

# Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

*Conserving and enhancing the lands and waters of Northcentral PA*



Fall 2022

*Thank you for conserving and  
enhancing the lands and waters  
in the region.*

## **Conservation Stories Because of You:**

- Little Pine Creek Flowing with Less Sediment
- Better Access to the Streambank at State Game Lands 252
- Local Officials Learn More About the Tioga River Clean-up



## Little Pine Creek Improved

Because of your support approximately 1,000 feet of Little Pine Creek's streambank is more stable!

With your help, we partnered with Little Pine State Park (DCNR Bureau of State Parks), the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited, and Lycoming County Conservation District to address eroding streambanks along Little Pine Creek within Little Pine State Park.

Little Pine Creek's streambanks are eroding, creating bank heights of 8 to 10 feet from water's edge to the top of bank. The sediment from the eroding stream banks is entering the stream system and depositing in the area of this proposed project and down stream.

To give you some idea of the amount of sediment we can use the location of the swimming buoys at Little Pine State Park's lake which is downstream.



*The Lycoming County Conservation District had some extra trees! State Parks planted them. Their roots will help further hold the streambanks in place and the leaves will provide summer shade and food in the fall for the macroinvertebrates.*

The buoys are placed where there is 4.5 feet of water depth. In 2020 the buoys were placed approximately 75-feet from shore, in 2021 they were placed approximately 125 feet from shore. The buoys had to move further out because of the sediment filling in the lake.

Fish and Boat Commission staff spent over 6 days at the site building structures to stabilize the streambank and stop it from washing away. Thank you for supporting work that not only cleans up local waterways but also makes the lake at Little Pine better for everyone.

To learn more about how you helped Little Pine Creek and Little Pine State Park visit:  
<https://npcweb.org/little-pine-creek-improved/>  
or call the office with questions.



## Tioga River Treatment System Outlined for Local Officials

Because of you the largest source of abandoned mine discharge (AMD) in the Tioga River watershed is going to be treated. Nearly 20 miles of the Tioga River that is currently dead will come back to life with your help.

Earlier this year you helped the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy purchase a property in Blossburg. The property has a small AMD discharge on it, but provides access to the largest discharge in the Tioga River watershed.

To treat that water it will need to go to an active treatment system. This system will clean up abandoned mine discharge (AMD) from **Coal Creek, Fall Brook, and Morris Run.**

There will be pipes moving water to the plant for treatment and then back to the streams for release through three municipalities. You helped organize a tour for officials from those municipalities. In July they were given an overview of the project concept and then visited several sites that will be used in the Tioga River Mine Drainage Treatment System.

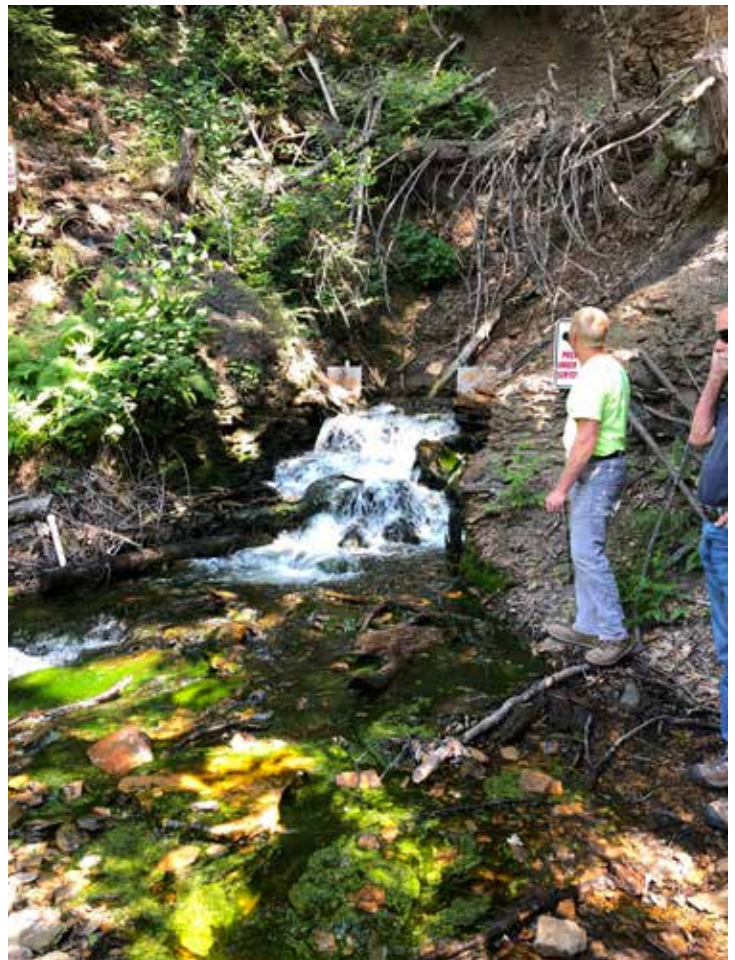
The **Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC)** and their engineers from Kleinfelder explained the current plan for how the water would be collected, conveyed to the treatment plant, and then how it will get back to the streams.

The tour was well received, so we asked SRBC and Kleinfelder to come back to Blossburg in September for a public presentation. Nearly 55 people came out to learn more about the project and how the Tioga River was being restored.

Together we're improving the Tioga River! Look for more updates on how your support is moving the project ahead.

You can read more about this project at:

<https://npcweb.org/municipal-officials-walk-through-the-first-draft-of-the-coal-creek-treatment-system/>





## State Game Lands 252 Gets Better Access to the Creek and Cleaner Water

The War Department condemned the town of Alvira in Union County, PA in 1942 in order to establish a munitions manufacturing facility. Known locally as “the Ordnance,” the site used water drawn out of the West Branch Susquehanna River below Montgomery to manufacture munitions for the war effort during World War II.

Eighty years later, you worked through the Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy to stop the erosion created by establishing the Ordnance. Together, we worked with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and Union County Conservation District to take on this project.

Since State Game Lands are open for public recreation and this stretch of Spring Creek is stocked there is a lot of fishing activity on the property. The habitat created here is helping the fish and helping create better access to the stream for anglers.

The site was added to the schedule for the 2022 construction season and additional grant funding was secured through Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful’s Healing the Planet Grant Program with support from The GIANT Company.

The team started upstream and worked downstream installing the log and rock structures.

If you use State Game Lands 252 stop by and let us know what you think of the project.

If you want more details on the project or links to information about Alvira visit:

**[https://npcweb.org/  
better-access-less-sediment-  
on-state-game-lands-252/](https://npcweb.org/better-access-less-sediment-on-state-game-lands-252/)**



*Before*



*After*

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*In memory of Holmes  
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*In memory of J. Robert Burns*  
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*In memory of Mary Cosgrove*  
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***If you have NPC  
 listed in your will  
 please let us know.  
 We'd like to thank  
 you during your  
 lifetime.***



## A Flat Tire for One Leads to Help for Many

NPC's members have always understood that when we work together to conserve a property we should be ready to help so people can safely use the property.

You made it possible to turn some bad luck into a lucky day for everyone riding their bicycle on the Pine Creek Rail Trail. Reneé's flat tire while bike riding on the Pine Creek Rail Trail has led to a new bike repair station and tire pump on the Trail. Out of air and 8 miles from her car, there was plenty of time to think about partners that could help.

You made it possible for Reneé to work with the Pine Creek Preservation Association and the Tiadaghton State Forest staff to get the unit and get it installed. (Thank you maintenance crew!!!!)

The idea is to help bicyclists who may be having bike problems and are trying to get back to their car. This unit is installed at the comfort station at Bonnell Flats so the Bureau of Forestry staff can keep an eye on things.



Jersey Shore Borough has installed a similar unit in the Borough at the trailhead. There are also three units in the Tioga County stretch of the Trail thanks to the Wellsboro Rotary.

## Sara's Conservation Easement Visits

*A few things Sara's seen over the last several months of conservation easement site visits...*

### **Richards Conservation Easement**

Whether you're paddling Loyalsock Creek or hiking the LT there is no doubt that scenic, undeveloped views add to your enjoyment of recreating in the Loyalsock State Forest. On the left side of the Loyalsock Creek in the image is the edge of the State Forest, with the Loyalsock Trail running near the edge of the Creek, on the right is privately owned property under conservation easement with NPC. Native plant species, like the Canadian goldenrod seen here, help to feed our native pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

*Continued next page*



*Richards Conservation Easement*



# Sara's Conservation Easement Visits *Continued from previous page*

## **Fossil Farm Conservation Easement**

Each conservation easement is unique, and its name must be unique as well. Distinctive features of a property can be used to provide a unique name for an easement. One easement in Tioga County was named based on its geological features. Fossil Farm was named due to its abundance of fossils found in shale formations throughout the property. Though it is not uncommon to find fossils all over Pennsylvania, choosing Fossil Farm as the identifier for this property pays tribute to the geology of its landscape.



*Fossil Farm Conservation Easement*



*Monarch butterfly at a Bradford County Easement*

## **Clinton County Solid Waste Authority**

Oyster mushrooms are one of the most popular and commonly used mushrooms in cooking, and the first to be used for home cultivation. Humans aren't the only species to delight in the deliciousness of these mushrooms, this escargatoire (group of slugs) of dusky slugs was observed feasting on the fungi during a conservation easement site visit to the wetlands at the Clinton County Solid Waste Authority.



*Oyster mushroom and slugs at the Clinton County Solid Waste Authority*

## **Bradford County Conservation Easement**

This monarch butterfly was feeding on bull thistle at a conservation easement in Bradford County. One of the most recognizable butterflies in the world, the Monarch butterfly has recently found its way to the endangered species list (The International Union for Conservation of Nature – Not US Federal Endangered Species Act). The cause of their decline is largely contributed to habitat loss and use of pesticides. Milkweed is considered the sole host plant for monarch caterpillars, they ingest toxins from the plant that make the monarchs toxic to potential predators, and the adults pollinate the milkweed while feeding on the nectar in this symbiotic relationship.



## Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy

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