

About the Schuylkill Action Network

The Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) is a collaborative network with over 150 partner organizations all working together to protect and restore the Schuylkill River and its tributaries. The SAN protects this valuable resource through collaboration, implementation of clean water projects, and promotion of long-term stewardship.

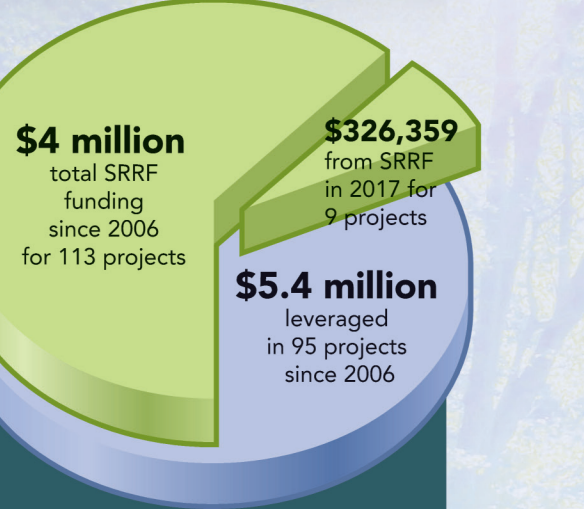


Schuylkill River Restoration Fund (SRRF)

Tim Fenchel from Schuylkill River Greenways announces the 2019 SRRF grantees.



In 2019, Schuylkill River Greenways awarded \$326,359 in grants to fund 9 projects in the Schuylkill River Watershed.



The Schuylkill River Restoration Fund provides grants to government agencies and non-profit organizations that improve water quality in the Schuylkill Watershed. The grants focus on addressing stormwater runoff, agricultural pollution, and abandoned mine drainage. Funds are also allocated for land preservation projects. The fund was created in 2006 through a unique public/private partnership between Exelon, the Delaware River Basin Commission, and Schuylkill River Greenways. In 2019, fund donations came from Exelon Generation, Philadelphia Water Department, Aqua PA, MOM's Organic Market, and DTE Energy.

SCHUYLKILL RIVER RESTORATION FUNDING AND LEVERAGED FUNDING SINCE 2006

Strategic Planning

Participants in the SAN Bus Tour in East Greenville, PA.



Every five years, the Schuylkill Action Network revises its strategic plan. The SAN Planning Committee has already begun reviewing the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan in order to gear up for the new 2021-2025 plan. We look forward to hearing your feedback in 2020 on what has worked well, what needs to be improved, and what the future holds for the SAN.

- SAN EVENTS IN 2019:**
- Abandoned Mine Drainage Tour – 20 Attendees – April 23, 2019
 - Scrub and Pub – 29 Attendees – May 16, 2019
 - Funding for MS4 Projects Workshop – 80 Attendees – August 7, 2019
 - SAN Bus Tour & SRRF Press Event – 45 Attendees – September 13, 2019

Meet the SAN Staff



Kate Hutelmyer (Watersheds Program Manager) – Kate leads several collaborative efforts to make water cleaner in communities throughout Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, where she resides. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, kayaking, and traveling!



Virginia Vassalotti (SAN Coordinator) – Virginia works with community leaders in the Schuylkill Watershed to share information, expertise, and assistance that will help protect and restore the Schuylkill River. In her free time, Virginia enjoys painting and spending time on the water up and down the East Coast.



Erica Rossetti (SAN Associate) – Erica assists with administration, collaboration, social media, outreach, and event planning for the Schuylkill Action Network. She lives in Philadelphia and enjoys playing instruments, rock climbing, hiking, and traveling in her free time.



Angelica Creek, in Reading, PA.

Planning Committee Partners



Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
 110 South Poplar Street, Suite 202
 Wilmington, DE 19801
 1-800-445-4990
www.DelawareEstuary.org



Anyone can become a SAN member! Visit www.SchuylkillWaters.org and click **Get Involved**.

Follow us on social media!



- Twitter: [@SchuylkillWater](https://twitter.com/SchuylkillWater)
- Instagram: [@SchuylkillWaters](https://www.instagram.com/SchuylkillWaters)
- Facebook: [Facebook.com/SchuylkillWaters](https://www.facebook.com/SchuylkillWaters)
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Schuylkill Action Network

2019 PROGRESS REPORT
www.schuylkillwaters.org



Protecting Schuylkill Waters Drop by Drop

Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD)

In the SAN AMD workgroup, partners in the headwaters of the Schuylkill River are improving pH levels and removing heavy metals from abandoned coal mine discharges that bubble out of the ground and into streams, turning them from toxic orange flows into safe, clean waterways.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Maintained four treatment systems
- Rebuilt the Reevesdale treatment system to protect clean water in the Wabash Creek and Upper Schuylkill River
- Completed the New Philadelphia Walking Trail project to supplement a previous trout habitat and AMD improvement project
- Deposited limestone sand into three streams to improve pH levels



Reevesdale treatment system in the Wabash Creek.



Liquid manure storage at the Burkholder Farm.

Agriculture

Partners in the SAN Agriculture workgroup are working with farmers to implement sustainable farming practices that protect clean water and improve productivity on their land. Some best management practices include:

- On-farm conservation plans
- Manure storage facilities
- Stormwater controls
- Riparian buffers
- Cattle crossings and fencing

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 4 new comprehensive nutrient management plans
- 9 new manure storage basins installed
- 13 barnyard repairs
- 3 stream crossings
- 18.9 acres of riparian buffer plantings (Berks County)
- \$1,670,000 invested from NRCS



Edward Burkholder farm in Kutztown, PA.



Cattle in a stream crossing at the Durkin Farm in Albany Township.

Education & Outreach



Artwork by Schuylkill Street Art Contest winner Marley Yambor.

The SAN Education & Outreach workgroup conducts outreach to educate and engage residents about everyday actions that can protect clean water and promote stewardship and activism.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

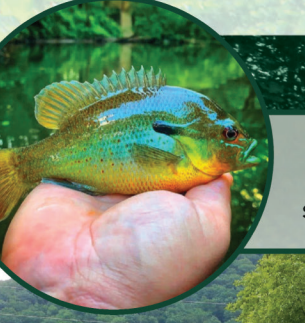
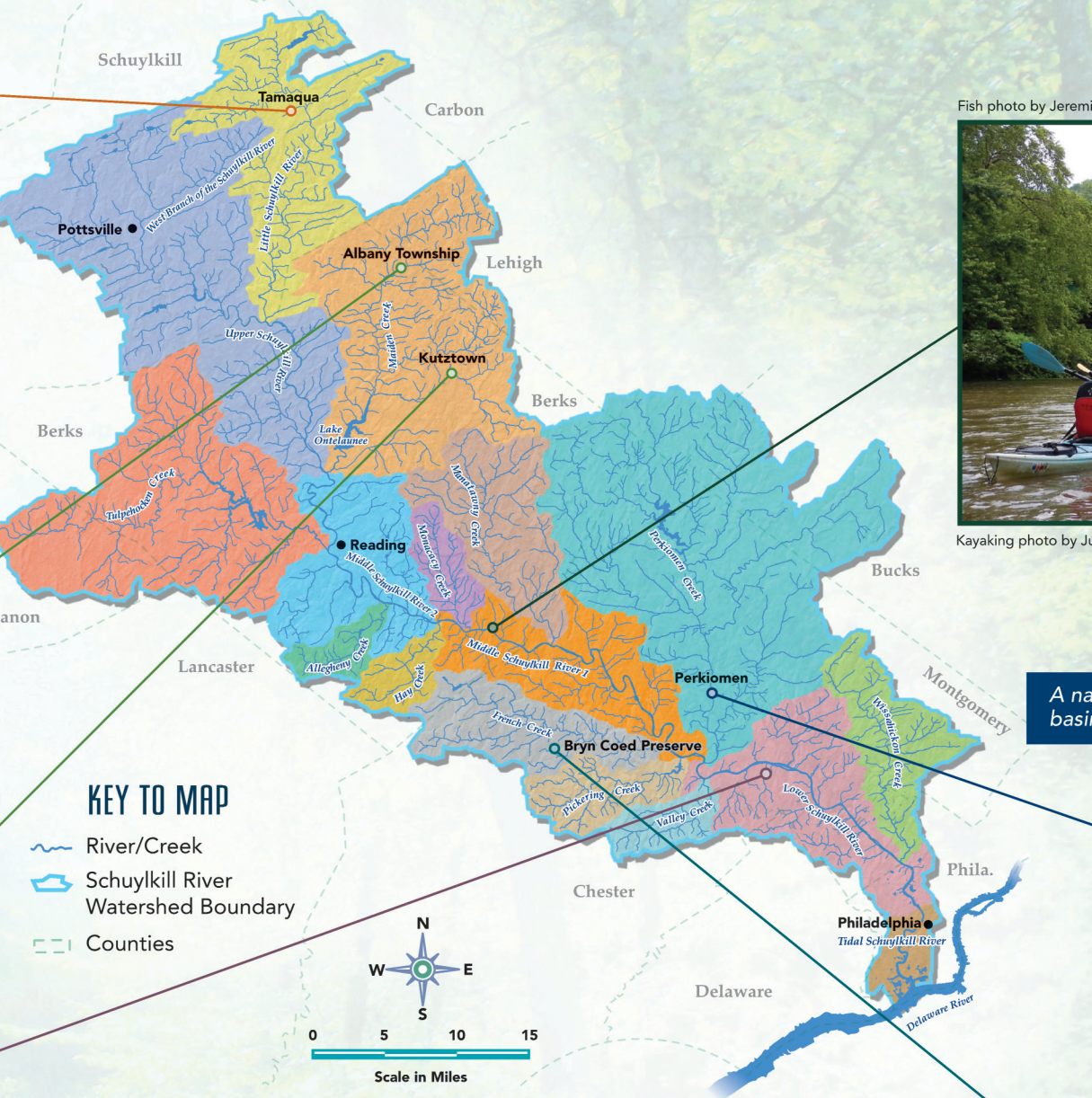
- Schuylkill Scrub
 - Over 400 cleanups
 - 28,433 volunteers
 - 1,107,506 pounds of litter and bulk waste removed
 - 727 tires collected

- Street Art Contests
 - Judged 910 student submissions in the 2019 Philly Water Street Art Contest and 153 submissions in the 2019 Schuylkill Street Art Contest in Berks, Montgomery, and Schuylkill Counties
 - Installed three street art designs from the winners of the 2019 Schuylkill Street Art Contest
 - Gave presentations to over 100 students about clean water
- Installed 30 custom Schuylkill River Watershed storm drain medallions



Schuylkill Scrub and Pub volunteers.

Map of the Schuylkill River Watershed



Fish photo by Jeremiah Green



Kayaking photo by Julia Aguilar

Recreation

The newest SAN workgroup engages recreational users throughout the watershed, promoting events such as hiking, biking, fishing, paddling, and boating to encourage appreciation and stewardship for the Schuylkill River.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Over 200 paddlers participated in the 21st Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn, 70 of which made the entire 112-mile journey from Schuylkill Haven to Philadelphia
- SAN sponsored Julia Aguilar as the 2019 Sojourn Steward to document the history and evolution of industry along "Our Working River"
- SAN launched the #FishtheSchuylkill campaign that promoted several fishing events and had over 30 submissions in the 2019 "Best Summer Catch" fishing photo contest
- 112 attendees caught 250 fish at Philadelphia Water Department's Philly Fun Fishing Fest
- Schuylkill River Greenways has nearly completed the \$2 million Auburn Bridge Gap Project that will connect 9.5 miles of the Schuylkill River Trail

Stormwater

The SAN Stormwater workgroup installs green infrastructure to slow, absorb, and filter polluted runoff from impervious surfaces such as roads, sidewalks, parking lots, and roofs. Some green practices include:

- Rain gardens
- Naturalized detention basins
- Rain barrels
- Bioswales
- Pervious pavement
- Green roofs
- Riparian buffers



A naturalized stormwater basin in Perkiomen, PA.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Created a new logo and brochure for the Schuylkill Action Students Program
- Coordinated presentations from watershed professionals at quarterly workgroup meetings
- Hosted the Funding for MS4 Projects Workshop at Ursinus College, with 80 attendees from municipalities and water agencies
- Several municipalities and partners have developed watershed-based collaborative groups to address MS4 planning and stormwater management, including:
 - Skippack Creek Coalition
 - Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership
 - Wyomissing Creek Watershed Coalition

DID YOU KNOW?
Over 30% of pollution in the Schuylkill Watershed comes from stormwater runoff.

DID YOU KNOW?
There are 249,101 acres in the Schuylkill Watershed that are preserved. That's over 20% of the entire watershed!



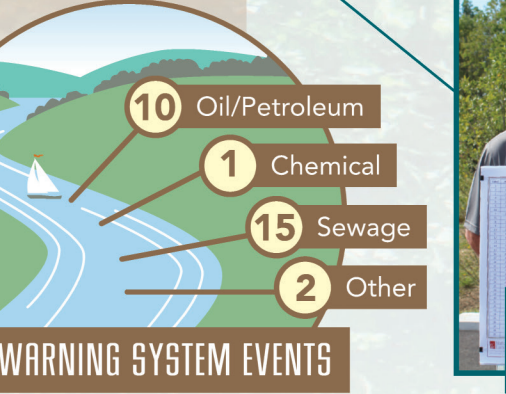
Pathogens and Point Source

The Pathogens and Point Source workgroup tracks and shares information about point sources that may affect downstream water users. Better communication helps prevent downstream contamination, learning about emerging contaminants protects us in the future, and sharing best practices promotes cleaner drinking water.

DID YOU KNOW?
PENNVEST invests in water infrastructure, stormwater management, and sewer improvement projects.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 36 professionals attended the SAN 2018 Water Utility Forum
- The Delaware Valley Early Warning System protects the health and welfare of over 3 million people in the watershed
- 2019 PENNVEST Investments (5 projects total)
 - Loans: \$8,477,841
 - Grants: \$8,367,506



Watershed Land Protection

In the Watershed Land Protection workgroup, partners throughout the watershed work to preserve high priority forest and farmlands to protect clean water.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Preserved 2,036 acres in 18 different projects in the William Penn Foundation's Schuylkill Highlands cluster from 2014-2017
- Berks County and Berks Nature preserved approximately 800 acres of land in 2019



Natural Lands staff shows map of preserved land at Bryn Coed Preserve.