

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

IN PENNSYLVANIA & DELAWARE

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Large-Scale Conservation Efforts Require Working Across Borders, Sectors and Political Aisles

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was founded in 1951 when leading scientists, committed citizens and dedicated leaders came together with a shared vision to protect and care for nature. Today we are the world's leading conservation science organization working to create a world where people and nature thrive together.

We work in 76 countries, using a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other NGO partners to tackle climate change, and to conserve lands, waters and oceans at an unprecedented scale.

In Pennsylvania and Delaware, TNC is leading large-scale conservation programs that protect the lands and waters that are critical to the health and well-being of both people and nature. From the mountains of the central Appalachians to the marshes of the Delaware Bay, we follow the science to determine where our projects and programs should be focused to have the greatest impact. In addition to protecting and restoring resilient and biodiverse ecosystems, we are tackling climate change by promoting clean energy and natural climate solutions to reduce carbon emissions and sequester carbon that is already in the atmosphere. And we are building resilience in the communities that we know are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change that people are already experiencing with each heavy storm, rising tide, heat wave and drought.

The challenges facing our natural world have never been greater and the need for bold solutions has never been more urgent. The existential threat of climate change and the rapid loss of nature and biodiversity are the most critical environmental issues of our lifetime. TNC delivers local, science-based solutions to solve these challenges in order to drive a real, collective, global impact.

1975

Pennsylvania Chapter established

1990

Delaware Chapter established

2020

PA & DE Chapters merge

41

Total Staff

34,000

PA & DE members

100,000+

Acres Protected in PA

31,000

Acres Protected in Delaware

26

Preserves in PA
(12 open to public access)

6

Preserves in DE
(2 open to public access)

The Nature
Conservancy 
Pennsylvania & Delaware

Our Priorities

Appalachian Forests: Strategic land protection along the Kittatinny Ridge and Allegheny Front is helping to create a corridor of connected, healthy forests that will support biodiversity and provide a critical pathway for species moving northward or to higher elevations in the face of climate change.

Climate & Energy: We're working with government and influencing policy to reduce carbon emissions and boost clean energy deployment in Pennsylvania and Delaware to contribute to the overall goal for the U.S. to reach net-zero emission by 2050.

Bayshore & Seascape: By protecting and restoring land along the coast of the Delaware Bay, TNC is helping to buffer at-risk communities against storm surge and rising seas while providing critical habitat for migratory birds, horseshoe crabs, and many other species.

Urban Conservation in Philadelphia and Wilmington: We're advocating for the increased use of nature-based solutions in the Philadelphia/Wilmington metro area, particularly in the realm of reducing stormwater runoff. Green stormwater infrastructure will contribute to water quality improvements in the Delaware River and its tributaries—a win-win for people and nature.

Migratory Fish & Headwaters: We're dedicating more resources to help improve fishery management and increase quality spawning and rearing habitat needed to increase the dwindling populations of migratory fish.

Delaware River Headwaters: Land conservation in the Delaware Headwaters of eastern Pennsylvania continues to be a priority. By protecting forested headwaters and wetlands at the source, we can ensure cleaner waters downstream that humans, fish and other wildlife need to thrive.

Chesapeake Bay: The largest opportunity for improving water quality in our nation's largest estuary, the Chesapeake Bay, is through improved farming practices in Pennsylvania's agricultural sector. Combined with efforts to restore wetlands and floodplains, Pennsylvania can make significant contributions to a cleaner Bay while also benefitting from a healthier Susquehanna River and its tributaries.

Land Stewardship & Management: We continue to effectively manage and leverage our network of preserves and easements for maximum impact to our mission. Our land holdings provide critical habitat for wildlife and afford recreational opportunities that inspire people to advance our strategic priorities.



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A Message from the Executive Director

The 2020 merger of our chapters created a unique opportunity to evaluate the full scope of conservation priorities across Pennsylvania and Delaware. Now that our work spans across borders—from the beaches of the Delaware Bay to the forests of the Appalachian Mountains—we recognize that an expanded footprint could leverage new resources and partnerships to advance our conservation priorities.

The Nature Conservancy in Pennsylvania & Delaware's FY22-FY24 strategic plan highlights our commitment to conservation with a focus on relevant issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as our financial sustainability, government relations and image as a science-based conservation leader across our two states. This is our plan and our vision for a strong future. Your generous support will help us tackle the many urgent threats facing our natural world today.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Lori Brennan". The signature is elegant and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lori Brennan
Executive Director
for The Nature Conservancy
in Pennsylvania & Delaware

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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