



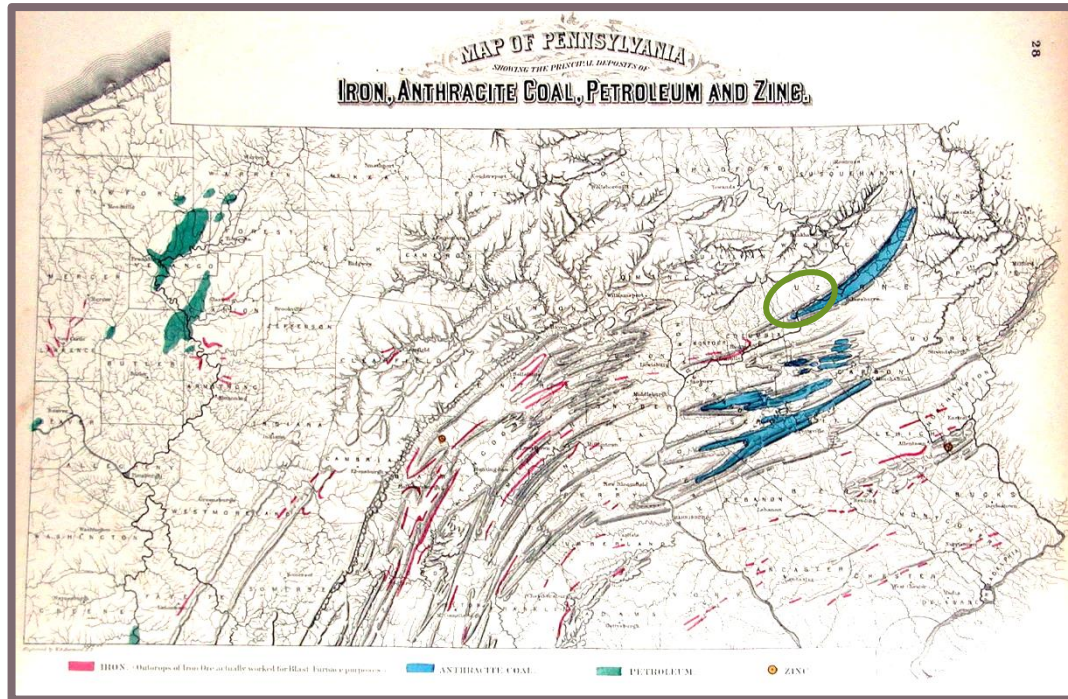
Land Recycling – Reclaiming Abandoned Mine Lands into Suitable Sites for Development

PROP ANNUAL RECYCLING & ORGANICS CONFERENCE 2022

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History of the Region

The Wyoming Valley of Northeastern Pennsylvania



- Settled in the late 1700s
- Flourished with rise of the coal industry, particularly anthracite – hard, clean, long-burning, and thus an efficient fuel source
- At the industry's peak, over **100 million tons** of coal were being culled annually for distribution along the East Coast.

"Map of Pennsylvania Showing the Principal Deposits of Iron, Anthracite Coal, Petroleum and Zinc," by H. F. Walling and O. W. Gray, published by Stedman, Brown & Lyon, Philadelphia, PA, 1872. Retrieved from www.explorepahistory.com

Huber Breaker, Ashley, PA | 1954



Taken by the Glen Alden Safety Department; retrieved from the Library of Congress

Industry in Decline

- After World War II, mining began to decline.
- Knox mine disaster prompted local collapse.

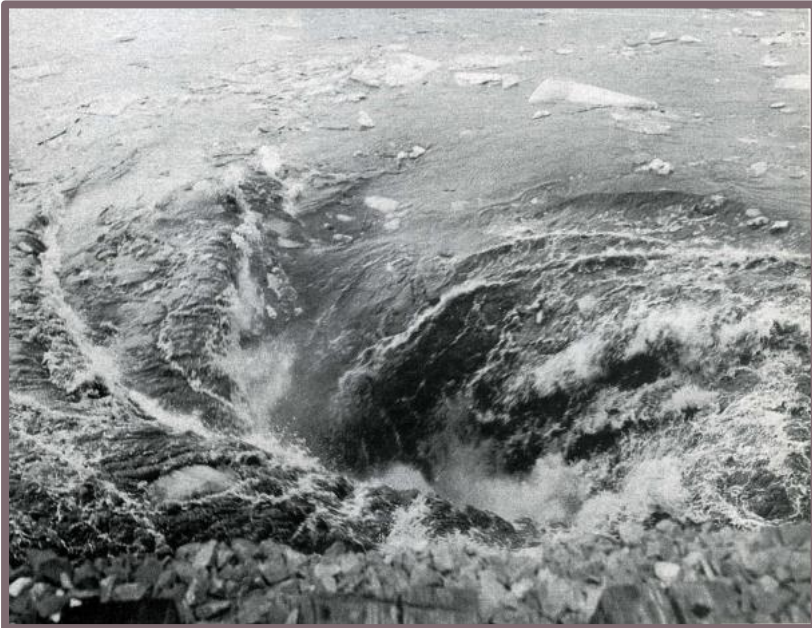


Photo by Stephen N. Lukasik (1959); retrieved from www.explorepahistory.com

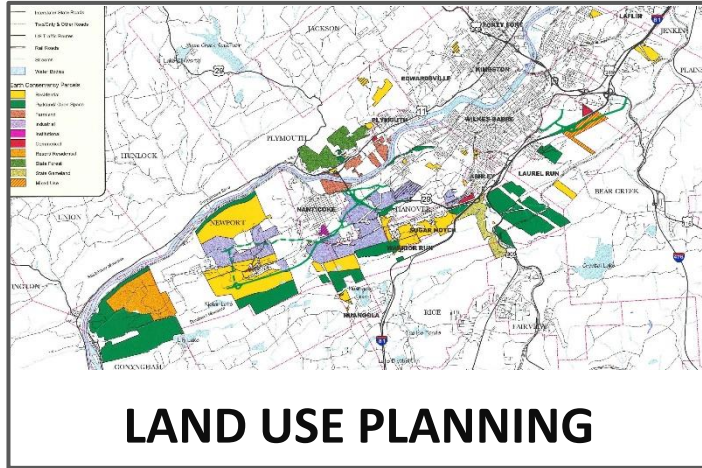
- When the companies shut down, operations were abandoned entirely.
- Pennsylvania has more than 250,000 acres of abandoned mine lands in 45 of its 67 counties – higher than any other state.
- Associated water pollution contaminates more than 5,500 miles of Pennsylvania waterways.

Huber Breaker, Ashley, PA | 1993



Taken by G. Harven; retrieved from the Library of Congress

Founded in 1992, Earth Conservancy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the reclamation and return of nearly 16,500 acres of former coal company-owned land to the region. Our mission is to mend the environment, improve the community, and encourage economic growth.



LAND USE PLANNING



MINE LAND RECLAMATION



WATERSHED RESTORATION



RECREATION & GREENSPACE



COMMUNITY EDUCATION



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

LAND USE PLAN GOALS & REALIZED ACREAGES • 16,496 ACRES TOTAL



**BUSINESS
& INDUSTRY**
2,200 / 1,706



**RESIDENTIAL
& RESORT**
3,800 / 2,300



**RECREATION
& GREENSPACE**
10,000 / 8,532



OTHER
496 / 250



**2,000 ACRES
RECLAIMED**



**8,677 ACRES
CONSERVED**



**\$56.3 MILLION
INVESTED**

Our Accomplishments

Reclaimed **2,000 acres** at an investment of over \$56 million.

Constructed **three** acid mine drainage treatment systems.

Completed land use planning for an additional **4,000 acres**.

Donated **719 acres** to 20 local entities, valued at \$3 million.

Built three trail systems, totaling **12.5 miles**.

Preserved **8,677 acres** for recreation and greenspace.

Operate a yard waste compost facility serving Luzerne County residents/municipalities, annually turning 27,600 yd³ of waste material into **8,300 tons** of compost.

Managed a small community garden for **22 years** for local residents, offered free-of-charge.



c. late 1960s., Huber Bank, EC Archives

Huber Bank

1999 • Aerial View of Huber Bank



Google Earth

2006 • Huber Bank Phases I & II Complete



2008 • Huber Bank Phase III Completed



Image USDA Farm Service Agency

Google Earth

2013 • Reclamation of 185 acres • Project Cost of \$9.4 million • Funded by EC and PADCED







Bliss Bank

Bliss Bank | On-Site



Bliss Bank | Reclamation Plan



Bliss Bank | Phases I - III





2021 • Bliss Bank, Phases I-III Completed • \$6.5 million



Thank You

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