

## Final Report Project Summary

### Back Creek Stream Restoration Project - 202106233851 *Western Pennsylvania Conservancy*

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#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Back Creek is a tributary to the Conemaugh River, located in northern Westmoreland County. Project partners diligently worked to reduce the sediment loads within the watershed through the installation of instream habitat devices in 2022. Streambank restoration and sediment reduction activities were completed over 300 feet through the installation of instream fish habitat enhancement devices and riparian plantings.

#### PROJECT GOALS

The primary goal of this project was watershed-wide sediment reductions to improve water quality in Back Creek. Over 300 linear feet of highly eroding streambank were identified and prioritized through partner efforts to reduce sediment loads within the watershed. Partners worked to collaborate in the installation of best management practices to permanently stabilize the eroding banks and add valuable fish habitat to this high-quality trout stocked fishery.

#### PROJECT RESULTS

Through the completion of the streambank restoration projects, project partners stabilized over 300 feet within the Back Creek watershed. Additionally, approximately 0.25 acres of riparian trees and live stakes were established through this project, resulting in 46 tons of sediment reductions over 20 years.

#### PICTURES



#### PROJECT COSTS

Growing Greener grant monies received totaled \$30,891. Total project costs exceeded \$40,000 and were comprised of in-kind partner match and the generous support of several area groups, businesses, and foundations.

#### LESSONS LEARNED

Due to past experience coordinating similar projects, the Back Creek Restoration Project was completed as planned. The strong bond with the local community, government organizations, and non-government organizations allowed the restoration projects to be implemented successfully and have lasting impacts within the community and watershed.

#### PARTNERS

Project partners primarily included Mountain Watershed Association, Pa Fish & Boat Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, and Fayette County Conservation District.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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