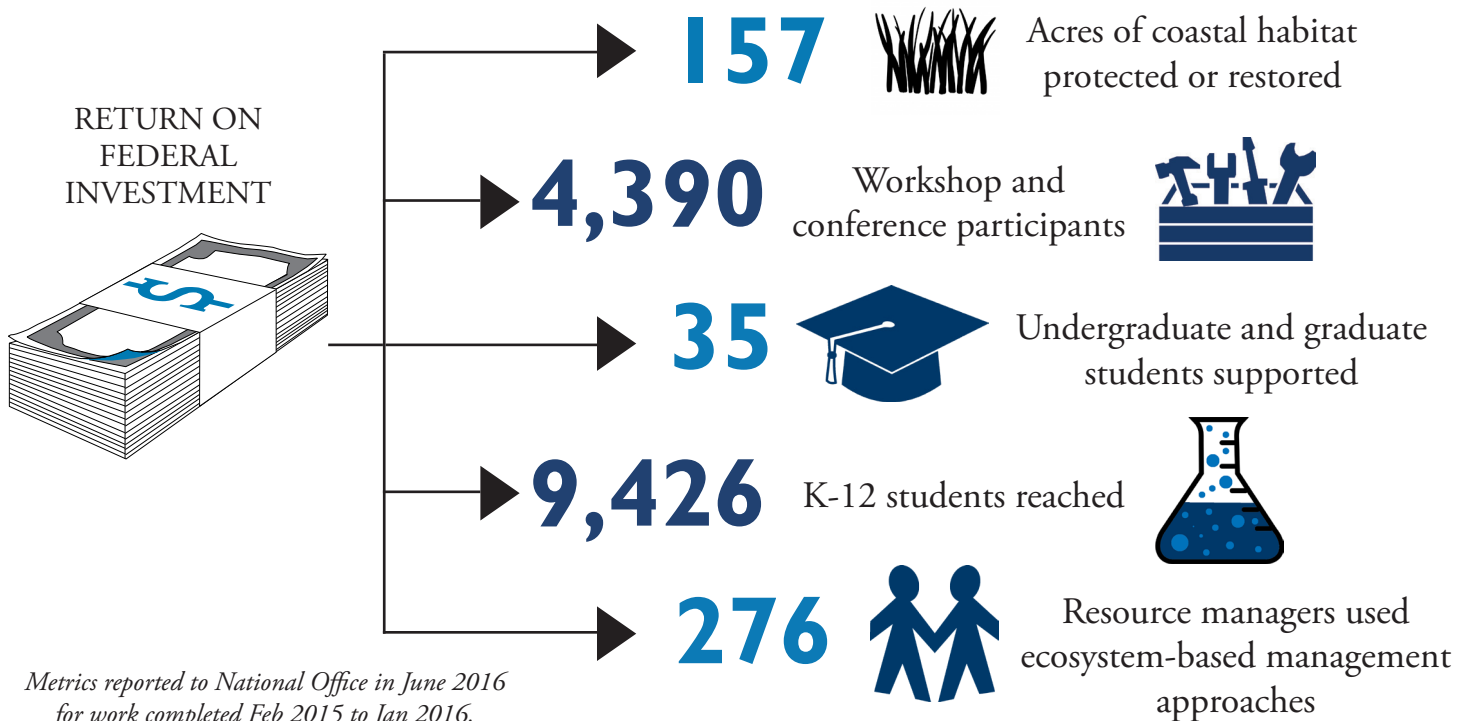


PENNSYLVANIA SEA GRANT



Sea Grant technical assistance lowers city's risk of flood damage

“Pennsylvania Sea Grant has been instrumental in helping Chester City develop plans to address chronic flooding and excess stormwater runoff. This work has been invaluable in making Chester a better place to live.”
- Peter Rykard
Director of Planning,
Zoning Director, City of Chester

Chester, Pennsylvania is a tidal community along the Delaware River that is highly vulnerable to coastal flooding, but lacks the resources to address their flood risks. Pennsylvania Sea Grant, the Georgetown Climate Center, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency worked together with the city to [identify zoning updates that could enhance community resiliency](#). In August 2015, the City of Chester adopted a zoning ordinance revision to help lower the city's risk of flood damage. This revision is the first comprehensive update to the zoning ordinance since 1948 and allows Chester to qualify for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community Rating System program, which can help reduce flood insurance rates.



Wayne Middle School students help clean up Lake Erie. Credit: Anna McCartney

“The students are excited about making a positive impact on their future. They now understand how our careless ways of living have affected the environment.”

**- Janet Quinn,
5th grade teacher Jefferson Elementary, Erie**

Sea Grant volunteers keep 6,853 pounds of trash out of Lake Erie

Pennsylvania Sea Grant worked with the Pennsylvania Lake Erie International Coastal Cleanup Committee to facilitate [trash clean-up efforts](#) along Lake Erie and its tributaries. A total of 1,700 volunteers catalogued and removed 6,853 pounds of trash along the Lake Erie shoreline. Clean-up efforts as part of the International Coastal Cleanup event were valued at \$21.25/hr, for a total worth of \$65,662.50 in volunteer time.

This volunteer event was part of a larger Pennsylvania Sea Grant education initiative to teach students about the importance of preventing trash from entering local waterways. Pennsylvania Sea Grant works with students and educators to facilitate stewardship activities, instilling a sense of responsibility to maintain a healthy coastal ecosystem and protect public health.

Sea Grant research guides state and federal management strategies for smallmouth bass in Susquehanna River

Research funded by Pennsylvania Sea Grant provided state and federal agencies with vital data about [smallmouth bass](#). This research led to new sampling strategies and management options for smallmouth bass to help reduce disease and mortality rates within the Susquehanna River Basin.

Using radio telemetry, Pennsylvania Sea Grant funded researchers from Penn State University studied smallmouth bass movement within the river and tributaries, and the duration of time spent in specific habitats. Reviewed together, this new location and duration data helps agencies better understand factors that may be contributing to the overall health of the species and declines in the population.



Contact information

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