# **About the Schuylkill Action Network**

#### chuylkill Action Network

The Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) is a network of over 100 organizations and individuals working collaboratively for a clean and healthy Schuylkill River Watershed through on-the-ground improvement projects, engagement and stewardship, and resource sharing.

#### 2021 SAN Events:

• The 2021 SANnual Meeting was held virtually on November 5th with 84 attendees. We heard from our partners about adaptation and resilience in the Schuylkill River Watershed and beyond.

We also acknowledged 2 SAN MVP awardees for their outstanding service to the SAN: Virginia Vassalotti, former SAN Coordinator, and Desiree Henning Dudley, former PADEP Southeast Region Operations Section Chief. You can watch the video by using this QR code.



• In lieu of the annual SAN Bus Tour, the 2021 SAN Project Showcase and SRRF Grant Announcement was held at Northwestern Stables in Philadelphia, PA on September 17th with 30 attendees.



### Schuylkill River Restoration Fund (SRRF)

The Schuylkill River Restoration Fund awards grants to government agencies and non-profit organizations for water quality improvement projects in the Schuylkill watershed. The grants target issues such as management of stormwater runoff, abatement of agricultural pollution and treatment of abandoned mine drainage. The fund was created in 2006 through a unique public/private partnership between Exelon, the Delaware River Basin Commission and Schuylkill River Greenways. In 2021, the following organizations contributed to the fund: Exelon, Philadelphia Water Department, Aqua, and MOM's Organic Market.

In 2021, \$337,500 in SRRF funds were awarded to 7 projects:

Photo by Freshwaters Illustrate

- **\$35,000** to abandoned mine drainage
- **\$170,000** to agriculture
- \$132,500 to riparian habitat and stormwater restoration projects

\$132,500 \$170,000

\$35,000



Tim Fenchel, Schuylkill River Greenways, introduces Krista Scheirer, Agua, for the 2021 Schuylkill River Restoration und award announcements















Anyone can become a SAN member! Visit www.SchuylkillWaters.org and click Get Involved. Follow us on social media!



### **Planning Committee Partners**

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary 110 South Poplar Street, Suite 202 Wilmington, DE 19801 1-302-655-4990 www.DelawareEstuary.org

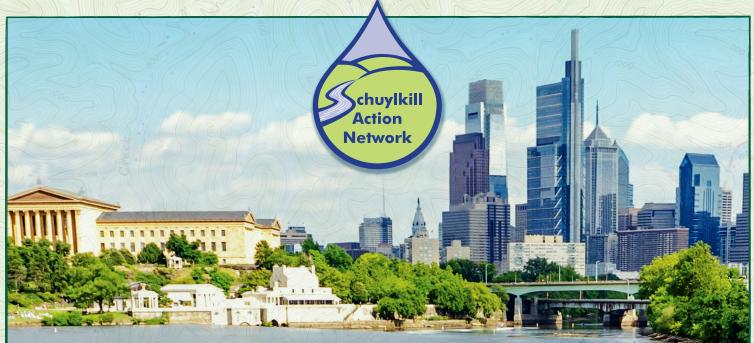






- Twitter: @SchuylkillWater
- Instagram: @SchuylkillWaters
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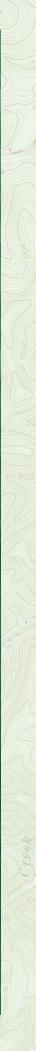
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# **Schuylkill Action Network 2021 Progress Report**



www.SchuylkillWaters.org



## **Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD)**

Partners in the SAN AMD workgroup work in the headwaters of the Schuylkill River to build and maintain treatment systems that remove heavy metals and neutralize acidic pH levels from abandoned coal mine discharges that seep out of the ground and carry these contaminants into streams.

#### **2021 Accomplishments:**

- Maintaining 5 systems
- Approximately 190 tons of limestone sand was added at Big Creek and West Creek
- Little Wolf Creek, a formerly untreated discharge, was restored:
- Flows from Little Wolf Creek were being lost in the stream channel and contributing flow to the Pine Forest Mine Pool. This project reconnected the upper and lower channels of Little Wolf Creek to prevent stream flow loss.

hoto of BET 309 Pond in Tamaqu

 Middleport Habitat Stabilization Project – restored 1,100 linear feet of stream riffle/pool habitat structure and bank stabilization in Partnership with National Trout Unlimited and funded through a Growing Greener grant held by National TU.



- NAMES

Ikill River Watersheds

SAN Nature Journaling kit contents

### Agriculture

SAN Agriculture Workgroup partners work closely with farmers in the watershed to implement agricultural conservation practices to protect clean water, improve land productivity and keep farming sustainable. The following is a summary of practices implemented in 2021

#### **2021 Accomplishments:**

- 2 new/updated comprehensive nutrient management plans
- 2 manure storages installed
- 1 barnyard repair
- 2 stream crossings
- 8.2 acres riparian buffer plantings
- \$890,000 NRCS investment in the Berks/Schuylkill portion of the watershed

View of newly constructed manure storage facility at an organic dairy farm near Kutztown, Berks County. This project was funded by NRCS and Schuylkill River Restoration Fund, with technical assistance from Berks Nature.

### **Engagement & Stewardship**

The SAN Engagement and Stewardship workgroup works to engage residents about ways they can connect to the waterway through recreational opportunities and on actions each individual can take to improve water quality.

#### **2021 Accomplishments:**

- #BikeTheSchuylkill was the social media catchline of 2021
- Approximately 3,000 tires and over 20,000 bags of trash were collected at over 1,000 locations during the 2021 Schuylkill Scrub.
- Sojourn 2021:
- 215 participants in the 5-day event
- Sponsorship of the Sojourn Steward and 2 Diversity Scholarships for the entire 5-day Sojourn
- SAN Steward YouTube video use this QR code to see the video!
- Sponsored 1 student for Schuylkill Acts and Impacts program

Funds were also allocated for the creation of 500 nature journaling kits including binoculars, field notebooks, and watershed maps. 330 of these kits were distributed to 6 teachers in the cities of Reading, Robesonia, Jenkintown and Philadelphia in 2021.





### Map of the Schuylkill River Watershed

#### **Pathogens and Point Source**

SAN Pathogens and Point Source partners share communications and educational resources on point sources that may impact downstream water users. This group also focuses on education on emerging contaminants and best practices for cleaner drinking water for all.

#### **2021 Accomplishments:**

- PENNVEST Investments in water infrastructure improvements:
- Total Projects Funded in 2021: 7
- Grant Amount Awarded: \$10,307,907
- Loan Amounts Approved: \$129,160,762
- Delaware Valley Early Warning System grew to 450 registered users (up from 55) organizations including suppliers, industrial, regulatory, and safety
- Promotion of National Drug Takeback Day over 1,100 views on SAN social media

### **Stormwater**

The SAN Stormwater workgroup provides education and supports installation of stormwater best management practices such as rain gardens, naturalized detention basins, pervious pavement, green roofs to slow and filter stormwater generated from impervious surfaces like rooftops, sidewalks and roads.

#### **2021 Accomplishments:**

- Stormwater Best Management Practices Tour at Philadelphia Zoo with 20 attendees
- Installation of 2 rain gardens forming a treatment train at Children's House of Exton, Uwchlan Twp.
- Stormwater Sticker install at Schuylkill Haven Area High School postponed to 2021 due to COVID

PDE Staff, Stormwater Workgroup co-chairs and tour participants gather for the Philadelphia Zoo tour.

#### Watershed Land Protection

Partners in SAN's Watershed Land Protection workgroup work to protect clean water through priority forest and farmland preservation which provides important filtering capacity particularly in the headwaters of the watershed.

#### **2021 Accomplishments:**

• In 2021, preserved land in the Schuylkill watershed increased by 938 acres!

Neversink Mountain, Exeter Twp, PA





A green roof demonstration project was included in the Philadelphia Zoo Stormwat Tour in October.

5TH ANNUAL

PRESCRIPTION DRUG

TAKE BACK EVENT

Saturday, April 17

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

First Energy Stadium

Drive up and turn in unused or

