

**THE PENNSYLVANIA RIVERS  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

**FRENCH CREEK WATERSHED  
CONSERVATION PLAN**

**Prepared By  
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy  
and  
French Creek Project**

**Funded in part by a  
grant from the  
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Recreation and Conservation**





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**MISSION**

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Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's mission is to enrich the human relationship with the natural world by saving the places we care about.

**HOW WE ACHIEVE OUR MISSION**

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We accomplish our mission by:

- Conserving the region's places of exceptional ecological, recreational and scenic value;
- Preserving Fallingwater as a symbol of human activity in harmony with nature;
- Engaging others in cooperative partnerships to promote the linkages of ecological protection with social and economic values of communities;
- Connecting people of all ages with the natural world through experience, education and responsible stewardship; and
- Working with communities to enhance livability and reduce pressure on undeveloped areas.





**French Creek Project**  
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## **VISION**

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“A healthy French Creek will be the heart of a community and economic renaissance where development and land use activities occur in such a fashion as to protect environmental features and enhance our quality of life.”

## **GOALS**

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- To raise public awareness about the value of the stream through a public education and outreach effort that reaches the general public, riparian property owners, school teachers and students, and local government officials;
- To engage local people who are committed to protecting and enhancing water quality for years to come; and
- To pursue the overriding goal of the Project, which is to preserve habitat, maintain biological diversity, and protect French Creek’s endangered species.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and French Creek Project provided the funding for the development of the French Creek Watershed Conservation Plan. The Sansom-Eligator Foundation, Kellogg Foundation, Western PA Watershed Protection Program, and Heinz Endowments graciously contributed matching funds. The Conservation Plan Steering Committee contributed their time and expertise from various technical backgrounds to the conservation planning process. Allegheny College, Edinboro University, and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy provided facilities and amenities for the steering committee meetings. French Creek Project and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy hosted a series of public meetings to gather input on the planning process and to present the Draft Plan. Several municipalities in the French Creek watershed supported this conservation planning process and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy hopes others will realize the Plan's value as a resource conservation tool and support its implementation. Numerous watershed stakeholders voiced opinions regarding threats to French Creek, which were incorporated into this Plan. Staff from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Resource Conservation and Public Affairs departments and French Creek Project, as well as steering committee members reviewed and edited rough drafts of the Conservation Plan. Tara Herman, GIS Intern for Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, developed the GIS for the French Creek Watershed Conservation Plan. Brian Gallagher, Lynne Rackley, and Betty Bernens, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy staff members, worked with H2 Design Consultants on the development of the French Creek Watershed Conservation Plan web page. In addition, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy would like to thank the watershed residents and staff from the various agencies, businesses, industries, and organizations that provided information for the development of the French Creek Watershed Conservation Plan and feedback on the Draft Plan.

- Allegheny College
- Audubon Society
- Conneaut Lake/French Creek Valley Conservancy
- Crawford County Commissioners
- Crawford County Conservation District
- Crawford County Planning Commission
- Creek Connections
- Edinboro University
- Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement
- Erie County Conservation District
- Erie County Department of Health
- Erie County Planning Department
- French Creek Canoe and Kayak
- French Creek Project
- French Creek Project Advisory Committee
- Lord Corporation
- Mercer County Conservation District
- Mercer County Regional Planning Commission
- Mercyhurst College
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Oil Heritage Region
- PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
- PA Department of Transportation
- PA Fish & Boat Commission
- PA Game Commission
- PA Historical and Museum Commission
- PA Spatial Data Access
- PA State Data Center
- Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
- Pennsylvania Landowners' Association
- Pennsylvania State University
- PPG Industries
- Presque Isle Audubon Society
- The Nature Conservancy
- University of Pittsburgh
- U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U. S. Geological Survey
- Venango County Conservation District
- Venango County Planning Commission

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January 2002