

NATURE

PENNSYLVANIA DELAWARE

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I am pleased to announce that Lori Brennan has taken the helm as The Nature Conservancy's Pennsylvania and Delaware executive director. Lori assumed this role in March and works out of our Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, office. She has more than 20 years of leadership experience at regional and national non-profit organizations and most recently served as an executive director with CCS Fundraising. Lori shares our passion for TNC's mission and we look forward to great things to come under her leadership. I also want to express heartfelt thanks to Donna Bowers and Allison Vogt for serving as interim directors in Pennsylvania and Delaware during this important time of transition, and for shepherding the merger of the programs in both states to strengthen our conservation impact.

Marika Schoolar, Chair
TNC PA/DE Board of Trustees



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Mountains to Marshes

A river guides our work in Pennsylvania and Delaware

The longest undammed river east of the Mississippi, the Delaware River flows through four states and some of the region's most iconic landscapes such as the Delaware Water Gap and the Pocono Mountains. Along the way, the river provides drinking water to more than 17 million people, including residents of New York City and Philadelphia, before completing its 419-mile journey to the Delaware Bay.

Emerging from northern Pennsylvania's ridges and valleys, the Upper Delaware River boasts a trout fishery that seasoned anglers compare to western rivers for its technical fishing and prolific insect hatches. It is in these headwaters where forests, protected and restored by The Nature Conservancy, filter water that supports downstream towns and the major cities of Trenton, Philadelphia and Wilmington.

When it comes to conserving watersheds, nature proves to be a more important guide than boundaries drawn on a map. Throughout the Delaware River Basin, TNC works to identify where we can have the greatest impact and which strategies will generate the best conservation return on our investment. This translates into efforts like our work with the Philadelphia Water Department to employ nature in absorbing stormwater and trapping pollutants before reaching local waterways. As the river widens into an estuary at the mouth of the Delaware Bay, TNC is working to restore coastal habitats that can reduce erosion, prevent flooding, and support communities and wildlife in the face of rising seas. From Pennsylvania's mountains to Delaware's marshes, nature leads the way.

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Faces of Conservation

A community approach benefits the Delaware River watershed

Kim Hachadoorian directs Stream Stewards in Delaware, a watershed stewardship program that connects people to their local waterways through citizen science, youth advocacy and community engagement. Funded by the William Penn Foundation and the Ernest E. Stempel Foundation, Stream Stewards grew from a partnership with First State National Historical Park (FRST) and Stroud Water Research Center designed to protect and improve the health of the Brandywine-Christina watershed.

What has Stream Stewards accomplished? We currently have a team of trained volunteer “citizen scientists” who collect water quality data on the streams that flow through FRST and feed into Brandywine Creek, the source of Wilmington’s drinking water. This information has been crucial to guiding conservation in and around the park.

What’s next? Stream Stewards is expanding beyond citizen science in FRST to include working with urban communities on projects that demonstrate how nature-based solutions can benefit people’s lives while also contributing to a healthier watershed.

How do you plan to accomplish that? Together with our colleagues in Pennsylvania, we are positioning ourselves to conserve nature and engage people at increasingly larger scales. Coordinating our efforts in both states will advance our work with urban communities to reduce stormwater pollution in the watershed’s urban centers—Philadelphia and Wilmington—which are only 30 miles apart.

It sounds like you will need more watershed stewards. Definitely, and more partners! We look forward to strengthening partnerships with the 23 environmental education centers that make up the Alliance for Watershed Education of the Delaware River. We also want to connect people to our work on improving habitat for migratory fish like shad and river herring. Engaging more people as volunteers, advocates and supporters empowers them to directly contribute to a healthier Delaware River Watershed, which is where they live, work and play.

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Beyond Borders



© Kevin Fleming

Monumental Migration

Each May, an estimated 26,000 red knots stop along the shores of the Delaware Bay during their more than 9,000-mile migration between the southern tip of South America and the Arctic. To fuel the remainder of their journey, these hungry birds feed on the eggs of horseshoe crabs. One of the best spots to view the shorebirds and horseshoe crabs is at the DuPont Nature Center in Slaughter Beach, located just south of TNC’s Milford Neck Preserve.

Summer Oasis



© Nicholas Tonelli

During summer, visitors to the Delaware Water Gap and the nearby Kittatinny Ridge can find shaded hikes, mountain fly-fishing, challenging canoeing and kayaking, as well as world-class bird watching in the presence of creatures like white-tailed deer, black bears and gray foxes. Make sure to visit TNC’s Hauser Nature Center in Long Pond, Pennsylvania, to hike through its wooded trails.



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