

[https://www.newsitem.com/news/local/scra-receives-grant-to-restore-banks-of-quaker-run-in-kulpmont/article\\_351c6db9-1766-5ce7-a504-8fb5f074d6e3.html](https://www.newsitem.com/news/local/scra-receives-grant-to-restore-banks-of-quaker-run-in-kulpmont/article_351c6db9-1766-5ce7-a504-8fb5f074d6e3.html)

TOP STORY

## SCRA receives grant to restore banks of Quaker Run in Kulpmont

By LARRY DEKLINSKI THE NEWS-ITEM [larry\\_d@newsitem.com](mailto:larry_d@newsitem.com)

Jul 1, 2021

KULPMONT — The Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club has awarded the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) \$11,932 through its Huplits Wildlife Grant Program to restore 250 feet of creek bed along Quaker Run that flows around Veterans Memorial Field.

The money will supplement \$100,000 SCRA received from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to design and restore 2,000 feet of the creek bed to prevent water seeping into abandoned mines.

That funding was part of a \$736,294 civil penalty DEP imposed against the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Co. for violations associated with the construction of the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline. The violations included failure to properly maintain erosion and sedimentation best management practices, inadvertent returns of drilling fluids at drilling sites in Lebanon, Luzerne and Wyoming counties, and sediment discharge into waters of the commonwealth.

SCRA Director Steve Motyka said Veterans Memorial Field in Kulpmont has been identified as the location to build a wetland because Quaker Run in this area flows only part of the year because of a porous creek bed that allows surface water to seep into the mines.

“Quaker Run was extremely affected by past mining operations,” Motyka said. “Water seeping into the mines creates even more acid mine drainage that needs to be treated.”

Motyka said SCRA has hired professionals to complete the design to restore the creek bed, obtain DEP permits and oversee construction. Approximately \$43,800 from the settlement funds, he added, has been allocated toward design fees. A professional site survey is ongoing including laser scanning (LiDAR).

SCRA submitted a grant application to the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club to seek extra funding. As part of the application process, the Otzinachson Group of the Sierra Club voted to support the project after meeting with Motyka, Northumberland County Conservation District representative Ben Paul and two Bucknell University students involved with SCRA.

“The Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance has been in existence since 1996 and has been very active in environmental projects in their area. The project they are proposing will help restore a tributary to Shamokin Creek,” Otzinachson Group Chair Lana Gulden wrote in a letter of support.

Motyka said funding from Huplits Wildlife Grant will fund approximately 250 feet of stream restoration. A clay lining will be added to keep the water from seeping into the mines and structures will be built to hold back storm water events.

“The structures will become homes to aquatic, terrestrial and avian wildlife,” Motyka said.

The project is part of a broader effort by SCRA and Kulpmont Borough to enhance Veterans Memorial Field. Past and ongoing projects include a walking track, signage, tree plantings, pollinator garden, pedestrian bridge and restrooms.