



OUR MISSION IS...

to Conserve

...natural resources in Central PA through land acquisition, conservation easements, education, and outreach. For over 30 years, CPC has functioned as the local land trust for Franklin, Cumberland, Perry, Dauphin, and Juniata counties. CPC stewards and operates the historic Ironmaster's Mansion at Pine Grove Furnace State Park.



2015 ANNUAL REPORT



CPC Secures Acquisition of Letort Spring Run Headwaters

In June 2015, the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy obtained a purchase option to buy 30 acres at the east branch headwaters of the Letort Spring Run, a unique limestone trout stream steeped in natural and human history. Its storied past dates to 1720 when James LeTort, a French-Swiss fur trader, became the first European immigrant to settle Carlisle. Because of the clean, constant water supply and proximity to major trading routes, this settlement brought more pioneers to the area and led to the establishment of the town of Carlisle in 1751. The site was used for agricultural production from then until now, primarily functioning as a commercial watercress farm.

Though the stream has Class A Wild Trout Stream designation, Wild and Scenic River status in state legislation, and is protected by local ordinance as a scenic river district, it meanders through farmland and urban sprawl and has therefore suffered greatly from pollution from urban stormwater, chemical run-off from farming, as well as groundwater impacts. Many residents remember the effects of the 1981 fish kill from a local discharge of the pesticide endosulfan to the stream.

By acquiring the 30+ acres through state and local grant funding, and contributions from private individuals and corporations, CPC aims to permanently protect and restore the upper watershed of the Letort, its surrounding wetlands and upland buffer, historic structures, and enhance the existing rail trail managed by the Letort Regional Authority. CPC hopes to reverse some of the damage to the stream and meanwhile provide access and education to the public about the environmental and historical significance. This new initiative is a priority for CPC and consequently the reason for a new fundraising campaign to support these efforts over the next five years.



“The Letort is one of our jewels. IT'S EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO PRESERVE IT. Anything we can do to keep the groundwater levels recharged is critical.”

— John Arway, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.