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June Is Rivers Month: Dip Your Toes in the Water

By DNRC

DELAWARE WATER GAP - Healthy streams and rivers are the lifeblood of Pennsylvania. More than 86,000 miles of waterways meander through the commonwealth and touch nearly every Pennsylvania community.

DCNR's Rivers Program collaborates with local organizations to restore these waterways as valued community assets for both residents and visitors to enjoy.

It has only been one generation since waterways across the state were contaminated with industrial waste, chemicals, and other pollutants to the point that rivers were on fire and devoid of aquatic

The Clean Water Act, passed in 1972, put in place regulations to limit pollution and water quality standards to begin the process of restoring waterways nationwide.

DCNR's Rivers Program contributes to restoring waterways with funding and technical assistance to help local watershed organizations and communities achieve their restoration goals.

From nutrient and sediment reduction, to small dam removal, to in-stream and streamside habitat improvements, Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grants provide statewide support for watershed restoration.

DCNR also is an active partner in streamside tree plantings. These riparian forest buffers improve water quality and provide habitat for both land and water species.

During the last five years, DCNR has awarded \$8.6 million to organizations to plant buffers -- increasing Pennsylvania's climate resiliency and helping to clean waterways.

Through federal laws and local action, Pennsylvania communities have come a long way from the days of dead rivers. Today, diverse plant and wildlife communities thrive both in and along commonwealth waterways.

