

ANNUAL REPORT  
2016 - 2017



**LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & PRESIDENT**



Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present the Schuylkill River Greenways NHA 2016-17 Annual Report. The past two years have been a time of great change and incredible progress for our organization. In 2017, we changed our name from Schuylkill River Heritage Area and adopted a new name, logo and mission statement that better reflect our commitment to the river, the trail and the communities along it. We have new leadership, and our board approved a new Strategic Plan, *(Re)Turn to the River*, that sets a course for us over the next 10 years. While our name and logo have changed, rest assured that we are steadfast in our mission, and stronger for the renewal that we have undertaken. Our work to protect the Schuylkill River and connect people to it continues to drive all that we do. We have set our sights on completing the Schuylkill River Trail and engaging new audiences through added programming and educational opportunities. Meanwhile, we are proud of the enduring success of our existing programs: the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund, the incredibly popular Schuylkill River Sojourn, Ride for the River, Pedal and Paddles, and our Scenes of the Schuylkill Art Show, which attracts ever more talented artists each year.

“Our work to protect the Schuylkill River and connect people to it continues to drive all that we do.”

As you flip through the pages of this report, keep in mind that all of our work—from printing and distributing trail maps to teaching environmental lessons for summer camps—is carefully designed to encourage stewardship of our environment. We are grateful for your support because now, more than ever, we rely on member donations and private funding to finance all the projects and programs that truly make this region a better place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

**Elaine Paul Schaefer**  
Executive Director

**Wendi Wheeler**  
President, Board of Directors

**STAFF**

- Elaine Paul Schaefer, Executive Director
- Tim Fenchel, Deputy Director
- Dolores Bauman, Finance Manager
- Laura Catalano, Communications Director
- Sarah Crothers, Education Coordinator
- Robert Folwell, Trail Manager
- Julia Hurle, Trail Program Coordinator
- Cynthia Kott, Administrative Assistant
- Tiara Campbell, Americorps Vista
- Le'Santha Naicker, Americorps Vista
- Samantha Walters, Summer Fellow

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- Christopher Linn
- Donald Moll
- Joshua Nims
- Carl Raring
- William Reichert
- Allen Sachse
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- Frank Sturniolo

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Pennsylvania State Senate, District 29
- William Hanley,  
Office of Congressman Matthew Cartwright

**LIAISONS**

- Deirdre Gibson,  
Chief of Planning Resource Management  
Valley Forge National Historical Park
- Drew Gilchrist, Regional Advisor, PA DCNR

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- Rob Kuhlman, Vice President
- Kelly Anderson, Secretary
- Edie Shean-Hammond, Treasurer
- David Coyne
- Mike Stokes

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The Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area celebrates the Schuylkill River watershed as one of America's most significant cultural, historical and industrial regions. The boundaries of the Heritage Area cover the Schuylkill River watershed in Schuylkill, Berks, Chester, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties. This region is nationally significant for the role it played in the American, Industrial, and Environmental Revolutions.

### What is a Heritage Area?

A National Heritage Area is a place designated by the United States Congress where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape. The Schuylkill River received this designation in 2000. Prior to that, in 1995, it was designated a Pennsylvania Heritage Area.

As a National & State Heritage Area we seek to connect people and communities to the Schuylkill River. In 2017 we adopted a new 10-year strategic plan, *(Re) Turn to the River*, that renews our mission, vision and values, and lays out a road map for our future. The plan sets goals that call for completing the Schuylkill River Trail, connecting communities to the river, restoring and protecting the watershed, engaging new constituents, and improving our organization. In the pages of this Annual Report, you will see that we have worked throughout 2017 on each of those goals.

**2017**  
BY THE NUMBERS



<b>328</b> CHILDREN ENGAGED in the Schuylkill Explorers program.	<b>\$4,027</b> RAISED through the sale of Sly Fox Brewing Company's SRT Ale, benefitting the Schuylkill River Trail.	<b>5,000</b> HOURS dedicated by
<b>221</b> PEOPLE from	<b>96</b> by <b>63</b> WORKS in the 14th Annual Scenes of the Schuylkill Art Show.	<b>527</b> VOLUNTEERS.
<b>12</b> STATES paddled the 19th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn.	<b>300</b> CYCLISTS participated in Ride for the River.	<b>1.4</b> MILES added to the Schuylkill River Trail by a 5-member Heritage Conservation Corps.
<b>\$364,193</b> AWARDED in Schuylkill River Restoration Fund Grants to	<b>2</b> INTERNATIONAL COMMENDATIONS for <i>A Paddler's Guide to the Schuylkill River Water Trail</i> .	<b>516,915</b> \$ DCNR GRANT to build a Schuylkill River Trail pedestrian bridge.
<b>1</b> new organizational IDENTITY.	<b>11</b> PROJECTS that improve river water quality.	



FOCUS ON

# CONSERVATION

Restoring and Protecting the Schuylkill River for future generations.

**A primary mission of the Schuylkill River Greenways NHA is to protect and conserve the Schuylkill River, which is a source of drinking water for 1.5 million people.**

In keeping with that goal, we administer the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund, providing grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations for projects that improve the quality of water in the watershed. The fund is the result of a unique public/private partnership, with funders from a variety of entities, including: Exelon Corp.'s Limerick Generating Station, the Philadelphia Water Department, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, MOMs Organic Market and Aqua PA. A number of partners oversee the fund and its projects.

In 2017, we distributed Schuylkill River Restoration Fund grant awards totaling more than \$364,000 to 11 projects that improve water quality in the river and its tributaries. Since being established in 2006, the fund has distributed over \$3.3 million—and leveraged another \$5 million—for 95 projects that protect and restore the Schuylkill River.



FOCUS ON

# EDUCATION

Fostering a love of nature.

**Children are our future. Through our educational programs, SRG seeks to inspire children and youths to appreciate, embrace and protect the environment.**

In 2017, a total of 328 children participated in the Schuylkill Explorers program. They engaged in trail walks, nature crafts, birding, fishing, journal making and other activities that foster a love of nature. In partnership with the National Park Service, the STRIVE Initiative, Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, Centro Cultural Latinos Unidos and PA DCNR we created a video of the Schuylkill Explorers that encourages children to Stay Active.

In addition to our Schuylkill Explorers program, we hired Summer Fellow Samantha Walters to expand our summer programming. She was one of 23 fellows hired by the 23 centers that make up the Alliance for Watershed Education (AWE) of the Delaware River. Over the summer, Samantha established the Schuylkill Climateers, a group aimed at engaging young people in local environmental initiatives, including litter cleanups and water quality testing.





FOCUS ON

# SRT

Completing & Improving the Schuylkill River Trail.

The Schuylkill River Greenways signature project is working with partners to construct a 135-mile Schuylkill River Trail from Philadelphia to the river's headwaters in Frackville. Completing the trail is a priority goal of our strategic plan.

With more than 60 miles of the Schuylkill River Trail complete, we've set our sights on filling gaps and expanding sections in Berks and Schuylkill Counties, where we manage and maintain over 30 trail miles. In 2017 we made great headway toward that goal.

### A New 1.4-mile Section

Former Trail Sustainability Coordinator Tiara Campbell organized a five-member Heritage Conservation Corps that worked throughout July to clear a new 1.4-mile section of trail along an old railroad bed in Schuylkill County, between Schuylkill Haven and Pottsville. A ribbon cutting for the completed project was held in November and attended by state, county and local officials.

### Funding For A New Bridge

In December, we were awarded a PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources grant totaling \$516,501 to build a Schuylkill River Trail pedestrian bridge over Route 724 in Union Township. To fund the estimated \$1 million project, an additional \$325,636 has been secured from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission along with a private donation of \$150,000. We hope to begin construction in 2019 with completion eyed for the end of 2019.

### Volunteers

We couldn't take care of the trail without volunteers. In 2017 we continued to grow our volunteer programs, with 59 Trail Ambassadors providing a presence on the trail, and 168 people engaged in trail workdays.

### SRT Ale

In September, Sly Fox Brewing Company presented us with \$4,027 to benefit the Schuylkill River Trail. The money was culled from the sale of the seasonal SRT Ale, bringing to over \$12,000 the funds raised over three years from the "Ale for the Trail." Those funds are being used to improve signage and markings at road crossings. SRT Ale is released annually in April with the SRT Spree, a series of events that celebrate the trail. We hosted three trail cleanups during the SRT Spree, engaging 90 volunteers who spent a combined 63 hours cleaning the trail.

### Water Trail Guide Awards

*A Paddler's Guide to the Schuylkill River Water Trail*, earned international recognition, picking up two commendations at the 2017 British Cartographic Society Awards. The awards, presented to guide designer Brian Swisher, honored excellence in printed and thematic mapping.

FOCUS ON

# ENGAGEMENT

Building Constituencies That Value and Protect the River.

Throughout the year, we host events that enable us to connect people to the Schuylkill River & the Schuylkill River Trail. Our events all seek to mix recreation and fun with a message of conservation and stewardship.

### 19th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn

A total of 221 paddlers from 12 states paddled the river during the 19th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn, with 70 making the full trip from Schuylkill Haven to Philadelphia's Boathouse Row. Over the years nearly 4,000 people from 25 states and four countries have paddled the sojourn.

### Ride For The River

Over 300 cyclists rode a 16- or 40-mile route between Pottstown and Reading during our 2nd Annual Ride for the River. The ride, which both benefited and introduced people to the Schuylkill River Trail, began and ended at the Sly Fox Can Jam Festival.

### Pedal & Paddle

We held five Pedal & Paddle events from May through September. Each event offers a mix of education and recreation that aims to foster a sense of stewardship for the river and the trail.

### Scenes Of The Schuylkill

The 14th Annual Scenes of the Schuylkill Art Show featured 96 original works inspired by the Schuylkill River corridor. To complement the exhibit, we commissioned artist Becky Morris, who carved a beautiful Schuylkill River scene that will eventually be placed along the Schuylkill River Trail.

### An Evening For The Schuylkill River

Over 100 of our members, partners and supporters attended An Evening for the Schuylkill River at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Reading. During the event we recognized three of our key supporters: Sly Fox Brewery owner John Giannopoulos, PennDOT Secretary Leslie Richards, and *Schuylkill River Water Trail Guide* designer Brian Swisher.

### Greenways & Trails Summit

Along with Berks Nature, we co-hosted the 2017 PA Greenways and Trails Summit in Reading this September. The three-day event was attended by 250 trail enthusiasts, professionals and advocates—a record number for the bi-annual summit.





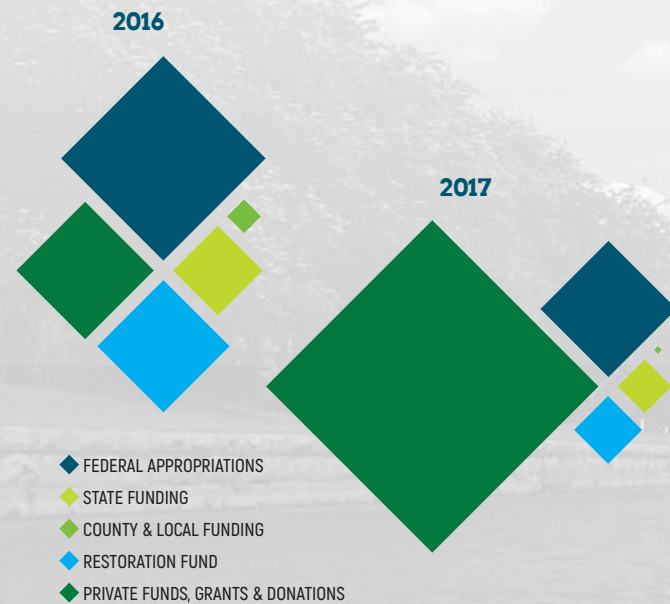
# GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Funding awarded and/or received in 2016 and 2017.

	2016	2017
<b>Federal Appropriations</b>		
National Park Service (funds allocated)	\$491,000	\$551,000
USDA		\$58,000
<b>State Funding</b>		
DCNR - C2P2 Partnership Grant	\$155,000	\$140,000
DCNR - Conservation Landscape	\$60,000	\$60,000
DCEd		\$40,000
<b>County &amp; Local Funding</b>		
Berks County	\$1,000	
Chester County	\$10,000	\$10,000
Schuylkill County	\$20,775	\$20,775
Union Township	\$49,048	
West Brunswick Township		\$1,000
Borough of Birdsboro		\$300
Douglass Township		\$500
Windsor Township		\$100
Schuylkill Haven Borough		\$500

	2016	2017
<b>Restoration Fund</b>		
Exelon Nuclear	\$183,886	\$186,812
Philadelphia Water Department	\$100,000	\$100,000
Aqua PA	\$7,500	\$15,000
MOM's Organic Market	\$1,087	\$1,414
Coca-Cola	\$25,000	

	2016	2017
<b>Private Funds, Grants &amp; Donations</b>		
William Penn Foundation (2 year grant cycle)	\$82,000	\$585,500
Pottstown Health and Wellness Foundation	\$5,667	\$62,500
Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Inc.		\$30,786
Membership and Contributions	\$33,536	\$42,545
Merchandise Sales	\$1,275	\$664
Circuit Rider (PAH&W, PMRPC & Local Twps)	\$50,914	\$108,274
Sojourn and Other Event Income	\$115,570	\$123,901
National Wildlife Federation	\$1,200	
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (awarded)		\$325,636
Margaret Whittaker		\$150,000
Carl and Sylvia Landis		\$10,000
Berks County Community Foundation	\$20,000	
Schuylkill County Community Foundation		\$500
Berks County Conservancy	\$381	
Charles and Virginia Snyder	\$1,000	
J.P. Mascaro & Sons		\$15,000
Independence Seaport Museum		\$2,000
National Audubon Society, Inc		\$11,701
CCLU		\$1,200
Pennsylvania Environmental Council		\$1,584
Cliff Bar Family Foundation		\$3,500
Continental Tide Defense Systems	\$733	\$1,565
First Energy	\$1,000	
Sly Fox Brewery	\$2,838	\$4,027
Delaware Raritan Greenway Land Trust, Inc.	\$1,500	
Exelon	\$2,500	
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary	\$880	\$275
Target Corporation	\$1,000	
Valley Forge Tourism & Convention	\$550	
American Society for Environmental History	\$1,000	
POWR	\$6,300	\$6,300
	<b>\$1,434,140</b>	<b>\$2,672,859</b>



- ◆ FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS
- ◆ STATE FUNDING
- ◆ COUNTY & LOCAL FUNDING
- ◆ RESTORATION FUND
- ◆ PRIVATE FUNDS, GRANTS & DONATIONS

# SCHUYLKILL RIVER RESTORATION FUND

## 2016

In 2016, we distributed Schuylkill River Restoration Fund grants totaling \$278,832 to eight projects to improve water quality in the Schuylkill River, including six projects that focused on stormwater runoff, abandoned mine drainage and agricultural pollution. Also awarded were two land transaction grants that assisted with protection of a priority watershed parcel.

### Implementation Project Grants

Berks County Conservation District, Meyers Horse Farm	\$8,332
Berks Nature, Durkin Farm	\$95,000
Berks Nature, Zettlemoyer Farm	\$50,000
Borough of Pottstown, Stormwater Filter Project	\$40,000
Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Big Creek Limestone Project	\$40,000
North Light Community Schoolyard Stormwater Project	\$37,500

### Land Transaction Grants

Berks Nature, St. Lawrence Property	\$4,000
Natural Lands Trust, Kulp Property	\$4,000

## 2017

In 2017 we distributed grants totaling \$364,193 to 11 projects that will improve water quality in the Schuylkill River, including eight projects that will focus on stormwater runoff, abandoned mine drainage and agricultural pollution. Also awarded were three land transaction grants that will assist with protection of a priority watershed parcel.

### Implementation Project Grants

Berks County Conservation District, Irish Creek Stormwater Project	\$19,800
Berks Nature, Younker & Kunkle Farms	\$96,000
Berks Nature, Youse Farm	\$50,000
Lehigh County Conservation District, Bennecoff Hog Farm	\$23,393
Montgomery County Conservation District, Perkiomen Creek Improvements	\$18,000
Schuylkill Banks, Bioswale Project	\$15,000
Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Dyer & West Creeks Project	\$80,000
West Norriton Township, Jeffersonville Stormwater	\$50,000

### Land Transaction Grants

Berks Nature, Love Property	\$4,000
Natural Lands Trust, Buck Hollow Preserve	\$4,000
West Pikeland Township, Ker Feal Property	\$4,000



# 2018 PRIORITIES

Funding Allocation Priorities for 2018 and Beyond.

With more people than ever connecting with the Schuylkill River, the fabulous trail and beautiful natural settings, **NOW** is the time to ensure that all of the benefits, opportunities and experiences it offers are maintained and enhanced for future generations.

Inspired and guided by the bold vision set out in our new strategic plan, the following funding opportunities outline specific impacts achievable by Schuylkill River Greenways with your support:

### The Schuylkill River Trail

- To build trail and construct bridges: \$5 million over the next 5 years.
- For trail maintenance and emergency repairs: \$100,000 annually.
- To establish a fund for land acquisition as opportunities arise: \$1 million.

### Economic Development Collaborations

- To promote and advance fledgling projects along the Schuylkill River and the Trail, Schuylkill River Greenways seeks to establish a Community Investment Fund as a means to inject seed funding into early-stage projects and foster collaborative public-private efforts that positively impact local communities and advance our mission.

### Protecting the Schuylkill Watershed and Improving Water Quality

- The River Restoration Fund currently funds projects totaling approximately \$300,000 annually; however, due to higher levels of funding requests, the annual goal is \$500,000.
- Schuylkill River Greenways seeks to contribute to this goal by establishing a \$2 million endowment for the River Restoration Fund that will ultimately provide an additional \$120,000 a year for grants to be awarded from the River Restoration Fund and leverage additional support from our partners.

### Community Engagement and Education

- To support our annual operating budget for education, engagement and outreach.
- To enable growth and expansion of our educational programming initiatives.

## 2017 EVENT

# SPONSORS

### Schuylkill River Sojourn Sponsors

Bause Catered Events  
Borough of West Conshohocken  
Canoe Susquehanna  
Colebrookdale Railroad Preservation Trust  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources  
First National Bank  
H&K Group, Inc.  
Lewis Environmental  
Miller Design Works  
National Park Service  
O'Donnell, Weiss & Mattei, P.C.  
PA American Water  
Philadelphia Water Department  
Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation  
POWR  
Reading Blue Mountain & Northern R.R.  
Russell Plywood, Inc.  
Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau  
Schuylkill County's VISION

The Bad Adventure Company  
The Evans Network of Companies  
The Swisher Studio  
Trace Pheasantry, Inc.  
Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.  
Warrick Jewelers  
Weaver, Reckner & Reinhart Dental Associates  
Wrigley's Business Products & Services, LLC

### Ride for the River Sponsors

Barbara Akins Certified Public Accountant  
Bike Sport  
Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources  
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
Giant Markets  
Lewis Environmental  
MGK Industries  
National Park Service  
O'Donnell, Weiss & Mattei, P.C.  
Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation  
Redner's Markets, Inc.  
River Days  
Schultz & Williams  
Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau  
Schuylkill County's VISION  
Simone Collins  
Sly Fox Brewery

Steel City Displays  
Suburban Electrical Contractors  
Traffic Planning & Design, Inc.  
Translogistics, Inc.  
Trek Bicycles of Pottstown  
Virtual Farm Creative, Inc.  
Vist Bank  
Wilson Consulting Group, PC  
Wrigley's Business Products & Services, LLC

### Scenes of the Schuylkill Sponsors

Campbell Thomas & Co.  
Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources  
Manatawny Creek Winery  
Montgomery County Community College  
National Park Service  
North Penn Art

Pinnacle Ridge Winery  
Sager & Sager Associates  
Schultz Technology Solutions LLC

Setter Ridge Vineyard  
Vynecrest Winery

### Evening for the Schuylkill River Sponsors & Donors

The Arts Barn  
Carol Ashby  
The Brick House  
CMC Engineering  
Barbara Cohen  
Dave Coyne  
Mary Ann Dailey  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
Exelon  
Deirdre Gibson  
Nathaniel Guest  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary  
Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County  
Walt Hug  
Jack Koury  
Rodger Krause  
Rob Kuhlman  
Chris Linn  
Manatawny Creek Winery  
J. P. Mascaro & Sons  
McTish Kunkel & Associates

Don Moll  
Montgomery County Community College  
Josh Nims  
O'Donnell, Weiss & Mattei, P.C.  
Carl Raring  
Bill & Lorie Reichert  
Redner's Markets  
Residence Inn Conshohocken  
Richard Sassaman  
Schuylkill County Visitors Bureau  
Schuylkill County's VISION

Edie Shean-Hammond  
Sly Fox Brewery  
Frank Sturniolo  
Translogistics, Inc.  
Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board  
Wendi Wheeler  
Wilson Consulting Group, PC.  
Wrigley's Business Products & Services, LLC

### Above & Beyond Donors (Contributions of \$1,000 or more)

Anonymous  
Bad Adventure Company  
Borough of West Conshohocken  
Canoe Susquehanna  
Dodson Dietrich  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
Mary Ann Gindlesperger

Carl Landis  
Margaret & David Langfitt Foundation  
H.F. Lenfest  
Lewis Environmental  
J.P. Mascaro & Sons  
Richard Melsheimer  
McTish, Kunkel & Associates

Tom Moslak  
North Penn Art  
O'Donnell, Weiss & Mattei, P.C.  
Pennsylvania American Water  
Philadelphia Water Dept.  
POWR  
Reading Blue Mountain & Northern R.R.

Sly Fox Brewery  
Charles & Virginia Snyder  
Gerard Sweeney  
Trace Pheasantry & Family  
Margaret Whittaker  
Wilson Consulting Group  
Wrigley's Business Products & Services, LLC



## SCHUYLKILL RIVER GREENWAYS NHA

# MEMBERS

Make the Connection.

Your support for Schuylkill River Greenways will contribute to the Schuylkill River's health and vitality; improve access and promote use of the river and trail; ensure responsible commercial and residential development; drive economic growth; and increase the benefits and possibilities of living, working and playing along the river.

However or wherever you connect to the Schuylkill River and Schuylkill River Trail, our story begins and ends with you, and your support for our mission.

To new and enduring SRGNHA members, we say "Thank you."

Mr. Jamal Abodalo  
Mr. Larry Adam  
Mr. Michael Agatone  
Ms. Joan Aichele  
Ms. Jan Marie Allen  
Ms. Christine E. Altman  
Ms. Kelly Anderson  
Mr. Berard Avella  
Mr. Gregg Bahney  
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Mr. Raymond Heffner  
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Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Henschel  
Mr. James Hilyard  
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Mr. John Hoffert  
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Mr. Robert G. Hoffman  
Mr. Terry Hoffman  
Mr. Thomas L. Hoffman  
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Mr. Hugh Kelly  
Ms. Martha Kelly  
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Mr. Thomas Kenney  
Ms. Suzanne Kent  
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Mr. John Kudach  
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Mr. Gerry Lenfest  
Ms. Yvonne Lepione-  
Garden Club of Reading  
Mr. Kenneth Levan  
Mr. Richard Lewis  
Mr. Allen Liebb  
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Our mission is to connect residents, visitors  
and communities to the Schuylkill River  
and the Schuylkill River Trail by serving  
as a catalyst for civic engagement and  
economic development in order  
to foster stewardship of the  
watershed and its heritage.



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