

# Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape SUCCESS STORY

By:  
Wildlands Conservancy  
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## Stream and Floodplain Restoration in the Jordan Creek Watershed (Awarded 2017)

### SUMMARY

The project site was located in Lowhill Township on State Game Lands 205. Earthen dams obstructed headwater springs and tributaries to the Jordan Creek. The three impoundments created by dams were warm, sediment laden water, dense with algae and impairing water quality and wildlife habitat. Wildlands Conservancy partnered with Pa Game Commission to remove the dams and restore coldwater springs and wetlands, address nonpoint source pollution in the Jordan Creek and enhance wildlife habitat.



### CHALLENGE

This challenge involved addressing degraded stream sections previously characterized by a lack of suitable native species habitat, sediment- and algae-laden stagnant water, and extensive stormwater impacts created by the earthen dams, and restoring them to free-flowing, natural stream and wetland systems. The earthen dams and associated large impoundments/ponds on the tributaries to Jordan Creek are highly degraded environments with no value to native species. These dams are filled with sediment- and algae-laden warm water as well as invasive species and evidence of nonpoint source pollution. This poor quality water and sediment is then contributed to the receiving stream channels.

### FUNDING

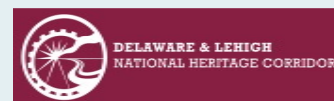
**Grant Award:**  
**\$9,500**

**Match:**  
**\$28,410.53**

**Total Project Cost:**  
**\$37,910.53**

### PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

**Pennsylvania Game Commission** was a key partner in this project. They provided in-kind professional services to develop the design for the dam removals and perform the construction for the dam removals.



## SOLUTION

Wildlands Conservancy and the Pennsylvania Game Commission removed the dams on State Game Lands 205 and planted wetland species within the previous impoundment area. These dam removals and wetland species helped address non-point source pollution contributing to the Jordan Creek and restored coldwater springs and wetlands. Planting native seeds and wetland vegetation enhanced species diversity and wildlife habitat and restored these highly degraded conditions to healthy functioning ecosystems.

## RESULTS

Dams were removed at all three impoundments and riparian buffers and native pollinator-supporting wildflower communities were planted to both stabilize streambanks and create wildlife habitat in the new wetland areas. In total, eighteen trees and more than 500 herbaceous plants and shrubs were planted in the former impoundments. The streams are now free-flowing through all three former ponds and native vegetation is thriving in the newly restored wetlands. This project addressed nonpoint source pollution and enhanced over three acres of sensitive wildlife habitat. This project served to educate local communities about effective implementation of Best Management Practices for healthy stream systems, improved recreational opportunities on public lands and restored cold water springs flowing into the Jordan Creek.

### Contact



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