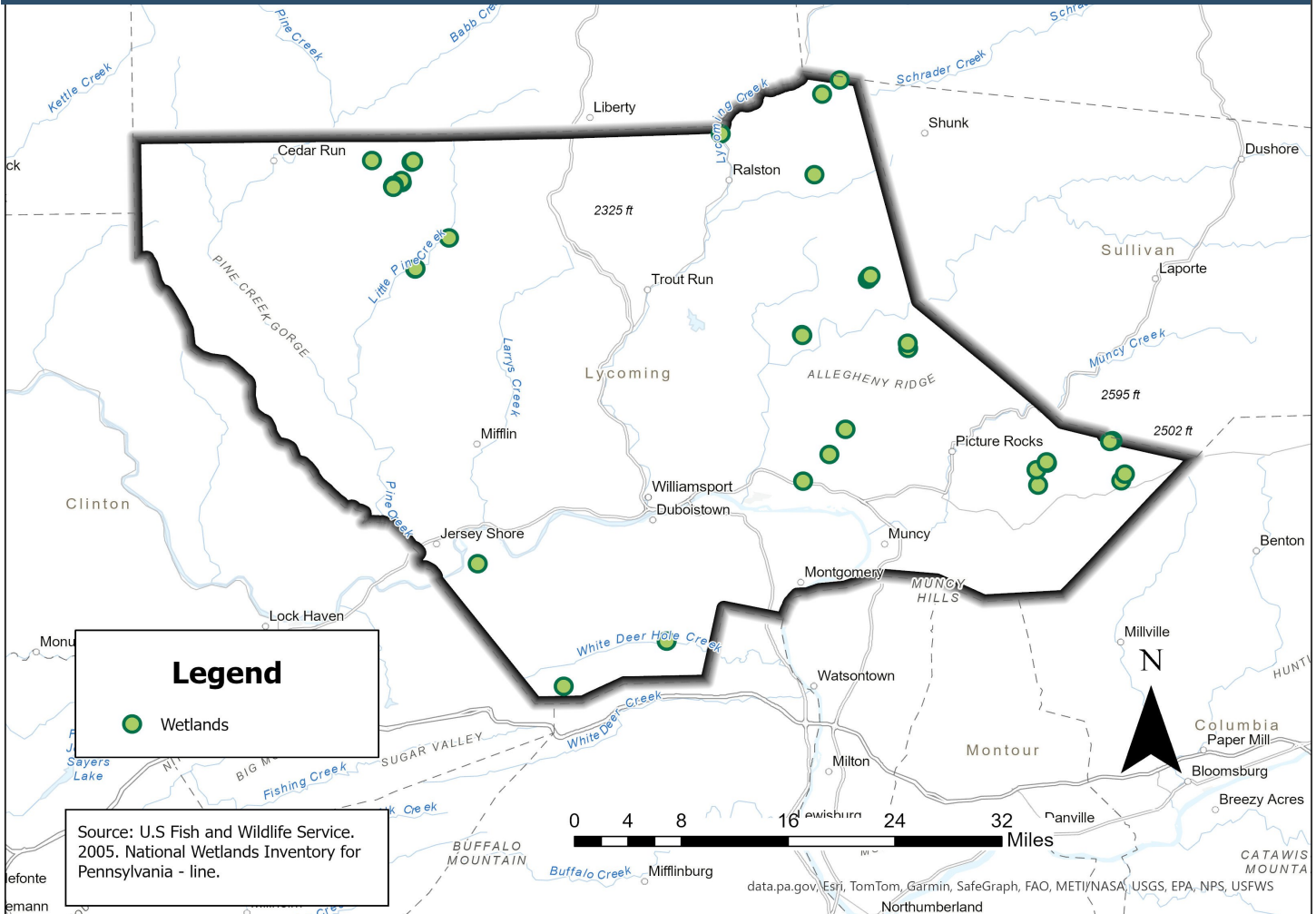
### PROJECT CONCLUSION

The successful completion of this project stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and partnerships. Through the combined efforts of multiple stakeholders significant strides have been made in enhancing fish habitat, mitigating nitrogen levels to improve water quality and improve water quality, and transforming a former pasture into a CREP buffer. This project not only demonstrates our collective commitment to environmental stewardship but also underscores the effectiveness of collaborative approaches in achieving sustainable outcomes.

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## MAPPING THE VITAL ROLE: WETLANDS

Wetlands are vital ecosystems that play a crucial role in maintaining environmental health and biodiversity. These areas act as natural filters trapping and removing pollutants, excess nutrients and sediments from water sources. As water flows through wetlands, various plant species, such as cattails and sedges, absorb pollutants and nutrients, while microorganisms break down organic matter. Additionally, wetlands serve as buffers against flooding by absorbing excess water during storms, thereby reducing the risk of downstream flooding. Their ability to improve water quality not only benefits aquatic life but also ensures a clean and safe water supply for human consumption and recreational activities. Overall, the preservation and restoration of wetlands are essential for sustaining healthy ecosystems and safeguarding water quality.

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## FIRST ANNUAL AG BRUCH WITH THE LYCOMING COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

On March 6th, An engaging agricultural brunch, hosted by the Lycoming County Conservation district, provided local farmers with a valuable platform to exchange insights and knowledge. Attendees had the opportunity to share experiences and glean insights from a diverse array of speakers. Presentations covered a spectrum of topics in cover cropping, including the utilization of drone services in cover cropping. This event fostered local farmers with new innovative strategies to enhance their agricultural endeavors.



## 2024 TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE

In 697 streams and 129 lakes that are accessible to the general public for fishing, the PFBC plans to stock over 3.2 million mature trout. In preparation for the state's Mentored Youth Trout Day on Saturday, March 30, and the opening day of the trout season on Saturday, April 6, stocking was scheduled to start the week of February 19. Plan your angling adventure with ease by checking out the schedule — [Here](#)


**The Shapiro Administration Permitting Reform is being implemented, and according to EP, the backlog of permits has decreased by 41%.**

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is making progress in improving online permitting, online payment, and timely permit determinations as part of the Shapiro Administration's efforts to improve permitting. Read more — [Here](#).



# TREE BUFFER PLANTING!

**TUESDAY APRIL 23,  
9AM-12PM**

 **MEET US HERE:  
41.226642, -77.189476**

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
PROVIDED!!**

**HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?**

**CONTACT OUR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR  
MAGGIE RITCHEY:**

**[MRITCHEY@CHESAPEAKECONSERVANCY.ORG](mailto:MRITCHEY@CHESAPEAKECONSERVANCY.ORG)**

