



Bristol Marsh Nature Preserve, Bristol  
(credit: Heritage Conservancy)



Packer Avenue Marine Terminal, Philadelphia  
(credit: PA DEP)



Presque Isle sunset (credit: PA DEP)

# PENNSYLVANIA COASTAL MANAGEMENT

The mission of the Pennsylvania Coastal Resources Management Program is to protect and enhance fragile natural resources utilizing a comprehensive approach to managing complex resource needs in its two coastal areas. The Lake Erie coastal zone features beautiful Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania's only "seashore" and an international shipping hub with an unique maritime history in the City of Erie, which is enjoying an economic and cultural renaissance. At the opposite end of the state, the Delaware Estuary coastal zone has transformed from its industrial past into a showcase for urban trails and the world's largest freshwater port on the longest undammed river system on the Atlantic Coast.

## State Program in Action

- Since 2012, CRM has dedicated \$1.7M to public access, creating 5.6 miles of new trails, 15 new access sites, and 19 improvements to existing sites. (PA CRM tracking)
- Assistance to the 2018 International Coastal Cleanup, where, in total, over 2,000 volunteers collected 11,510 pounds of trash at 55 locations in the Lake Erie Watershed and over 4,000 volunteers collected 82,380 pounds of trash at 187 locations in the Delaware Estuary. (Data reported to Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful).
- Funding for 13 educational opportunities providing outreach to over 20,000 people in 2017 and 2018. (Final reports submitted to PA Coastal Program).
- \$6.8 million federal dollars passed through to fund over 200 local projects in the last ten years and matched with \$12 million local/state dollars. This significant amount of funding has leveraged a wide variety of work on the ground focusing on coastal hazards, wetlands, public access, ocean resources, and nonpoint source pollution. A 2014 funded marine highway feasibility study with the Port of Philadelphia addressed another focus areas with enhancement of port infrastructure. While on the other side of the state, the program funded research on bat migration corridors between Erie and Canada. (PA Coastal Program tracking)
- CRM is building program capacity to assist and facility climate change resiliency and adaptation in the local coastal zones through a multiprong approach working with local governments, partners, and reevaluating statewide policies.

*The Pennsylvania Coastal Program manages 77 miles of coastline along Lake Erie and 112 miles along the Delaware Estuary.*

## Looking to the Future

In 2017, CRM began a new project using sidescan sonar imaging to map freshwater mussels in the tidal Delaware River. Delineation of these imperiled native species is vital, but typically requires labor intensive and potentially dangerous surveying methods. To test the applicability of the remote sensing technology, CRM utilized a towed sidescan sonar system to acoustically image 46 miles of the riverbed. In GIS, potential mussel bed locations were digitized and ground-truthed in the field at over 150 sites using a digital drop camera. Since the start of this project, staff have coordinated with federal agencies, including EPA, and other multi-state programs. Having a shared knowledgebase has proved very helpful when developing these new methods, in addition to comparing datasets acquired through different field techniques. CRM is confident this work, as it continues into 2019, will result in a quick, relatively inexpensive, and successful method to assist in the protection of native species in our coastal zone.



# HELPING PREPARE FOR COASTAL HAZARDS

The Pennsylvania Coastal Resources Management Program oversees implementation of the Bluff Recession and Setback program along Lake Erie through technical assistance and oversight of municipal enforcement. Bluff management workshops are held annually for landowners, professionals, and contractors that address BMPs, coastal processes, local regulations, and permitting. The Program also actively monitors fixed control points along the shoreline and develops studies to monitor the rate of bluff erosion. Coordination with local municipalities is managed through a partnership with Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development.

*Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development's local partnership with CRM allows municipalities and local agencies to relay valuable information to landowners, realtors, and contractors on the hazards of bluff recession and best practices for managing bluff properties. Long time property owners that work with CRM staff on a regular basis have experienced improvements in their recession rates, thanks to the cooperation between state and local agencies.*

- Amy Murdock, Director

## A State-Federal Partnership

**FY20 Federal Funds: \$1,989,500**  
**FY20 State & Local Matching Funds: \$1,879,500**  
**FY20 Total: \$3,869,000**

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