



## Valley Creek Trustee Council

### Overview

The Valley Creek Trustee Council is pleased to announce a grant program to provide funding for restoration of the Valley Creek Watershed in Chester County, PA.

The goal of this funding is to improve trout habitat and angler access through implementation of projects related to stormwater management, streambank stabilization, implementation of environmentally sensitive land practices (e.g. easements), and projects that directly improve angler access (e.g. trails). Anyone is eligible to apply!

### The Council

The Valley Creek Trustee Council is composed of representatives of the United States Department of Interior and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The U.S. Department of Interior is represented by the Superintendent of Valley Forge National Historical Park and the Commonwealth of PA is represented by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). The Council was established under the "Superfund" Law

when Valley Creek was found to be contaminated in the mid-1980's by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's), a carcinogen. Contamination by PCB's resulted in the cessation of trout stocking, designation of Valley Creek as a "catch-and-release" fishery, and issuance of a health advisory regarding trout consumption ultimately leading to a significant loss of angler use as well as direct damages to natural resources. Monies to compensate for natural resource damages and lost angler use were received through legal settlements with the responsible parties and placed into a Restoration Fund administered by the Valley Creek Trustee Council.

The Trustee Council has developed a restoration strategy and identified potential restoration projects that are provided in the Valley Creek Restoration Plan (August 2004). The desired results of this plan are an enhanced fishery and restored natural resources, which the Trustee Council believes would best serve to reverse the lost use of services that the Valley Creek fishery once provided.

The goals of this plan are: (1) to increase use directly by improving angler access to Valley Creek and (2) to increase use indirectly by enhancing the services the Valley Creek fishery provides to anglers by increasing the population of catchable fish,

thereby increasing the value of the fishery to anglers and drawing more anglers back.

### Restoration Plan

The Valley Creek Restoration Plan presents restoration strategies and potential projects that can be implemented to enhance natural resources and improve angler use within the Valley Creek Watershed. This document serves as a primary source of guidance for the Valley Creek Trustee Council in administering Restoration Fund monies. Copies of this plan are available by writing to either of the Trustee Council representatives at the addresses provided or by visiting the web site at [www.savevalleycreek.gov](http://www.savevalleycreek.gov).

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610-783-1037 Chief, Environmental  
Services

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The Trustee Council has identified five broad categories of projects that are most likely to achieve these goals: stormwater management, stream channel stabilization, establishment of greenways, increased public access, and brook trout restoration

in Crabby Creek. Only projects within these categories will be considered for funding through the Valley Creek Trustee Council. Specific examples within each category are:

#### Stormwater Management

- Detention basin retrofits
- Infiltration on suitable sites
- Low-impact development

#### Stream Channel Stabilization

- Reconnect streams to floodplains
- Stabilize eroding banks
- Streambank plantings

#### Establishment of Greenways

- Facilitate land purchases for preservation
- Easements
- Establish riparian buffers

#### Increased Public Access

- Establish trails
- Friendly postings
- Create access points for anglers

#### Brook Trout Restoration in Crabby Creek

- Create in-stream trout habitat

Projects submitted to the Valley Creek Trustee Council for funding must be consistent with the principles and strategies identified in the restoration plan. Questions related to the Valley Creek Restoration Plan and strategies or projects presented therein should be directed to Chuck

Marshall, Restoration Coordinator at [cgmarshall1@verizon.net](mailto:cgmarshall1@verizon.net).

## Program Funding

Four rail companies owned the Paoli Rail Yard which was the source of the PCBs that contaminated the Valley Creek Watershed. The Valley Creek Trustee Council entered into legal settlements with the four companies to provide restitution for the damage done to the fishery. The settlements included \$1.35 million to create a Restoration Fund for the Valley Creek Watershed. As of February 2016, the Restoration Fund stood at approximately \$1.0 million. The main use of the Fund is to provide funding for restoration projects undertaken in the watershed that are consistent with the goals of the Restoration Plan.

## Past Projects Funded by Valley Creek Trustee Council

**Detention Basin Retrofit.** The Council provided \$3,000 to help the Valley Forge Chapter of Trout Unlimited fund a retrofit of a basin owned by East Whiteland Township at Sidley and Thayer Roads, near the headwaters of Valley Creek. **Green Roof.** The Council provided \$38,740 to help Tredyffrin Township install 9,000 sq. ft. of green roof on Hillside Elementary School.

**Handicapped Fishing Deck.** The Council provided \$8,900 to East Whiteland Township to construct a fishing deck along Valley Creek in East Whiteland's Valley Creek Park.

## Applications for Grants

Potential grantees can apply to the Valley Creek Trustee Council for grants to restore Valley Creek Watershed. The application form can be downloaded, filled out and can be mailed to the addresses on the form or emailed to the Restoration Coordinator. Applications are accepted any time. The application form itself contains information about qualifying projects, eligible applicants, and how the grant applications will be reviewed and evaluated. An interested party can also send a letter of inquiry with a brief project description and cost estimate to the Restoration Coordinator at [cgmarshall1@verizon.net](mailto:cgmarshall1@verizon.net). This will initiate an informal conversation about the project.

## Contact The Council

The restoration Coordinator for the Valley Creek Trustee Council is Chuck Marshall (610) 647-6432. Email address is [cgmarshall1@verizon.net](mailto:cgmarshall1@verizon.net). The Trustees can be contacted at the addresses and phone numbers given above.