



# THREE RIVERS WATERKEEPER®

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER



## JUMP INTO SPRING

The days are getting longer and the temperature outside is getting warmer! At Three Rivers Waterkeepers we are ramping up to have a great warm season, but check out what we got done while the frost was clearing.

### Upcoming Events:

**MAY 31** **Lunch and Learn with Protect PT**  
JOIN US VIRTUALLY AT NOON FOR A COMMUNITY LUNCH AND LEARN WHERE WE WILL BE TALKING ABOUT THE CLEAN WATER ACT!

**JUNE 4** **3 Rivers Watch at Kilbuck**  
JOIN US AT KILBUCK BOAT LAUNCH WHILE WE KAYAK AND LEARN HOW TO SPOT AND REPORT POLLUTION. KAYAKS PROVIDED BY VENTURE OUTDOORS!

**JUNE 11-13** **PA Climate Convergence**  
PEOPLE FROM ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA WILL BE CONVERGING IN THE STREETS IN HARRISBURG TO CHANGE THE CONVERSATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

**JUNE 26** **Walk & Talk with Hollow Oak Land Trust**  
JOIN US AND HOLLOW OAK LAND TRUST OUT AT MONTOUR RUN TRAIL AND LEARN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF GREENSPACES TO CLEAN WATERWAYS.

**JULY 9** **3 Rivers Watch at Nine Mile Run**  
JOIN US AT NINE MILE RUN WHILE WE HIKE ALONG THE STREAM AND TALK ABOUT HOW TO SPOT AND REPORT POLLUTION!

**CLICK HERE FOR  
MORE INFO**



### CONNECT WITH US!

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[WWW.THREERIVERSWATERKEEPER.ORG](http://WWW.THREERIVERSWATERKEEPER.ORG)

412-589-9411 | PO BOX 97062 PITTSBURGH, PA 15229



# ON THE WATER



## Water Quality Sampling, Nurdle Patrols, and Pollution Responses

This spring, we continued our monthly water sampling near the Shell Cracker Plant with 3 Rivers Quest and our monthly Nurdle patrol with Youghiogheny Riverkeeper.

We collected water samples along all three rivers at 25 sampling locations measuring nearly 50 parameters. We also completed our visual monitoring pollution patrols of each river - kicking off the upcoming boating season!



During the spring we received and followed up with pollution reports at a Natrona Heights Tributary, a Homestead Drinking Water Source, along Saw Mill Run, and on the Monongahela River. We collected water samples and taking action when clean water laws are violated.



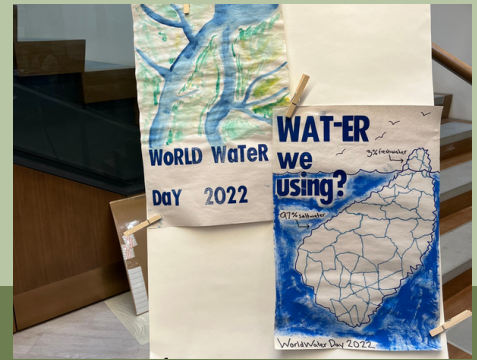
## River Cleanups

In April we celebrated Earth Day with a River Clean up at the mouth of Sandy Creek along the Allegheny River with Allegheny Cleanways and Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited. We finished off the day at 10.7 Marina enjoying Cinderland's Clean Ways beer!



We also partnered with Fayette County Recycle Center and Mountain Watershed's Youghiogheny Riverkeeper cleanup Redstone Creek in Uniontown and another river cleanup with Allegheny Clean Ways at Kilbuck boat launch on the Ohio River.

# IN THE COMMUNITY



We talked all things water with the community! You could find us at our booth at World Water Day at the University of Pittsburgh followed by tabling at 3 Rivers Outdoor Company. We also gave four public presentations this spring! We focused our educational efforts on the Clean Water Act and the advocacy we can do surrounding our rivers. [#Act50](#)



## We Got Social!

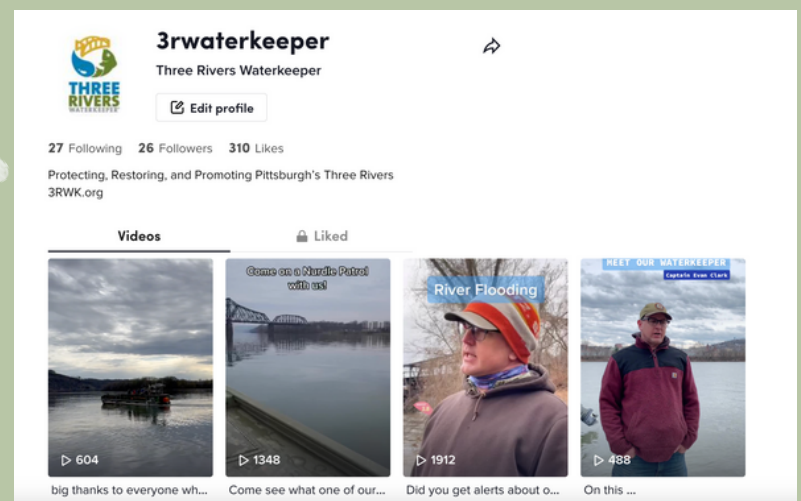
Thank you to all those that came and celebrated the day after Earth Day with us at Threadbare Cider House! What a great turnout! We look forward to the next time we can get social and talk water.

<https://3rwk.org/Events>

## Educational Posts Online

We are also active on social media, including Tik Tok! Follow us there and check out the short educational and fun videos we recently posted.

@3RWATERKEEPER



# ADVOCATING FOR OUR RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER

Three Rivers Waterkeeper is your legal advocate against deregulation of our right to clean water!

Click the links below regarding recent legal comments submitted by Three Rivers Waterkeeper with the assistance of the University of Pittsburgh's Environmental Law Clinic or comments we signed on to.

## [Asking the EPA to add Dams and Reservoirs as a Source Category Under the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program \(GHGRP\)](#)

Re: Petition for rulemaking to add dams and reservoirs as a source category under the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program



## [Setting Limits for Forever Chemicals in our Drinking Water](#)

Re: Proposed Rulemaking on Safe Drinking Water PFAS MCL Rule



## **Lobby Day for PFAS regulations**

Our Executive Director, Heather Hulton VanTassel, advocated for Clean Water Standards for PFAS Act which would set deadlines for the EPA to develop water quality criteria and place limits on some industrial PFAS ("Forever Chemicals") discharges into water and to water treatment plants.



## **VOLUNTEER WITH US!**

Volunteers are so important to the work that we do. If you would like to volunteer with us you can fill out our volunteer form or sign up for one of the opportunities below!

We need volunteers to help with our event on October 15th celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Interested, email [JessProtectPT@ThreeRiversWaterkeeper.org](mailto:JessProtectPT@ThreeRiversWaterkeeper.org).

## [Learn how to spot pollution!](#)

- June 4th at Kilbuck Boat Launch (Kayaking)
- July 9th at Nine Mile Run (Hiking)
- August 6th at Deer Creek Boat Launch (Kayaking)



[Learn more and sign-up here: http://3rwk.org/3RWatch](http://3rwk.org/3RWatch)

Free and open to the public!



**MEET OUR**  
**NEWEST**  
**TEAM**  
**MEMBERS!**

**Samantha Lynn**



**Legal Intern**

**Kenichi Shay**



**Waterkeeper Assistant**

**Seth Boos**



**Legal Intern**

**Emily Cumpston**



**Legal Intern**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THEM HERE:  
[HTTP://3RWK.ORG/TEAM](http://3RWK.ORG/TEAM)**



## **October 18th, 2022 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Signing of the Clean Water Act**

It will be a year of celebrating starting World Water Day on March 22nd through the 50th Anniversary

The Clean Water Act has significantly helped decrease the amount of pollution in our waterways, and we've seen the impact and improvement in our water quality. Nevertheless, there are still challenges facing our right to clean water, such as legal difficulties with enforcement of the Clean Water Act, limited resources for monitoring, and environmental deregulation.

Three Rivers Waterkeeper aims to reduce challenges and barriers to our right to clean water with the ACT50 Waterkeeper movement. ACT50 is a collective call for governments to unite with Waterkeepers and our communities in the fight for clean water. Working together, we can ensure that water is drinkable, fishable, and swimmable by enforcing laws, holding polluters accountable, and empowering citizens.

## **Celebrating 50 years of the Clean Water Act**



*Let's Celebrate*

**ACT<sub>50</sub>**

A WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE INITIATIVE



SAVE THE DATE

Join us on the Explorer with Rivers of Steel on October 15th for a sunset cruise along our three rivers celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Clean Water Act.

21+ Event with food & beverage

**Tickets Available Soon!**

# SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS FOR CLEANER WATERS

## SIGN-UP FOR AMAZON SMILE

Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to supporting cleaner waters –no fees, no extra cost.



We've partnered with Bigfoot to introduce these new Disinfecting **Multi-Surface Cleaning Strips!**



Psst... Don't forget to click through our fundraising link!

## REDUCE PLASTICS, SUPPORT 3RWK

TruEarth has revolutionized plastic-free cleaning! When you order a product, 20% of the total sales value will go to the organization you are supporting. You can feel good knowing you are helping your organization, and purchasing products that help save the environment.



## SHIRTS N'AT

Protect yourself on the water with a performance sun shirt with moisture management and antimicrobial performance fabric - only \$35 with shipping included. T-shirts, tanks, crewnecks, and totes can also be purchased on our website.

Help us reach our vision of Drinkable,  
Swimmable, and Fishable waters!



# THANK YOU!



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FURRY FRIEND, HEATH, AND OUR TREASURER, RACHEL COOK

Heath & Rachel Cook ran (walked) for a reason in the 2022 Pittsburgh Marathon and raised nearly \$800! Thank you for all your generous support!

Treats all around!

## Our Current Funders

### THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS

HOWARD HEINZ ENDOWMENT  
VIRA I. HEINZ ENDOWMENT



THE FORBES FUNDS

*Colcom Foundation*



PENNSYLVANIA  
AMERICAN WATER



THE  
PITTSBURGH  
FOUNDATION



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