

Locally Led in Developing Areas

Volunteers-Committees-Partnerships

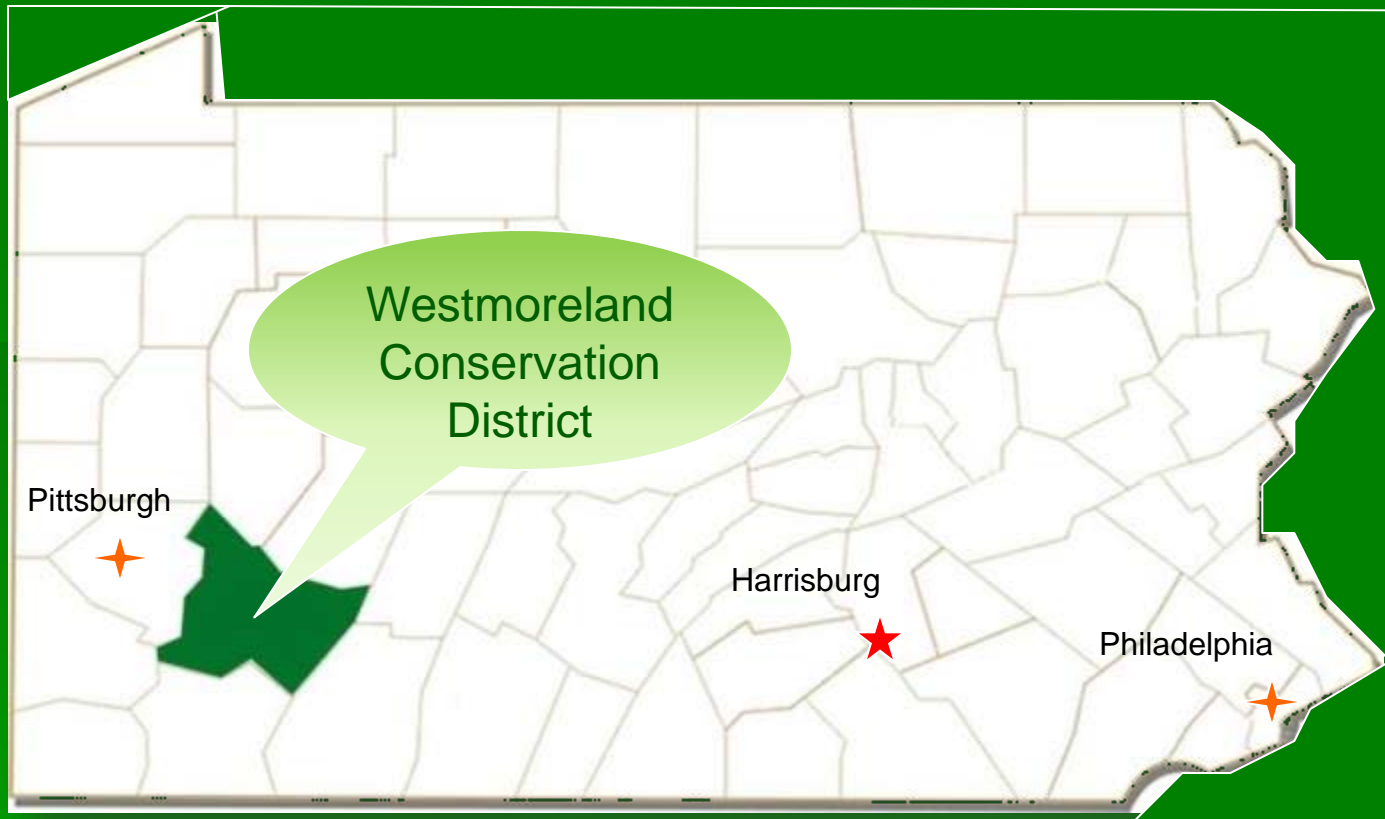


Westmoreland Conservation District, PA

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September 20, 2012



Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

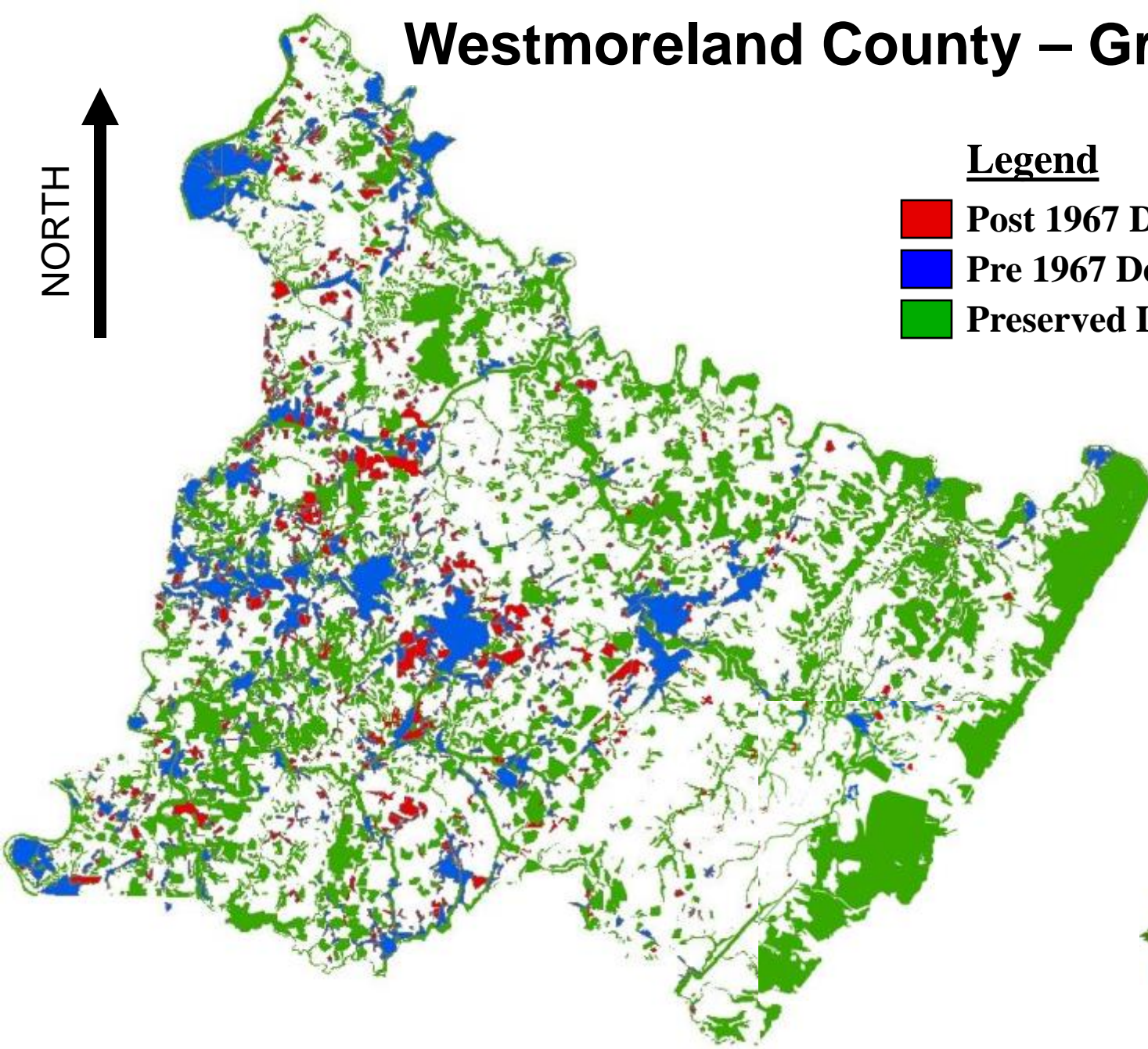
- 1,000 Square Miles
- 50% Forested
- An Hour From Pittsburgh
- 30% Agriculture – 1,000 Farms
- 370,000 People
- Developing 1,000 Acres Per Year
- 67 Municipalities
- 74% Urban Population

Westmoreland County – Growth Areas

NORTH
↑

Legend

- Post 1967 Developed Land
- Pre 1967 Developed Land
- Preserved Land



- Agricultural Conservation
- Erosion and Sedimentation Control
- Storm Water Management
- Sustainable Forests
- Watershed Management
- Conservation Education





Driving Forces

- Mission & Vision
- WCD Strategic Plan (2003, REVISED 2010)
- County Comprehensive Plan (2004)
- Strong Working Relationships
 - Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation
 - Economic Growth Connection
 - Westmoreland County Department of Planning
 - Penn State Cooperative Extension
- Build on Past Success
- Board Willing to Take Risks-Reach Beyond “Comfort Zones”
- County Funding per Capita - \$2.10



Mission

- Westmoreland Conservation District promotes, educates, & implements conservation principles . . . to build a culture of responsible stewardship & sustainability.



Vision

- Westmoreland Conservation District promotes conservation ethics through **programs & examples** that encourage all to adopt a way of life that incorporates thoughtful, wise use of our shared natural resources.



Long Range Goals

- Clean Streams & Water Resources
- Sustainable Communities
- Shared Regional Vision
- Productive Farms
- Healthy Forests
- Stable Soils



Achieving Our Goals

- How do we achieve our goals with limited staff, limited time, limited resources?
 - Volunteers
 - Committees
 - Partnerships



District Committees

(70+ Community members involved)

- Conservation Education
- Dirt & Gravel Roads
- Communications
- Water Quality
- Forestry
- Nutrient Management
- Future of Agriculture
- Sustainable Energy
- Annual Banquet
- Stormwater Management / Erosion Control





Committee spin-offs

- PA Cleanways
- WPCAMR
- Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association
- Westmoreland County Land Trust
- GreenForge Corporation
- Westmoreland Agricultural Land Preservation

Committees

(with District representation)

- WPCAMR
- County Land Trust
- Open Space & Greenway Plan
- Regional Rails to Trails Council
- Industrial Development Corporation - public
- Economic Growth Connection - private
- Westmoreland Cleanways
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- Westmoreland Woodlands Assoc
- Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship
- 3 Watershed Organizations
- Smart Growth Partnership
- Ohio Basin Water Resources
- 25 Other committees

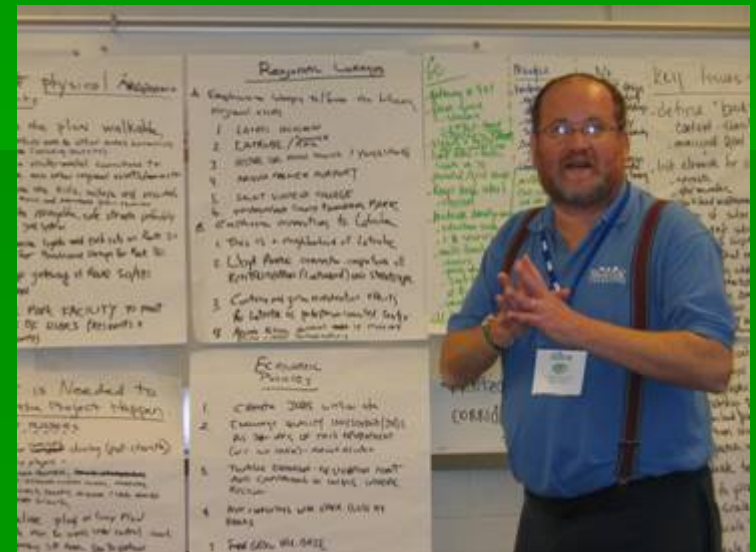
Benefits of Committees

1. Access to Community Opinions & Values
2. Provide Feedback & Direction to District
3. Attract Funders
4. Attract Project Participants
5. Build Public Support for Conservation Efforts
6. Recruit Board Members
7. Build Long Term Relationships
8. Educate & Reach Out
9. Provide Staff Support

1. Community Access

(WCD Stormwater Committee)

- Committee members include a cross-section of the regulated community:
 - PA Department of Environmental Protection
 - Municipal & County Representatives
 - Landscape Architects
 - Engineers
 - Surveyors
 - Solicitors
 - Planners



2. Feedback & Direction

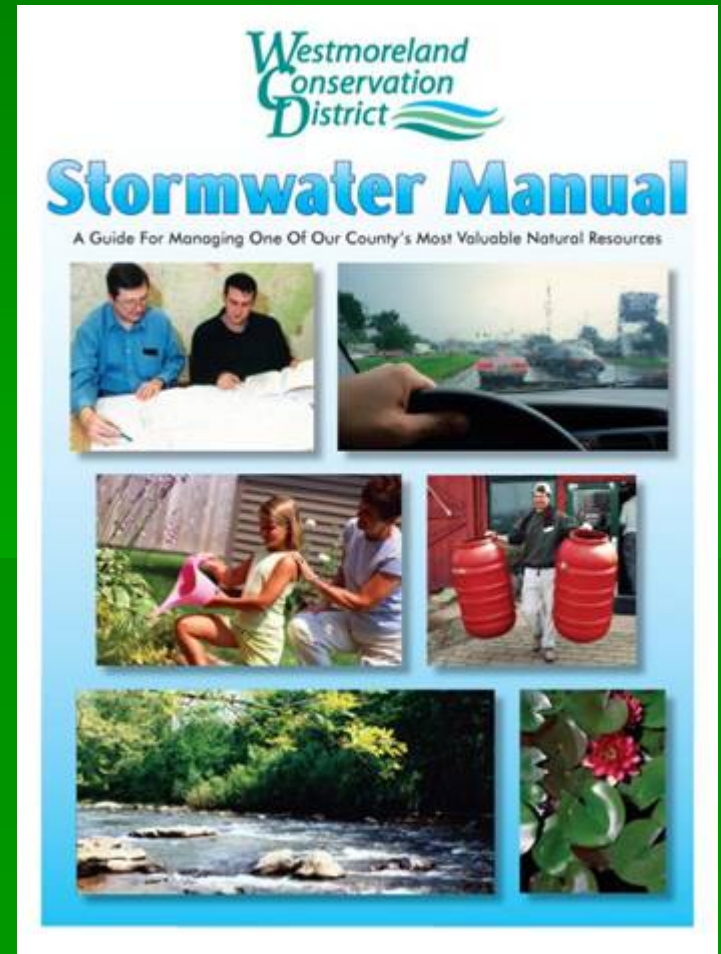
(WCD Stormwater Committee)

- Program Priorities
- WCD SW Manual
- Fee Schedule
- Education Programs
- Outreach Projects



WCD SW Manual

- Program Policy & Guidance
- Standardization of Program Procedures
- Promote Stormwater Management BMPs
- Strengthen Working Relationships with Local Governments



SW Fee Schedule

- Cost Recovery
- Validation of Fees
- Parallels E & S Fees
- State Conservation Commission Approval
- Stormwater Committee Approval





SW Education



- **Target Audience**

- Engineers, Contractors, Inspectors, Developers, Municipal Reps, Homeowners, Utility Companies

- **Subject Matter**

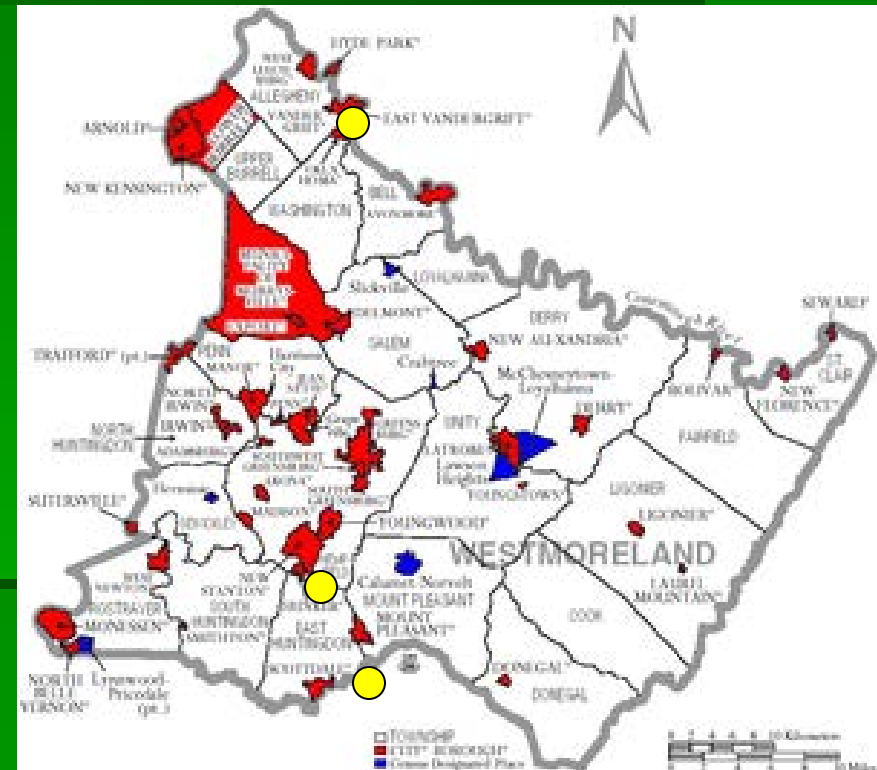
- Policy Updates, Permit Requirements, New Technologies, Old Technologies, Exchange of Ideas

- **Program Style**

- Workshops, Lectures, Hands-on Activities, Bus Tours, Roundtables

SW Outreach Projects

- Vandergrift Urban Stormwater Retrofit
- Westmoreland County Community College Riparian Buffer & SW Retrofit
- Mt. Pleasant Residential Rain Garden Project





The historic Borough of Vandergrift has wide sidewalks and no stormwater management

HISTORIC EFFORT

Tour spotlights Vandergrift restoration

BY FRANCINE GARRONE
TRIBUNE-REVIEW NEWS SERVICE

The borough's historic business district will be receiving a much needed face-lift.

A group of officials announced Monday how a \$300,000 loan fund has been used to take the small town back in time.

Attending the presentation were members of the Vandergrift Improvement Program (VIP), Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, University of Pittsburgh's Mascaro Center for Sustainability Innovation, Westmoreland Conservation District, and state Sen. Jim Ferlo, D-Highland Park.

"This has been a long and tireless effort," said David Truffa, VIP vice president. "It once seemed like a pipe dream. (But) the number of partners that have come to the table has been amazing."

Three Grant Avenue properties in the community's business district are being restored with the help of the revolving \$300,000 loan fund grant provided last year by the Allegheny Foundation, chaired by philanthropist Dick Scalfie, owner of the Tribune-Review and a host of other

How to donate

Residents wishing to contribute to the Vandergrift Improvement Program's Main Street Program can mail checks made out to Vandergrift Improvement Program to P.O. Box 787, Vandergrift, PA 15690. Checks can also be dropped off at the VIP office, 132 Grant Ave. Donations are tax deductible.

Seeking old photographs

The VIP is seeking old photographs that would show the original facades of buildings along Grant Avenue. Anyone who would like to share their photos can do so at the VIP office.

has been updated.

"The second floor is dilapidated and the wiring was in shambles," she said. "We plan to restore the transom window behind the business sign, rehabilitate five apartments on the second floor and restore the brick."

A nearly complete overhaul is being done to 143 Grant Ave. — the first building VIP purchased.



STEVEN DIETZ/FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW NEWS SERVICE

State Sen. Jim Ferlo and Westmoreland Conservation District's Jim Pillsbury describe a building Monday that was renovated as part of the Vandergrift Improvement Program's Main Street Program.

When work is complete, the building will house a yoga studio and organic bakery. The owner plans to live in one of the second-floor apartments.

The former J.C. Penney building at 134 Grant Ave. is a work in progress.

Yurcaba said VIP is looking to obtain a state grant to turn the Anchor Building into a community arts center.

"We have cleaned out the debris and made small repairs to the roof," she said. "We are currently looking to secure funds to rehabilitate the building."

A sustainable storm water sys-

tem District looks to maintain the sweeping curves and landscape of the turnabout by using ponding areas on all four sides of the intersection.

Brick pavers will allow rain water to soak into the ground and nourish planting beds that will jut from the sidewalks surrounding the intersection.

The project will cost about \$200,000, said Jim Pillsbury, hydraulic engineer for Westmoreland Conservation District.

"In general, we have a start, but we need a finish," he said.

On Farragut Avenue, a vacant borough-owned lot across from

"It's a nice location to have a speaker or musical group," he said. "Groups can also have meetings here."

"Within the last 20 years, things have certainly deteriorated around here," said Mayor Lou Purificato. "But with the help of Senator Ferlo, we are going to be able to get things back to how they were."

Ferlo said residents and business owners need to come together and take back the streets, and continue to build the bridges of participation.

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation president

Project partners included elected officials and community revitalization groups

placed, and the electrical system

apartment," she said.

The Westmoreland Conserva-

time farmer's market.

Dispatch.



Porous concrete is placed over 'Silva Cells' and trees are planted in the un-compacted soil to manage runoff



A 4-acre college parking lot had curb cuts to direct uncontrolled polluted stormwater runoff to the stream



Project partners included state environmental protection department, watershed association and property owner



Riparian plantings now protect the stream while infiltration swales capture and treat sheet flow from the existing parking lot

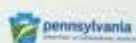


A Mt Pleasant neighborhood was targeted for SW retrofits because of flooding and sewer overflows





Mount Pleasant Borough RAIN GARDEN PROJECT



The Mount Pleasant Borough Rain Garden Program

Mount Pleasant Borough is leading the way in Pennsylvania by installing a number of rain gardens in the town and in a local neighborhood.

Rain gardens are a special kind of landscaping that adds beauty to a community and serves an important purpose: reducing how much rain and melting snow/ice to be carried by the storm and sanitary sewer systems.



Less water in these systems means less chance of flooding in the community... better water quality in the local streams... and less need to invest taxpayer money in infrastructure.

Mount Pleasant Borough has installed four rain gardens in the municipal parking lot behind Levin's furniture store...one rain garden between the library and the municipal building...and eleven rain gardens in the yards of homeowners in and around Ramsay Terrace.

Next year the project will continue with installation of more rain gardens in Ramsay Terrace and on the campus of Frick Hospital.

Partnership with local officials and watershed groups is the key to a project's success!



Each volunteer homeowner was involved in the design process

3. Attract Funding

- Committee members lend credibility to fundraising efforts
- Committee members broaden range of funding sources



4. Attract Participants

- Credibility & Contacts
- Pool of Potential Volunteers
- Publicity



5. Build Public Support

- Credibility & Contacts
- Participants take the ideas back to their own municipalities



6. Recruit Board Members

- Pool of Potential Associates & Directors
- Qualified Professionals
- Interested Citizens



7. Build Relationships

- Future Benefits
 - Conservation
 - Professional
 - Political / Regulatory



8. Educate & Reach Out

- Help Organize & Publicize Events
- Educated Speakers
- Reach a Larger More Diverse Audience



9. Provide Staff Support

- Experienced & Knowledgeable Assistance in All Areas
- Advice & Guidance for New Staff



Thank You



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