

TURTLE CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



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

Spring 2026

Spring Trout Stocking Begins in Turtle Creek



In continuing good news for our watershed, the main stem of Turtle Creek was once again found to have high enough water quality to allow trout stocking to occur, despite the mine drainage issues that are present in other parts of the watershed. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission completed the first stocking event on March 24 at four locations downstream of Saunders Station Bridge, with volunteer assistance from TCWA members and the Municipality of Monroeville. Hatchery-raised rainbow trout, brown trout, and golden rainbow trout were stocked from



buckets at two sites and loaded into a floating cannister for dispersal downstream at two other locations. A second stocking event is planned for April 13 at 12:15. Volunteers are welcome to help!

CONTACT US

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MEET US

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

JOIN US

Click [Here](#) for a Membership Form!

Federal Support for Brush Creek Clean-up

On March 9, 2026, Congresswoman Summer L. Lee of Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District announced that her office had secured \$14,142,000 in federal funding for fifteen community projects through the Fiscal Year 2026 Community Project Funding (CPF) process. The investments will support a range of infrastructure improvements, from affordable housing and community revitalization projects to public safety programs and environmental remediation efforts.

One of the environmental projects on the list was the 'Biddle Property Access and Irwin Discharge Elimination Project' in Westmoreland County. This is TCWA's proposed project to clean up the impaired stretch of Brush Creek between Irwin to Trafford by constructing an active treatment plant on the site of the former Biddle Coal mine. As noted by Congresswoman Lee, the Irwin Discharge represents one of Pennsylvania's largest sources of abandoned mine drainage pollution. Remediation will make a significant improvement in both the health of the natural environment and in the recreational opportunities such as fishing it will provide for the communities of Irwin, Ardara, Larimer, and Trafford.

Read more here: <https://summerlee.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/rep-summer-lee-secures-over-141-million-for-community-projects-across-western-pennsylvania>

Field Environmental Instruments Donates Precision Water Meter for Brush Creek Work

The Turtle Creek Watershed Association was recently privileged to receive a hand-held precision water meter as an in-kind donation from Field Environmental Instruments Inc. (FEI). Founded and headquartered in Wilkinsburg, FEI is an employee-owned provider of environmental instrumentation, monitoring equipment, and safety supplies. FEI gave us a refurbished Hanna 98194 hand-held water meter that will allow us to measure pH, oxidation-reduction potential, conductivity, total dissolved solids, resistivity, salinity, dissolved oxygen and temperature. The water meter is equipped with a backpack, calibration standards, cables and sensor units.

This new meter will enable TCWA volunteers to monitor the conditions throughout our watershed and will also allow us to show cutting-edge field research technology to the public. Many thanks to Tony Visco and Field Environmental Instruments for this generous donation and also to TCWA Associate Board Member Matt Valentine for suggesting and facilitating it.



**FIELD ENVIRONMENTAL
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Experience beyond rentals.

TCWA Welcomes Two New Gold Sponsors



CLEAVELAND / PRICE INC.

Switch products, Automation, Line Sensors, and more
Visit us at: www.cleavelandprice.com

Many thanks to Cleaveland / Price Incorporated for upgrading their sponsorship of the Turtle Creek Watershed Association to Gold Status for 2026. Cleaveland / Price Incorporated was founded in 1975 by Chuck Cleaveland to supply renewal parts for discontinued Westinghouse switches. It soon became known for the high quality of its products and began expanding into sensors, automation, and other switch products. The company has expanded its footprint along the banks of Brush Creek several times over the years and is now one of the largest employers and strongest supporters of the local community.

Pitcairn Borough has also joined our roster of Gold Sponsors for 2026.

Incorporated in 1894 as a company town for the Pennsylvania Railroad, Pitcairn grew up along the northern bank of Turtle Creek. It became part of the Turtle Creek Valley “Model Cities” Program in 1970. Today, Pitcairn is actively pursuing greenspace and park development and walking trail connections for its residents.



TCWA BOARD

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Thanks to Our Renewing Gold Sponsors



And Our Renewing Business Sponsors


Trafford Economic and Community Development Corporation
Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority & Norwin Rotary

**It's not too late to renew, upgrade or start a new
TCWA sponsorship for 2026!**

Click [here](#) for a membership form.

Join TCWA for a Celebration of Earth Day



DISCOVER A HIDDEN GEM ...



The Otto & Magdalene Ackermann Nature Preserve in North Huntingdon

Join TCWA and the Westmoreland Land Trust on Sunday April 19 from 1 to 3 PM to learn more about this amazing nature preserve. (13260 Ardara Road, just off Route 993)

For more information:
turtlecreekwa@gmail.com or
info@westmorelandlandtrust.org



Did you know that we have a 58-acre nature preserve complete with walking trails, waterfalls, a historic rock quarry, and a certified old-growth forest inside our watershed? Conserved by the [Westmoreland Land Trust](#) in 2009, the 58-acre Otto & Magdalene Ackermann preserve in Ardara is home to Blue Dell Run, a high-quality tributary stream to Brush Creek. Salamanders, frogs, and small fish are easily visible in its clear waters, and the slopes near the waterfall are filled with blooming trillium in the early spring. Orioles, tanagers, towhees, and wood thrush are among the many migrating songbirds who nest here.

We invite you to join staff from the Westmoreland Land Trust and members of the Turtle Creek Watershed Association for a casual Sunday afternoon walk to explore this hidden gem in North Huntingdon Township. The preserve can be reached from Route 30 or Route 993 by taking Leger Road to Ardara Road. Park on the grassy area between the entrance sign and information kiosk.

Save the Date for our Rubber Duck Race!

Our annual fund-raiser will again be held in Irwin Park on **Saturday, June 20th from 11 AM – 2 PM**. Timed to overlap with Irwin's popular [Farmer's Market](#) this year, we plan to have food trucks, vendors, auction baskets, games, and music on hand. This is a family-friendly event and all proceeds go to support the conservation work of the TCWA and Irwin Borough.



Rubber duck contestants can be purchased on site or in advance through the Irwin Borough Office or the Westmoreland Conservation District. Prizes will be awarded for the fastest duck to finish the race, and also the slowest!



The Annual
RUBBER DUCK RACE
& Nature Festival
SATURDAY, JUNE 20th, 2026
IRWIN PARK
11AM-2PM

\$5 per duck

- FOOD TRUCKS
- BOOTHS
- VENDORS
- GAMES
- RAFFLES
- LIVE MUSIC

Ducks can be purchased in-person from the Irwin Borough Office and Westmoreland Conservation District or by calling (724) 837-6271

IRWIN
All proceeds benefit Turtle Creek Watershed Association and Irwin Borough



We hope you will come out to participate, volunteer, or just enjoy spending the day with us.