

2009 FOCUS

The Berks Conservancy continued its mission to help make our communities and environment healthy through the State of the Environment in Berks report, encouraging adults and children to re-connect with nature, increasing trail awareness, improving water quality, promoting our urban gardens, and protecting land. The map on the right highlights a few 2009 projects.

1 Oley Hills Stream Protection



Best Management Practices (BMPs) on farms in the Oley Hills were established to protect the exceptional water resources in this region. Stream crossings, fencing and riparian buffers are examples of BMPs.

2 Kutztown Wellhead Protection

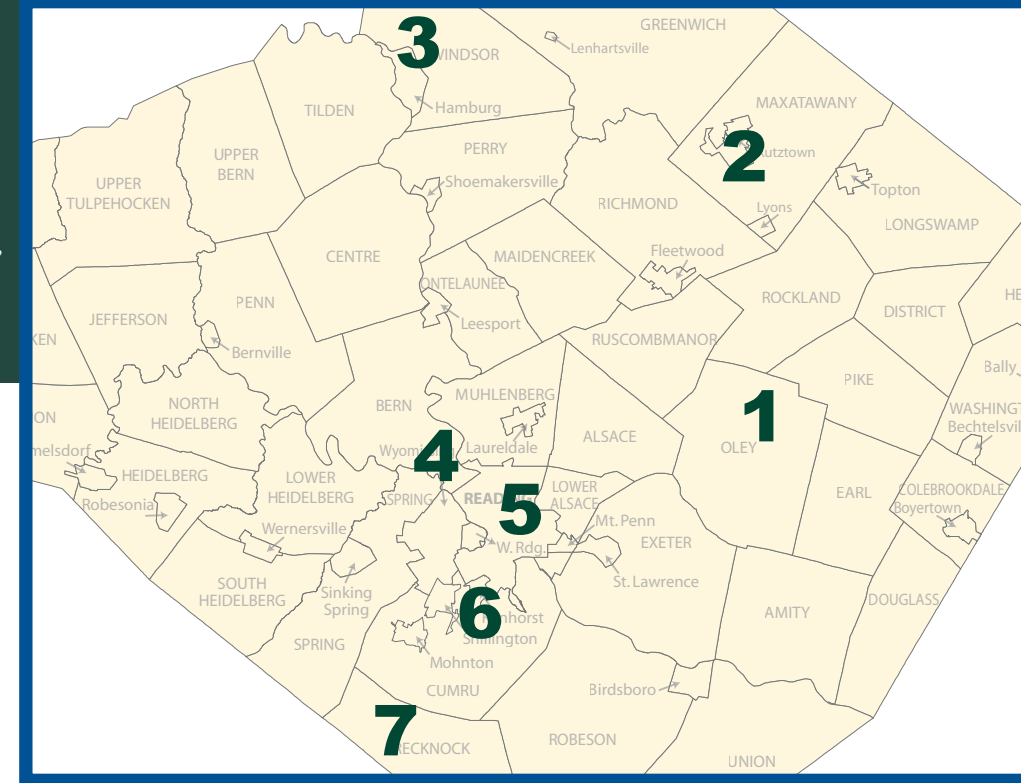


300 feet around the Kutztown wellhead was taken out of farm production to protect the Kutztown water supply. Permanent hay grass and trees were planted to take in the excess nutrients. In 2009, the Conservancy planted 1,542 trees and 425 lbs. of wildflower seeds.

3 Municipal Outreach



The addition of Jeanne Ortiz as our new Municipal Outreach Coordinator advanced our focus of protecting the Kittatinny Ridge. Our goal through this effort is to help municipalities implement conservation programs.



4 Tulpehocken Creek



Riparian buffers along the Tulpehocken Creek at the Berks Leisure Area of Grings Mill County Park were installed to help prevent sediment and other pollutants from reaching the creek. Planting trees and native grasses helps improve water quality and provides wildlife habitat.

5 Reconnecting with Nature



In conjunction with the Richard Louv lecture, (*Last Child in the Woods* author) in March 2009, we had a Nature in Berks Photo Contest and received hundreds of photos from all ages throughout Berks County. Winners were invited to a special Meet and Greet with Mr. Louv to claim their prize.

6 Angelica Creek Trail



This trail connects Kenhorst Borough trail-head at KenGrill Recreation Center to Angelica Creek Park and the Schuylkill River Trail. Users can walk, bike, and enjoy the wonderful pathway to the city-owned Angelica Creek Park, educational wetlands and future Environmental Education Center.

7 Horseshoe Trail Protection



We continued our partnership with Brecknock Township to protect open space and the areas surrounding the Horseshoe Trail. Together, we worked with landowners to acquire trail or conservation easements on important properties in the township.

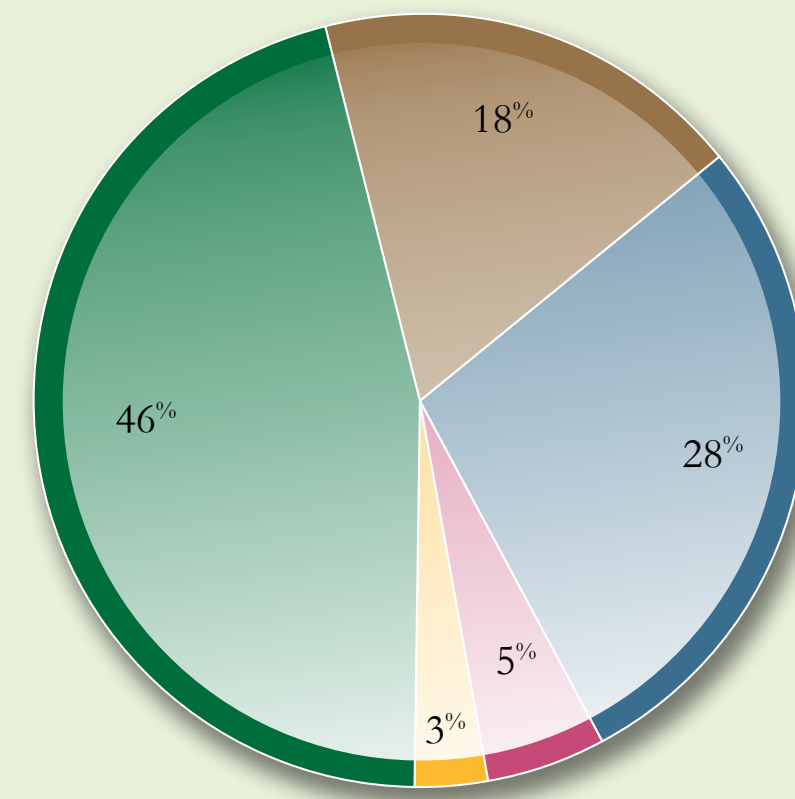
FINANCIAL REPORT

BERKS CONSERVANCY Revenues vs. Expenditures

Year Ending December 31, 2009

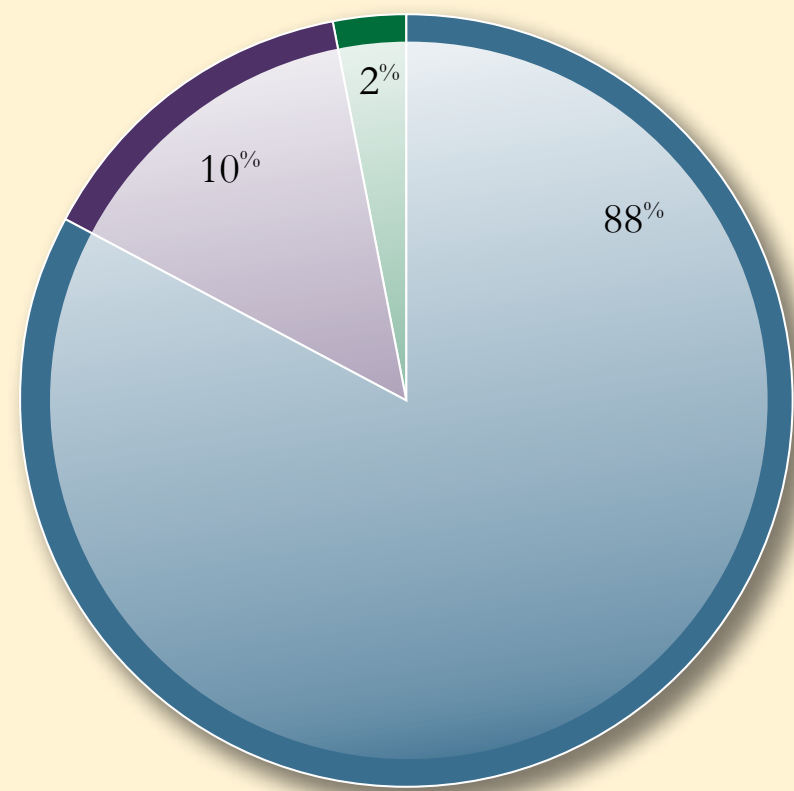
Total Revenues
\$2,427,692

- Restricted Income
- Conservation Easements
- Contributions
- Investment Income
- Special Events



Total Expenditures
\$2,403,896

- Program Services
- Fund-raising
- Management & General



Increase in Net Assets
Year Ending December 31, 2009
\$23,796

Preliminary pre-audited figures taken from Berks Conservancy December 31, 2009 financial statements

Cover photos from our collection of Nature in Berks Photo Contest submissions.



2009 ANNUAL REPORT

BERKS CONSERVANCY

We're Saving a Place for You...

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Conservancy – 2009 was an amazing year for the Conservancy and we are well on our way to making 2010 a great year as well. We are proud to share with you a sample of our many exciting accomplishments from this past year inside our 2009 annual report. In addition, we are honored to recognize our many donors and friends who help to make our work possible, and help to make Berks County a healthier place to live. I would be remiss if I didn't thank the exceptional professional efforts of our staff. Coupled with our dedicated Board of Directors we are so fortunate to have a team that pitches in wherever their expertise and interest lie.



Kim Murphy talks to Bernie Gerber (left) and new board member Rob Oppenheimer (right) at our State of the Environment breakfast in November.

Our new State of the Environment (SOTE) Report for Berks County was a major effort for the Conservancy in 2009. The project was well worth the investment of time and energy as it creates a baseline of information and criteria by which we can measure all of our conservation work. SOTE helps us tell the story of what we do and why we do it and it invites people to be our partners every day on many different levels. It will help us focus our work on the most important conservation issues and areas that need assistance throughout the County. And, it provides a fantastic basis for an environmental education curriculum for schools and educators to use in their work.

Speaking of education, last March we introduced the community to Richard Louv, author of the book *Last Child in the Woods*. Richard's message about today's youth and the notion of "nature deficit disorder" struck a chord with our Board of Directors and staff. As a result, we are striving in all that we do to help connect people with nature and our work. Therefore, you will see more opportunities for people through the Conservancy, to engage in the outdoors and nature. We are offering more hikes, a nature photography class, and introducing our first 5K race - the Conservancy Eco-Run in May of this year. Information about how you can get involved in these activities and info about our new Trail Ambassador program is contained in this newsletter.

I am thrilled to announce that we will be starting a new Conservancy Eco-Adventure Day Camp this summer for grade school children. We will connect children and their families to nature through activities in five areas: arts & crafts, science & nature, creative activity, technology and sustainable agriculture. More information about the camp will be available in March.



As I mentioned last year, we are seeking national accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission. We spent the past year addressing areas that are recommended for improvement through the adoption of additional board policies and procedures. Our preliminary application is in and hopefully we will learn by the end of the year that we can add the distinctive seal of land trust accreditation to our letterhead.

Finally, thank you again to the many members and supporters of the Conservancy. We couldn't do our work without you. I encourage you to share our message with friends, co-workers and family. More and more as people learn about our work, they become engaged and interested, volunteer and help fund our efforts.

Best wishes for the upcoming year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kimberly J. Murphy
Kimberly J. Murphy, President

BERKS CONSERVANCY LIST OF 2009 GIFTS & GRANTS

The Berks Conservancy thanks you, its generous donors, for your continued support and commitment. This listing was compiled from those gifts and grants received between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009. Every effort has been made to ensure that this list is complete and accurate. We apologize for any errors or omissions and would appreciate your comments or corrections at 610-372-4992 ext. 100 or info@berks-conservancy.org.

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+ = All or part of this gift is designated:
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The Berks Conservancy would like to take this opportunity to thank the following friends and businesses who also supported the organization in 2009:

Amity Fence Company for helping improve our Opportunity House Community Garden

Berks Urban Greening (BUG) Volunteers for their dedication to greening Penn & Washington Streets

The following provided their services to help make our Richard Louv lecture and Nature *in* Berks Photo Contest a success:
Berks County Intermediate Unit
Body Zone Sports & Wellness Complex
John Secoges
Land Displays
WEEU

The following provided their services to help make the State of the Environment in Berks program a success:
Fromm Electric Supply Corporation
Kutztown Publishing Company
Land Displays
PA Department of Environmental Protection
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Many thanks to the State of the Environment in Berks Steering Committee for their dedication, direction and expertise in 2009. Please visit greenberks.com to view the report and the listing of this important Steering Committee.

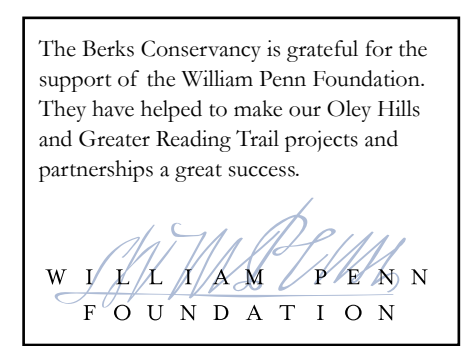
Our dedicated **2009 Board and Committee volunteers** generously provide time, energy and resources to the Berks Conservancy. Thank you!

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The Berks Conservancy is grateful for the support of the William Penn Foundation. They have helped to make our Oley Hills and Greater Reading Trail projects and partnerships a great success.

Thank you.