

CLEAN WATER CHRONICLES:

LYCOMING COUNTY COUNTYWIDE ACTION PLAN NEWSLETTER

FEBURARY 2024



ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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LYCOMING COUNTY CAP NEWS

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

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EDUCATIONAL CORNER

Understanding the Impact of Water Quality and Temperature on Trout Populations

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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Successful Water Quality Initiatives fully funded by CAP dollars in Lycoming County

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MONITORING LOCAL WATERS

Comprehensive Map of Streams and information on watersheds in Lycoming County

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LEGISLATION WATCH

Legislated news and updates from around the commonwealth

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 Lycoming County Countywide Action Plan is gearing up for a productive year in 2024. The recently held partnership meeting on January 22nd, marked a significant milestone, showcasing a successful collaboration among stakeholders. Presentation slides from the meeting are now accessible on the county's website, providing valuable insights into upcoming initiatives.

Exciting news follows, as more funding is set to be become available in 2025 to further support Lycoming County's water quality goals. These financial resources aim to enhance future projects and the implementation of best management practices, fostering positive developments throughout Lycoming County.

As part of this initiative, the Lycoming County Countywide Action Plan (CAP) is actively seeking applicants to contribute to the county's progress. Those interested in being part of this grant funding opportunity can find detailed information about the application process on the county's website and learn about impactful past projects.

With the momentum gained from the successful partnership meeting and the availability of funding for 2025, Lycoming County is poised for a new year of improving water quality and building new partnerships. As the CAP opens its door to new applicants, we eagerly anticipate the diverse new contributions from future projects that shape our county's landscape and provide cleaner water for all.

All CAP Resources mentioned in this article can be found at: www.lyco.org/CWAP

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EDUCATIONAL CORNER

NAVIGATING COLD WATER : UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF WATER QUALITY AND TEMPERATURE ON TROUT POPULATIONS

In the serene rivers and streams that weave through our state, trout populations face a delicate dance with the environment, as water quality and temperature play a pivotal role in their survival and thriving ecosystems.

THE HARMONY OF WATER QUALITY

Trout, known for their sensitivity to environmental changes, rely heavily on pristine water quality. Pollutants, sedimentation, and nutrient imbalances can disrupt their habitat, affecting their growth and reproduction. Excessive sedimentation for example, can smother trout eggs and disturb their habitat. Water quality also affects the abundance and diversity of aquatic insects and other prey items that trout rely on for food. Changes in water quality can disrupt the balance of the aquatic ecosystem, influencing the availability of essential food resources for trout.

TEMPERATURE'S ROLE

Warm water has profound effects on trout, impacting their physiology, behavior and overall well-being. Trout are an ectothermic species, meaning their body temperature is influenced by environment. In warm waters, their metabolic rate increases, leading to higher oxygen consumption. This can result in stress, especially in warm water that has insufficient oxygen levels to meet their heightened demand. Elevated temperature can also cause spawning disruptions, as the

timing of spawning seasons can be altered. This disruption can lead to decreased survival rates of both trout eggs and fry.

THE HUMAN CONNECTION

Beyond the scientific realm, individuals play a crucial role in preserving trout habitats. Educating communities about responsible water usage, reducing pollution, and supporting conservation initiatives help create a more favorable environment for this iconic fish.

CONERSVATION INITIATIVES

Highlighting successful conservation projects that focus on maintain high water quality and mitigating temperature impacts is key. Whether through streamside restoration, riparian buffer zones or collaborative efforts with local communities, these initiatives showcase positive steps toward ensuring the health of trout populations.

In conclusion, the delicate dance between water quality, temperature, and trout populations is a symphony that requires our attention and care. By staying informed, engaging in conservation efforts and appreciating the vital role trout play in our ecosystems, we can contribute to the preservation of these remarkable fish and the environments they call home.



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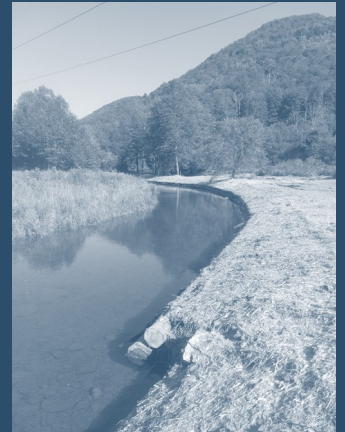


SPRING GARDEN HUNTING CLUB STREAM AND HABITAT RESTORATION

WATERVILLE, PA | BLOCKHOUSE CREEK | EV, WILD TROUT | 2023 CAP

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In a collaborative effort fueled by CAP dollars, Blockhouse Creek in Waterville, PA witnessed a transformative stream restoration project aimed at enhancing both environmental health and aquatic habitats. This project was a joint effort among the Lycoming County Planning Commission, Lycoming County Conservation District and Trout Unlimited. Prior to breaking ground, a detailed technical assessment was conducted to understand the specific ecological stressors faced by the stream. Erosion-prone areas were identified and treated with control measures. To improve fish habitat, carefully designed log structures were strategically introduced. The best management practices that were implemented targeted the reduction of both nutrients and sediment from entering the waterway.



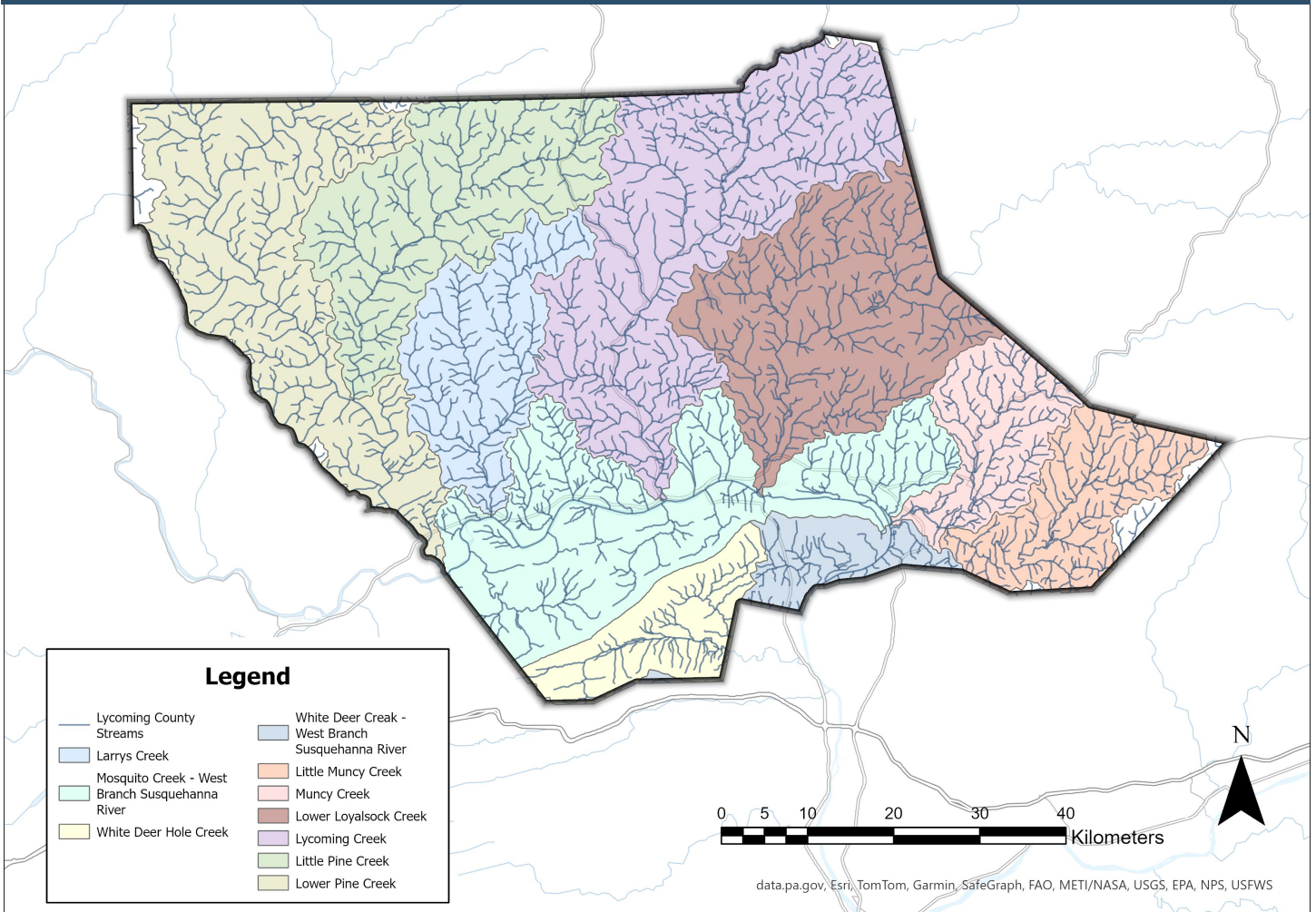
PROJECT CONCLUSION

The Spring Garden Hunting Club Stream and Habitat Restoration has yielded transformative results. Water quality has been improved, with the reduction of over 34,000 pounds of sediment. The enhanced fish habitat has led to a healthier and more resilient ecosystem. This project stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when partnerships unite, leverage funding resources and provide technical expertise to restore and protect these natural environments. Phase II of the Spring Garden Hunting Club Stream and Habitat Restoration project is set to begin next fall.

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MONITORING LOCAL WATER QUALITY

Lycoming County is home to a network of diverse watersheds, each contributing to the region's ecological vitality. From the picturesque Susquehanna River to the smaller tributaries crisscrossing the county, these watersheds play a critical role in sustaining local ecosystems. Watersheds are vital for ecosystem health, as they serve as natural drainage basins, filtering and regulating water flow. They promote biodiversity, support aquatic habits and maintain water quality. The health of Lycoming County's watersheds is a subject of ongoing concern and conservation efforts. Comprehensive monitoring programs assess water quality, habitat conditions and the impact of human activities. While challenges such as sedimentation, nutrient runoff, and habitat degradation persist, community-driven initiatives and partnerships are actively working towards restoring and preserving these vital waterways.

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PA GAME COMISSION ANNOUNCES CHANGES FOR 2024

Hearing public comments and conducting official business, the Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners convened recently in Harrisburg. The seasons for hunting and trapping as well as the bag limits for 2024–25, which are detailed in a separate news release, received preliminary approval from the commissioners.— [Read More Here](#)



\$2.232 million is awarded by the Shapiro Administration to research that is essential to the expansion of Pennsylvania's agricultural sector.

\$2.232 million in funding was announced by Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding for research proposals on topics essential to maintaining and expanding Pennsylvania's \$132.5 billion agriculture sector. Projects that receive funding will tackle a variety of difficult problems, such as mitigating the effects of climate change, measuring soil and water conservation, addressing new concerns regarding animal care, and creating plant-based remedies to lessen risks to human health.— [Read More Here](#)

DCNR advises forest managers and landowners to take immediate action in order to treat for spongy moth caterpillars.

Since private ownership accounts for over 70% of the Commonwealth's forest holdings, their involvement is crucial to preventing the feeding of spongy moth caterpillars on trees and forests. In the last three years, spongy moth populations have reached epidemic proportions, and foresters advise private forest owners and managers to schedule aerial treatment now, while space is still available.— [Read More Here](#)

