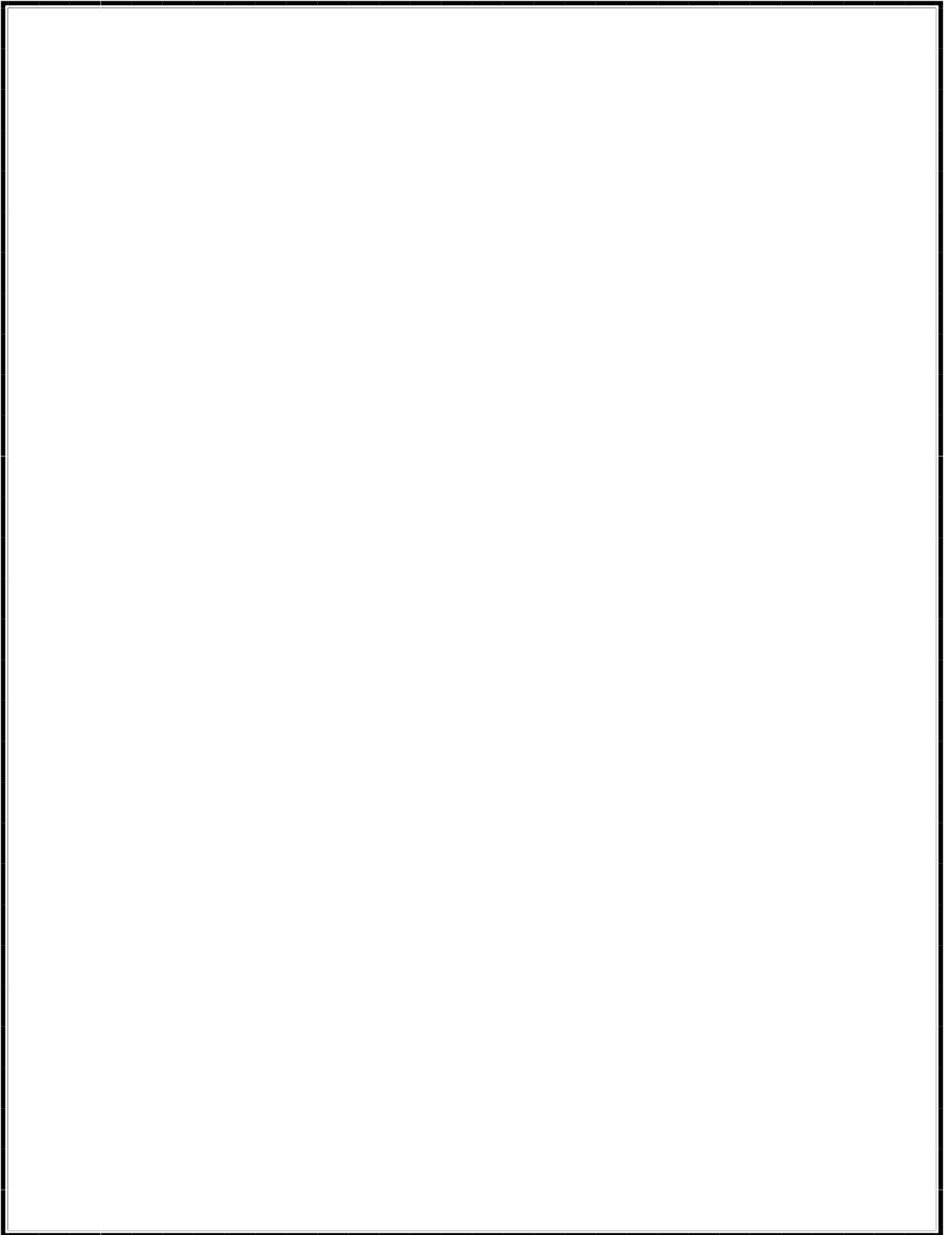


BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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THE MISSION OF BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED IS  
THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE WILDLIFE AND  
WETLANDS ALONG THE SCENIC SCHUYLKILL RIVER

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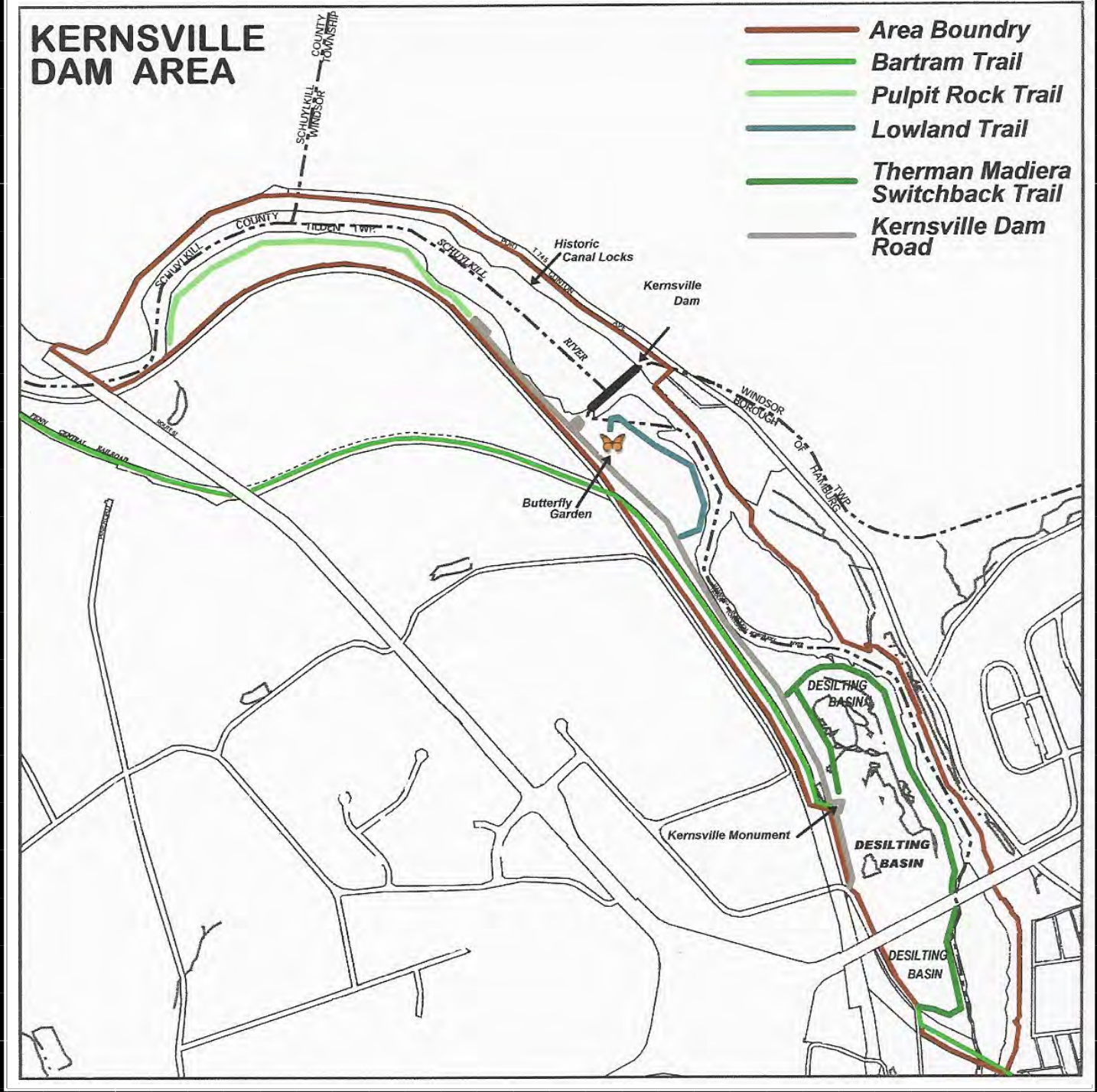
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The Kernsville Dam Recreation Area

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## KERNSVILLE DAM RECREATION AREA

The Officers and Directors of Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated are pleased to present our Annual Report for the year 2021. Whether you are a long-time member, volunteer or are meeting us for the first time, we hope you find this Annual Report both interesting and informative.



## KERNSVILLE DAM RECREATION AREA

The Kernsville Dam Recreation Area encompasses approximately 252 acres and approximately 2 miles of the Schuylkill River which has been designated as a “Scenic River” by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Kernsville Dam Recreation Area includes:

- 183 acres in Tilden Township (72.6% of the Area)
- 44 acres in the Borough of Hamburg (17.5% of the Area)
- 18 acres in Windsor Township (7.1% of the Area)
- 7 acres in West Brunswick Township (2.8% of the Area)



*Image courtesy of Google Maps*

## KERNSVILLE DAM RECREATION AREA

The Kernsville Dam Recreation Area can be divided into several distinctly different areas:  
The Desilting Basin



# KERNSVILLE DAM RECREATION AREA

The Area Below the Dam



*Image courtesy of Mapquest*

The Area Above the Dam & The Northeast Shore of the Schuylkill River



*Image courtesy of Mapquest*

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## KERNSVILLE DAM RECREATION AREA

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### **Desilting Basin** - Area of approximately 85-90 acres

This is currently the only part of the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area open to the public. I-78 bridge bisects the basin east to west. The northern portion is undulating scrub forest and wetlands containing the Cabela's Wetland Trail, the DS Trail and the Monument Parking Lot.





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## KERNSVILLE RECREATION DAM AREA

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### **Desilting Basin** - Area of approximately 85-90 acres

The southern portion is flatter and is currently being used as a deposit area for spoil from the PA Route 61 Interchange Project. The area is also slated to be an impoundment area for the Kernsville Dam Dredging Project.



## KERNSVILLE DAM RECREATION AREA

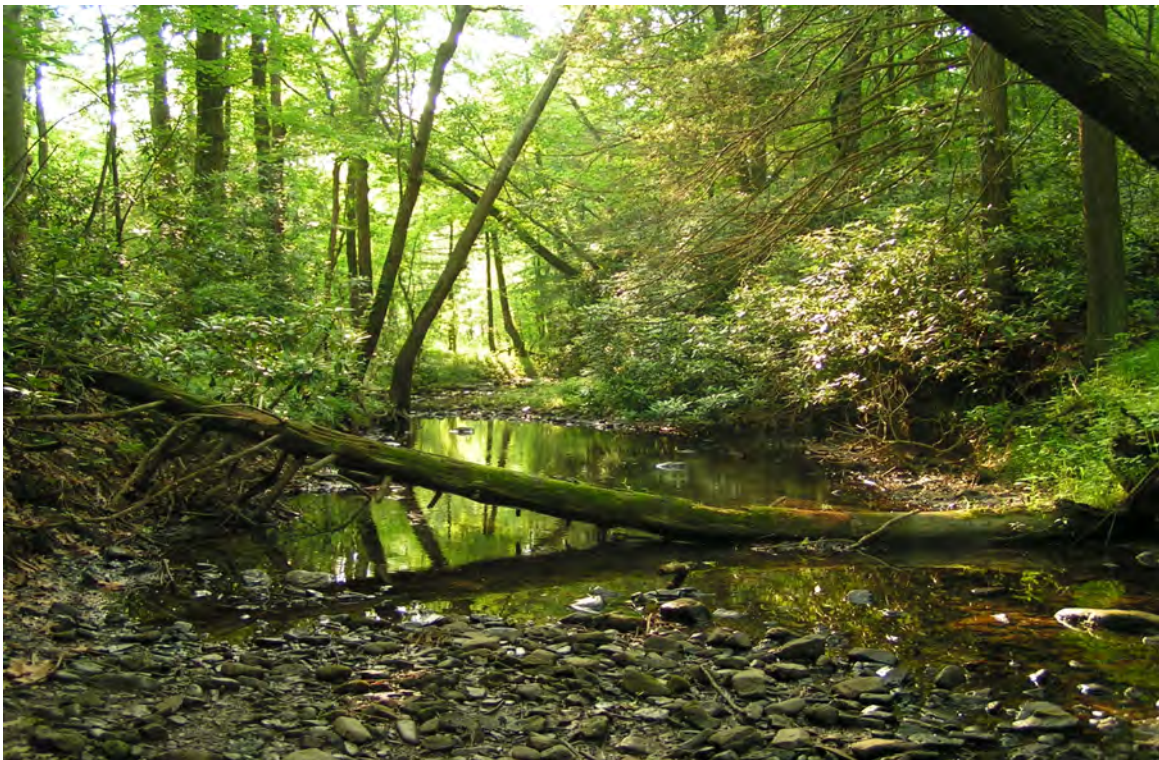


### **Area Below the Dam**

Area consists predominantly of lowlands and wetlands covered by mature hardwood forests

Two major islands are present in the Schuylkill River

A canoe portage is located on the western side of the dam



## KERNSVILLE DAM RECREATION AREA



### **Area Above the Dam**

Area consists of the dam and the pool of the reservoir.  
The area is only accessible via the Schuylkill River.  
A canoe portage is located on the western side of the dam



## KERNSVILLE RECREATION DAM AREA



### **Northeast Shore of the Schuylkill River**

The northeast shore is currently off-limits to the public

The Appalachian Trail crosses a portion of the area between Port Clinton Avenue and PA Route 61

The northeast shore boasts a river beachfront



## KERNSVILLE RECREATION DAM AREA



### **The Bartram Trail linking Hamburg and Port Clinton**

The trailhead at Hamburg is in excellent condition and allows convenient access. The Bartram Trail follows an elevated section of the Pennsylvania Railroad right-of-way through much of the Kernsville Dam area allowing many scenic views of the surrounding countryside.



## KERNSVILLE RECREATION DAM AREA

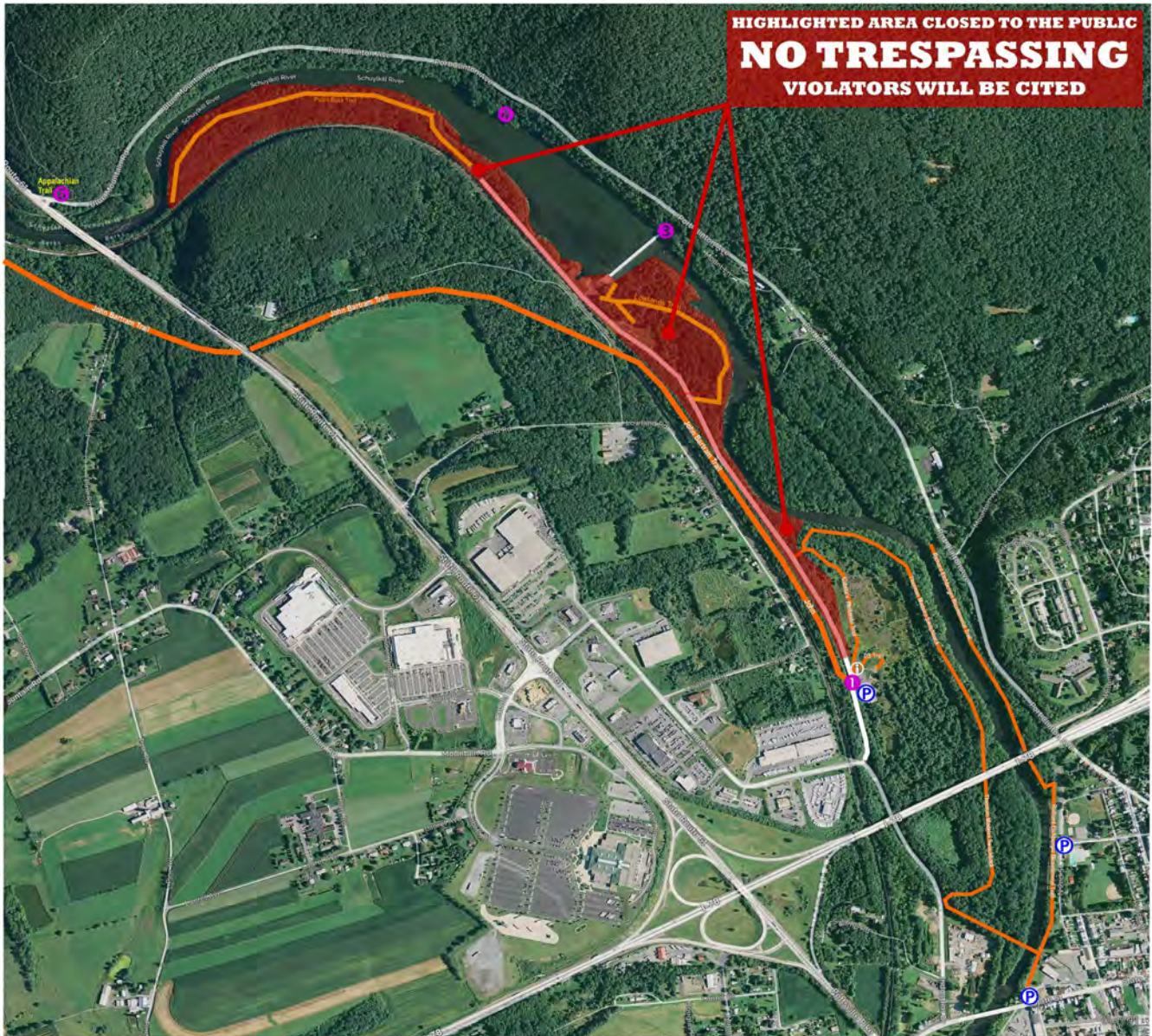


Pennsylvania Railroad iron trestle bridge crossing over the Reading, Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad in the area just below the dam  
The northernmost sections of the proposed Bartram Trail traverse mixed hardwood and conifer forest and feature steeply sloped cuts on both sides



Map of the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area 2021

# Kernsville Dam Recreation Area Area Trails Map



### MAP LEGEND

- Foot/Bike/Horse Trail
- Foot Trail
- Kernsville Dam Road
- P Parking Lot

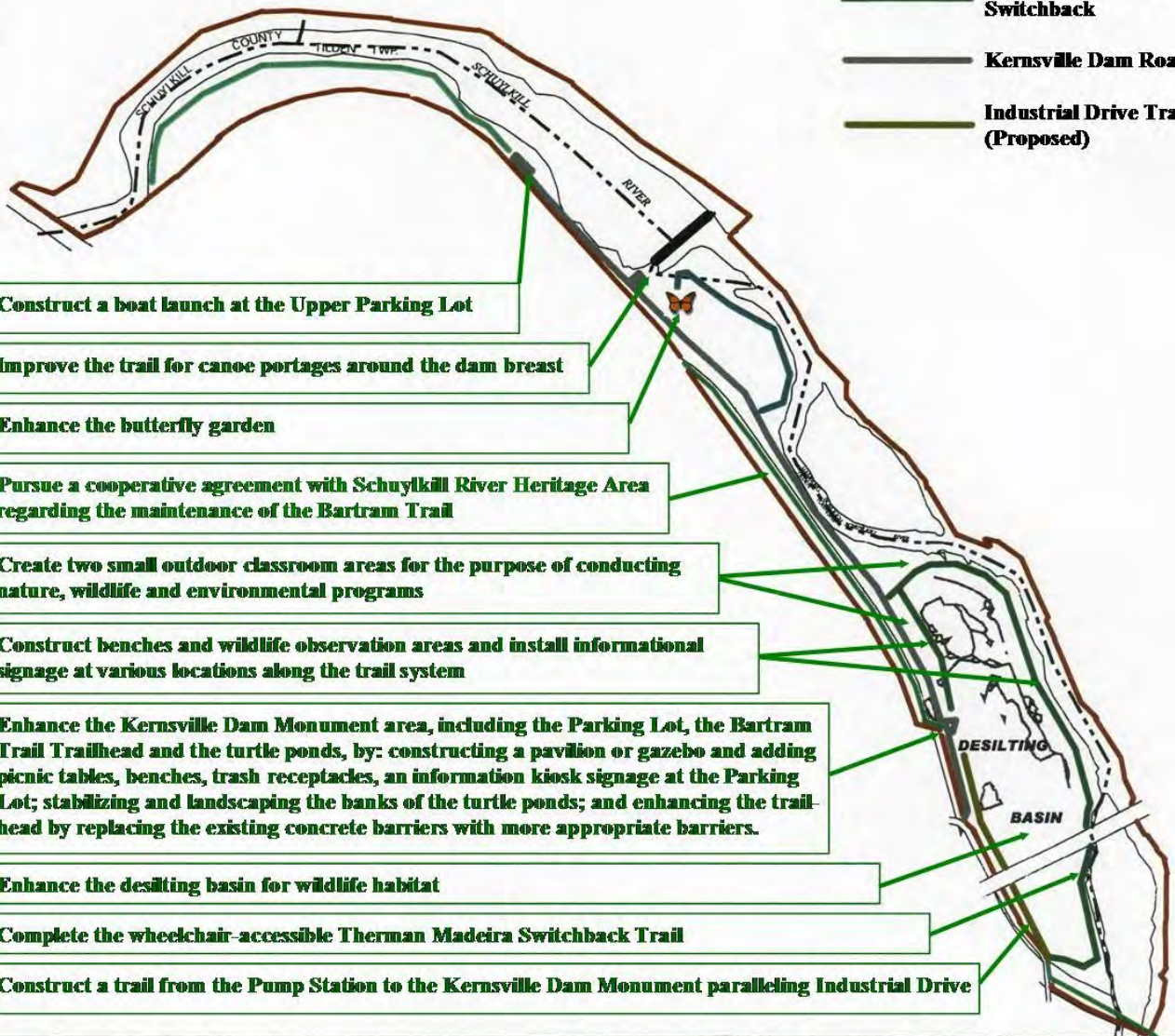
### LOCATIONS OF INTEREST







BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED LONG-TERM PLANS AND GOALS

# 2009 Kernsville Dam Recreation Area Open Space Plan

-  KDRA Boundary
-  Bartram Trail
-  Pulpit Rock Trail
-  Lowland Trail
-  Therman Madeira Switchback
-  Kernsville Dam Road
-  Industrial Drive Trail (Proposed)



-  Pursue a long-term cooperative agreement with Tilden Township, Berks County and the Schuylkill River Heritage Area for the preservation of the natural and historic Kernsville Dam Recreation Area.
-  Involve youth groups such as Scouts and school Wilderness Clubs in habitat improvement projects and environmental education.
-  Involve and coordinate the various public and private agencies and organizations, particularly at the local level, that could provide assistance with the above-stated goals.
-  Promote compatible forms of passive recreation.

**Note:** All proposed improvements are subject to approval by Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation. Any improvements proposed on land beyond that of the lease agreement will require permission and approval of the controlling interests.



## BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED HISTORY

**The roots of Blue Mountain Wildlife, Incorporated**, go back to the early 1980's. Mr. Ron Cassler founded Hamburg Ecology Life Patrol (H.E.L.P.), which cleaned up the Kernsville Dam area, rebuilt the restrooms, and maintained trash removal and grass mowing on a weekly basis. H.E.L.P. relied upon limited funding and volunteer labor provided by its members. H.E.L.P. was active throughout the 1980's and early 1990's and several members are active participants in Blue Mountain Wildlife today.

**In November, 2000**, the first series of public meetings presenting plans for intensive development of recreational facilities in the Kernsville Dam area brought together a group of concerned citizens to form the "Friends of the Kernsville Dam". Throughout the series of public meetings the "Friends of the Kernsville Dam" offered several pre-existing alternative sites for recreational facilities as possible ecological solutions. None of these were incorporated into the proposed plans. The "Friends of the Kernsville Dam" circulated a petition in opposition to the proposed plans. Approximately 1,300 signatures were collected. The "Friends of the Kernsville Dam" approached nearby municipalities with the petition to solicit support in opposition of the proposed plan.

**On June 29, 2001**, the "Friends of the Kernsville Dam" officially incorporated as "Blue Mountain Wildlife, Incorporated" to help solidify existing support to preserve the wild area around the Kernsville Dam and develop alternative locations for recreational facilities throughout northern Berks County. Blue Mountain Wildlife consulted with and received support from nearby property owners and businesses to develop an alternative plan. The Reading, Blue Mountain, and Northern Railroad Company became a corporate sponsor. On October 10, 2001, Blue Mountain Wildlife presented its plan for the preservation of the Kernsville Dam area to various agencies and organizations. Our plan was well received by the local municipalities and by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, the state agency that administers the Kernsville Dam area.

**In March 2002**, Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated applied for and was granted probationary 501(c)(3) non-profit organization status. BMW representatives attended the Hamburg Hunting and Fishing Expo, the Schuylkill Watershed Congress, Hamburg Sidewalk Sale and Hamburg Heritage Days. Major events included the Earth Day Clean-Up and participation in the Schuylkill Sojourn. Blue Mountain Wildlife also devoted much time and effort in negotiating with Northern Berks Recreation Council and other organizations to provide acceptable solutions to the issues of preserving the Kernsville Dam area while providing additional active recreation facilities in Northern Berks County.

**Two Thousand Three** saw Blue Mountain Wildlife's first major fundraising event—the Spring Rail Ramble sponsored by the Reading, Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad. Blue Mountain Wildlife representatives attended the Hamburg Hunting and Fishing Expo, the Bear Creek Festival, the Northkill Watershed Meeting and Hamburg Heritage Day. Major events included the Earth Day Clean-Up, Tilden Elementary School's Field Day activities and participation in the Schuylkill Sojourn. Blue Mountain Wildlife was granted a lease for the area from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation. Blue Mountain Wildlife applied for and later received a \$25,000 grant from the Berks County Open Space and Recreation Commission. The grant required 50% matching funds which was to be met through fund-raising, donations and in-kind services. Blue Mountain Wildlife also launched a new website, [www.BlueMountainWildlife.com](http://www.BlueMountainWildlife.com).

**Two Thousand Four** saw the completion of Blue Mountain Wildlife's biggest project to date—the construction of the one-mile Therman Madeira Switchback Trail. The project was completed with the funding from the Berks County Open Space and Recreation Grant secured in the previous year and matching funds from donations of money, materials and time from the organization's many supporters. The second major project of the year, the construction of the Butterfly Garden, began in the spring. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission took up Blue Mountain Wildlife's request to establish a "No Wake" zone on the Kernsville Dam. Blue Mountain Wildlife took the bold step of declaring the desilting basin a "Wildlife Propagation Area", prohibiting hunting and other disruptive activities. Blue Mountain Wildlife representatives attended the Hamburg Hunting and Fishing Expo. Major events included the Earth Day Clean-Up, participation in the Schuylkill Sojourn, the Helping Wheels Unincorporated tour of the Therman Madeira Switchback and participation in Hamburg Heritage Day.

## BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED HISTORY

**Two Thousand Five** saw the establishment of a number of Blue Mountain Wildlife “annual traditions”. The first was the Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet, held on January 13. The second was an expansion of the Earth Day activities beyond the Clean-Up. April 23rd and 24th’s activities also included the improvement of approximately three-quarters of a mile of trail above and approximately one-half mile of trail below the Kernsville Dam, a bird walk and a raptor presentation. The third was the first of many fund-raising races. On May 28 a 5K Fun Run/Walk was held at the Monument and on September 24 a 5K/10K Run was held in conjunction with Hamburg Heritage Day. Other major events included selling Kerny Monster Burgers in the Taste of Hamburg-er Festival and selling ice cream and hosting historical tours of the Kernsville Dam area during Hamburg Heritage Day.

**Two Thousand Six** saw three major projects come to fruition. After at least three years of discussion and negotiation, the Cabela’s Wetland Mitigation project gained approval and was implemented in September. Approximately one-half acre of new wetlands and one-third mile of new trail were constructed in the desilting basin north of the Monument. On May 24, Environmental Education Day brought 120 5th graders from Hamburg Elementary School to the Kernsville Dam area for a number of outdoor educational opportunities. The Northern Berks QUAD Games were inaugurated as the organization’s primary fundraiser and brought in approximately 300 participants to the four races. Other events included the Second Annual Membership Banquet on January 12 and the Earth Day/Outdoor Appreciation Weekend on May 20 and 21. On March 22, 2006, Blue Mountain Wildlife completed its 501(c)(3) probationary period and its non-profit status was confirmed and made permanent.

**Two Thousand Seven** saw the continuation of our successful projects. The Cabela’s Wetland Project continued and flourished. On May 11, Environmental Education Day again brought 120 5th graders from Hamburg Elementary School to the Kernsville Dam area for a number of outdoor educational opportunities. The Northern Berks QUAD Games experienced its second year as the organization’s primary fundraiser and brought in approximately 300 participants to the four races. BMW also set about updating its 2001 Open Space Plan and made presentations at the four surrounding municipalities inviting them to participate. Other events included the Third Annual Membership Banquet on January 11, the Kutztown Earth Day Celebration on April 19, the Earth Day Clean-Up on April 21, the Bear Creek Festival on May 18 and the Pulpit Rock Beach Clean-Up on November 8. Scout projects included the KDRA sign by Austin Hartman and the Kernsville Monument beautification by Junior Girl Scout Troop 114.

**Two Thousand Eight** saw another set of projects begin. BMW secured two grants to top the Wetlands Trail and parts of the Therman Madeira Switchback, as well as to construct a footbridge at the Industrial Drive pump station. Work on the Cabela’s Wetlands continued. Construction was begun on an information kiosk at the Monument parking lot. An updated draft Open Space Plan was created and comments from all stakeholders solicited and collected. The BMW website was updated by KDS FX Design and BMW took over the domain name and the upkeep of the website. In its third year, the Northern Berks QUAD Games brought two races back to the KDRA and brought in approximately 280 participants to the four races. Other events included the Fourth Annual Membership Banquet on April 25, the Earth Day Clean-Up on April 26, the Bear Creek Festival on May 18 and Environmental Education Day on May 30.

**Two Thousand Nine** saw the completion of the previous year’s projects. The parking lot improvements included the completion of the informational kiosk and the installation of trash barrels. Additional sections of the Therman Madeira Switchback were topped, and the Donald Waldron Footbridge was completed and a dedication ceremony held on October 24th. Eagle Scout candidate Kurt Kissinger constructed an outdoor classroom at the north end of the Cabela’s Wetlands. Despite three wet races, the fourth annual Northern Berks QUAD Games brought in 236 participants while earning over \$2,000. Inclement weather also caused the cancellation of the Annual Membership Banquet and forced the relocation of the expanded Environmental Education Day (now including Perry Elementary) to Tilden Elementary School on May 29. Other events included Earth Day Cleanups scheduled on each Saturday in April, the Bear Creek Festival on May 17th and Hamburg Community Days on July 3rd and 4th.

## BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED HISTORY

**Two Thousand Ten** saw a number of circumstances converge, to the great fortune of Blue Mountain Wildlife and the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area. Pennsy Paving Company, which was completing the reconstruction of the State Street Bridge, was approached with a request to assess the repair work needed on Kernsville Dam Road. Pennsy Paving volunteered a day's labor and equipment to repair as much of Kernsville Dam Road as possible, given the materials available. BMW approached several supporters and secured several thousand dollars in donations, with which additional materials were purchased. Two of the worst portions of Kernsville Dam Road were milled and repaved, and the Bartram Trail Trailhead was milled, reconfigured and landscaped. At about the same time, Schuylkill River Heritage Area received a sizeable donation for trail work and decided to use some of it to complete the topping of the Therman Madeira Switchback. Finally, BMW also received a promise of a donation from Tilden Township of a day's labor and equipment to repair two of the worst sections of Kernsville Dam Road remaining, which is scheduled to be acted upon in 2011. Other projects, events and noteworthy items included: the coordination with the Tilden Township Environmental Advisory Council on two Township-wide Clean-Ups—in April and November; the 2010 Northern Berks QUAD Games, which brought in 245 participants and earned approximately \$3,800.00; the construction of the Environmental and Historical GPS Trail by Eagle Scout Candidate Casey Schneck; the 2010 Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet, twice postponed due to inclement weather; Environmental Education Day, hosted once again at the Kerny; participation in the Schuylkill Watershed Congress, Bear Creek Festival, Hamburg Community Day and the June Hamburg Art Stroll; and community service volunteered by Penn State senior Alex Sung, Hamburg High School students Corey Furhman and Nick Meyers, and "Community Explosion" volunteers of Blue Mountain Academy and the Bridge Church.

**Two Thousand Eleven** saw some ups and downs. Blue Mountain Wildlife was challenged by a number of thefts, acts of vandalism, and repeated flooding throughout the year. But the good outweighed the bad. In the early spring, Tilden Township donated a day's worth of labor and equipment to the maintenance of Kernsville Dam Road, markedly improving the road near the Upper Parking Lot. On May 12th, BMW and Schuylkill River Heritage Area hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony, officially opening the two miles of Schuylkill River Trail between Hamburg and the Bartram Trail. On July 16th, BMW celebrated its tenth anniversary with a party at the Monument Parking Lot, which drew over two hundred people. The Northern Berks QUAD Games were put on hold for retooling but, due to popular demand, the Dutch Country Bicycle Races were held on July 30th. Other projects and events included: the Annual Membership Banquet on January 28th; a cold and wet Earth Day Clean-Up on April 23rd; a warm and sunny Environmental Education Day on June 3rd; flood-damage repairs to the Therman Madeira Switchback in May and September; the completion of the second outdoor classroom by Eagle Scout candidate Danny Capitelli in May; more road repairs by the Bridge Church "Community Explosion" volunteers and the Tilden Township road crew in July; a tree planting in the Cabela's Wetland in November; and volunteer service by Alex Hartman. BMW also participated in Hamburg ThawFest, Central Berks Community Day Fair, Bear Creek Festival, and Taste of Hamburg-er Festival.

**Two Thousand Twelve** saw a number of small projects come to fruition. Funding from a "Trails Town" grant allowed BMW to move forward with a pair of signage projects: an informational sign describing the creation of the desilting basin was installed in the fall on the Cabela's Wetlands Trail and in the late summer and early fall work crews installed the bases for trail name signs. In late summer, Bridge Church Community Explosions helped fill more potholes in Kernsville Dam Road, bringing it up to the best condition it's been in over a decade. Finally, the January 2013 installation of the raptor nesting pole capped the year-long planning and fabrication effort. The Northern Berks QUAD Games returned to draw 257 participants and a new race, the Dine & Dash, was introduced at the Taste of Hamburg-er Festival. In March, Berks County Conservation District honored BMW with their Conservation Group of the Year. BMW participated in a record number of community events in 2012: the Annual Banquet in January, ThawFest and Earth Day Clean-Up in April; Central Berks Community Day, Bear Creek Festival and Environmental Education Day in May; and Get Outside Day and Tilden Township's 125 Anniversary in June.

## BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED HISTORY

**Two Thousand Thirteen** witnessed the completion of a number of smaller projects. In January, the raptor nesting pole was erected in the Basin. In April, a permanent gate was installed at the Upper Parking Lot, completing a project that took a year to design, fabricate and install. During June and July, work crews installed the trail signage onto the bases that had been installed in 2012. A game camera was installed near a perennial dumping site in an effort to catch and deter illegal dumping and vandalism. Repair work on the Kernsville Dam Road continued in 2013, with work by BMW volunteers, the Tilden Township Road Crew and Bridge Church Community Explosion volunteers in April, July and September. The Northern Berks QUAD Games returned to draw 188 participants and the Taste of Hamburg-er Festival Dine & Dash Burgers & Trails Race returned for a second successful run. The Basin hosted a "Walking With Dragonflies" tour in August and BMW's Pat Adams led a tour of "The Moving of the Schuylkill River" in October. Eagle Scout Candidate Charlie Cravotta designed, constructed and installed two bat boxes during the fall. BMW participated in a record number of community events in 2013: the Annual Banquet in January, the Earth Day Clean-Up in April; Central Berks Community Day, Bear Creek Festival and Environmental Education Day in May; and Fun In The Sun Day, Get Outside Day and Let's Go Camping With Cabela's Day in June.

**Two Thousand Fourteen** saw the end of an old tradition and the beginning of some new. The BMW Race Committee, after many years of struggling with the problems unique to bicycle events, decided to end the Northern Berks QUAD Games at the conclusion of its ninth season. The QUAD Games attendance never exceeded its first-year numbers and the Race Committee decided to try a new direction. On April 12th, BMW joined the Schuylkill Headwaters Association to clean up the beach across from "The Rock". On May 3rd, BMW and the Tilden EAC coordinated an Electronics Recycle Day at the Tilden Municipal Building. Two "Owl Prowls" were held at the Kerny in 2014, one on June 20th and one on October 3rd. And on September 14th, BMW presented a history of the Schuylkill River as part of the Andulehea Concert presented by the St. John's Church in Hamburg. With the closing of Kaercher Creek, Berks County Parks and Recreation contacted BMW looking for an alternate location for the "Let's Go Camping With Cabela's" Day and BMW happily accommodated the event. In 2014, BMW's normal activities continued unabated. Repair work on the Kernsville Dam Road continued, with work by BMW volunteers, the Tilden Township Road Crew and Bridge Church Community Explosion volunteers on four days in August and September. The final Northern Berks QUAD Games drew 257 participants and the Taste of Hamburg-er Festival Dine & Dash Burgers & Trails Race drew almost forty participants during its third annual run. The Basin hosted another "Walking With Dragonflies" tour in August. BMW participated in: the Annual Banquet in January; three Earth Day Clean-Ups in April; Tilden Recycle Day, Central Berks Community Day, Bear Creek Festival, and "Let's Go Camping" Day in May; and Environmental Education Day and "Get Outside" Day in June.

**Two Thousand Fifteen** also saw its ups and downs. Blue Mountain Wildlife and Berks Parks and Recreation Department started a relationship that opens the Kerny up to Berks Rec programs, bringing more visitors to the Kerny. In February, BMW also launched an online store, [www.BlueMountainWildlifeStore.com](http://www.BlueMountainWildlifeStore.com), to support fundraising efforts. The BMW Trail Race Series took over as BMW's main fundraising events and drew 203 runners and earned over \$2,300 from the three races in April, May and June. Repair work on the Kernsville Dam Road continued, with work by BMW volunteers, the Tilden Township Road Crew and Bridge Church Community Explosion volunteers during the late summer. September's Dine & Dash drew 37 participants, its highest total to date. In October, BMW constructed several hundred yards of new trail along the rim of the Monument Parking Lot hill and made repairs to the Cabela's Wetlands Trail and Monument Parking Lot. BMW also faced challenges from illegal camping, vandalism, vehicular mischief, dumping and other criminal acts. In October and in December trail signage was destroyed and stolen. In 2015, the Kerny hosted "Snowshoeing with Your Sweetie", the annual Earth Day Clean-Up, "Let's Go Camping with Cabela's", two Invasive Species Walks, Environmental Education Day, a Butterfly Garden Photography class, "Walk with Dragonflies", and the Fall Clean-Up and Cook-Out. BMW also participated in the 11th Annual Membership Banquet, the Hamburg Arts & Crafts Fest, Bear Creek Festival and "Get Outdoors" Day.

## BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED HISTORY

**Two Thousand Sixteen** was one for the history books. The Annual Banquet was a great success, featuring a well-received Raptor presentation before 36 BMW supporters. Earth Day Clean-Up was a rousing success, collecting over a ton of trash and reinstalling signage, repainting pavement markings, taking down hazardous trees and mowing down swaths of Japanese Knotweed. Work continued on the DS Trail, with a supporter donating \$1,000 to construct 3 benches along the trail. The BMW Trail Race Series had its best year yet, registering 234 participants and earning over \$4,200. The fifth annual Dine & Dash registered 38 participants and the BMW crew officiated at both Hamburger Eating Contests at the Taste of Hamburger Festival. BMW purchased new hats and t-shirts as fundraisers, and received a new t-shirt design from local artist Dan Christ to replace the dwindling supplies of BMW t-shirts. The BMW stand attended the Hamburg Arts Fest, Bear Creek Festival, Get Outdoors Day, and the Red Creek Wildlife Open House. The Kerny hosted the BMW 15th Anniversary Celebration, two Invasive Species Walks, the Walk with Dragonflies, and the Berks Parks and Recreation programs Spring Macrophotography, and Starwatch in Northern Berks. Unfortunately, the spring brought more vandalism, with trail signage being destroyed and the Information Kiosk toppled. But the Kiosk was repaired and new signage planned for. Then, in early July, social media discovered the Kerny. This brought a deluge of visitors to the KDRA, first hundreds and soon thousands every weekend. Volunteer efforts at trash control were severely strained, parking was overwhelmed and illegal and destructive behavior increased. Local officials called for action and, on August 25th, PA DEP closed much of the KDRA to all but maintenance personnel and started revising the license agreement with BMW.

**Two Thousand Seventeen** saw a different Kerny. With all of the Kerny north of the Desilting Basin closed to the public, Blue Mountain Wildlife adjusted its plans and objectives. The Annual Banquet had another successful year and featured a presentation about dam removal. The first race of the 2017 Trail Race Series coincided with the Earth Day Clean-Up, which produced mixed results. The race attracted 52 runners but the Clean-Up only attracted a few people. The next race, the Mad Dash, attracted 54, but the final race, The Run To The Rock, attracted 100 runners, the best participation for a BMW race since 2006. BMW participated in three outside events—Hamburg ArtsFest, Bear Creek Festival and Get Outdoors Day. The Kerny hosted three events—two Dragonfly walks in August and a StarWatch in September. The Taste of Hamburger Festival ended with a cold rain, but the Dine & Dash drew 34 runners and the BMW volunteers officiated both Hamburger Eating Contests. Two scout projects were started in the fall: Ryan Kemp rehabilitated Outdoor Classroom #1 and Mackenzie Greenawalt is constructing a butterfly garden near the Monument Parking Lot. Lifetime Member Katherine Wells donated a concrete picnic table to add to Mackenzie's project. There seems to have been little or no progress from the Commonwealth regarding the closing of the Kerny or the renegotiation of the lease. Though there were a number of people cited for trespassing or given warnings, last year's closure resulted in a drastic reduction of the number of visitors to The Rock this year.

**Two Thousand Eighteen** was a year of renewal. Blue Mountain Wildlife embraced the Basin, entering the year looking forward to the I-78 Wetlands Mitigation Project and the many improvements it would be bringing to the Basin and Monument Parking Lot area. By the time the spring programs had gotten underway, word had arrived that the Commonwealth had budgeted money to remove the New Kernsville Dam, with work to begin within the next two years. The year started with the Annual Banquet, which featured presentations from Ryan Kemp on the Outdoor Classroom rehabilitation, from Richard Gardner on the Spotted Lanternfly, and from Jerry Neal of PennDOT on the I-78 Wetlands Mitigation. The 2018 BMW Trail Race Series tied the 2016 BMW TRS's participant high of 234, in spite of a very cold and wet Mad Dash, and raised \$3,046 for the Kerny. The Earth Day Clean-Up returned to its former glory. Over 80 volunteers showed up and collected over 1,700 pounds of trash, as well as worked on the picnic table monument and the pads for the DS Trail benches. The Kerny hosted two Bird Walks in the spring, an Invasive Species Walk in June, the Dragonfly Walk in August, a StarWatch and an evening of Indian Stories Around The Campfire in September, and a History Walk in October. BMW participated in Bear Creek Festival and Get Outdoors Day, as well as Taste of Hamburger Festival. The Dine & Dash drew 29 runners and the BMW volunteers officiated both Hamburger Eating Contests. In September, the Information Kiosk was rehabilitated, receiving a new roof courtesy of BMW volunteers and supporters, and Mackenzie Greenawalt completed her Native Plant Garden. The wet summer and fall slowed projects, but also seemed to lower the number of trespassers above the Basin as well.

## BLUE MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE INCORPORATED HISTORY

**Two Thousand Nineteen** was a year of quiet improvement. The work on the I-78 Wetlands Mitigation Project began in April and was completed by October (but years of monitoring are ahead). On the other hand, the highly anticipated removal of the New Kernsville Dam faltered after a stakeholders' meeting in April and no progress has been seen to date. The year started with the Annual Banquet, which featured presentations from Richard Gardner on his continuing work on the Spotted Lanternfly, from Aecom on the New Kernsville Dam removal, and from PennDOT on the I-78 Wetlands Mitigation. The 2019 BMW Trail Race Series saw good weather for all three races, set a single-race participation record of 125 (the Run to the Rock) and an overall participation record of 293, and raised \$4,166 for the Kerny. On Earth Day, the DS Trail Benches were dedicated, the Information Kiosk was repaired, and over 50 volunteers collected over 1,100 pounds of trash. The Kerny hosted a StarWatch in September and a History Walk in October, but the construction in the Basin forced the cancellation of the Dragonfly Walk in August. BMW participated in Bear Creek Festival and Get Outdoors Day, as well as Taste of Hamburger Festival. The Dine & Dash drew 28 runners and the BMW volunteers officiated both Hamburger Eating Contests.

**Two Thousand Twenty** was a year unlike any other. It started off with a well-attended Annual Banquet, featuring presentations from Don Rutledge of Rutledge Excavating detailing the I-78 Wetlands Mitigation Project, Heather Kerr of DCNR Bureau of Forestry reviewing the Bureau's vision for the Kerny after the removal of the Dam, and Richard Gardner updating his ongoing Spotted Lantern Fly project. But, just as the BMW Race Committee was to send the 2020 Trail Race Series t-shirts off to the printers, COVID-19 took hold. The Trail Race Series was postponed to the fall, and then cancelled altogether. The Earth Day Clean-Up was also cancelled and no events were scheduled until the fall. A socially-distanced History Hike was held on October 24th, ending the year's events for Blue Mountain Wildlife. The Hike turned out to be the biggest fund-raiser of the year, with over \$120 in donations. The Kerny, on the other hand, had a busy year. People discovered that it was one of the few recreational opportunities to remain open to the public and flocked to it in droves. The I-78 Wetlands Mitigation Project entered its monitoring phase and the I-78 Construction Project started, with the southern end of the Desilting Basin becoming a spoil repository and construction zone. In July, the Army Corps of Engineers submitted permits to, in successive years, dredge the pool of the Kernsville Dam and then remove the Dam itself. The year ended with BMW partnering with Berks Nature to create a plan to remove invasives and reintroduce native species around the Monument Parking Lot in an effort to improve wildlife habitat and reduce the maintenance requirements for the area.

**Two Thousand Twenty One**, while not exactly like 2020, was tiringly similar. The Annual Banquet was scheduled for a cold Saturday afternoon at the end of January at the Monument Parking Lot and featured a quickly-executed Membership meeting followed by hot dogs roasted over an open fire. The April 24th Earth Day Clean-Up was lightly-attended, with Berks Nature volunteers planting a dozen trees in the natural restoration area north of the Monument Parking Lot and BMW volunteers removing invasives and completing other improvements to the area. The July 30th Wetlands Restoration Hike with Berks Nature was very lightly attended, in spite of the delightful weather. BMW participated in the September 4th Taste of Hamburger Festival without the Dine and Dash. Hurricane Ida and other late-summer storms kept volunteers busy with clean-up and repair efforts. BMW also participated in the Hawk Mountain Council Jubilee at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds on October 2nd. BMW hosted a damp History Hike on October 23rd to round out the scheduled events for the year. With COVID lingering throughout the year, traffic at the Kerny remained high through every season. The I-78 Construction Project continued forward, with the new bridge on the southern side of I-78 nearing completion by the end of the year. The Hamburg Rotary Club teamed up with BMW to purchase and install a new pavilion overlooking the Wetlands just off the DS Trail.

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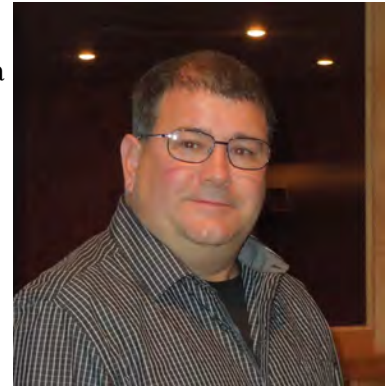
## 2021 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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### **Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated Officers**

**Don Waldron                      President 2021**

Don has been a resident of Tilden Township since 1989 and has been a life-long outdoor enthusiast. He has served as President of Tilden Action Group, a citizens group that was involved with past land-use issues in Tilden Township. He is currently active in various outdoor clubs.



**Neven Dries                      Vice-President 2021**

Neven is a local amateur photographer specializing in landscapes, nature and architecture. He has worked at Deka Batteries for the last 20 years. He has a love of the outdoors. "Blue Mountain Wildlife has shown me a way to help and encourage others to enjoy this fabulous area we call the Kerny."



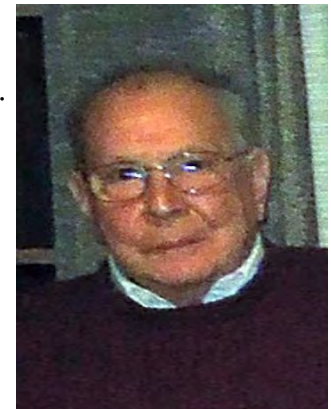
**Gregg R. Adams                      Secretary 2021**

Gregg spent 20 years growing up on his parents' property off Lowland Road in Tilden Township and has been a resident of Hamburg since 2008. He is a life-long outdoor enthusiast. He currently is a Planner with South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County.



**Fred Herman                      Treasurer 2021**

Fred is a long-time resident of Tilden Township and a Township Supervisor.



## 2021 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated Directors

**Gregg R. Adams**                      **Director 2021-2023**

Gregg spent 20 years growing up on his parents' property off Lowland Road in Tilden Township and has been a resident of Hamburg since 2008. He is a life-long outdoor enthusiast and is a Planner with South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County.



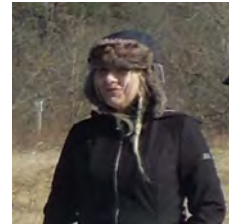
**Neven Dries**                              **Director 2019-2021**

Neven is a local amateur photographer specializing in landscapes, nature and architecture. He has worked at Deka Batteries for the last 20 years. He has a love of the outdoors. "Blue Mountain Wildlife has shown me a way to help and encourage others to enjoy this fabulous area we call the Kerny."



**Elle Rulavage**                              **Director 2021**

Elle is a resident of Windsor Township and has been involved with Blue Mountain Wildlife events for a number of years before volunteering to be a Director.



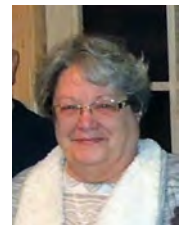
**Fred Herman**                              **Director 2020-2022**

Fred is a long-time resident of Tilden Township and a Township Supervisor.



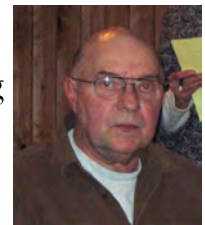
**Mary Jo McCormick**                      **Director 2021-2023**

Mary Jo is a resident of Fleetwood. She was volunteered into the group by her sister Pat Adams for the Dutch Country Bicycle Race and went on to accept a Directorship.



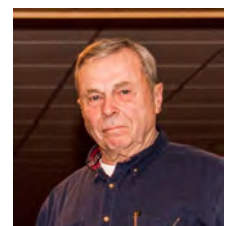
**Joseph Swider**                              **Director 2019-2021**

Joe was born in the town of Weirton West Virginia in 1947. He has lived in Hamburg for the past 20 years. He was recruited for BMW by Pat Adams because she saw a need for a tenacious and methodical individual to keep things in order. He loves the Kerny because as far as a mistress goes she different, new and exciting every time he graces her world with his presence.



**James Turner**                              **Director 2020-2022**

Jim is a resident of West Brunswick Township.





## 2021 FINANCIAL AND MEMBERSHIP STATEMENTS

### **2021 Financial Statement**

Total Assets January 1, 2021	\$13,245.59
Total Liabilities January 1, 2021	\$0.00
Gifts and Contributions received	\$6,817.27
Membership received	\$1,310.25
Interest	\$0.00
Income from fund raisers/banquet, etc.	\$202.32
Total 2021 revenue	\$8,319.84
Special Project Expenses	\$5,532.60
General Expenses (includes, advertising, office expense, donations, insurance, postage/shipping and printing)	\$2,495.98
Total 2021 expenses	\$8,028.58
Total assets December 31, 2021	\$13,546.85
Total liabilities December 31, 2021	\$0.00

*All financial records are on file with the Treasurer of Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated and are available for review upon request.*

### **2021 Membership Statement**

As of January 1, 2021: 122

Including: 6 Corporate, 2 Donation, 56 Family, 23 Lifetime, 15 Senior, 19 Single, 1 Student

As of December 31, 2021: 111

Including: 6 Corporate, 53 Family, 23 Lifetime, 17 Senior, 11 Single, 1 Student

*All membership records are on file with the Secretary of Blue Mountain Wildlife Incorporated and are available for review upon request.*

2021 PROJECT IMAGES

**Annual Membership Meeting and Cook-Out—January 30th**



2021 PROJECT IMAGES

**Earth Day Clean-Up—April 24th**



2021 PROJECT IMAGES

**Wetlands Restoration Hike—July 30th**



**Hawk Mountain Council Jubilee—October 2nd**

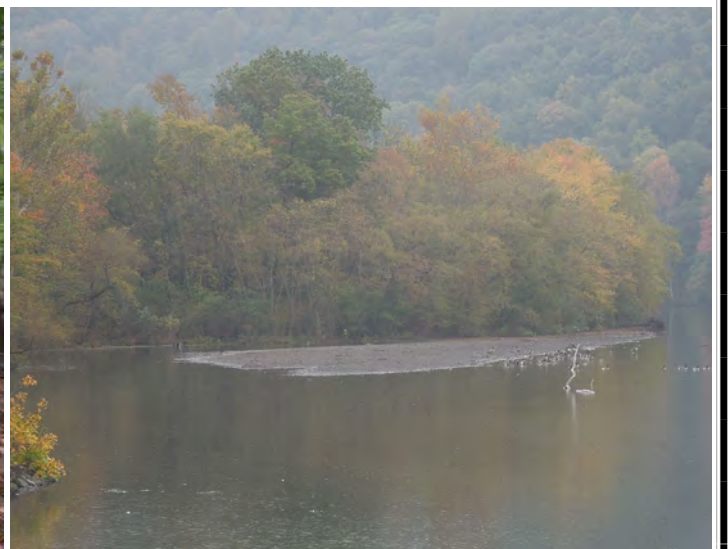


2021 PROJECT IMAGES

Taste of Hamburger Festival—September 4th



2021 PROJECT IMAGES  
**History Hike—October 23rd**



2021 PROJECT IMAGES

**Hurricane Ida Flood Damage—September 12th**



**New Pavilion—November 6th**



