

TURTLE CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



Working within the community to restore and protect one of our most valuable assets – clean water.

Winter 2026

First Contract Awarded for Brush Creek AMD



Since the former Biddle Coal Mine in Irwin closed in 1955, it has been discharging contaminated water into Tinkers Run (left) and Brush Creek, polluting over nine miles of stream from Irwin to Trafford. The mine discharge adds over 6,000 pounds of iron solids to the stream every day, making it one of the three largest untreated discharges in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The current focus of TCWA's watershed remediation work is to convert the 49-acre Biddle parcel (site of the former mine workings) into an active treatment plant for this discharge, so that the iron-rich mine water can be pumped, treated, and discharged safely back into Brush Creek.

Before we can begin site preparation or any construction work at Biddle, however, a thorough assessment study must be carried out to make sure the project is feasible. In 2025, TCWA board member Kylie Schultz of the Westmoreland Conservation District obtained \$421,252 in funding for this purpose from the PA Department of Environmental Protection's Abandoned Mine Lands grant program. A request for proposals was circulated among the environmental consultants who work in our region, and three of the resulting bids were selected for final consideration.

In December, the WCD Board of Directors, who oversee the grant funding, accepted the proposal submitted by the joint team of Triad Engineering Inc. and Hedin Environmental.

With many regional offices across the tri-state area, Triad Engineering offers a broad portfolio of consulting expertise, while Hedin Environmental specializes in innovative AMD treatment projects both locally and internationally. Both firms are well-versed in current AMD research and both are familiar with the geological setting of the Turtle Creek Watershed. We are excited to see the results of this initial site and feasibility study, which will set the stage for our future remediation efforts in the Brush Creek Watershed.



CONTACT US

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JOIN US

Monthly Meetings
Final Tuesday of the month, Jan to Oct, 5:30 p.m. at Monroeville Municipal Building (address above).

UPCOMING TCWA EVENTS

Check our website and Facebook page for upcoming events in 2026

More Good News for TCWA in 2025!

In October 2025, TCWA was honored to be chosen as one of only 100 local nonprofit organizations featured in the [Pittsburgh Wish Book](#), a publication of the Pittsburgh Foundation and Community Foundation of Westmoreland County. This year's Wish Book featured 100 nonprofits in areas critical to our region's success: arts and culture, basic needs, economic mobility, environmental action, equity and social justice, and more. TCWA has already received \$500 from one generous donor via the Wish Book and also a matching grant of \$5000 from the Pittsburgh Foundation.

Turtle Creek Watershed Association



Some Good News For Our Friends Upstream as Well

TCWA congratulates the [Murrysville Area Watershed Association](#) on being awarded a \$2,106,658 grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection for development and design engineering of an active AMD treatment plant in White Valley, along the upper reaches of Turtle Creek's main stem. This type of plant is similar to what TCWA hopes to build on Brush Creek. We will be watching eagerly as the MAWA project takes shape in White Valley to see what treatment system works best for them. Between the two planned treatment sites, almost all of the major sources of abandoned mine drainage in the Turtle Creek Watershed should be mitigated in the years to come.

In December, TCWA was 'surprised' to be chosen as one of just ten recipients across the country of an unsolicited [\\$10,000 Giving While Living \(GWL\) "Surprise" Grant from the Woodard & Curran Foundation \(WCF\)](#). WCF's mission is to support organizations working to protect water and environment. TCWA was nominated for this award by Woodard & Curran, Inc. employee Matthew Valentine, a geoscientist in our area.

In the same month, TCWA was one of 16 organizations to receive a [\\$1500 donation from FOF Golf Association](#), an industry networking group. Associate Board Member Craig Barras was kind enough to nominate us for this grant.

And in other news, TCWA's Biddle Property was accepted into the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Cooperative Hunting Area program, which allows public access for hunting and trapping as regulated by the state, with supervision provided by our local game warden.

Save the Dates for Our Spring Events

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|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 11 | Route 993 Road Cleanup in Trafford with Westmoreland Conservation District staff |
| April 19 | Earth Day Watershed Walk with the Westmoreland Land Trust at the Otto and Magdalene Ackermann Nature Reserve in North Huntingdon Township |
| June 20 | Rubber Ducky Race and Community Nature Festival with Irwin Borough at Irwin Park |

Note – dates are tentative and may change

TCWA 2026 Spring Membership Drive

Spring is when we invite our watershed association members to continue their support of our work by renewing their membership in TCWA. There are several membership options you can choose from, including Individual (\$20), Family (\$30), Lifetime (\$200), Business (\$50) and Business Gold (\$100). All Business Gold members will have their logo displayed on our website throughout the year as well as in each of our TCWA newsletters (see below).

We especially invite municipalities, businesses, and community organizations within the watershed to support us as we embark on the multi-million-dollar project to restore Brush Creek. Many grant funders take community engagement into account as a major factor when determining whether to fund projects. When they see many local residents and businesses supporting our work, they are inclined to look more favorably on our requests for funding.

Please contact us at turtlecreekwa@gmail.com if you would like to have a presentation about our remediation projects given to your company or charitable organization.

Thanks to Our Sponsors

Business Gold Sponsors



Business Sponsors

North Huntingdon Township

Penn Township

Pitcairn Borough

Cleaveland/Price Inc.

William Snyder & Forgie Snyder Funeral Homes

If you would like to become a TCWA Business or Business Gold Sponsor in 2026, details are on the following page!

TCWA BOARD

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Jim Brucker – President

Chuck Duritsa – Vice President

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Smokey Burdin

Jason Fronczek

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Turtle Creek Watershed Association

Working within the communities from Allegheny to Westmoreland County to restore and protect one of our most valuable assets – clean water.

Membership Application

Name _____ Date _____

Organization/Business (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

TCWA Volunteer Interests

Clean Ups _____ Event Help _____ Newsletter _____ Membership _____ Other _____

Membership Levels

\$20 Individual _____ \$30 Family _____ \$200 Individual Lifetime _____

\$50 Business _____ \$100 Business Gold* _____

*Business Gold member logo, if provided, will be displayed on TCWA website for paid membership year.

Membership Amount: \$ _____

Additional donation: \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

Turtle Creek Watershed Association
2700 Monroeville Blvd
Monroeville, PA 15146

TCWA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. All donations are tax deductible.