

# RiverStewards

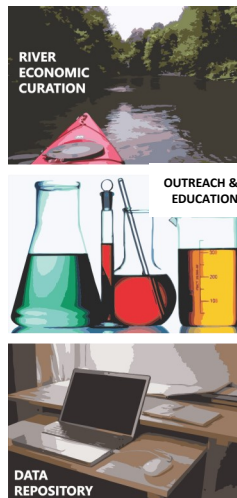
Education | Science | Exploration

RiverStewards brings together those interested in the river to make a significant, collective social impact. We recognize the value of the Susquehanna River's social return on investment, which considers the environmental and social values that the river gives to us all, in addition to the economic benefits. Through our continued collective efforts and communication, we will raise awareness of the river's importance and how we can sustain it.

RiverStewards was created to bring together the disparate organizations and individuals currently working to protect and enhance the Susquehanna River watershed within Pennsylvania to work collaboratively on mutually beneficial solutions.

Many times, organizations work within their own "silo" and don't communicate and work with those with similar goals. Even worse, nonprofits compete against each other for a limited pool of grant dollars. These individual efforts make those dollars less effective than they could be if shared among organizations with similar end goals. RiverStewards works to remove these barriers and create an atmosphere that encourages collaboration and collective impact.

RiverStewards is made up of two separate entities, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit called RiverStewards Collaborative, and a for-profit called River Stewards Benefit Corporation (see image on right). All profits from the benefit corporation will be put toward the work of the nonprofit. In that way, the work of the nonprofit will eventually become self-sustaining and not reliant on limited, competitive grant funding.



**Product commercialization:** finding inventions created at colleges, investing in them, and then scaling them up for sale

**Collaborative process management:** working with municipalities and others via meeting facilitation and other services

**River economic curation:** analyzing the total economic benefits of the river and providing that data to others

**Outreach & Engagement:** to include storytelling, public outreach events, "guiding the science" efforts, and other activities

**Data repository:** all data collected on the health of the river will be contained in a publicly-accessible database



# RiverStewards Initiatives: A Few Examples



**Shared Database for Susquehanna River Data** - There is considerable useful data on the health of the Susquehanna River, yet it is housed within various “private” computers. This creates redundant studies, data gaps, and confusion. Having a shared database, created by and housed at Harrisburg University, will advance our knowledge of the state of the Susquehanna and come up with solutions to address issues.



**Bringing Beneficial Products to Market** – The RiverStewards Benefit Corporation works with universities and others to bring products developed at institutes of higher education to the market to benefit water quality and quantity. There are several products currently being looked at that would benefit farmers, water treatment plant operators, municipalities and others. The profits from these endeavors will help pay for the work of the RiverStewards Collaborative nonprofit.



**Susquehanna Storytelling** – Beginning in Fall 2017, a professor at Millersville University involved his students in writing stories that focus on the people, cultures, and natural history of the Susquehanna River. Many great short stories and videos were developed by his students. RiverStewards highlights these via social media and events where the students can gain public speaking experience. We are now working with several other colleges in the region to expand this effort.



**Blueprint for One Water** - We proposed a regional governance structure for the management of municipal water quality and quantity, based upon this Blueprint that was developed by the Watershed Research Foundation. The pilot project began in Spring 2018 and involves the University Area Joint Authority (UAJA), the Spring Creek Commission, RiverStewards, and others to address water quality and quantity issues within the Spring Creek watershed (near State College, PA). RiverStewards has written a white paper based on this effort to be able to take this concept to the EPA and other watersheds throughout the state.



**River Economic Data Curation** – The Center for Land Use & Sustainability at Shippensburg University is working with us to map out the economic return on investment of the Lower Susquehanna River, with the goal of creating a report and other tools to show the economic benefits that will be used to build support for the river at the grassroots and legislative levels.

Visit us at <https://riverstewards.info>