

LANCASTER
CONSERVANCY

LAND PROTECTION IN THE RIVERLANDS: A SUCCESS STORY

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**NOVEMBER 9, 2022
CCP CONFERENCE**



CCP Annual Meeting 11/9/22

AGENDA

- ▶ DCNR—Susquehanna Riverlands Conservation Landscape
- ▶ Lancaster Conservancy—Land Acquisition Focus
- ▶ Pequea and Hellam Hills a Success Story
- ▶ State Parks and Land Trust Partnerships



Conservation Landscapes of Pennsylvania



Landscape Name	Lead DCNR Contact	Email
Kittatinny Ridge	Kristen Hand	khand@pa.gov
Laurel Highlands	Adam Mattis	amattis@pa.gov
Lehigh Valley Greenways	Rob Neitz	rneitz@pa.gov
Pennsylvania Wilds	Meredith Hill	mehill@pa.gov
Pocono Forests and Waters	Tim Dugan & Christine Dettore	tdugan@pa.gov cdettore@pa.gov
Schuylkill Highlands	Drew Gilchrist	agilchrist@pa.gov
South Mountain	Tyler Semder	tsemder@pa.gov
Susquehanna Riverlands	Lori Yeich	lyeich@pa.gov

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pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WHY CONSERVATION LANDSCAPES?

OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, LANDSCAPES AND COMMUNITIES STAND PERILOUSLY CLOSE TO PERMANENT ALTERATION.

DCNR believes that an integrated, place-based approach to coordinated strategic investment and action in large landscapes, around the values of sustainability, conservation, outdoor recreation, and community revitalization can profoundly affect local communities and help protect important natural assets.

The background of the entire image is a dense, close-up photograph of various green plants. Some leaves are deeply lobed and serrated, while others are broader and more rounded. A small, light-colored flower bud is visible on the right side. Overlaid on this background is a solid blue rectangular box containing white text.

SUSQUEHANNA RIVERLANDS CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE MISSION:

To protect, preserve, and steward the natural lands along the Lower Susquehanna River, emphasizing connectivity, eco-system health, and sustainable public access.

Susquehanna Riverlands Conservation Landscape





Providing wild and forested lands
and clean waterways for our
community, forever.



Lancaster Conservancy protects within
two counties...

10,000+ ACRES OF LAND

45 MILES OF TRAILS

34+ MILES OF STREAMS

50 NATURE PRESERVES

170 ACRES OF WETLANDS

PROTECT

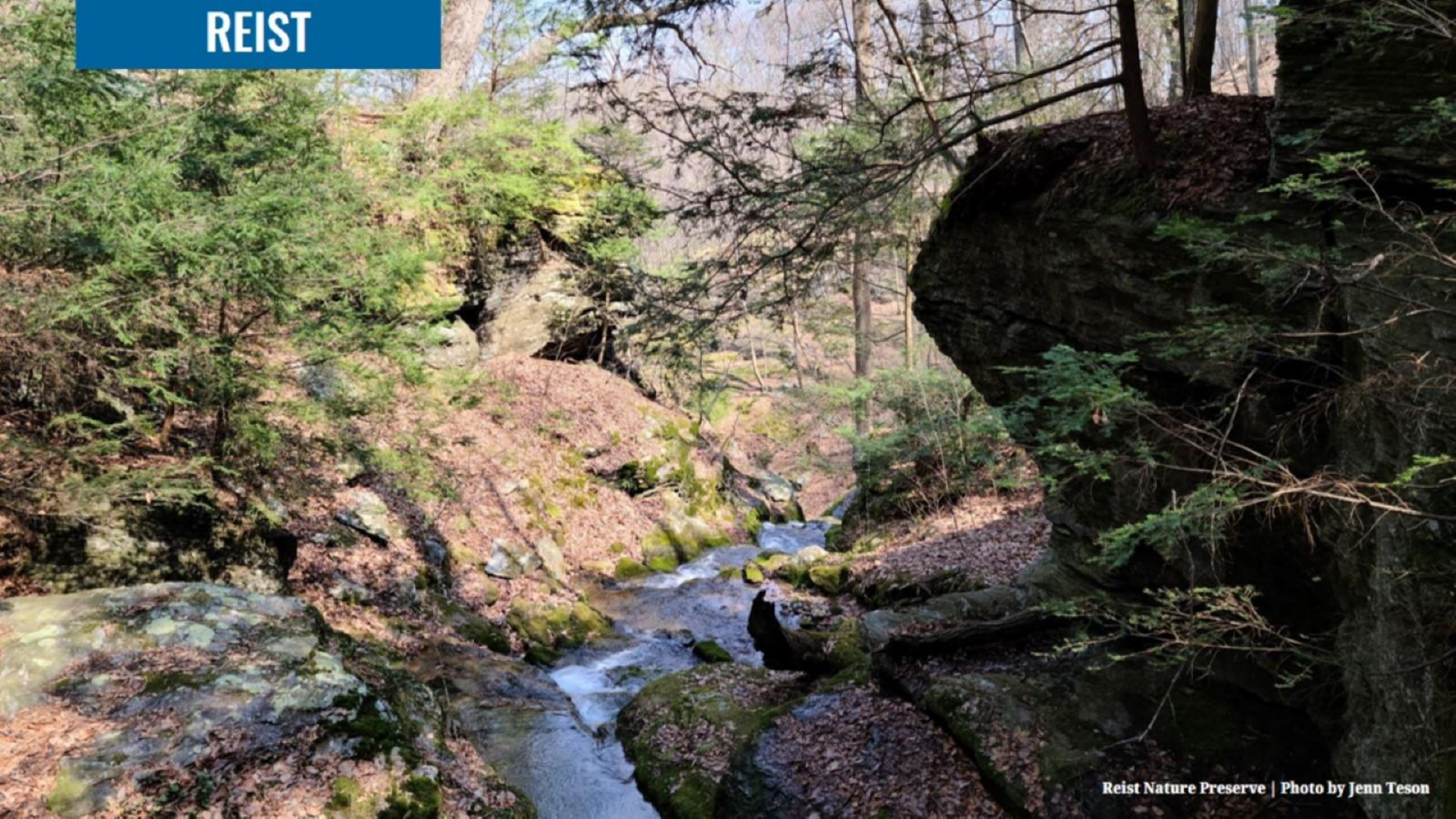
ACQUIRE AND PROTECT 5,000 ACRES

Protecting our Land, Forever

- Some lands are so beautiful, so rare, and so natural that they must be protected for all to enjoy.



REIST



RESTORE

7,600+ ACRES TO STEWARD

Restore Our Land!

- Our job does not end once the land is purchased. When we protect land, we must care for it forever.



RESTORE

RESTORATION & RECREATION

Hellam Hills Master Plan

➤ In 2021, the Conservancy embarked on a largescale master planning project for the Hellam Hills Conservation Area. Strategic recommendations that can be implemented in phases over many years have been made for how to best manage habitat restoration, recreation and engagement.



Volunteers at Wizard Ranch Nature Preserve | Photo by Greg Smolin

EDUCATE OVER 10,000 STUDENTS, VOLUNTEERS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS EACH YEAR

Promote Conservation through Interpretive Programming

- Our goal is to foster an education environment that immerses and empowers generations of learners to protect and restore our land and water resources.





Conservancy Delivered Education

Conservancy Protect Lands in the Susquehanna Riverlands

FAST FACTS

- ▶ **Formed in 2010**
- ▶ The Conservancy owned **1,500 acres** in the Riverlands in **2010**
- ▶ Today, the Conservancy has helped acquire and protect over **6,200 acres** in the Riverlands!
- ▶ Protected Land Value: **\$37.2 Million**
- ▶ DCNR Funds Invested: **\$20.2 Million**



GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS

SUCCESS FACTOR ONE



GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS

SUCCESS FACTOR ONE

Where is the land that is available & at risk in the municipalities along the River?

LANCASTER & YORK RIVER HILLS CONSERVATION AREAS

3,700 ACRES of natural
land protect from
2010-2022

LANCASTER
CONSERVANCY



HELLAM HILLS CONSERVATION AREAS

2,100 ACRES of natural
land protect from
2010-2022

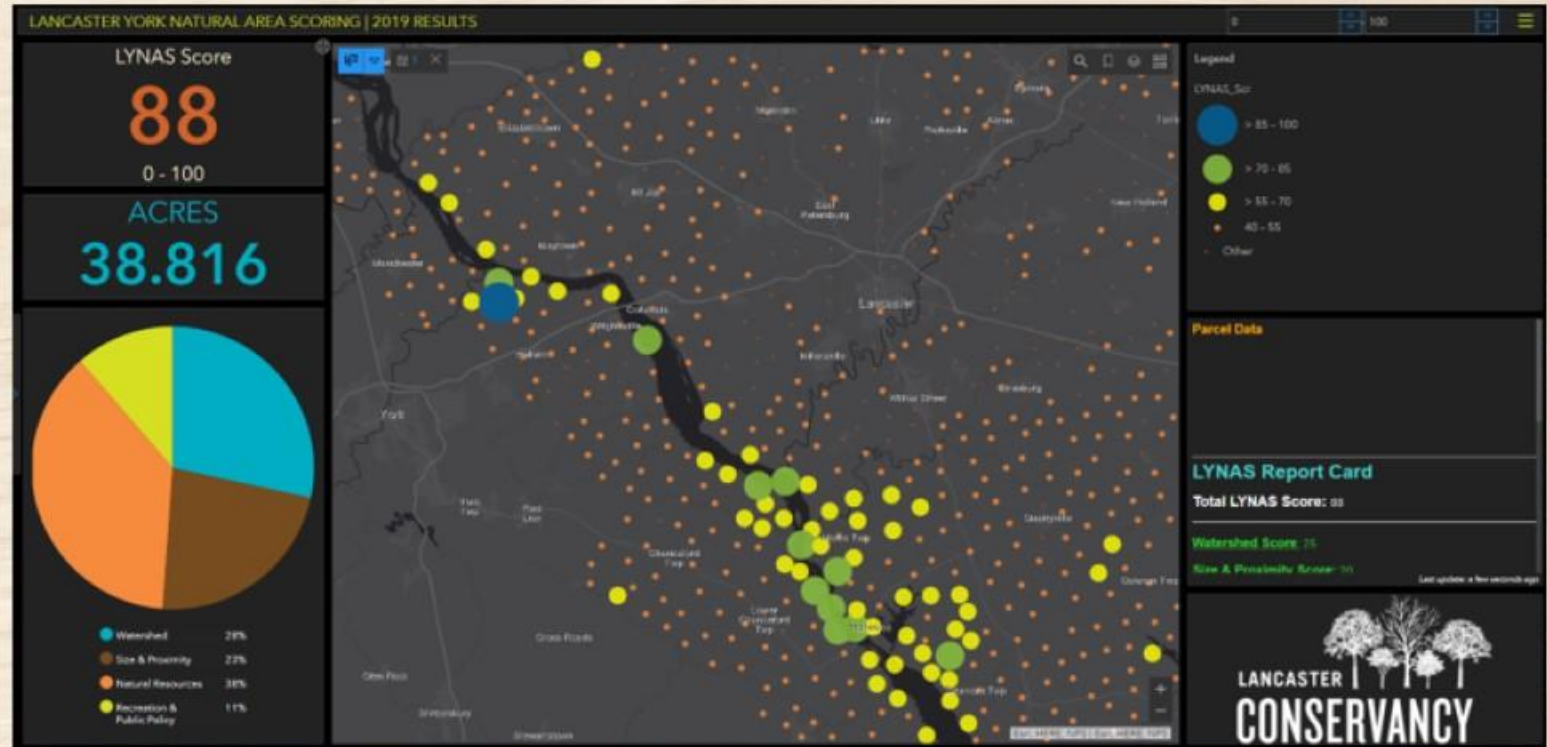


GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS

LYNAS DATA SYSTEM ▼

Data Based Decisions

➤ This digital dashboard of the **Lancaster York Natural Area Scoring Data System** helps the Conservancy team quickly identify high quality tracts of land to prioritize for acquisition and permanent protection.



The Conservancy developed a science based system that uses data from local, state and federal sources to identify which critical tracts will provide the greatest public and environmental benefit.

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS

but over half of Lancaster's streams and rivers are polluted. The good news is that we can help solve this problem! As a community, we can each take three steps to clean-up...

STEP 1

CREATE HABITAT

Native trees, shrubs, and flowers to create habitat for wildlife— the birds and the bees will love it! Native trees and plants play a vital role in our streams and rivers. To protect the quality of our water for wildlife, and to create a better home for our streams, we can each take three steps to clean-up...

improve the health of the creek around you.

STEP 2

GET OUTSIDE

Hike, paddle, fish and explore the watersheds and natural lands of Lancaster County we're all working together to protect. As little as 20 minutes outdoors is good for your mental and physical well-being. Find a stream or natural area and let the adventure begin.

WATER CONNECTS

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WATER WEEK

Water Connects Us All

WHAT'S YOUR WATERSHED?

A watershed is an area of land where all the water runs into the same body of water, like a stream. The water in each of Lancaster County's watersheds flows into the Susquehanna River, then the Chesapeake Bay and eventually the Atlantic Ocean.

As collectors travel over the roads, farms, parking areas, and home fields in our watersheds it can pick up harmful pesticides, herbicides, oils, and even our smelly farm waste, which then pollute and muddy our streams and rivers.

Half of Lancaster County's watersheds are considered polluted or unhealthy, but if each of us acts, we can make the polluted Chesapeake Bay and rivers as healthy as we like!



WATER CONNECTS US ALL

LANCASTER COUNTY WATERSHEDS

Get started on your journey to clean water! Find where you live on the map. What watershed do you call home?

- 1 Chipew Creek
- 2 Susquehanna River
- 3 Pigeon Creek
- 4 Octoraro Creek
- 5 Conowing Creek
- 6 Mill Creek
- 7 Conestoga River
- 8 Little Conestoga Creek
- 9 Cocalico Creek
- 10 Conoy Creek
- 11 Conowing Creek
- 12 Little Conowing Creek





MONEY FOCUS

SUCCESS FACTOR TWO

MONEY FOCUS

SUCCESS FACTOR TWO



PROTECT & RESTORE

50TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

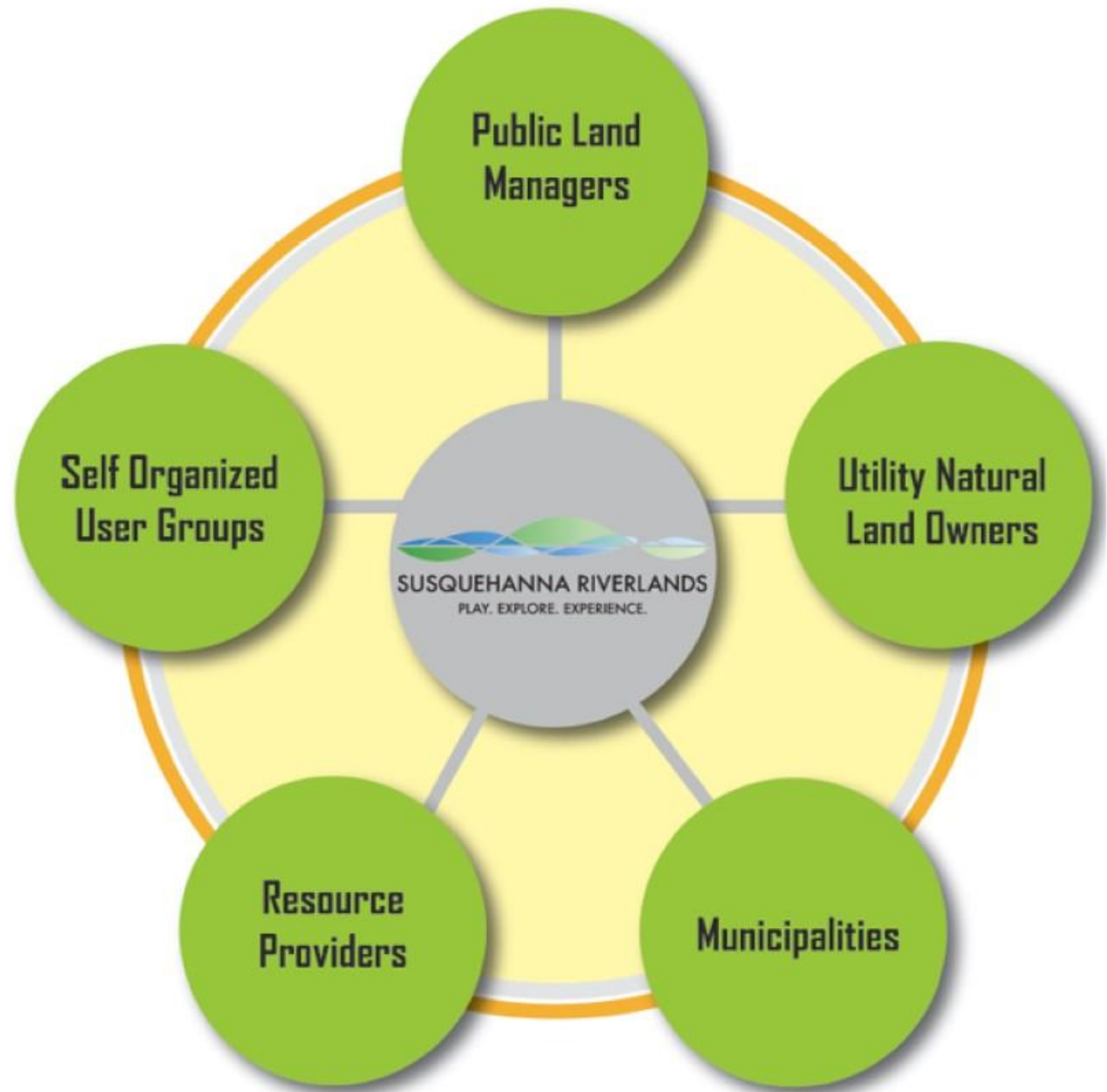
PARTNERSHIP FOCUS

SUCCESS FACTOR THREE



Susquehanna Riverlands State Park | Photo by Kelly Snavelly

PARTNERS IN THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVERLANDS



NEW STATE PARK ANNOUNCEMENT



Photo by Kelly Snavelly

NEW STATE PARK



Codorus Creek Gorge through New Hellam Hills Addition | Photo by Andrea Campbell

HELLAM HILLS



WIZARD RANCH



WORKING TOGETHER

DCNR & the Conservancy

INTEGRATED PLANNING for public landowners including Utilities, State Parks, Land Trusts, Trail Groups and State Agencies, Fish and Boat, PA Game Commission and others.

HELLAM HILLS MASTER PLAN



Trail Difficulty

Difficulty of task is defined by the system and is identified by DCOI & Natural Resources as the problem broken into three categories: Easy/Easy Difficult.

Exp. These trails are typically wide as most of the trail remains under 20% slope of 1:1 1/2 for up to 200 ft. The path obstructs. These trails can usually serve heavy ADR surfaces.

Rare Difficult. These trails are usually a wide range with smaller shoulders and with the main slope of 25% up to 300' occasional obstacles with a few roots.

Most Difficult: These trails are the hardest that can range from 15% up to 30% and can be obstacles, steep, and unstable so typically only 1-2 miles and are designed

It is likely that at levels of difficulty well below the 50% threshold, the primary benefit of the ECA, supplying that user as to the difficulty of the task, will be key to ensuring that the user

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in the Wizard Ranch Nature Preserve Trust and Associated Present and Archaeological

NOW IS OUR TIME



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Wizard Ranch Nature Preserve | Photo by Greg Smolin

An aerial photograph of a lush, green landscape. A dense forest of trees with varying shades of green covers most of the area. A winding road or path cuts through the forest on the left side. In the center, there is a large, open field. The background shows rolling hills under a soft, orange-hued sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

THANK YOU

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Wizard Ranch Nature Preserve | Photo by Greg Smolin