



MOUNTAIN  
WATERSHED  
ASSOCIATION  
*Protecting, preserving, and restoring*

# 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW





*Mountain Watershed Association is a nonprofit 501 (C)(3) organization with the mission to protect, preserve, and restore the Youghiogheny River watershed and its broader communities.*

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## FROM OUR DIRECTOR

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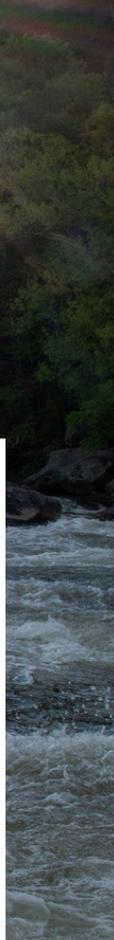
2025 tested our commitments and our stamina. Our communities faced a barrage of emerging threats: lead contamination in Blue Hole Creek, federal funding cuts that stripped many of their basic needs, rapid development of fracked-gas infrastructure to fuel data centers in the name of Artificial Intelligence. The list goes on.

Still, we came together as a community to tackle these issues, along with our ongoing work. We organized mutual aid days to distribute resources to local families. We held polluters accountable, protecting critical headwater and high-value streams. We moved forward new and improved abandoned mine treatment projects, which, when implemented, will aid in restoring nearly 36 miles of streams.

To truly protect the places we love, we need to be in this work for the long haul. This past year, I often reminded myself of organizer Grace Lee Boggs' question - "What time is it on the clock of the world?" The work of MWA is forever. Abandoned mine drainages flow in perpetuity, and we will always need to clean them up for the sake of all - human and nonhuman - who depend on our waterways. It's critical we're prepared to keep pushing even in the hardest of times, for our communities today and for generations to come.

Thank you for recognizing the importance of MWA's work, even in the face of so much uncertainty. The strength of our watershed community is more important than ever.

With gratitude,



# OUR TEAM

Like many grassroots groups, Mountain Watershed Association began its life around a kitchen table. The organization was founded in 1994 to oppose an underground coal mine proposal in the Indian Creek watershed in the Laurel Highlands of Southwestern Pennsylvania. Since then, MWA has restored more than 70 percent of the Indian Creek watershed and prevented countless sources of additional pollution in the broader Youghiogheny River watershed. The organization has expanded to 16 full-time employees, a 20-person volunteer Board of Directors, and more than 2,500 members and supporters.



**Ashley Funk**

Executive Director



**Carla Ruddock**

Director of Conservation



**Sarah Rowe**

Operations Director



**Eric Harder**

Youghiogheny Riverkeeper



**Hannah Spencer**

Program Development Manager



**Taylor Robbins**

Conservation & Recreation Manager



**Melissa Marshall**

Senior Legal Advocate



**Stacey Magda**

Managing Community Organizer



**Sarah Thomas**

Community Advocate



**Nate Ricketts**

Community Organizer



**Em Hough**

Community Organizer



**Chantelle Hutchens**

Watershed Specialist



**Keith Terney**

Land Steward



**Lindsey Waugaman**

Education & Outreach Coordinator



**Colleen O'Neil**

Communications Specialist



**Amy Trembly**

AmeriCorps Member

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# BY THE NUMBERS

**\$89,400** disbursed to grassroots groups from the Direct Support Fund

**\$52,000** distributed to community Mutual Aid, including resource boxes, hygiene items, food bank donations, and potable water supplies

**5,161** letters sent to rulemakers on behalf of our watershed community

**220+** doors knocked in canvassing efforts

**33** community meetings organized by MWA



**11,207** folks joined us for education and outreach events in 2025

**200** total outreach and education events hosted or attended by MWA

**70** articles featuring MWA's work in the press

**60** people attended the No Man's Land Film Festival at Patagonia Pittsburgh, celebrating women in conservation

**1,103** water samples taken to monitor pollution in the Youghiogheny watershed

**415** acres of land MWA has conserved as of 2025

**38.5** tons of iron treated yearly by the Kalp Abandoned Mine Drainage Treatment System

**1.7** miles of the Indian Creek Valley Trail resurfaced between Champion and Jones Mills



# 2025 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

*We love spending time with our watershed community! These highlights show a few of the great events MWA hosted in 2025.*



*Indian Creek Valley 5k Fun Run, 3 Rivers Outdoor Co movie night, fly tying class at Hazel Grove Brewing*



*Indian Creek Watershed Festival, Unity Brewing Rolling Yough Beer Release Party*



*No Man's Land Film Festival at Patagonia Pittsburgh, Yough River Float Trip*

# ADVOCACY

(Top) MWA's Executive Director, Ashley Funk, speaks at the National People's Hearing in Pittsburgh, PA.  
(Below) Our organizers at a rally in Pittsburgh during the Pennsylvania Energy and Innovation Summit.

## BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

MWA empowers communities in the broader Youghiogheny River watershed to engage in campaigns to address environmental degradation, climate change, and their root causes.

Issues in 2025 included a sandstone quarry near the Great Allegheny Passage trail and the Casselman River in Rockwood, PA, a shale gas well pad proposed in the Laurel Highlands, a proposed data center, and lead contamination in a beloved creek that runs through Forbes State Forest.



23%

OF ADULTS IN PENNSYLVANIA RELY ON WELL WATER AS THEIR MAIN DRINKING WATER SOURCE

# RIVER REVIEW

MWA empowers communities both locally and downstream. *This map of the watershed shows locations of campaigns that MWA engaged with in 2025. Learn more about each at [mtwatershed.com](http://mtwatershed.com)*



# RUSTIC RIDGE COAL MINE

*MWA is progressing with a legal appeal to prevent irreparable damage to our area's groundwater supply, clean air, and quality of life.*

In 2025, MWA and our mountain community have been fully engaged with LCT Energy LP's Rustic Ridge mine, its expansion, and the company's plans to build a new mine in the Donegal, PA area.

The type of coal found here is metallurgical coal, which is commonly used in blast furnaces for steel production or mixed with lower quality coal for power generation.

Despite significant public outcry about impacts to environmental and community health, LCT Energy submitted a permit application to expand their operation by 1,400 acres.

LCT is also proposing another 2,300-acre underground mine – Rustic Ridge #2. The footprint of the proposed mine expands into the Loyalhanna Watershed and would threaten the headwaters of that watershed, specifically Fourmile Run. The project proposes to bury about 1,700 feet of local streams, where it will also discharge treated mine water. It would also take out about a half-acre of wetlands in the headwaters of

Jacobs Creek, a local trout stream.

In the spring of 2025, PA DEP approved the 1,400 acre expansion permit. On June 27, 2025, MWA filed a legal appeal challenging PA DEP's approval of the Rustic Ridge mine expansion. We are working with a private law firm that is one of the few in the state to regularly and successfully litigate against the mining industry.

In October 2025, MWA and LCT Energy reached a "Joint Stipulation as Alternative to Supersedeas" in MWA's ongoing appeal of the Rustic Ridge #1 mine expansion. This agreement establishes stronger protections for 11,100 feet of headwater streams in the mine footprint while MWA's legal challenge moves forward before the Environmental Hearing Board.

In the Youghiogheny watershed, our community relies heavily on private water supplies. "Just as there's a value of a chunk of coal," says Stacey Magda, Managing Community Organizer, "there is a value to a clean drop of water."

## 11,100 FT OF STREAMS PROTECTED

*Through the "Joint Stipulation as Alternative to Supersedeas" that MWA reached with LCT Energy, coal mining is restricted beneath headwater streams in the Fourmile Run and Champion Creek watersheds while our legal challenge moves forward.*

**STOP  
THE  
COAL MINING**

# BLUE HOLE CREEK

*A prized stream in Forbes State Forest has been polluted by excess lead from a shooting range on top of the ridge.*

Blue Hole Creek is a treasured local waterway in Forbes State Forest. It runs from the top of Laurel Ridge, steeply down a cut in the ridge through mixed native forest, crossing the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail, and forming a deep blue swimming hole upstream from its confluence with Fall Creek, which joins Laurel Hill Creek. The creek draws anglers looking for a native catch, swimmers taking a dip in the summer, and hikers seeking a clean water to filter.

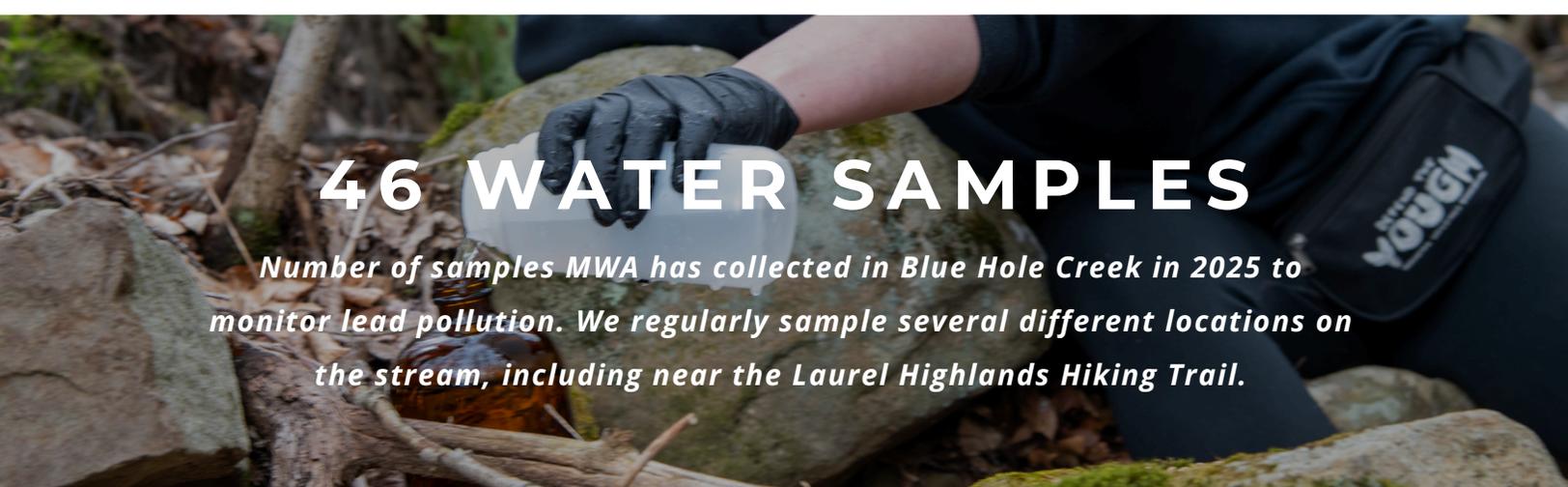
Last spring, members of MWA noticed an odd color on the rocks of the creek. After initial testing, MWA discovered high lead levels in the creek. In July, PA DEP discovered the source of lead in the creek.

In a three-page notice of violation letter, sent on July 11th, the DEP cites Highlands Sporting Clays shooting range as the source for all the lead showing up in the nearby creek. In this letter, the DEP said,

The Department has observed significant quantities of lead shot on Highland Sporting Clays' property, and that the best management practices ... have not been implemented to prevent runoff contamination from the lead shot to Blue Hole Creek." The letter also outlines steps that Highland Sporting Clays needs to take to remediate the site.

Recent water testing at the popular swimming and fishing spot in Somerset County revealed there was 425 parts per billion lead content in the water, up from 370 parts per billion in May. The acceptable amount of lead in water is zero parts per billion.

MWA is still testing and monitoring the waters of Blue Hole Creek, and we are in close contact with the DEP. We hope to see a Consent Order Agreement from PA DEP to direct Highlands Sporting Clays' remediation work.



## 46 WATER SAMPLES

*Number of samples MWA has collected in Blue Hole Creek in 2025 to monitor lead pollution. We regularly sample several different locations on the stream, including near the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail.*

# MAX ENVIRONMENTAL

*MAX Environmental's hazardous waste landfill in Yukon, PA, continues to pollute, despite public outcry and more than one Consent Order.*

Early in the spring of 2025, *Inside Climate News* published a deeply moving article that reinvigorated public interest in the MAX Environmental Technologies landfill in Yukon, PA. The article included testimony from residents, researchers, and environmental groups working to get justice for Yukon and Sewickley Creek.

The landfill, which has existed for over 50 years, has been out of compliance with requirements set under the Clean Water Act for most of the past three years and with the federal hazardous waste law, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, known as RCRA for short, since July 2023.

In addition to taking industrial waste like plastic battery pieces, lead paint debris and fly ash, MAX Environmental's Yukon site is one of more than 25 landfills in Pennsylvania that accepts the solid waste that comes from oil and gas drilling.

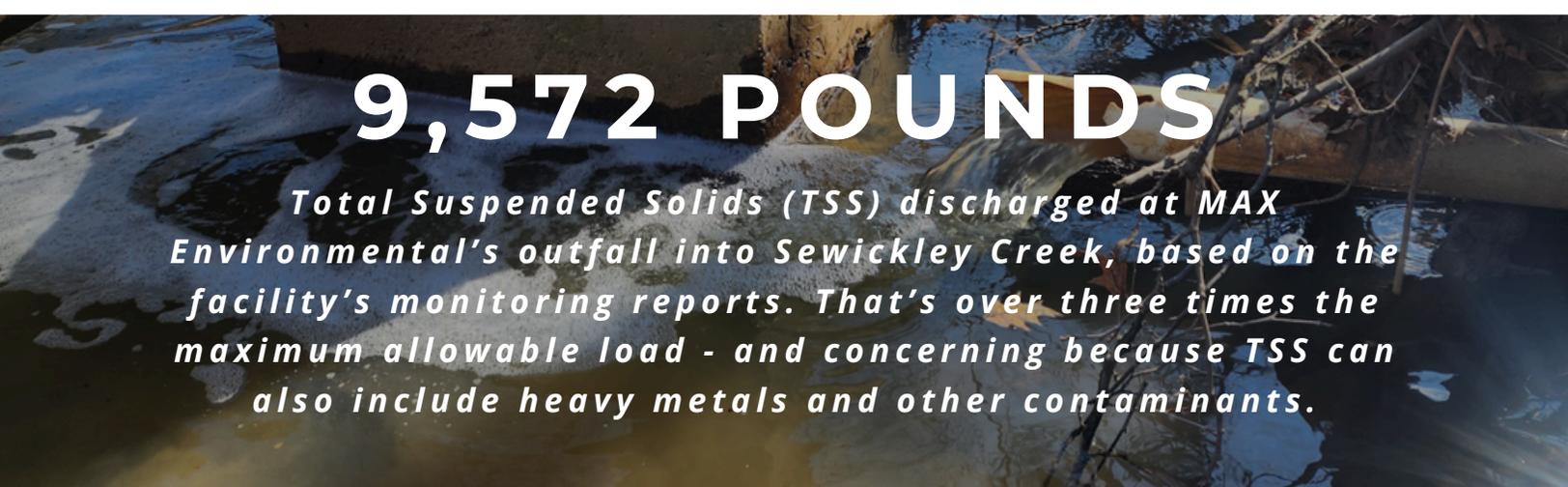
For decades, residents have raised the

alarm about the 160-acre landfill's impact on the town, blaming its operations for serious harms to their health, their children, their animals, their waterways, and their land.

In August, Congresswoman Summer L. Lee (PA-12) toured Yukon with the MWA team to see the impacts firsthand. Lee and her team also held a listening session with residents, who described respiratory problems, stress, and lowered quality of life from the landfill's constant pollution.

"The people of Yukon have been treated as collateral damage for far too long," said Lee.

MWA continues to support the Yukon community, hosting monthly community meetings, holding listening sessions, and continually monitoring the facility's outfall into Sewickley Creek.



## 9,572 POUNDS

*Total Suspended Solids (TSS) discharged at MAX Environmental's outfall into Sewickley Creek, based on the facility's monitoring reports. That's over three times the maximum allowable load - and concerning because TSS can also include heavy metals and other contaminants.*

# HOMER CITY DATA CENTER

*Data centers that use huge amounts of water and energy are being proposed all around the country. A massive one has been proposed in Homer City, PA, with possible impacts on the Youghiogheny watershed.*

On November 18, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection approved the air quality plan for the proposed 3,200-acre Homer City Energy Campus, which, if constructed, would become the largest fracked-gas-powered AI data center in the United States.

Homer City Generating was once the largest coal-fired power plant in Pennsylvania. The plant shut down in 2023. The massive chimneys and soaring cooling towers were demolished in March 2025. Just a month later, Homer City Redevelopment announced plans to build a natural gas plant and data center campus on the old power plant site. This site is set to become a colossal artificial intelligence data center campus with seven 30-acre gas generating stations on site, fueled by Pennsylvania's fracked natural gas.

The site would generate and consume as much power as all the homes in the Philadelphia urban area. According to the

Air Dispersion Modeling Protocol for the site, particulate matter, sulfuric acid mist, nitrogen oxide, and volatile organic compounds are among the harmful pollutants expected to be emitted.

To power the site, Homer City Redevelopment has landed one of the largest gas deals in history with energy powerhouse EQT. Under the agreement, EQT will supply fracked gas to satisfy the plant's huge daily demand, tapping into a pipeline that runs through the Youghiogheny watershed.

Not only could the proposed data center impact air quality in the Laurel Highlands, it could also lock our region into a future of increased pollution from shale gas development. To stay up to date on the Homer City Energy Campus, consider following the [Concerned Residents of Western Pennsylvania](#) (CROW), a community group organizing to raise awareness and opposition to the data center.

# 3,200 ACRES

*The proposed size of the "Homer City Energy Campus," which would be the largest fracked-gas-powered AI data center in the United States.*

# TENASKA POWER PLANT

*A large-scale power plant near West Newton is finally applying for its Title V permit, and MWA is empowering the community to push for better regulations.*

Tenaska Westmoreland Generating Station is a 940 megawatt combined cycle natural gas-fueled power plant, located just behind the Pittsburgh Renaissance Festival grounds.

In 2020, Tenaska Westmoreland Generating Station was named as one of Pennsylvania's "dirty dozen," ranking as one of the top 12 polluters in the state.

Tenaska emits over 2.6 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year, pollutants that can have serious health and environmental impacts.

Although Tenaska Westmoreland is a major source of air pollution under the Clean Air Act and has operated since 2018, the facility has been operating on extensions of their construction permit or plan approval from PA DEP.

Since July 2024, Tenaska's first Title V Operating Permit application has been undergoing technical review by PA DEP,

prior to the draft permit being published and available for public comment.

On October 4, 2025, the DEP published the draft permit that lists emissions including 222.2 tons per day of nitrogen oxides, 92.2 tons per day of particulate matter, 193.8 tons per day of ammonia, and 3,724,826 tons per year of greenhouse gases. A 30-day public comment period was announced, but there was no hearing initially scheduled.

MWA, Environmental Health Project, Yough Communities CARE, and the Environmental Integrity Project delivered 25 letters from local residents to DEP requesting a hearing.

Thanks to this unified effort, DEP agreed to host a hearing in early 2026! This is a win for our community, who will finally get the chance to speak out for clean air in Westmoreland County!

## 3,724,826 TONS PER YEAR

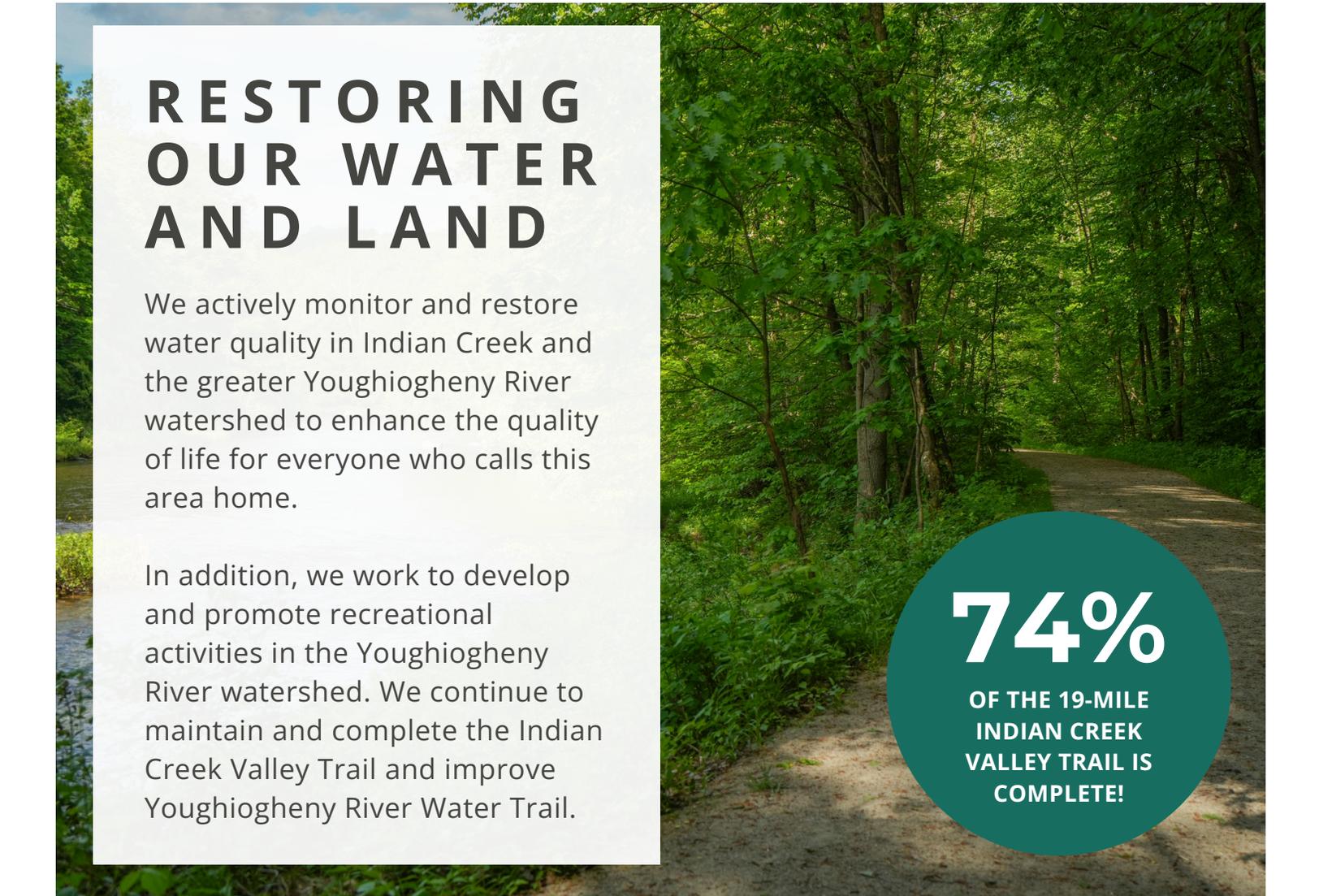
*Greenhouse gases proposed to be emitted from the Tenaska power plant.  
To get involved in the fight for clean air, contact Community Organizer, Em Hough, via email: [Em@mtwatershed.com](mailto:Em@mtwatershed.com) or call 724-455-4200 (#10)*



# CONSERVATION & RECREATION

*(Top) Our Conservation team hikes through a field to access a stream sampling point.*

*(Below) The Indian Creek Valley Trail is a shady refuge for hiking and biking in the summer.*



## RESTORING OUR WATER AND LAND

We actively monitor and restore water quality in Indian Creek and the greater Youghiogheny River watershed to enhance the quality of life for everyone who calls this area home.

In addition, we work to develop and promote recreational activities in the Youghiogheny River watershed. We continue to maintain and complete the Indian Creek Valley Trail and improve Youghiogheny River Water Trail.

**74%**

**OF THE 19-MILE  
INDIAN CREEK  
VALLEY TRAIL IS  
COMPLETE!**

# SWIMMABLE WATERS

*A mix of heavy rains and drought-like conditions drew attention to our summertime water sampling program in 2025.*

MWA has conducted summertime bacteria monitoring at popular swimming spots in the Youghiogheny River watershed for 15 years. We share our results with the public, so people can make informed choices about where to swim, boat, or splash.

The 2025 Swimmable Waters season was a bit tricky. With the increased rain and subsequent flooding early in the summer, many of our swimming areas failed to reach safe standards. We even had to

cancel sampling on three different weeks due to heavy flooding and dangerous conditions. The heavy floods also significantly increased bacteria counts in all waters, including those with a history of being decently clean. But once the rain slowed down, our samples came back green.

With the increasing prevalence of heavy summer storms, we continue to repeat the old adage: ***If it's brown, turn around!*** Cloudy, brown water is a sure sign of unsafe bacteria levels for swimming.

## RICHTER RUN NATURAL AREA

In 2025, MWA broke ground on a new hiking trail! This one-mile loop is planned on the 32-acre Richter Run Natural Area, which is located on Mount Tabor Road in Springfield Township. To help us complete the project, we've partnered with the PA Outdoor Corps, who will join us in the summer of 2026. We're also working to improve the parking area so more folks can explore this new property!



12,688

*People visited the 4.5 miles of the Indian Creek Valley Trail that we monitor in 2025.*

# YOUGH RIVER CONSERVATION PLAN

MWA has partnered with the City of Connellsville and PA DCNR to move forward with the next installment of our river conservation plan, the Youghiogheny River Conservation Plan, Part 2: Connellsville to McKeesport. This document, which details all the characteristics of the watershed, will also include a list of community driven improvement projects. MWA completed the Youghiogheny River Conservation Plan, Part 1: Headwaters to Dunbar Creek in 2023. **Public meetings will be held March 23 at the Carnegie Library of McKeesport and March 24 at West Overton Museum, from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm.**

## ELECTROFISHING IN THE CASSELMAN WATERSHED

*Our conservation team and the Western Pa. Conservancy used backpack shockers to count species of fish in Coxes Creek.*

We take lots of water samples to test water quality, but that isn't the only way to learn about water! MWA also surveys aquatic life to see what types of things are living (or not living) in the water.

In early July, MWA's conservation team partnered with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to conduct an electrofishing study in Coxes Creek, a tributary to the Casselman River. Funding for this project was provided by Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape mini-grants.

Our crew used backpack shockers to send electrical current into the water to momentarily stun fish so they could be netted. The fish quickly recovered and were returned to the section of stream where they were collected after documentation.

We collected species of darters, sculpins, northern hognose suckers, a rock bass, some stocked trout, and small mouth bass. WPC prepared a report detailing the study's findings.



# 343 FISH COUNTED

*We counted 343 fish, representing 23 different species. Two species, Blacknose Dace (102 individuals) and Creek Chub (59 individuals), made up nearly half of the species collected.*

# TREATMENT SYSTEMS

*MWA operates five passive treatment systems to manage abandoned mine drainage along Indian Creek, which require constant maintenance to operate properly.*

The Indian Creek Valley has over 100 abandoned mine discharges, which dump toxic water into our creeks and streams. Since the organization began in 1994, MWA has restored 70% of Indian Creek, reducing the length of impaired stream miles in the watershed from 47 miles to 14.

The first abandoned mine discharge (AMD) treatment system was developed in the Indian Creek watershed in 2001. Since then, we have developed five treatment systems to divert contaminated mine water, filter out pollutants, and direct the cleaned water back into the stream.

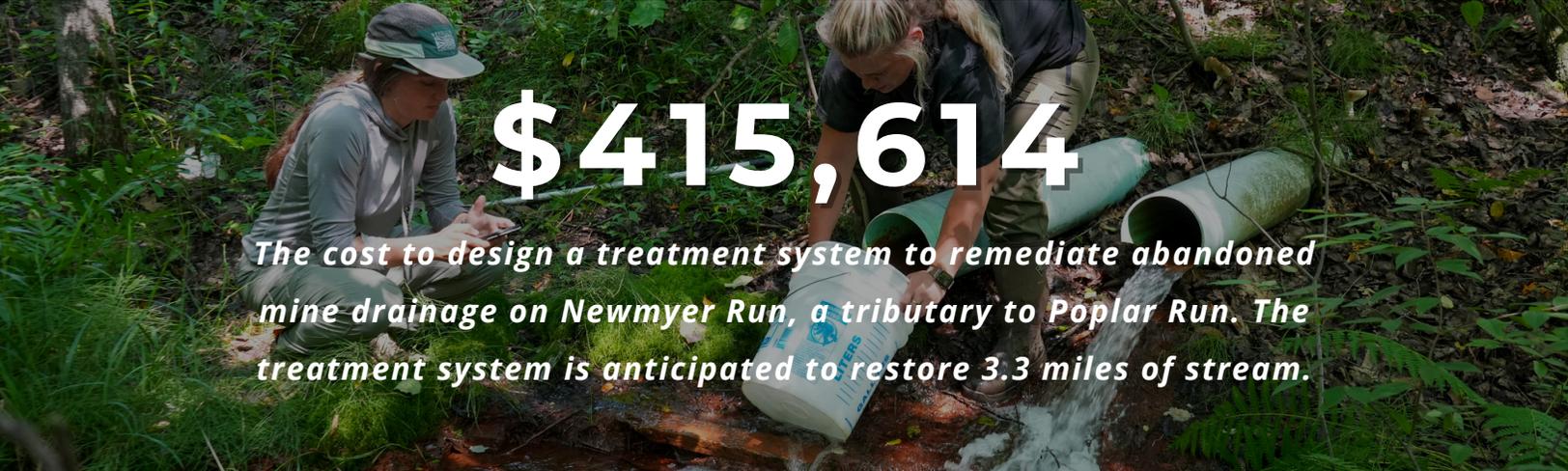
Once a discharge forms, treatment is needed forever – a sign of the lasting damage that coal mining leaves behind. Unfortunately, AMD treatment systems only last about 10-12 years before needing to be refurbished or replaced.

MWA's Kalp and Melcroft AMD treatment systems have been working to clean up contaminated mine water in the Indian Creek watershed since the early 2000's. Over the

years, these systems have gradually become less efficient. In 2023 and 2024, MWA received grants from PA DEP to redesign and update these two systems.

An engineering firm is using our monitoring data to develop construction plans so our systems can keep the water cleaner, while requiring less constant maintenance. (MWA and DEP staff frequently spend hours surveying the systems for problems, cleaning out debris from the pipes, and turning valves on or off, depending on conditions.)

MWA is also planning Phase 2 of the installation of the Marsolino treatment system on Newmyer Run, a tributary to Poplar Run that is severely impacted by abandoned mine drainage. Newmyer Run, which also receives contaminated water from the Rondell discharge, is void of any fish or macroinvertebrate life. We expect the new treatment system to restore 3.3 miles of impaired streams.



**\$415,614**

*The cost to design a treatment system to remediate abandoned mine drainage on Newmyer Run, a tributary to Poplar Run. The treatment system is anticipated to restore 3.3 miles of stream.*

# OUTREACH & EDUCATION

*(Top) Happy paddlers at the Yough River Float Trip, a fundraiser for the ICV Trail.*

*(Below) A participant at Family Field Day enjoys the "Bubbles Not Balloons" activity.*

## OUTDOOR LEARNING FOR ALL

MWA offers engaging community education programs for all ages. Our goal is to build a sense of wonder about nature by inviting everyone to explore and appreciate wildlife, water, and the world around us.

We hope that our education programs will give people knowledge and confidence to advocate for the places they love.

**40+**

UNIQUE EDUCATION  
PROGRAMS MWA  
OFFERS FOR ALL  
OUTDOOR LEARNERS

# EDUCATION

*Our nature education programs are becoming increasingly popular across the watershed!*

MWA received another year of funding from the PA DEP Environmental Education Grants program, the Grable Foundation, and the PA Fish and Boat R3 program. This marks our third consecutive year of funding to support our educational outreach efforts throughout the Youghiogheny River watershed.

Over 11,000 people joined MWA and our partners for community and education events, including fly fishing clinics, watershed education, paddling events, and more.

Our Education Coordinator, Lindsey, taught 183 school programs at 14 different schools and homeschool groups, attended 127 classrooms, and worked with several other organizations to teach kids about the wonders of nature. These partnerships are key to building our programs and connecting with a new generation of watershed defenders.

The year's most popular kids' program was "Camouflage and Coloration." This program, which can be held inside or outside, helped 471 students discover how animals use colors and patterns to survive.

To teach groups about stream life, we built a macroinvertebrate "discovery tank" using a free design plan from Stroud Water Research Center. The tank provides a simulated creek ecosystem where students can see stream bugs swimming freely. Ice packs and a small air pump keep the water cool and oxygenated so that the animals can be safely returned to the water when the program ends!

(Free discovery tank plans are available here: [stroudcenter.org/macros/discovery-tank/](https://stroudcenter.org/macros/discovery-tank/))

Our education programming isn't just for kids! Thanks to our PA DEP grant funding, we also hosted low-cost rain barrel workshops for adults, took folks on guided nature hikes, taught a wildflower workshop, partnered with anglers for fly tying clinics, and co-hosted three film festivals to raise awareness about issues in and around our watershed.

Lindsey is currently scheduling programs for the 2026-2027 school year! Please reach out ASAP if you would like MWA to visit your class, homeschool group, outdoor club, Scout program, brewery, coffee shop, etc! Email [Lindsey@mtwatershed.com](mailto:Lindsey@mtwatershed.com) to get in touch!



## 183 SCHOOL PROGRAMS

*Lindsey taught 183 school programs in 2025! She attended both public school classrooms and joined local homeschool groups for outdoor lessons.*

# CLEANUPS

*We host cleanups on and off the water throughout the Youghiogheny watershed, to educate and raise awareness about the impacts of pollution on our waters.*



Hard summer rains made our river cleanups a bit challenging. We even had to cancel our May river cleanup in West Newton because torrential rains made water conditions unsafe. But later in September, we had a great turnout and pulled hundreds of tires out of the Yough with the help over over 20 dedicated volunteers.

Even though the weather put a damper on our river cleanups, we had great success on land. At our springtime road cleanup, 15 volunteers were able to cover the entire stretch from Melcroft to Champion. They removed 421 pounds of trash, plus another 100 pounds of tires!

On Earth Day weekend, an additional group joined Keith, our Land Steward, for a cleanup on the Indian Creek Valley Trail. They found an old, illegal dumpsite and cleared out three truckloads of garbage from the trail where it intersects Route 653 / Jim Mountain Road.

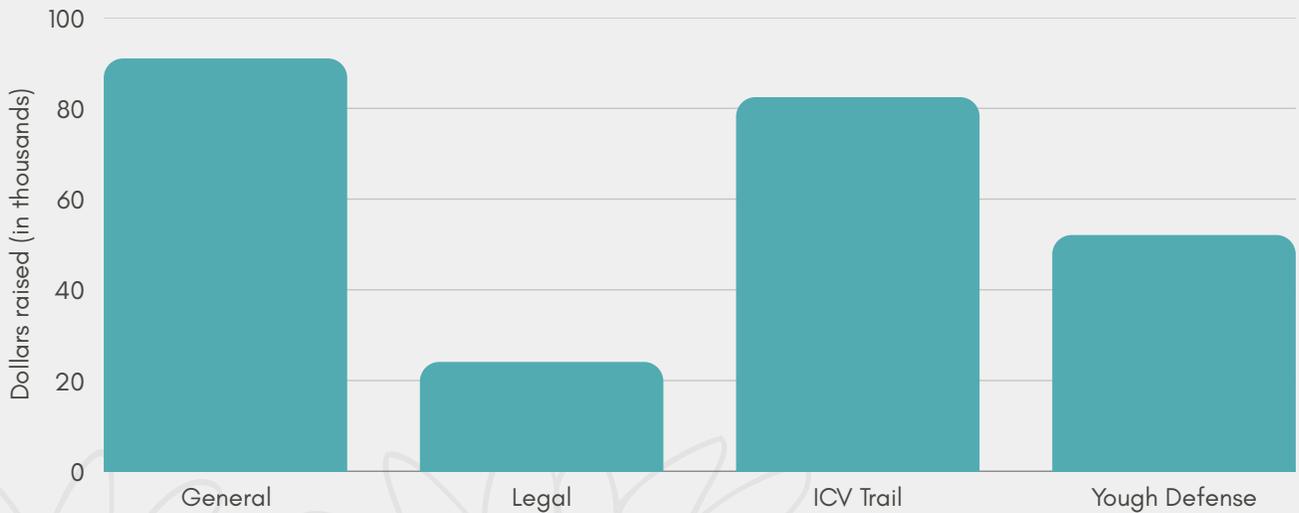
In November, another 12 volunteers joined us to collect about 168 pounds of trash from the road along Indian Creek.

Want to join us on a cleanup? We host four annually! Get in touch with Amy, our AmeriCorps Member, at [Amy@mtwatershed.com](mailto:Amy@mtwatershed.com).

## WHY ARE OLD TIRES BAD?

*Research shows that tire rubber decays into a potentially dangerous chemical cocktail. A chemical used to make car tire treads more durable, called 6PPD, interacts with ozone to produce a transformation chemical called 6PPD-quinone. 6PPD-quinone is highly toxic to coho salmon, which are closely related to our native brook trout.*

# FUNDRAISING



## CHOOSE HOW YOUR DONATION GOES TO WORK!

We have several campaigns that need financial support. When you donate to MWA, you can donate to our General Fund, or you have the option to select a specific focus for your donation.

### LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

*Support our legal challenges of the Rustic Ridge Deep Mine, a 100% grassroots effort!*

### INDIAN CREEK VALLEY TRAIL FUND

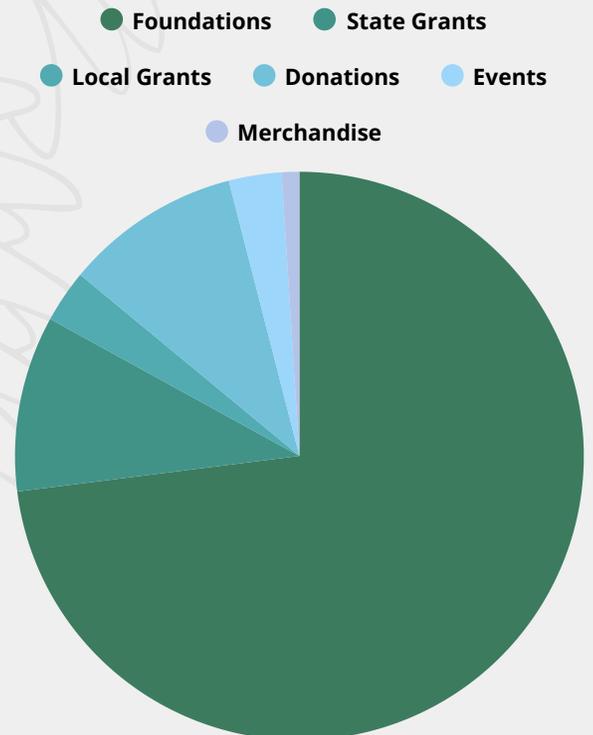
*Contribute to trail maintenance and unexpected repairs. Contributions to this fund also help us leverage grants to support larger trail projects.*

### YOUGH DEFENSE FUND

*Hold Polluters Accountable. This fund supports our response to citizen complaints of pollution in the watershed. We use these funds to analyze water quality, monitor pollution, and organize river cleanups.*

## HOW OUR WORK IS SUPPORTED

Grants and donations are vital to our mission of protecting and preserving our region's natural resources. **Grants** fund specific projects like maintaining AMD treatment systems, watershed sampling, and staff salaries. **Donations** provide flexibility for spontaneous needs, such as equipment and rapid response projects.





# VOLUNTEER!

## 2,465 HOURS

*Time donated by MWA volunteers for water sampling, event help, litter cleanups, trail work, and more!*



### **SWIMMABLE WATERS SAMPLING**

Help us take water samples at popular swimming spots in the watershed. Sampling is done weekly on Wednesday mornings, May - September.

### **ATTEND A RIVER CLEAN-UP**

We float down the river, pulling tires and trash out of the water as we go. Bring your own boat or borrow one of ours!

### **CLEAN UP THE ROADSIDE**

Much of the pollution in rivers comes from trash that washes down from the road. We organize seasonal roadside cleanups near our office in Melcroft to stop this trash from flowing downstream.

### **HELP OUT AT AN EVENT**

We need extra hands at many of our events, including Family Field Day, the ICV Golf Scramble, Yough Defense Party, and more. Help us out for a couple hours, and then you can enjoy the rest of the event!

***Want to help? Visit [mtwatershed.com/volunteer](https://mtwatershed.com/volunteer)***



# UPCOMING EVENTS

*Join us outside in 2026!*

**No Man's Land Film Festival** (March 20): Patagonia Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

**Rain Barrel Workshop** (April 11): Yough River Brewing Co, Connellsville, PA

**Swimmable Waters Volunteer Training** (April 15 & 22): MWA Office, Melcroft PA

**Indian Creek Valley Trail 5k Fun Run** (April 18): ICV Trail, Mill Run, PA

**Birds & Blooms Hike** (May 2): ICV Trail, Mill Run, PA

**ICV Trail Golf Scramble** (May 15): Norvelt Golf Club, Mount Pleasant, PA

**Spring River Cleanup** (May 30): West Newton, PA

**Family Field Day** (June 28): Laurel Hill State Park, Somerset, PA

**Yough River Float Trip** (July 19): Hazelbaker's Canoe Rental, Layton, PA

**Fall River Cleanup** (August 29): West Newton, PA

**Indian Creek Watershed Festival** (September 26): Indian Creek Community Center

**Heart of the Highlands Candlelight Piano Concert** (October 4): Sparks in the Valley,  
Indian Head PA

**Member Appreciation Party** (TBA, autumn)

**Yough Defense Party** (November 19): Falls City Pub, Ohiopyle PA

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**Learn more at [mtwatershed.com/events](https://mtwatershed.com/events)**

# OUR 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jerry Gearhart, Co-President  
Mary Lou Kuhns, Co-President  
Paige Dix, Co-Vice President  
Kurt Limbach, Co-Vice President  
Roger Pritts, Co-Secretary  
Shelley Myers, Co-Secretary  
Ken Gfroerer, Co-Treasurer  
Mike Cordaro, Co-Treasurer

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Marc Hatcher  
Christie Hatcher  
Peggy Mansberry  
Gary Rigdon

Chris Robbins  
Faith Sartori  
Barbara Shaffer  
Emma Wolff  
Jim Hoffman

## DONATE TO DEFEND

*Donate to become a member and help us protect, preserve, and restore the Youghiogheny River watershed!*

### NAME

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### ADDRESS

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### PHONE

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### EMAIL

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\$10    \$25    \$50  
 \$100    \$250

#### BECOME A MAJOR DONOR

\$500    \$1,000  
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*The official registration and financial information of the Mountain Watershed Association, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999*



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*MWA aims to empower communities, both locally and downstream, to transition towards sustainable, resilient, equitable economies and healthy environments where all beings can thrive. We strive toward a world where we all act as if what affects one of us, affects all of us, because that's how watersheds work.*