

SPECIAL INTEREST LEGACY FUNDS



Consider a Legacy of THE GREAT OUTDOORS

COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY OF LAPLUME, PA

Countryside Conservancy was established in 1994 to protect and connect greenspace in and near the Tunkhannock Creek Watershed. They accomplish this by either owning and managing land and water acreage directly, or by using conservation easements. Easements are legal agreements between the Conservancy and private landowner that restrict the type and amount of development allowed based upon the wishes of the landowner.

The Foundation is pleased to be a financial partner with Countryside Conservancy by administering two endowment funds: The Countryside Conservancy Endowment Fund to support general operations, and the Countryside Conservancy Sycamore Society Fund to accommodate bequests.

To date, Countryside has protected more than 2,600 acres of land and water in Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties from development. Much of

this acreage is open to the public for hiking, biking, hunting and fishing, and more. Their newest project is the Peck Preserve, a 419-acre property located in Lenox Township, Susquehanna County. Since acquiring the land in 2024, Countryside has built five miles of trails, and a canoe/kayak launch to access the 40-acre lake within the preserve. They have also converted 5.1 miles of former Northern Electric Trolley right-of-way in Lackawanna and Wyoming Counties into a non-motorized recreation trail. Countryside activities include establishing and promoting trails to connect people and nature, and monthly Walks with a Doc and Bike and Brunch events to educate, encourage exercise, and empower participants of all ages.

Learn more at countrysideconservancy.org

E.L. ROSE CONSERVANCY

This Conservancy was founded in 1984 with the purchase of Highpoint Preserve, 300 acres of land at Silver Lake belonging to Edward L. Rose. It was the last remnant of a 100,000 acre purchase made in 1804 by Edward's ancestor, Dr. Robert Rose. Conservancy founders Patty Bloomer, Harold Donovan, and John Wilkerson worked as a team to raise the money needed. They soon expanded their mission of "saving special places" to include the southern tier of New York State.

Today the E.L. Rose Conservancy owns four

properties totaling 1,200 acres: Highpoint Preserve, Longford Lake in Silver Lake Township, Greenwood Sanctuary and the 630-acre Woodbourne Forest Preserve both in Dimock. They also hold conservation easements on another nine properties in PA and six in New York, totaling another 1,000 plus acres of protected land. The Foundation administers and invests two endowments for the E.L. Rose Conservancy: A Stewardship Fund, and a South Lake Road Repair and Maintenance Fund.

Learn more at elrose.org.



NORTH BRANCH LAND TRUST

In 1994, a small group of local citizens founded North Branch Land Trust (NBLT) in Trucksville, PA. Their purpose was to work with landowners and their communities and stakeholders to conserve and care for scenic, natural, and working lands and waters. They operate in eight northeastern PA counties, focusing upon lands and watersheds that frame the North Branch of the Susquehanna River.

For 32 years they have been active champions for the survival of the region's rural character, forests, sustainable agriculture, streams, passive recreation activities, and scenic views. Currently, NBLT has permanently protected a total of over 22,997 acres of land, water, and habitat. Their long-term vision includes offering environmental programs to families, with 384 offered this year. This outreach includes a "Litter Free Begins with You and Me" campaign that serves to teach children about the negative effects of litter upon wildlife. They also arrange open houses to engage landowners in conversations about conserving their family lands.

NBLT's work includes reinvigorating nature trails at their preserves to provide quiet places close to home where visitors can be engulfed in nature. They have completed a groundbreaking collaboration with PA



American Water to create their first ever reservoir conservation easement. It conserves 220 acres of forested land and habitat surrounding the Huntsville Reservoir, which supplies over 30,000 Luzerne County residents with drinking water.

This past year's inspiring projects include assisting a family in Columbia County to conserve their 52-acre farm; working with several private landowners along the North Branch to conserve almost 2,000 acres of land; collaborating with the PA DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) Bureau of Forestry and Earth Conservancy to purchase 328 acres which will become part of the Pinchot State Forests.

NBLT has partnered with the Community Foundation to establish the NBLT Stewardship Endowment Fund. Income from this endowment is used to monitor conserved lands and ensure they are sustainably managed. NBLT and the Community Foundation share the goal of responsible community development that upholds our quality of life.

Learn more at nblt.org

