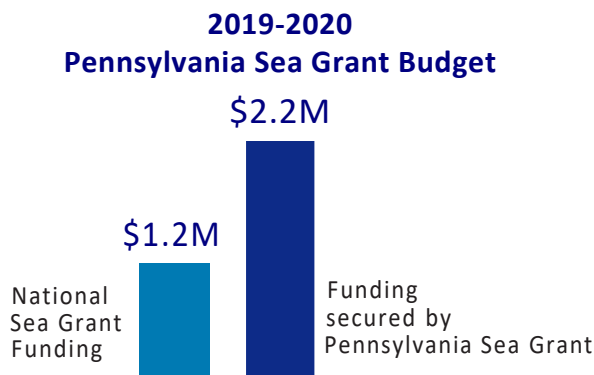


Supporting Pennsylvania's Ecosystems & Economies

For more than 20 years, Pennsylvania Sea Grant has supported ocean and Great Lakes watersheds and communities through research, extension and education programming.

Pennsylvania Sea Grant is one of 34 programs of the National Sea Grant College Program, whose mission is to enhance the practical use and conservation of natural resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment.

The program is funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Penn State University, and through federal, state, and local funding.



Penn State University laboratory technician, William Clee filters wastewater effluent sample.

Research

Pennsylvania Sea Grant funds research that will enhance the ecological and economic sustainability of Pennsylvania's coastal and watershed resources.

In 2020, Pennsylvania Sea Grant expanded research objectives to address emerging issues around COVID-19.

With this funding, Penn State researchers identified communities experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases by analyzing wastewater treatment samples from sites in central and south central Pennsylvania.

The information was used to inform leaders and decision-makers about potential outbreaks in their communities.

By the Numbers

The program brings together scientists, educators, policy makers, residents, and others to work toward a healthy environment and economy.



70.5

Acres of invasive species removed to protect native plant species



25

Undergrad & Graduate students supported



199.5

Acres of open space conserved



\$1.2 Million

Research funding supported 5 Academic Institutions and 7 Research Studies



17,180

Linear feet of stream conserved

Time frame of all updates 2019-2020

Pennsylvania Sea Grant Successes

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are non-native plants, animals, or pathogens that cause harm to the environment, the economy, and human or animal health.

Preventing their spread is important because once introduced, these species disrupt ecosystems, reduce biodiversity, and cost communities huge amounts of time, money, resources, and lost revenue. Pennsylvania Sea Grant has worked to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species in Pennsylvania for many years.

AIS By the Numbers



77

Natural Resource
Managers trained



\$6.3 Million

Federal funding received to
prevent AIS introduction
and spread in Pennsylvania
since 2007



125

Downloads of
"PA AIS"
smartphone app



17

Boat launch locations in
Pennsylvania participated in the
2019 regional Great Lakes "AIS Blitz"
event to inform boaters & anglers of
"clean, drain, dry" tips to prevent
AIS spread

EDUCATION AT WORK

Pennsylvania Sea Grant conducted a workshop for educators focused on the impacts of disposable plastics and ways schools can reduce waste. Building on the workshop materials, an Erie-based educator engaged her students in an effort to reduce school waste.

The educator received \$18,000 in grant funding to purchase reusable trays, utensils, and drinking water bottle refilling stations for the school.

The school replaced disposable Styrofoam and plastic utensils with reusable trays and utensils. The trash collected from just one daily lunch period previously filled five trash bins, equaling 25 trash bins per week. Since switching to reusable items, the same lunch period produces just 1.5 trash bins, or 7.5 bins per week – nearly two-thirds less trash and waste.

PROTECTING NATIVE SPECIES

Pennsylvania Sea Grant works with regional land managers from non-governmental organizations and state and county agencies to control invasive plants on natural lands where they impact threatened and endangered species. In 2020, Pennsylvania Sea Grant, partners, and private and public landowners controlled 70.5 acres of invasive plant species that otherwise would have gone untreated.

Plant inventories were also conducted, which will help identify and prioritize future treatment areas. By prioritizing efforts, increasing the capacity of individual agencies and organizations, and leveraging funding for various control efforts, the quality and diversity of the Lake Erie Watershed's natural communities are maintained. Since the effort and partnerships began in 2012, invasive species have been controlled on 915 acres.

OPEN SPACE AND PUBLIC ACCESS

Urbanization often results in areas devoid of green space for passive recreational activities, wildlife habitat and stormwater management. The simple enjoyment of having nearby open, publicly available lands and waterways is priceless.

Pennsylvania Sea Grant works with private property owners, local and trusts, and state agencies to conserve public open space for passive recreational uses and to provide public fishing access.

In 2019, five properties in the Lake Erie watershed were conserved in perpetuity. Together, these properties account for 199.5 acres of open space and 17,180 linear feet of stream.

To learn more about Pennsylvania Sea Grant
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