

Big Sewickley Creek Watershed Association

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The Big Sewickley Creek Watershed Association Receives a Grant to Make a Local Difference

Sewickley, PA – The Big Sewickley Creek Watershed Association (BSCWA) was selected to receive a \$1,963 grant by BHE GT&S in partnership with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. These funds will allow the BSCWA to become a more recognized asset in the communities within the watershed and obtain marketing and stream cleanup materials.

Each year, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) accepts proposals for its Watershed Mini Grant Program, which provides assistance to the region's grassroots watershed groups and organizations. "Throughout the country, watershed groups are playing an increasingly prominent role in environmental management" states the grant application. "With their local focus and community base, watershed groups are building consensus and expanding participation within communities across Pennsylvania."

Financial support for this project is provided by BHE GT&S which is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of communities served by BHE GT&S companies.

This grant program was administered by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in commitment to its core mission of conserving Pennsylvania's diverse ecosystems through science-based strategy, leadership and collaboration.

Katie Stanley, President of the BSCWA, expressed her gratitude to BHE GT&S and WPC and explained "We are a small grass-roots organization with only free-based marketing and events, including a Facebook page, stream cleanups and community tabling. Without this generous grant, we would not be able to launch our website and obtain supplies to continue to conduct events like litter cleanups. Litter is such a common issue in our watershed, and this grant makes it possible for us to strengthen our outreach to the community and make a real impact on the health of our waterways."

The Big Sewickley Creek Watershed encompasses approximately 30-square miles across parts of 12 municipalities in three counties. These municipalities include Ambridge, Bell Acres, Bradford Woods, Cranberry, Economy, Franklin Park, Harmony,

Leet, Leetsdale, Marshall, New Sewickley and Sewickley Hills. The watershed is rich with environmental assets including gamelands, fishing holes, habitat for rare plant and animal species, and even a Great Blue Heron rookery.

Established in August 2020, the Big Sewickley Creek Watershed Association strives to bring together the community to promote actions that benefit our waterways, and our world, as a whole and to conserve the Big Sewickley Creek for the enjoyment of current and future generations. BSCWA accomplishes their goals through partnerships with local businesses and environmental organizations like the Allegheny Land Trust, the general public, and generous grants such as the BHE GT&S and WPA Conservancy Watershed Mini Grant. The BSCWA actively conducts litter cleanups, stream assessments, and community events. If you'd like to learn more about the BSCWA and take part in their upcoming activities using materials obtained through the grant, visit their Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/BSCwatershed](https://www.facebook.com/BSCwatershed) and their website at www.BSCwatershed.org