



Caring and Protecting

Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association



2019
Annual
Report

Since 1970 our mission for the Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association has been to support, encourage and promote the enjoyment, restoration, conservation, protection and prudent management of the natural resources



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2019 Successes at a Glance



20,660 pounds of trash removed from 35 sites



923 volunteers engaged in cleaning, planting, and outreach programs



585 native trees and shrubs planted at 6 sites



3 days of invasive removal and tree maintenance at 3 sites

A message from our president

Dear CRC supporters,

During the last year CRC has grown and become stronger like the many trees and shrubs we have planted in our watersheds. We are mobilizing a broad demographic of residents, business teams, colleges, and other institutions to make a positive impact on our local environment.

As we approach our 50th anniversary on Earth Day 2020, here is a look back on our accomplishments enabled by your generous donations and the hard work of our dedicated staff and volunteers.

- Completed 11 planting days this past fall and spring, removing invasive plants and adding over 580 native trees and shrubs
- Coordinated more than 600 volunteers during our Annual Streams Cleanup Day, April 13, removing over 10 tons of trash from the Chester, Ridley and Crum Creek watersheds. We have created unique works of art from the trash to draw attention to its removal from our streams
- Built on your contributions to secure matching grants totaling \$150,000 to be applied to our programs over the next three years
- Increased our volunteer base by 200 including reaching out to 10 new companies and institutions
- Partnered with Aqua America and Apple Leisure Group to fund the matching requirement of our PA DCNR grant and create corporate volunteer days

CRC's mission is only possible through the help of our dedicated and strong corps of volunteers. CRC volunteers come from all areas of our watersheds, ranging from business executives, to schoolteachers, to scouts, all willing to get dirt under their fingernails and sweat on their brows to make our neighborhood watersheds cleaner and healthier. We could not do this without you, and we thank you.

Through your generous support we have expanded the number and size of the grants we depend on to sustain the plantings, invasive removal and cleanups we do each year. So far we have been successful with a budget supported by annual donations. Our long term sustainability will depend on an endowment campaign we intend to launch in the near future.

On April 22, 2020 CRC will be 50 years old. There are few environmental organizations with our longevity and we think CRC is at the forefront of a great movement to save our local environment and the planet from global warming. Through our tree planting programs we are using the most simple but effective way to capture CO₂, and protect the water we drink at the same time.

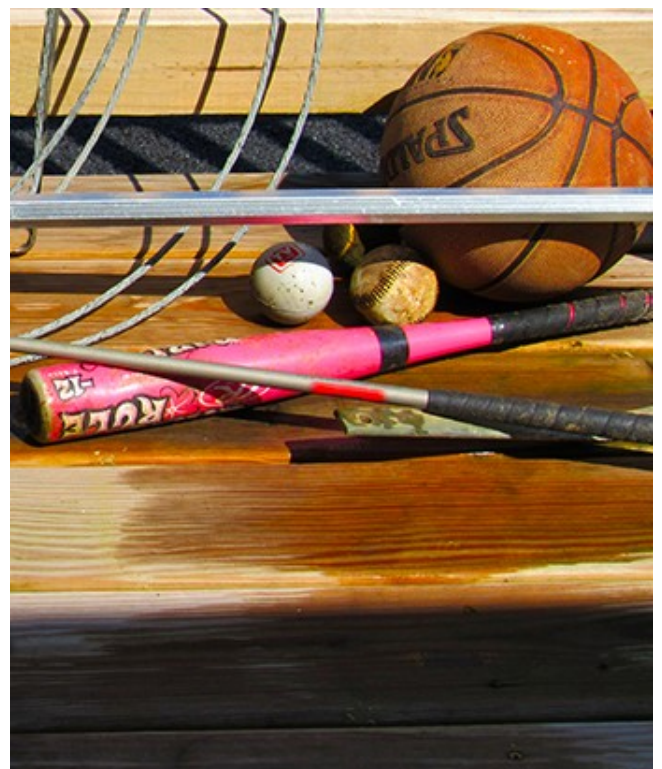
To celebrate our 50th, we are planning a series of events surrounding our plantings and cleanups that will culminate in a birthday party at our office in the Okehocking Preserve along Ridley Creek on May 30, 2020. Look for more details at crcwatersheds.org or in our postings on Instagram and Facebook in the months ahead.

Sincerely,



Ted Leisenring

President, CRC Board of Directors



Muscles at work

Streams are a necessary commodity for all living things. But when they are trashed by uncaring individuals, they become inefficient. It has been a hallmark of CRC to tackle this problem for the past 22 years with the dedicated persistence of community volunteers. This year 600 volunteers, from children to seniors, covered 35 different points along the three creeks to drag out 10 tons of junk that does not belong in our drinking water. At our 2 new sites, Upland and Malvern, in particular, our volunteers felt the satisfaction of seeing the streams returned to beauty after working hard to remove tires, bottles, cans, bicycle wheels, balls of all sizes, televisions, engine parts, and other invasive things. While it can be disheartening to see these items polluting our streams, it is ultimately gratifying and imperative that we remove them. And each year volunteers report that sites appear cleaner, showing long-term positive results from their endeavors.

This year separate bins for saving particularly captivating finds were provided to each site to provide material for a special trash-to-art creation. Later at our Watersheds Discovery Day, David Stehman, Sweet Mabel Studio artist-in-residence, created a wonderful sculpture which appears on our community update cover and sits on our front porch.

We are grateful to the many people and organizations who made this annual streams cleanup successful. The Committee led the way strategizing and planning for each site. More than 60 volunteer Site Coordinators worked hours to manage site preparations and gather and oversee their volunteers. Many scout troops and school clubs chipped in, building our next generations of nature lovers. Local organizations provided financial support through sponsorships and supply dona-

*Nature is
painting for us,
day after day,
pictures of
infinite beauty*
John Ruskin

tions. Area municipalities gave their support through coordination, promotion and trash collection. This exceptional work, passion and commitment came together to preserve and protect our environment and to have fun while doing it!

We all remain dedicated to being good stewards of our creeks for healthy water for ourselves and our woodland friends.



Our passion for clean streams



“Organizing and participating in the CRC Streams Cleanup makes me feel less helpless and hopeless about the condition and situation of our environment. I enjoy joining with the team at CRC in their mission to improve and protect waterways and water quality in my neighborhood. It’s very important in my life to join with other volunteers trying to do our part in making a difference and helping our planet.”

Susan Bruegel
CRC Volunteer
Streams Cleanup



*The world is
mud-luscious and
puddle-wonderful.
ee cummings*



New Beginnings...



*bestow a crown
of beauty
instead of ashes*



Time spent among trees is never time wasted



David Hilbert

Tree Program
Coordinator



“ I believe in equilibrium. If we lose a tree that is a valuable part of our suburban canopy. We have a duty to replace it. And that's where CRC comes in. Looking at our riparian buffers, the effects of habitat degradation after decades of human intervention are plainly evident, but so is the work that CRC has labored to build back up. We can't return to a pristine primeval forest, but we can go back to relatively healthy and functioning



New beginnings for young trees and shrubs...

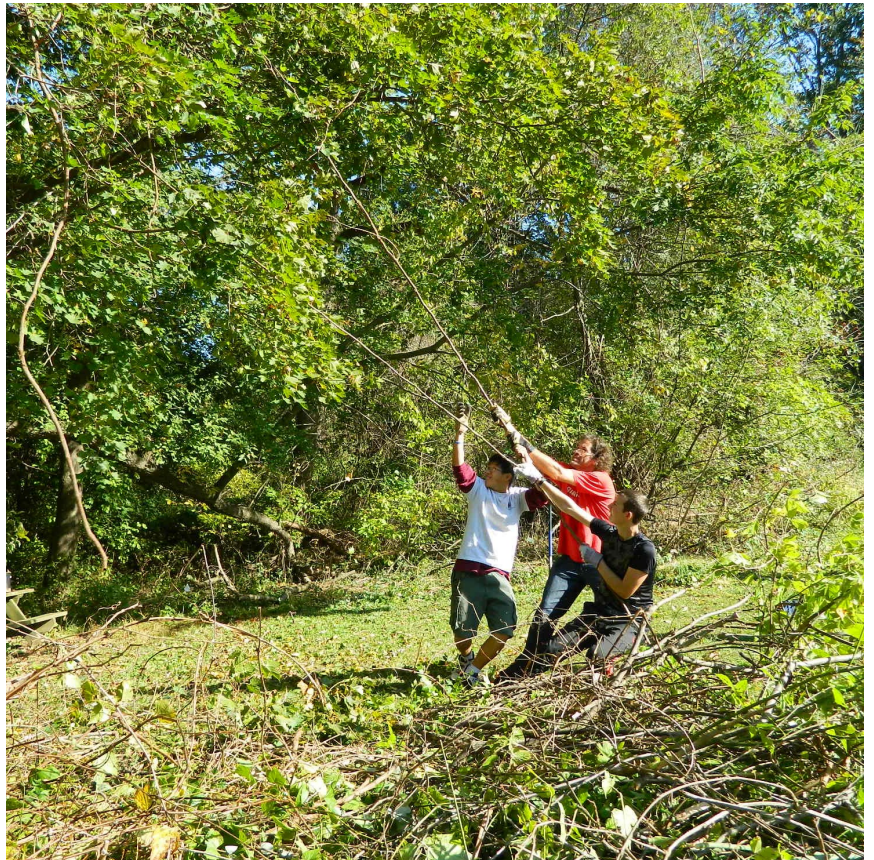
rebirth for our forests

On a frigid, windy, blustery early spring day, volunteers from the Apple Leisure Group hiked to the Garrett Williamson School to plant trees. Despite the weather and sloshing through ankle-deep mud, they listened and watched intently as CRC Tree Program Coordinator, David Hilbert, demonstrated the steps in planting a tree. The group was determined to make a difference in the environment that had been cruelly devastated by the emerald ash borers drilling into and destroying the area's ash trees. The cold spurred on the work and it was completed an hour earlier than anticipated. The following day, community volunteers planted shrubs and removed invasives from the area to allow the new trees an uninterrupted start at life.

Additionally, volunteers planted at several other sites this past year.

Volunteers from Harrah's enjoyed a beautiful planting day at Crozer Park in Chester. Always looking for better ways to help the new beginnings of trees and shrubs, the team used a new kind of weed mat that will help quell the knotweed invasion in the area allowing trees easier access to water and nutrients they need to be healthy.

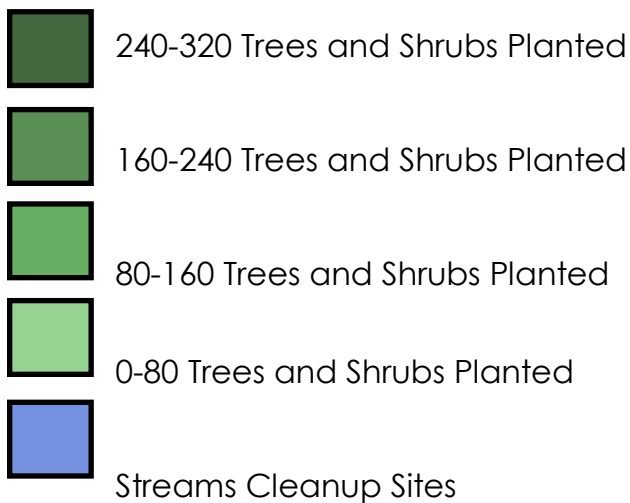
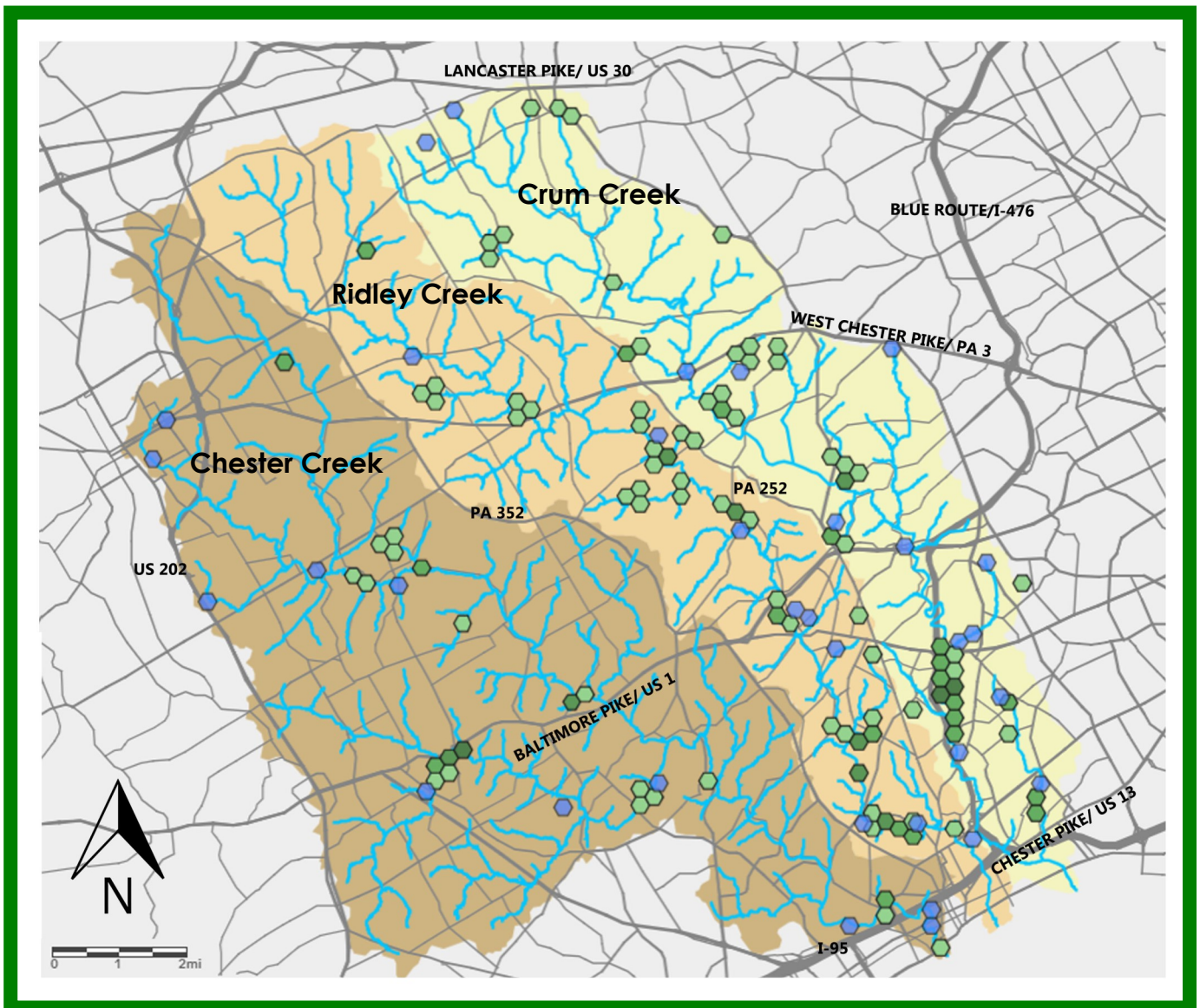
The planting at Long Point Sanctuary in Rose Valley Borough was not easy for the DePuy Synthes volunteers, a Boy Scout working on his Eagle



project, and our CRC volunteers. The trees and planting materials had to be carried down a half-mile hillside trail to the planting site. A challenge, but added fun to the couple of weekends of planting along Ridley Creek.

At the Hedgerow House in Rose Valley Borough, we were able to use money donated to our CRC Tree Fund to help the Hedgerow Theatre folks transform a section of their farmhouse grounds to include native plants for shade and fencing from the road. CRC staff were also for-

Tree plantings and stream cleanups since 2005

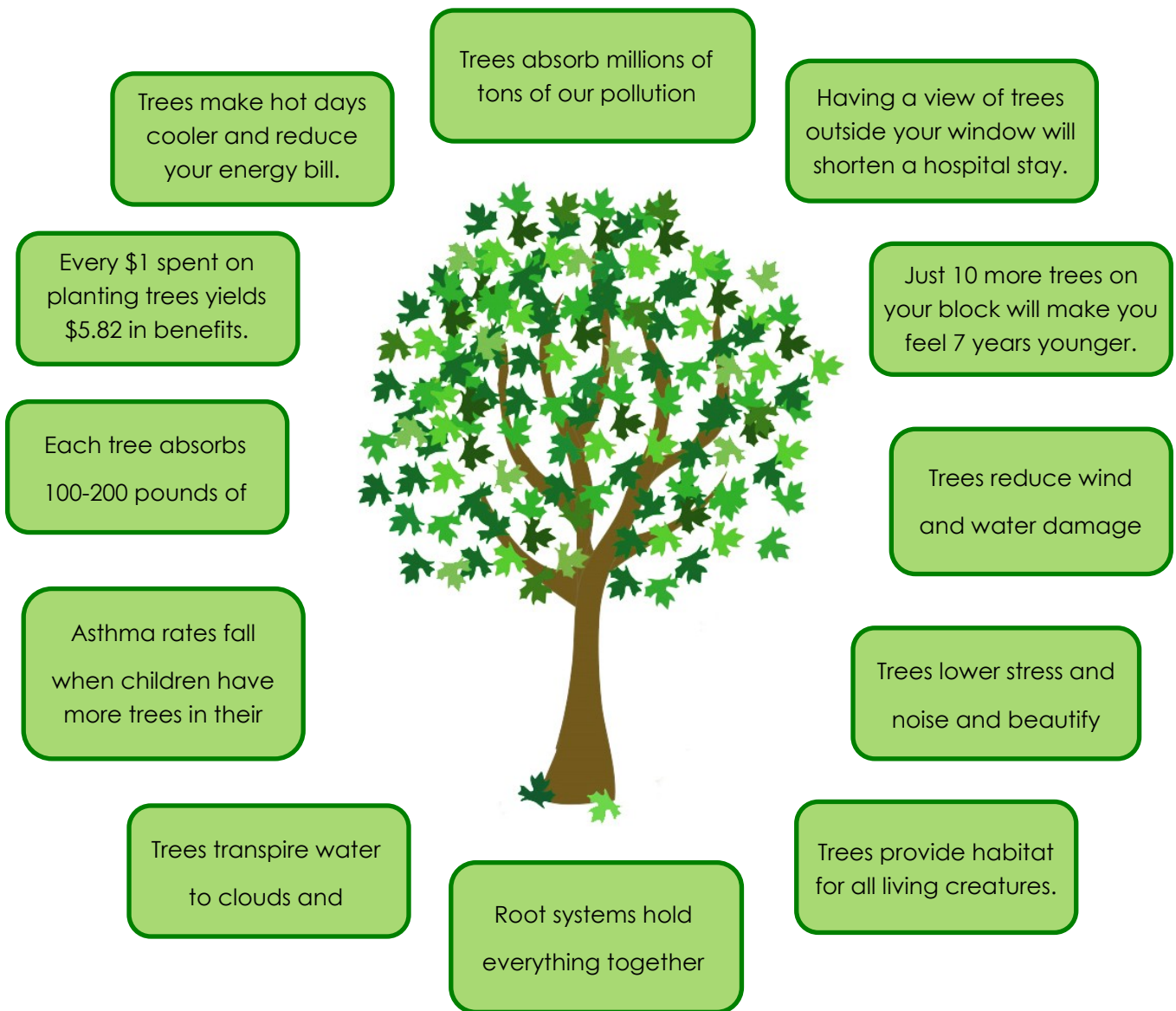


*Forests are the lungs
of our land,
purifying the air and
giving fresh strength*

Caring for our watersheds for you

The Multi-solving Power of Trees

Just by planting a tree, you can help solve multiple problems and make your community a better place to live.



*Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It's not.*

Education and outreach in our "backyards"

Walter Cressler

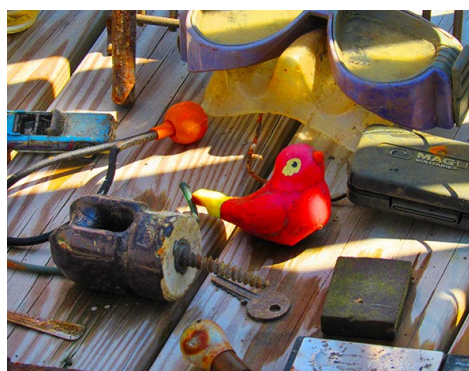
"We are connected to all of life through water. That's why I like to work with CRC to keep our local streams healthy. Also, planting a tree is an act of love towards



Smedley Park was the site of this year's nature hike, *Old Trees and Ancient Rocks along the Crum*. People of all ages came out to experience the beauty of the park and discover how different events created the landscape that formed the bedrock of the peaceful Crum Creek valley, the hundreds of years involved in the lifetime of the trees and the composition of the forest, and

stories of the people still living who can remember the industrial village surrounding the paper mill where the park's ballfields are now. Our tour guides also led hikers in panning for mineral treasures

Our *Science on Tap* annual event is fast becoming a favorite outing. Freshwater mussel expert Danielle Kreeger spoke to a packed house about the critical job of freshwater mussels in our watersheds. These mussels are a filter for the water, cleaning it at gallons per hour and leaving behind nutrient-rich debris to fertilize the streams. She and her colleagues at the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary are restoring these important bivalves to



CRC joined Newlin Grist Mill for a *Sip Behind the Scenes* to learn about the cleanup and tree planting programs in the watershed. Everyone enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour with fascinating historical anecdotes about the grist mill as a source for

Volunteers take front and center in our book

Hats off to all of the volunteers who helped out this past year cleansing the streams, planting new life, stripping invasives giving life back to trees and shrubs, making art from throw-a-ways educating the next generations by showing them creatures in our creeks, panning for treasures, learning that mussels are the most powerful creek cleaners, leading through our forests for new discoveries of old nature.

Our volunteers arrive from many walks of life, but all arrive with a love of nature and a drive to protect her. They came out in all weather; sweating in the summer heat and humidity and shivering in the sharp spring wind.



The participation of our corporate volunteer groups has made a big difference. Aqua, Depuy Synthes, Harrah's, Voya, Widener University and West Chester University fraternities and sororities, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have helped care for our watersheds this year. A special recognition goes to the Apple Leisure Group who joined CRC as our founding corporate partner.



When the rain meets the earth, memories rise.

The Apple Leisure Group set the mark high for determination, quick learning and fast planting with great big smiles shining through their goosebumps at Garrett Williamson's tree planting. As much as we love mother nature, sometimes she can send us whoppers

Lisa Gaffney

Executive Director

“The CRC Watersheds Association has been an important resource for riparian plantings, removal of invasive species and improving water quality in the City of Chester. CRC's dedicated staff, Board of Directors and volunteers have brought needed funding and expertise to protect and maintain the natural environment within local watersheds. These services are especially crucial in urban communities and those located



*Nature is
pleased with*

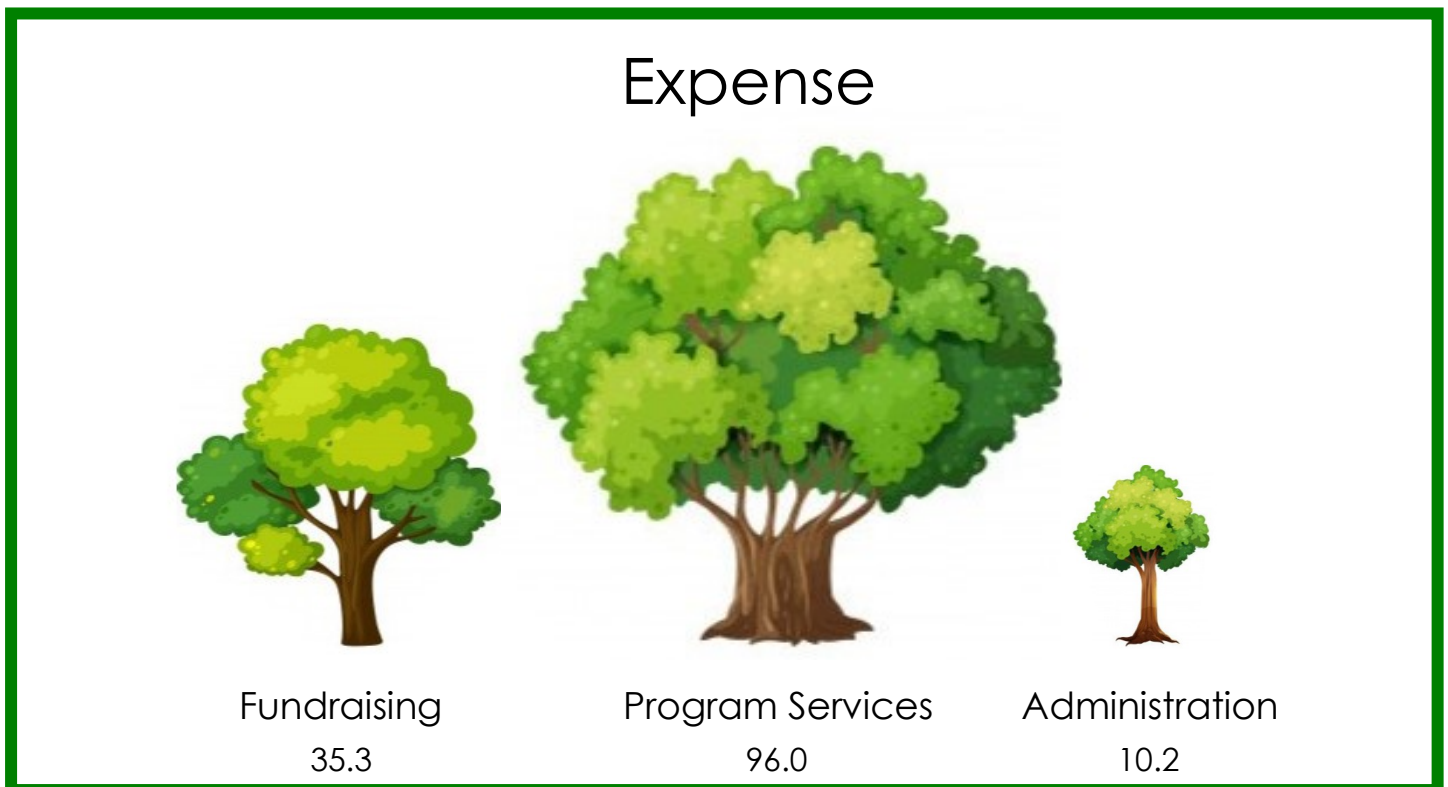


Giselle Cosantino

“Our partnership with CRC has reforested nearly 2 acres of our property within the high value areas of our watershed along the Springton Reservoir where we conduct child care and summer camp programs. The tree plantings have been an opportunity to engage our families in a service project and our children benefited by learning the life cycle of trees. These tree plantings would not have been implemented without our partnership with CRC!”



Our resources at work



Looking forward...

All life is based on clean water.

In 2020, we will celebrate 50 years of working towards clean water.

During the next 50 years we will continue to grow challenges in our drive positive environment. We will strive to be good stewards of our watersheds.



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50 years we will continue to grow challenges in our drive positive environment. We will strive to be good stewards of our watersheds.

We look forward to working with a cadre of volunteers, members, and local community organizations to make our neighborhood watersheds even better. We will be planting native trees and shrubs, cleaning up streams, finding ways to educate and connect to each other, and responding to the needs of the watersheds while having a lot of fun doing it.

The universe is so profound that the emotions we feel when we try to contemplate it are too deep and mysterious to convey.



Special stewards of our watersheds

\$15,000 and Above

Corporations

Aqua Pennsylvania
Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources
PECO
Rose Valley Borough

\$2,000 to \$14,999

Individuals

Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Blynn
Mr. Tracy Bouvette and
 Ms. Rebecca Carovillano
Ms. Carole Clarke

*In nature nothing is perfect.
Trees can be contorted,
bent in weird ways, and
they're still beautiful.*

Alice Walker



\$1,000 to \$1,999

Individuals

Mr. and Mrs. John Custer, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. David Firm
Mr. and Mrs. David Haury
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Hitschler
Mr. James Kisela
Ms. Julia Davidson, Mr. Jay Lippman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert McMenamin
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Messer
Mr. and Mrs. Britton Murdoch
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Newbold, Esq.
Mr. and Mrs. Alejandro Zozaya

Corporations

Bravo Foundation
Central Delaware County Authority
Chester Water Authority
Delaware County Conservation District
Pennonni Associates, Inc.
Philadelphia Foundation-Dapplecroft
Sartomer USA, LLC
Whole Foods Market Devon

Municipalities

West Chester Borough Public Works

\$500 to \$999

Individuals

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cranmer
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Cropper
Dr. and Mrs. David Gasser
Rita & Harry Greenberger
Mr. Brian Hall, Ms. Celia Chen
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Hamilton
Mr. and Mrs. James Holt
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Jackson
Ms. Julia Leisenring
Mr. and Mrs. John Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. David Rawson
Mr. and Mrs. John Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Philip Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Townend
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Turner
Mr. and Mrs. James Van Alen

Corporations

\$250 to \$499

Individuals

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Auten
Mr. Leonard Busby
Mr. Rick Cassel
Ms. Colleen Del Monte
Mr. Ray Dombroski, Ms. Colleen DeMorat
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Fernandes
Mr. Adam Gattuso
Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Haber
Mr. and Mrs. John Hopkins
Mr. Vinay Nadkarni
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Hillyard
Ms. Delma Broussard, Mr. Ray Johnston
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Murray
Mr. Drake Nakaishi
Mr. Eric Chapman, Ms. Heather Saunders
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Telgheider
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Townsend
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Vincent
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Warden
Mr. and Mrs. Richard White

Corporations

Catania Engineering Associates, Inc.
Crum Creek Neighbors
Foundation for Delaware County
Greenweaver Landscapes, LLC
Harrah's
Octoraro Native Plant Nursery
Princeton Hydro, LLC
Riverfront Alliance of Delaware County
Sun East Federal Credit Union
Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership

Municipalities

Chester Heights Borough
Malvern Borough
Media Borough
Nether Providence Township
Newtown Township
Ridley Township
Springfield Township
Swarthmore Borough
Upper Providence Township
West Goshen Lions Club
West Goshen Township
Westtown Township

Ms. Christina Hack
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hausmann
Mr. and Mrs. William Heilig
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Holm
Mr. and Mrs. David Hucker
Ms. Hazel Lafleur-Vetter
Ms. Lora Lavin
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Ledger
Mr. Charles Lee, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Michael McDougall
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moser
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nelson
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nevaril
Mr. and Mrs. Art Polishuk
Mr. and Mrs. Cosmo Prinbeck
Mr. Donald Red
Mr. Thomas Reeves
Mr. Andrew Saul
Ms. Virginia Thompson, Mr. Tom Shaffer
Mr. Theodore Weiss, Ms. Linda Shirer
Mr. and Mrs. John Snyder
Ms. Jodi Spragins, Mr. Brook Gardner
Mr. Linton Stables, Mr. Gregory Brown
Mr. and Mrs. William Suplee
Mr. Zulfiqar Tahir
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wall
Ms. Jean Wallace, Mr. Neil Goldstein
Mr. Christopher Washburn

Corporations

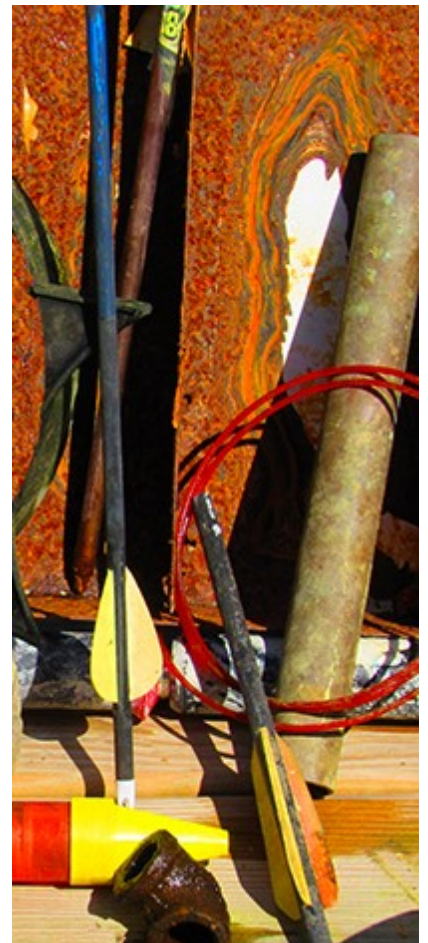
Beneficial Bank
Berwind Corporation
The Country Press
Elwyn Pharmacy & Medical Supplies
Ernst Conservation Seeds, Inc.
Fine Tree Care
Garden Club of Springfield
Philadelphia Union
Providence Garden Club of PA
Voya
Weeds, Inc.
White Horse Village

Municipalities

Ms. Helene Colon-Raphael
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Comitta
Ms. Nancy Crickman, Mr. John McKinstry
Mr. Randall Cox
Mr. William Coyle
Mr. Charles Cresson
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Davidson
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Mr. Andrew Jones, Ms. Judy Olsen
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Mr. and Mrs. Ray Williams
Ms. Kimberly Wood
Mr. Steve Wood
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Ye
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Yorke
Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Zalkind

Corporations



A graphic featuring three green leaves at the top, with a blue stream flowing from the right side towards the bottom left. The stream is composed of several parallel lines of varying shades of blue.

*In 2020, CRC will celebrate
our first 50 years
of caring and
protecting our streams
and look forward
to the next 50 years.*



