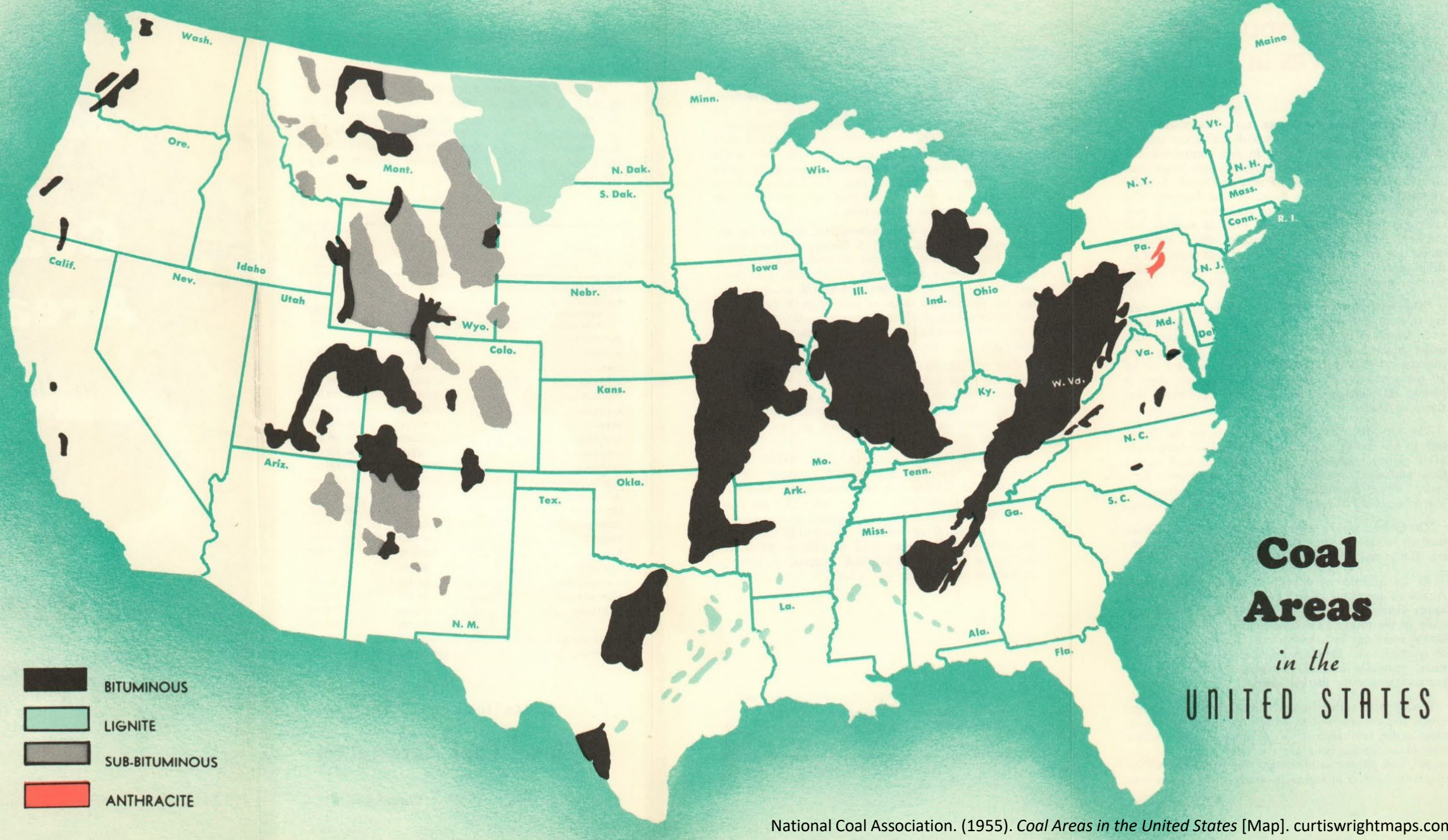




Reclaiming Coal Country:

PENNSYLVANIA'S ANTHRACITE LEGACY,
ENVIRONMENTAL RECOVERY, & REGIONAL REVITALIZATION

2026 EnergyPath Conference | July 16, 2026



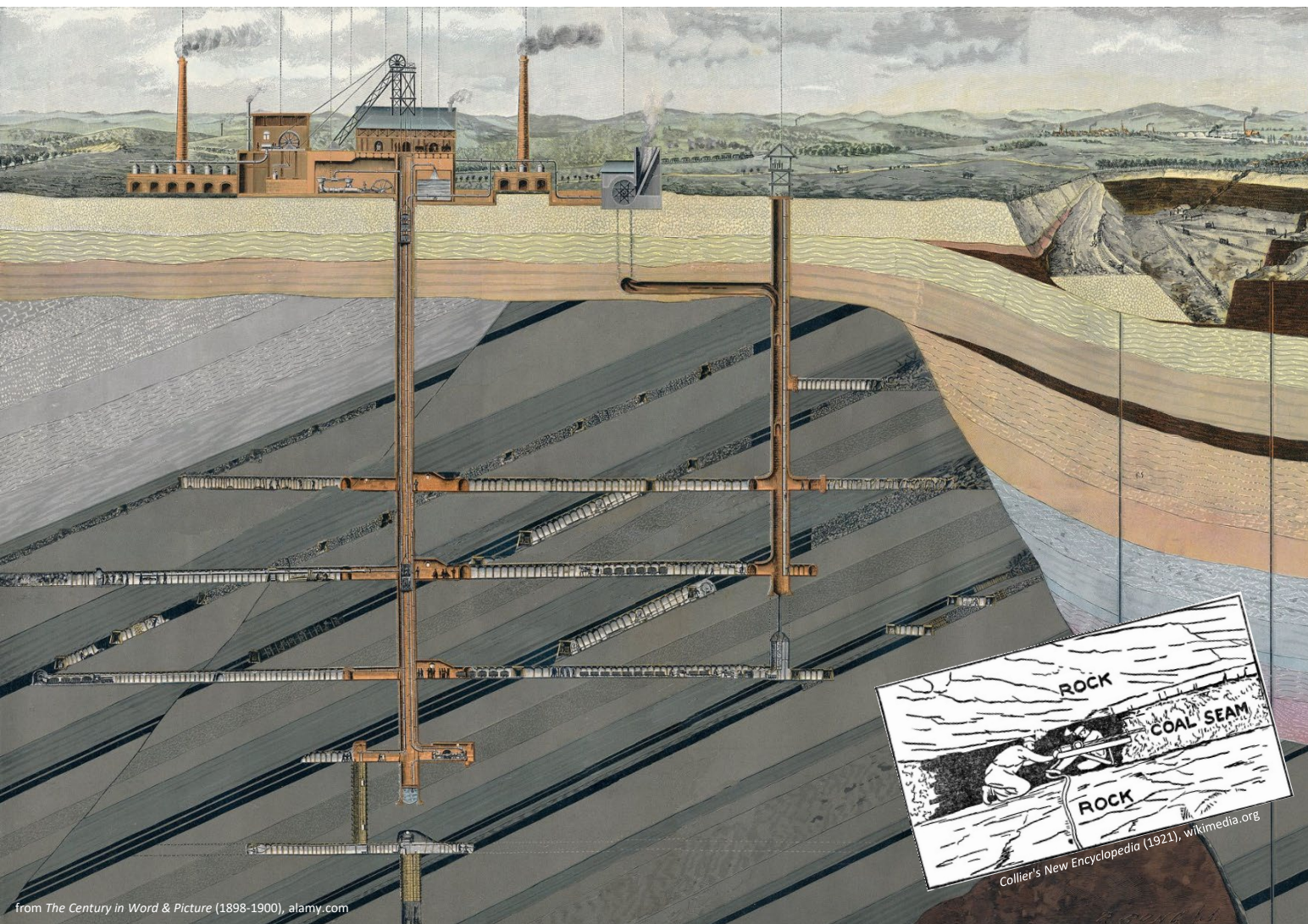
National Coal Association. (1955). *Coal Areas in the United States* [Map]. curtiswrightmaps.com

The Anthracite Region of Northeastern PA

- Settled in the mid-1700s
- Flourished with rise of the coal industry, particularly anthracite: a hard, clean, long-burning, and thus efficient fuel source.
- At the industry's peak, over 100 million tons of coal were mined annually for distribution along the East Coast.



DEEP MINING



STRIP MINING

Strip mining at the Loree Colliery, Larksville (c. 1921-22).
Retrieved from facebook.com/anthraciteheritagemuseum



LOREE H. C. CO. NO.

VIEW OF BOSTON STRIPPING SHOWING MINE CAR
BRANCH AND ROPE HAULAGE.

Huber Breaker, c. mid-1950s





miners entering the cage (c. 1950s), EC Archives



IT'S SWELL TO WAKE UP IN A NICE WARM HOUSE

...**EASY** TOO WITH **'blue coal'**

TRADE MARKED FOR YOUR PROTECTION

RADIO'S MASTER DETECTIVE

The Shadow

Tune in every Sunday Afternoon

'blue coal' starts quicker, burns better, lasts longer—it makes home heating easy. ★ 'blue coal' warms up the house in a hurry. For trouble-free, money-saving heat in every room, order a supply of 'blue coal' today.

★

Phone for a free demonstration of the 'blue coal' deluxe heat regulator. Opens and closes furnace dampers automatically. Insures healthful temperature.

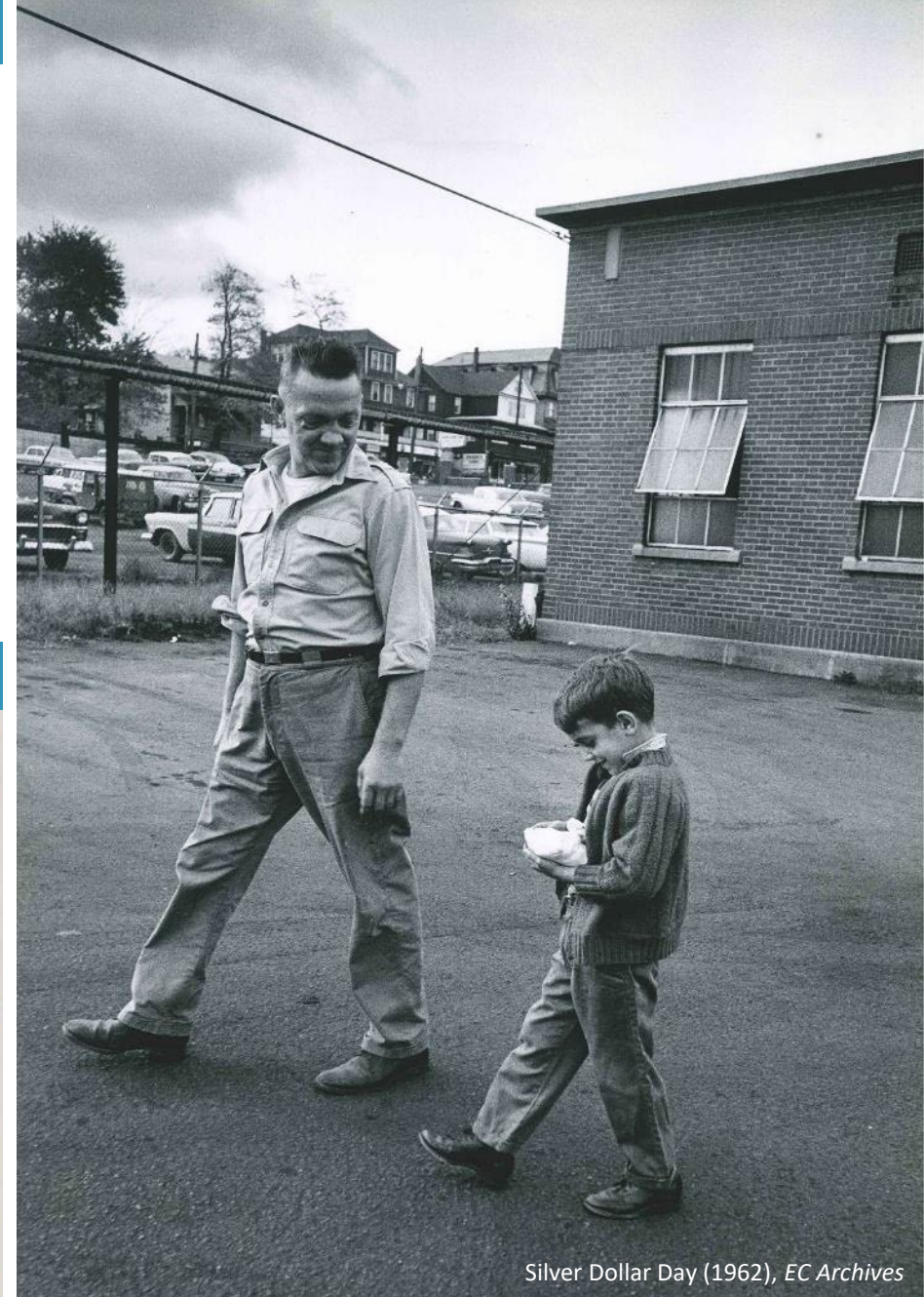
PAVONIA ICE & COAL

23rd and Howell Streets

Phone: 988

PHONE TODAY

Blue Coal blotter, retrieved from ha.com



Silver Dollar Day (1962), EC Archives





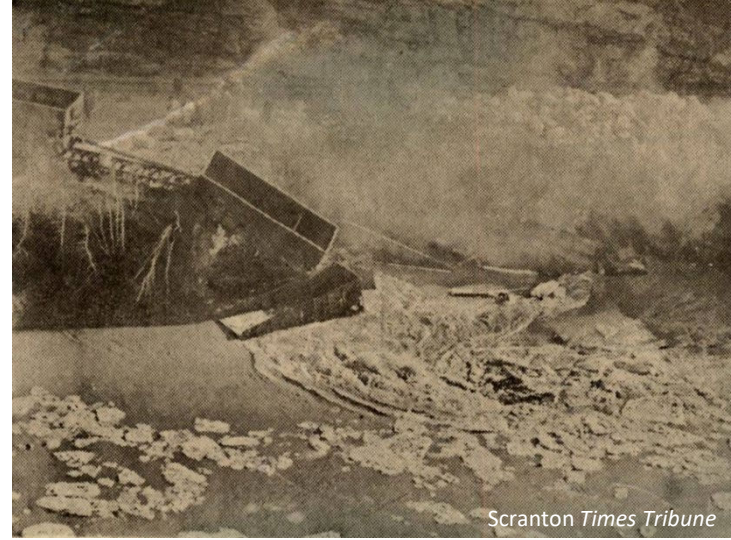
M. Thomas/Luzerne County Historical Society

JANUARY 22, 1959

KNOX MINE DISASTER



Lukasik Studio Archives/ExplorePAHistory



Scranton Times Tribune

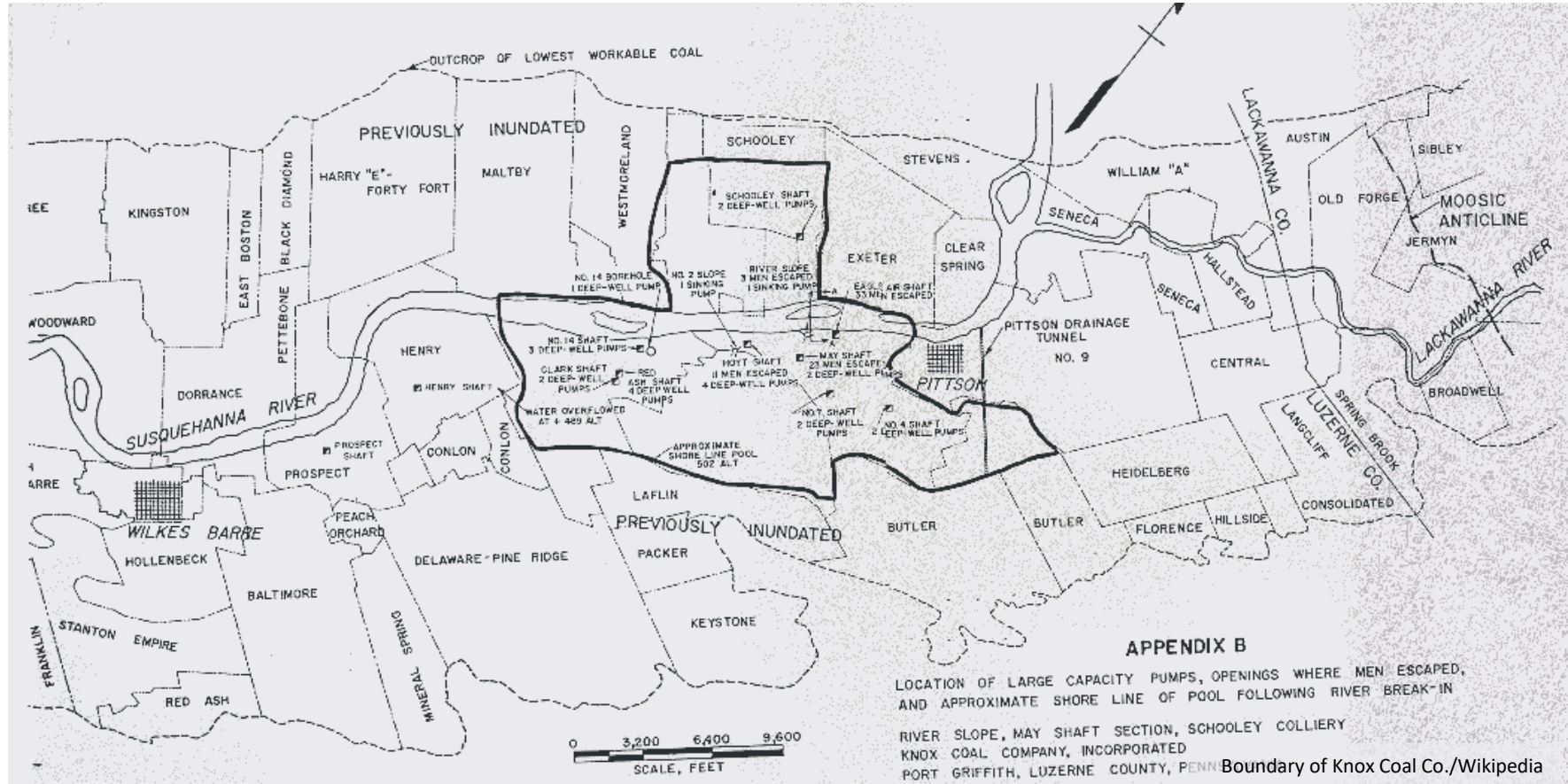
Miner Is Pulled To Safety At Port Griffith



—Chukinas Photo

With a rope around his shoulder, opening assisted by men on the bank, a miner is shown being pulled up a mine opening at the Port Griffith. Men with blankets stand by to cover the shivering rescued miner as they are brought to the surface. Swirling waters of the Susquehanna River cascaded into the mine through a tunnel. Huge blocks of ice also worked their way up the steep mine shaft. Altogether, 35 miners clawed their way up the steep mine shaft.

Wilkes-Barre Times Leader



1973

BLUE COAL CORP. SOLD
TO GREAT AMERICAN COAL CO.

PRODUCTION TO
QUADRUPLE

BERWICK ENTERPRISE

VOL. 71, NO. 199

BERWICK, PA., 18603, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1973

FIFTEEN CENTS

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leader for nine years.

He would succeed Spiro T. Agnew, who resigned on Oct. 10 after pleading guilty to one count of income-tax evasion. Ford was nominated two days later.

interrupted while trying to transcribe the tape in her White House office on Oct. 1.

Assistant Watergate prosecutor Jill Volner visited Miss Woods' White House office Tuesday to see for herself where

Durkin purchases 10 regional coal firms

James Durkin, Sr., widely known in this region, has announced he has purchased 10 major coal properties in six counties. He said coal production would be increased by about four times the present volume.

Durkin is currently under indictment with his two sons for income tax evasion.

Durkin claimed the deal cost \$33.8 million and involves about 30,000 acres of land.

Presently he serves as president of the Great American Coal Company, Inc., of Wyoming Valley. He said as soon as paper work is finalized, a major "employment effort" will be made.

Companies involved are Glen Nan, Blue Coal Corp., Raymond Colliery,

Olyphant Associates, Maple City, Carbondale, Moffatt, Glico and Gillan. Counties involved are Luzerne, Lackawanna, Carbon, Susquehanna, Schuylkill and Wayne.

A federal grand jury in Philadelphia last month accused Durkin and his two sons, James, Jr., and Edward E., of failing to pay \$72,450 in income taxes for 1970.

Colder

Tonight mostly cloudy with showers and turning colder, lows mid 30s to mid 40s. Thursday partly cloudy and colder with some snow flurries mostly north portion, highs upper 30s and 40s.

Bittenbender Jewelry & Crafts, 2200 Heights Rd. Open 2-8 or call 759-9564.

Country Antiques open daily 10 to 5, Sun. 2 to 5. Foundryville-Summerhill Road. (Brockmann). 759-9747.

Household sale, 608 E. 3rd St., Nescopeck, Nov. 29, 30, Dec. 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Penalty starts on school tax Dec. 1. Parvin Kershner

8:00 — Ch. 9 — Kiss The Blood Off My Hands with Burt Lancaster. See it on Cable TV.

Find out how much the school will cost, call 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mon. thru Fri. 759-1304.

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Durkin Giving Up Coal Holdings; Production Drop Expected

By BILL HALPIN
Times Staff Writer

Production of coal in the Scranton area, once the "Anthracite Capital of the World," is expected to fall drastically from an already short supply with the announcement in Wilkes-Barre by James J. Durkin Sr. he is, in effect, getting out of the coal mining business.

Just last December, Durkin announced purchase of 10 regional coal companies in a move to revive anthracite production.

On Monday, District 25, United Mine Workers of America, based at Hazleton, threw up a picket line of 75 men at Durkin's holdings in

said today that several attempts to reach with Mr. Durkin, regarding royalty payments to the union, have been unsuccessful over the

then be in the land and real estate business and collect royalties on mined coal. He was quoted as saying that he will have nothing to do with

With the operations at a standstill in the upper valleys, a quick check by The Times found that coal presently available in the area is being

A DER spokesman indicated today that the department may take legal action against the Durkin operation in Dun-daff in the near future if stringent back-filling procedures are not complied with.

Blue Coal, a Durkin operation in Luzerne County, was prevented last week from removing equipment from strip mining operations or selling or leasing any of its equipment after the department obtained a preliminary injunction from Luzerne County Court.

A preliminary injunction

may be sought in Lackawanna County Court by DER, it was learned, against Mr. Durkin's county holdings.

In December Mr. Durkin reportedly paid \$33.8 million for the 10 coal companies located in six counties and involving 30,000 acres of land. The companies are Glen Blue Coal Corp., Blue Colliery, Olyphant Anthracite, Maple City, Carbondale, Gileo and Gillette.

anthracite in the week ended May 25, as estimated by the bureau, was 108,000 short tons (2,000 pounds), a decrease of 1.8 per cent from the preceding week. Production in the corresponding week of 1973 was 149,000 short tons.

The bureau also estimated

ported the culprits. Police stated the woman had several bruises on both arms and

about six feet tall, slender build and wearing a short beard.

photo, points to the glass door the burglar entered at the Central City store in garage early Thursday morning. Appre-

Beltrami Closes Huber Breaker; \$15 Price Rise, Shortage Looms

By PAUL GOLIAS and JOHN ANDERSON

EVENING NEWS, RECORD

Beltrami's Coal Samples Flunk Tests

Five of nine coal samples taken from breakers of Beltrami Enterprises, Inc., flunked a test conducted last week to determine if the anthracite met state standards.

Based on the test results, the State Bureau of Consumer Protection will go into Commonwealth Court, Harrisburg, Friday to seek a restraining order prohibiting Beltrami Enterprises from selling its

ator Louis Beltrami, of Wednesday's state that he is selling sub-anthracite, closed the breaker at Ashley on

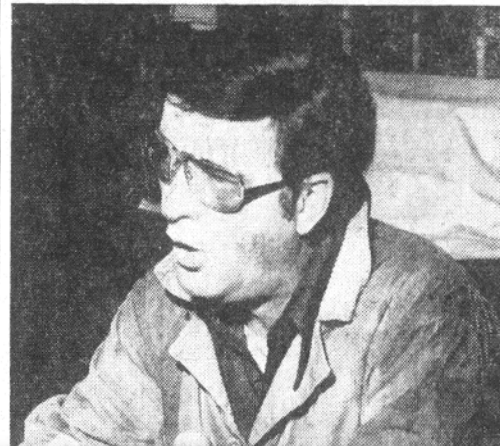
down raised the immediate threat of a coal shortage in the Wyoming Valley

ou appearing before the Huber Breaker, announced in mid-rapidly these deliveries

Huber Breaker is being of Thursday after-

CO are being layed off hey facility.

Prices are going up



for the Preservation and En-McNamara, YMCA, Sunday.

Wanamie Strip Mine Closing Poses Question on Its Status

The closing of the Wanamie strip mine operation by Blue Coal Corporation has created a was being lined up at the former Wanamie Colliery yard. The sudden decision to close the shutdown would be of three weeks' duration.

THE SCRANTON TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1976

Class Action Suits Name Coal Firms

Penn Mart Realty Co., Pal-merton, and the Philadelphia School District have filed class action suits in federal court against six indicted Pennsylvania anthracite coal producers, alleging they conspired to fix prices at an ar-

Navigation-Dodson Co., both of Bethlehem; Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Co., West Pittston, and Reading Anthracite Coal Co., Pottsville.

The Penn Mart suit claims the action is brought in its own behalf and "on behalf of all

federal grand jury in Harris-burg. A trial is scheduled for March 1977.

Penn Mart's suit claims, "There are various other persons, firms and corporations who are unnamed coconspirators and whose names are

made statements in further-ance of said conspiracy."

The complaint filed here said the plaintiff is unable to state the exact number of persons within the class without discovery of the defendants' books and re-

tain and stabilize the prices of anthracite coal throughout the United States beginning in 1961 and at least continuing through 1974.

"The plaintiff had no knowl-edge of such unlawful conduct or of facts which might

Lewis charges Durkin with coal price gouging

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP) — The head of a northeastern Pennsylvania coal

Says Shutdown Was Not Price-Raising Move

Durkin Predicts Full Coal Production by October



By TONY CANNELLA

Sunday Times Writer
James Durkin Jr., executive vice president of Blue Coal Corp., believes all the firm's hard coal operations in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties could be leased and back in business by mid-October.

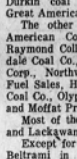
"his development, coupled with the fact that Beltrami Enterprises of Eckley has been mining for five weeks at two Luzerne County sites leased from Blue Coal, should prevent a local coal shortage this winter, he said.

"I think the supply will be adequate for the local market, which will be taken care of first," said the 36-year-old son of Blue Coal president James Durkin Sr.

The optimistic predictions came from the younger Mr. Durkin, who is tending business while his father recuperates from a heart attack, during a wide-ranging interview in his office at Blue Coal headquarters, Ashley.

During the interview with The Times, Mr. Durkin also defended Blue Coal's decision to shut down its mines in February and May, a move which Federal Energy Office chief John Sawhill blamed for a predicted shortage of from 50,000 to 300,000 tons of anthracite this year.

Before it ceased mining, Blue Coal produced about a million tons of anthracite a year, about one-fifth of the nation's total hard coal output.



TONY CANNELLA

companies in six counties purchased by the Durkins last fall for a reported \$33.8-million.

But during the interview he used the term "Blue Coal" in reference to his family's coal holdings. He explained that "Blue Coal" is a name more familiar to the public than the proper title of the Durkin coal empire, which is "The Great American Coal Co."

The other companies in the Great American Coal Co. are Glen Nan, Raymond Colliery, Maple City, Carbondale Coal Co., Gileo Coal Co., Minidul Corp., Northwest Mining Co., Clinton Fuel Sales, Hudson Realty Co., Hudson Coal Co., Olyphant Premium Anthracite and Moffat Premium.

Most of the holdings are in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties.

Except for the sites leased by Louis Beltrami in Luzerne County and an

operation in Taylor under lease to Colt Coal Co. of Wyoming, all the companies are out of production now.

But Mr. Durkin is confident that in 30-45 days there will be a turnaround.

Mr. Beltrami already has leased on Blue Coal's Bliss and Wanamie sites in Luzerne County. Though the Eckley coal operator so far has not found a local breaker to process 80,000 tons of coal he has dug out of those sites, Mr. Durkin predicted Wednesday that he soon will locate one.

Casey Kassa, head of Kassa Coal Co. of Dupont, is nearing accord with the Durkins in negotiations to lease at least one strip mine in Luzerne County.

And it is likely Mr. Beltrami will lease the Glen Nan, Newport Twp., said Mr. Durkin. The Glen Nan was the last local operating deep mine before the Durkins closed it in February.

"That in effect wraps up our holdings in Luzerne County," said the Blue Coal executive.

Negotiations between the Durkins and operators interested in leasing Blue Coal holdings in Lackawanna County also are going well, he added.

Rutledge Flynn of Wilkes-Barre and two other parties are trying to lease the Moffat breaker in Taylor, said Mr. Durkin, and one of them should close a deal soon.

He said his firm is negotiating to lease out other Lackawanna holdings. Among these are the Owego strip mine, Carbondale; the Murrin, Carbondale; Greensfield, Carbondale Twp.; the Archibald, Carbondale Twp.; No. 5 Hill, Archibald, and No. 8 Tunnel, Archibald.

"Within 30 to 45 days these contracts should be completed and all our workings in Lackawanna should be back in operation," he ventured.

"And there will be some new strip-ping on virgin territory. For example, John Savage of Kingston hopes to take out a permit at No. 8 Tunnel."

Mr. Durkin said Mr. Savage, Mr. Kassa and Mr. Flynn are the parties actively dealing with Blue Coal for lease of sites in Lackawanna County.

The arithmetic of Mr. Durkin's optimism goes something like this. If all the holdings in the two counties are leased by mid-October, as much as 85,000 tons of coal per month could be dug out of Blue Coal mines.

This adds up to 220,000 tons by the end of the year.

Mr. Beltrami already has 85,000 tons of raw coal on the ground at Wanamie

Keeping up with the Sunday Times

Court Asked to Find Blue Coal, Officers in Contempt for Not Backfilling Strip Mines

The State Department of Environmental Resources has asked Luzerne County Court to dragline and a bulldozer were day until the backfilling is completed. The money shall be held in escrow by the court until the strip mine to the Retreat Moun-

As an example of the moving kin, Sr., Durkin, Jr., Zink and Still further, the court is asked

of equipment, DER contends a McAndrew the sum of \$100 per to prevent State Police from issuing any special transporta-



EXTRACTION'S LEGACY







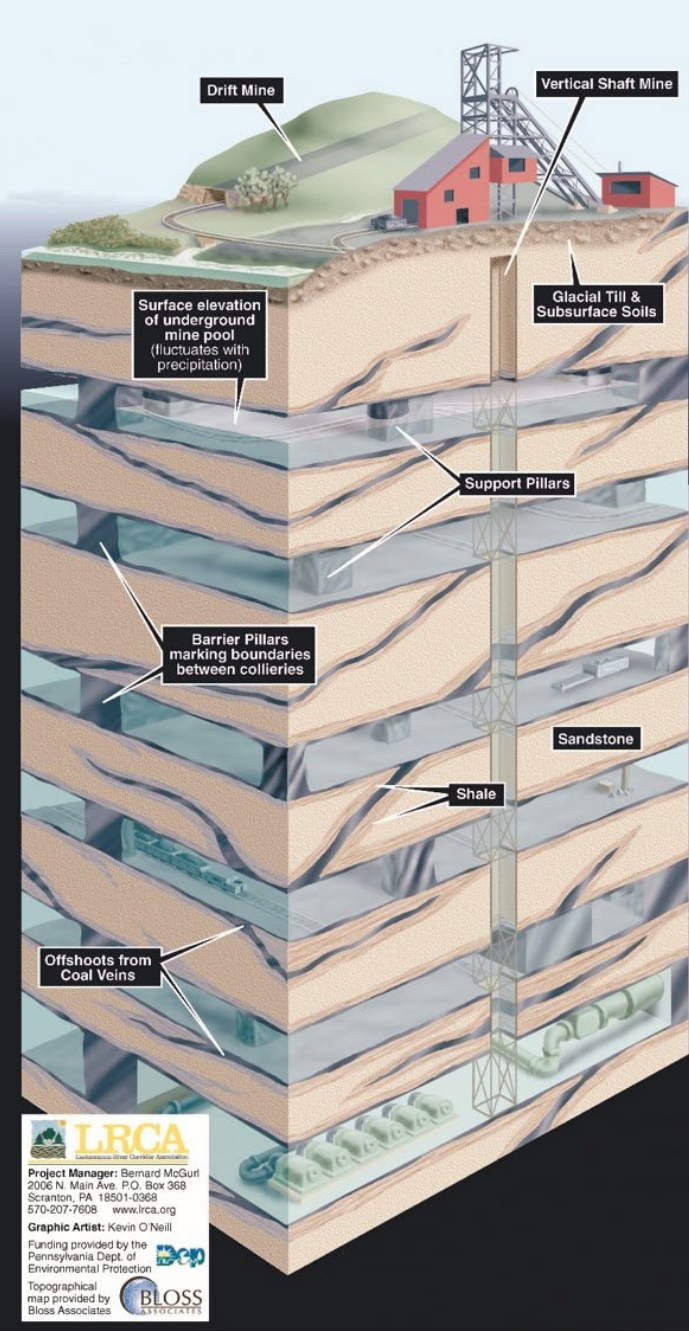
Huber Bank, Hanover Twp., 2006

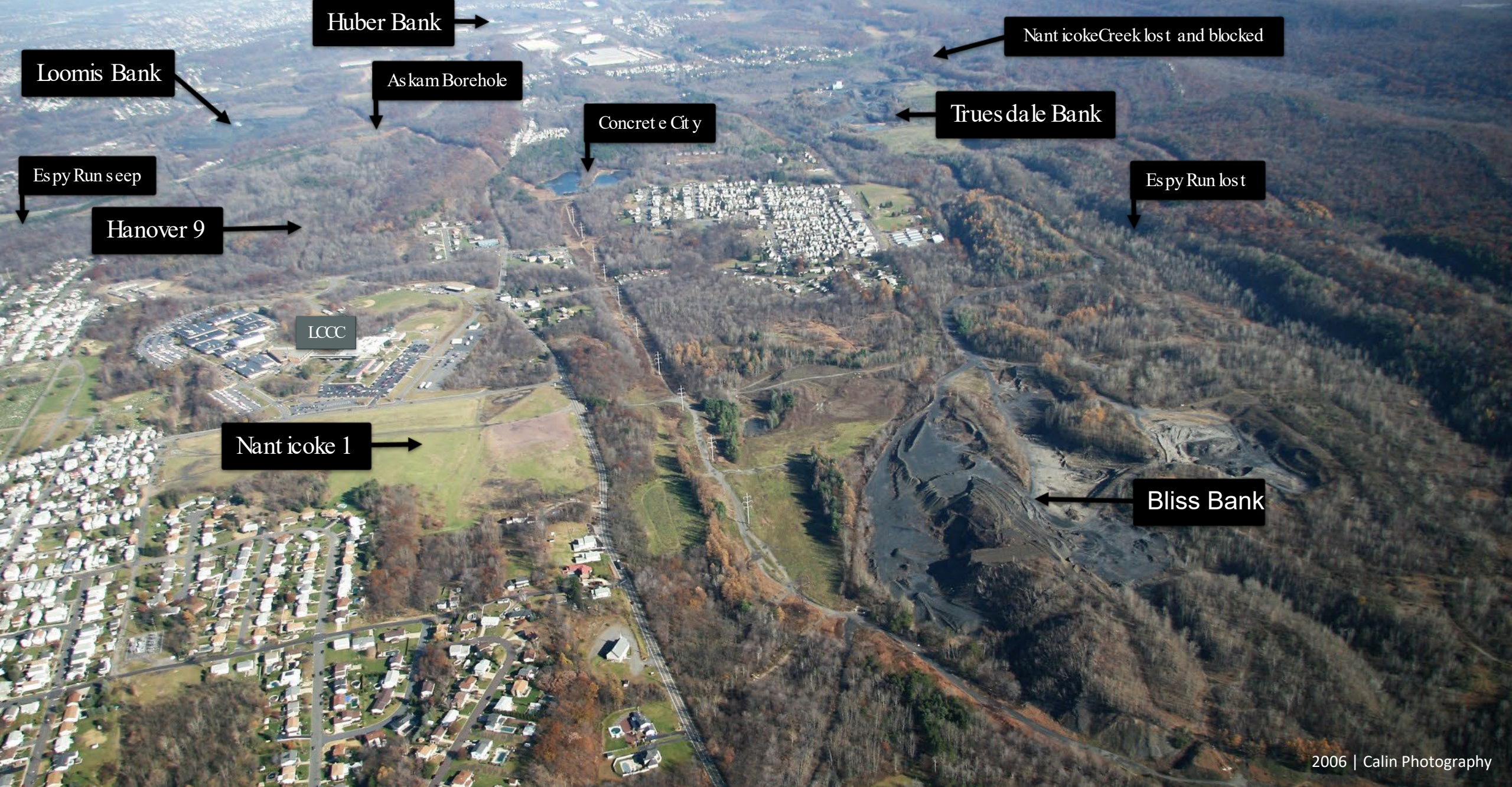


Avondale Pits, Plymouth Twp., 2006



West End Banks, Conyngham Twp., 2011





Loomis Bank

Huber Bank

Askam Borehole

Nanticoke Creek lost and blocked

Es py Run seep

Hanover 9

Concrete City

Truesdale Bank

Es py Run lost

LCCC

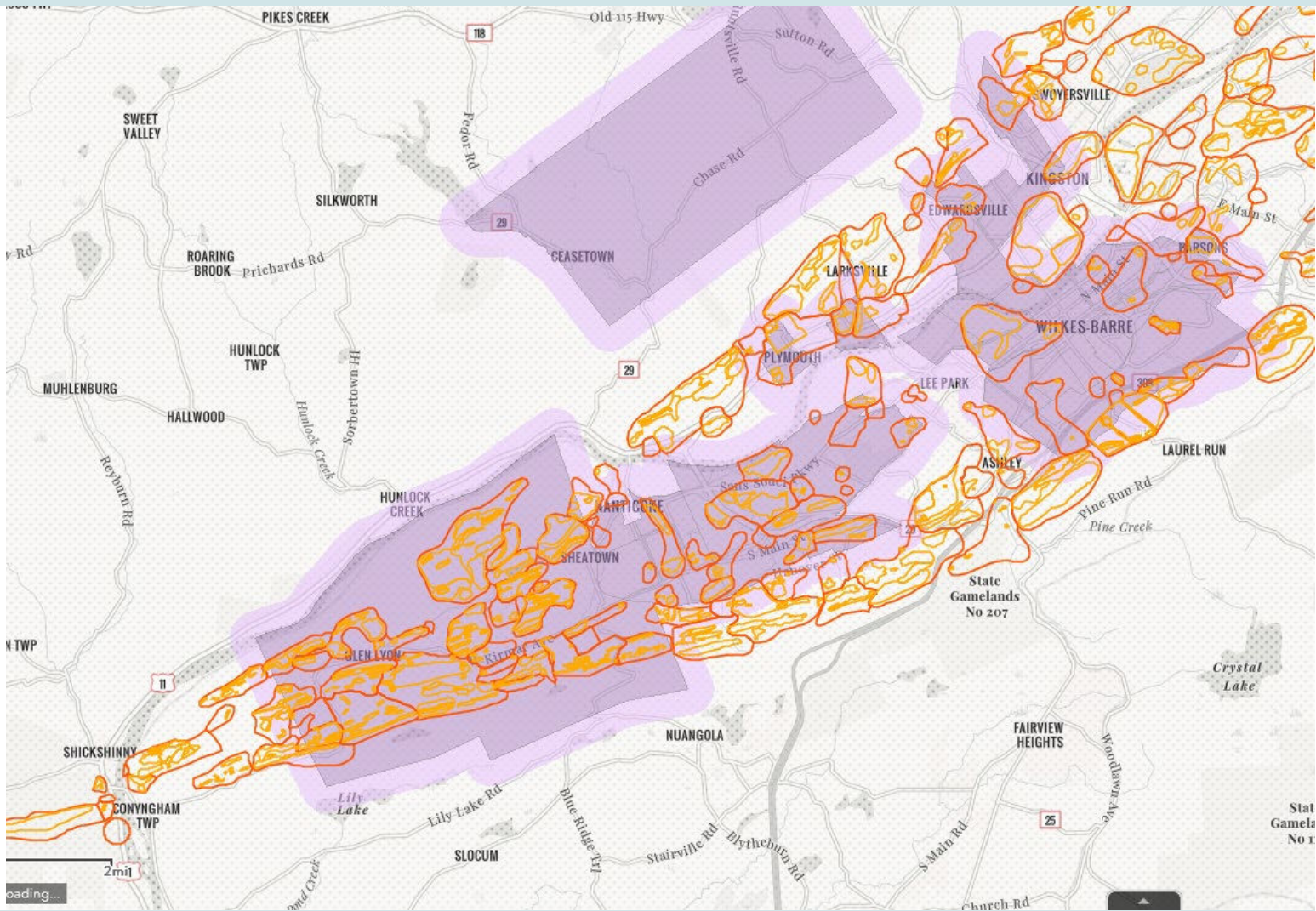
Nanticoke 1

Bliss Bank

2006 | Calin Photography

REVERBERATING EFFECTS

	Nanticoke	Luzerne County	United States
Population (1940 v. 2023)	24,387 ↓ 10,416 (-57.3%)	440,554 ↓ 314,647 (-28.6%)	
Unemployment	8.7%	5.7%	5.2%
Median Income	\$60,340	\$62,321	\$78,538
Poverty	17.7%	15.4%	12.4%
College Graduate	19.1%	25.0%	35.0%



THE EXPERIMENT: EARTH CONSERVANCY



Standard Speaker, January 15, 1992

EARTH CONSERVANCY

Founded: January 1992

Land Purchased: August 1994

The Charge

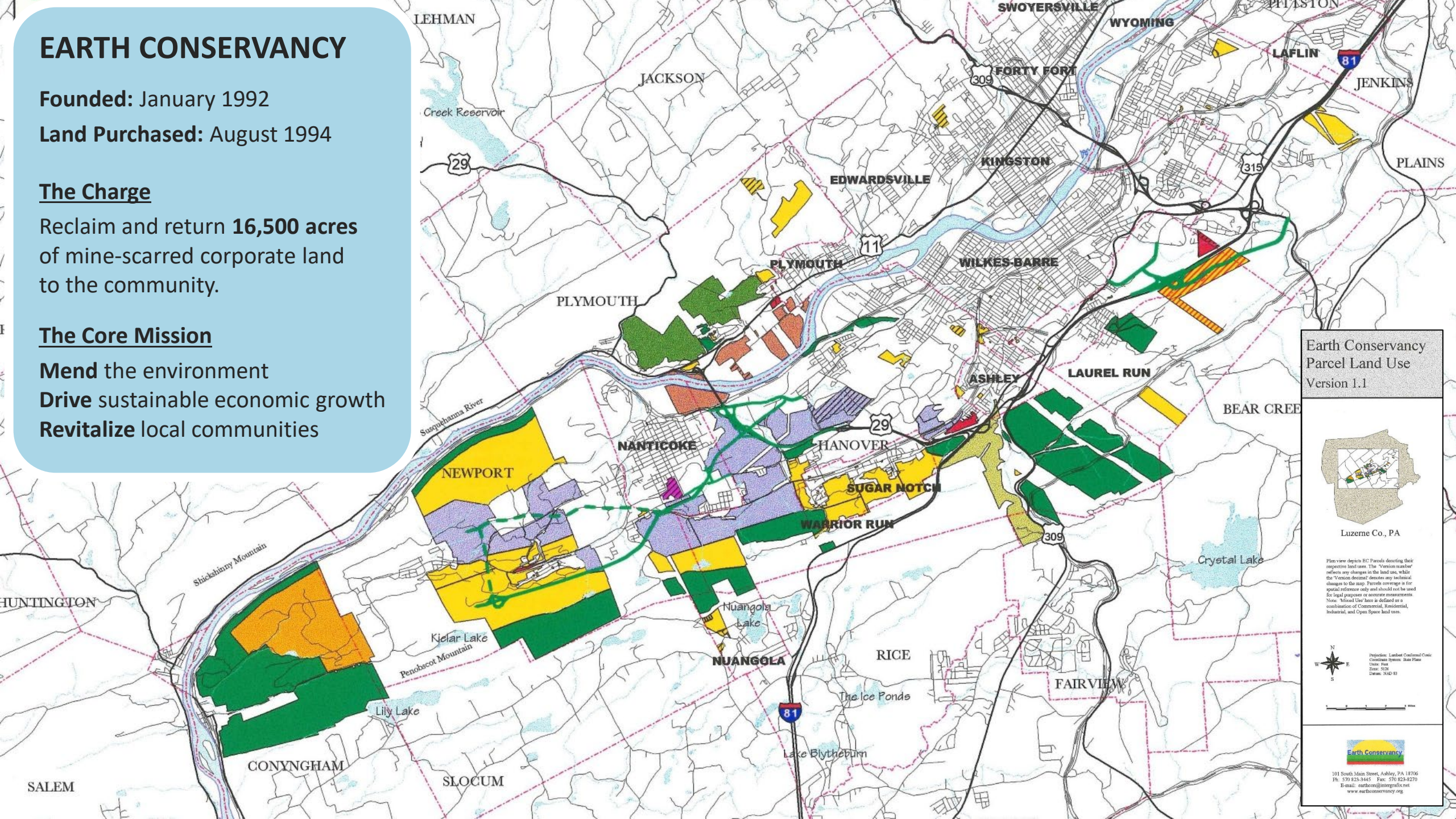
Reclaim and return **16,500 acres** of mine-scarred corporate land to the community.

The Core Mission

Mend the environment

Drive sustainable economic growth

Revitalize local communities



Earth Conservancy
Parcel Land Use
Version 1.1



Luzerne Co., PA

Plan view depicts EC Parcels denoting their respective land uses. The "Version number" reflects any changes in the land use, while the "Version decimal" denotes any technical changes to the map. Parcels coverage is for spatial reference only and should not be used for legal purposes or accurate measurements. Note: "Natural Use" here is defined as a combination of Commercial, Residential, Industrial, and Open Space land uses.



Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Coordinate System: State Plane
Units: Feet
Zone: 18N
Datum: NAD 83



101 South Main Street, Ashley, PA 18706
Ph: 570-823-3445 Fax: 570-823-8270
E-mail: earthcon@intergrafx.net
www.earthconservancy.org

BLISS BANK



2007



PADEP Energy Harvest Program

PADEP \$690,000
EC \$45,000



2020



2020

Bliss I

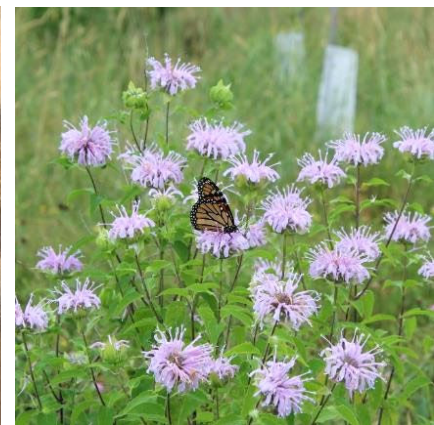
Bliss II

Bliss III

USEPA Brownfields Cleanup | \$1,200,00
PADEP Growing Greener | \$1,710,000
PADEP Pilot (AML) Program | \$1,535,000
Earth Conservancy | \$624,000



ESPY RUN



USEPA Brownfields Cleanup | \$600,000
PADEP Growing Greener | \$500,000
PADEP Pilot (AML) Program | \$1,135,000
Earth Conservancy | \$300,000

Huber Bank (Phases III & IV)



2013 | 185 acres | Hanover Township
Project Cost: \$9.4 million
Funded by PADCED and Earth Conservancy

FRANKLIN BANK



2009 | 15 acres | Hanover Township
Project Cost: \$337,000
Funded by USEPA and Earth Conservancy

GREATER HANOVER RECREATION AREA



2011 | 65 acres | Hanover Township & Sugar Notch Borough

Project Cost: \$1.9 million

Funded by USDA, PADEP, PADOT, PADCED, Luzerne County,
Private & In-Kind contributions, and Earth Conservancy

Our Accomplishments



**2,090 ACRES
RECLAIMED**



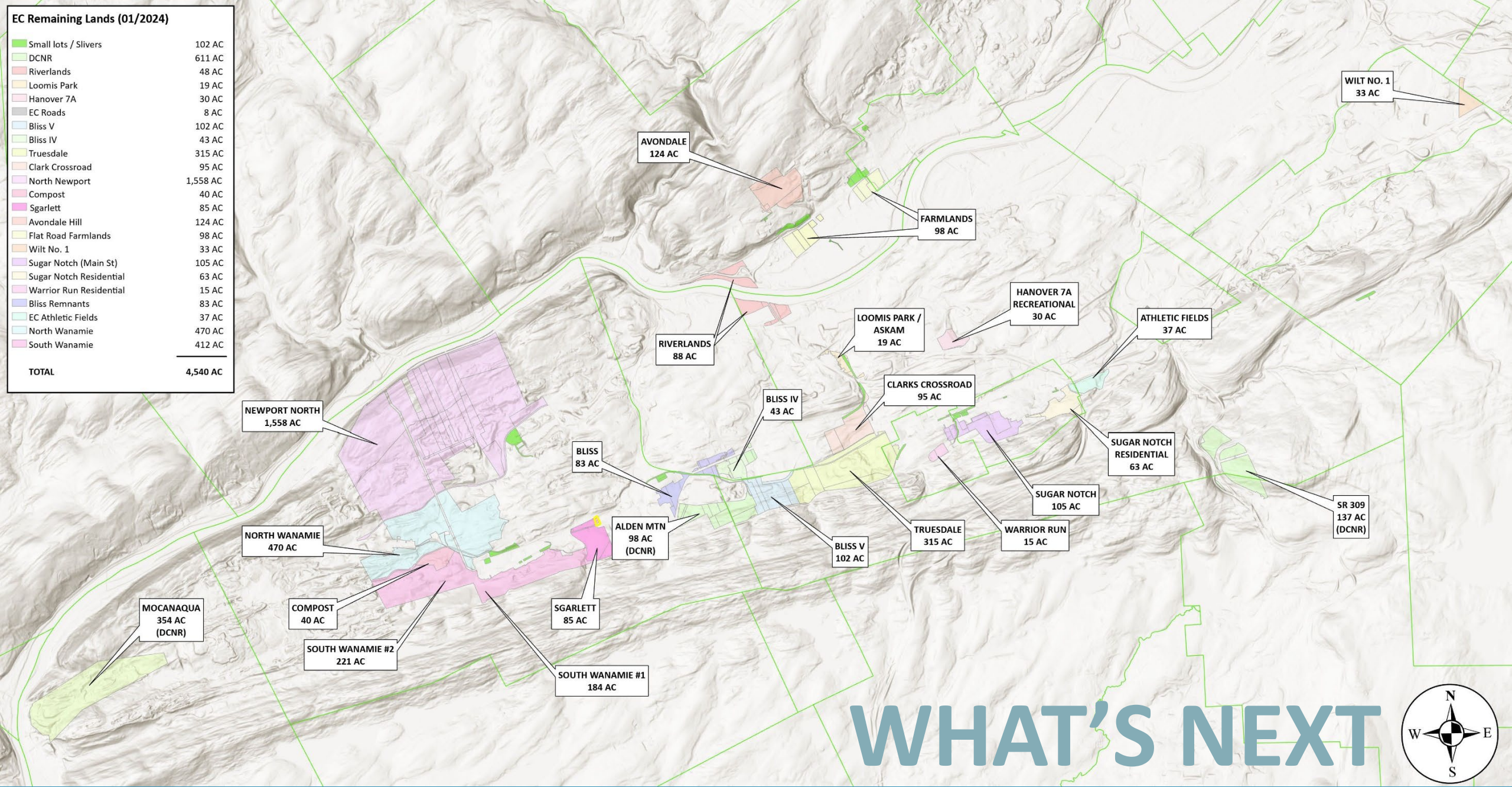
**9,377 ACRES
CONSERVED**



**\$66.3 MILLION
INVESTED**

- Rebuilt **1.2 miles** of damaged stream channel
- Constructed **three** acid mine drainage treatment systems
- Completed **13** land use plans & feasibility studies
- Donated **767 acres** to 31 local entities, valued at \$5.65 million
- Built three trail systems, totaling **12.5 miles**
- Operate a compost facility serving Luzerne County residents and municipalities, processing **8,000 tons** of green waste annually
- Have managed a small community garden for **26 years** for residents, offered free-of-charge

EC Remaining Lands (01/2024)	
Small lots / Slivers	102 AC
DCNR	611 AC
Riverlands	48 AC
Loomis Park	19 AC
Hanover 7A	30 AC
EC Roads	8 AC
Bliss V	102 AC
Bliss IV	43 AC
Truesdale	315 AC
Clark Crossroad	95 AC
North Newport	1,558 AC
Compost	40 AC
Sgarlett	85 AC
Avondale Hill	124 AC
Flat Road Farmlands	98 AC
Wilt No. 1	33 AC
Sugar Notch (Main St)	105 AC
Sugar Notch Residential	63 AC
Warrior Run Residential	15 AC
Bliss Remnants	83 AC
EC Athletic Fields	37 AC
North Wanamie	470 AC
South Wanamie	412 AC
TOTAL	4,540 AC



WHAT'S NEXT



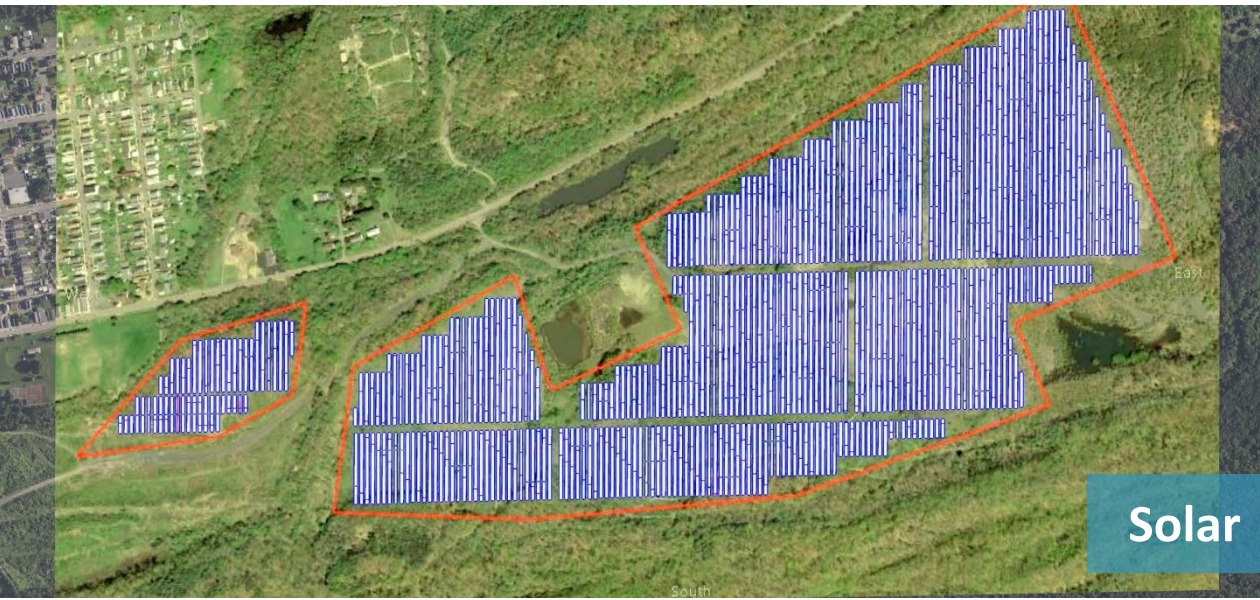
Newport North



Hanover 7A

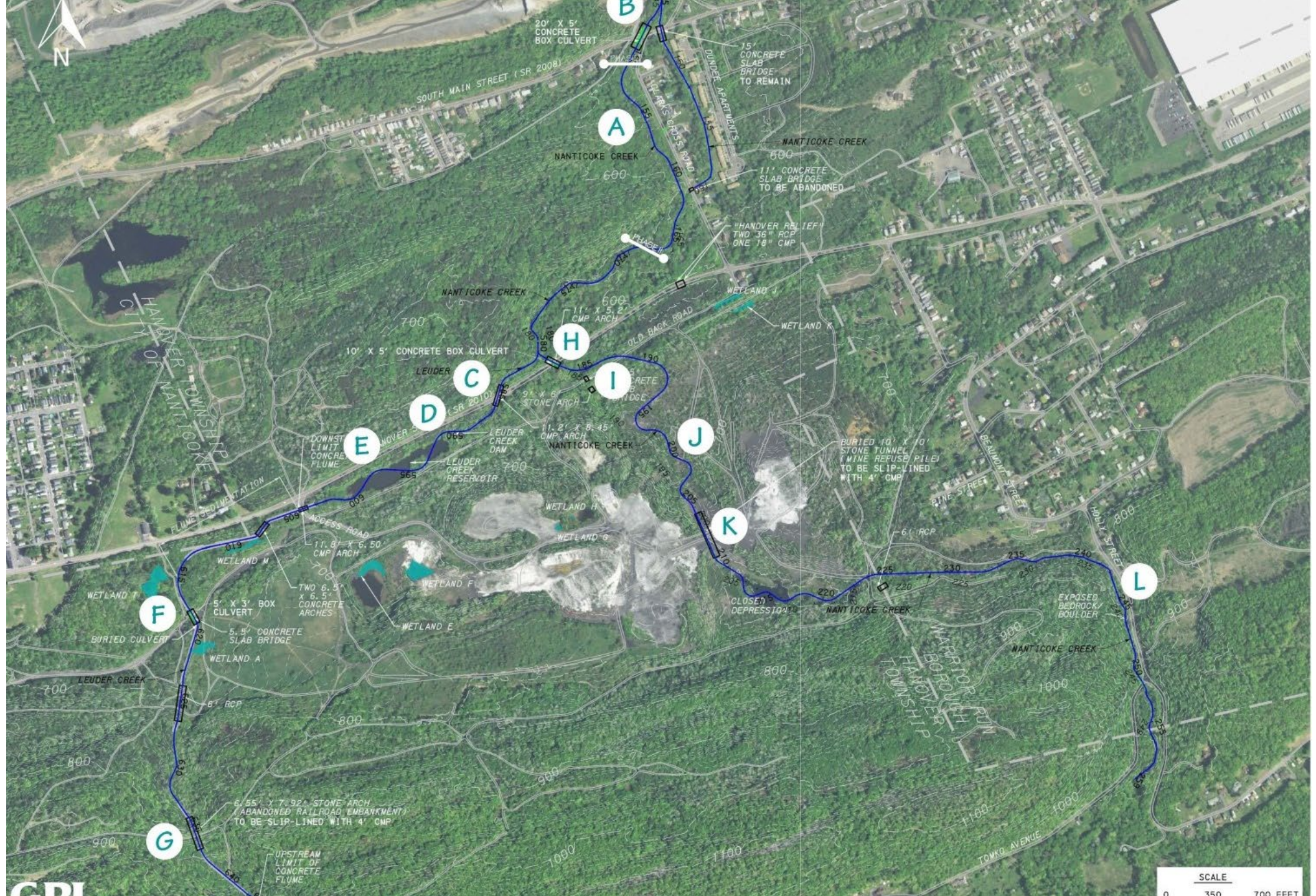


Center Street



Solar

NANTICOKE CREEK RESTORATION

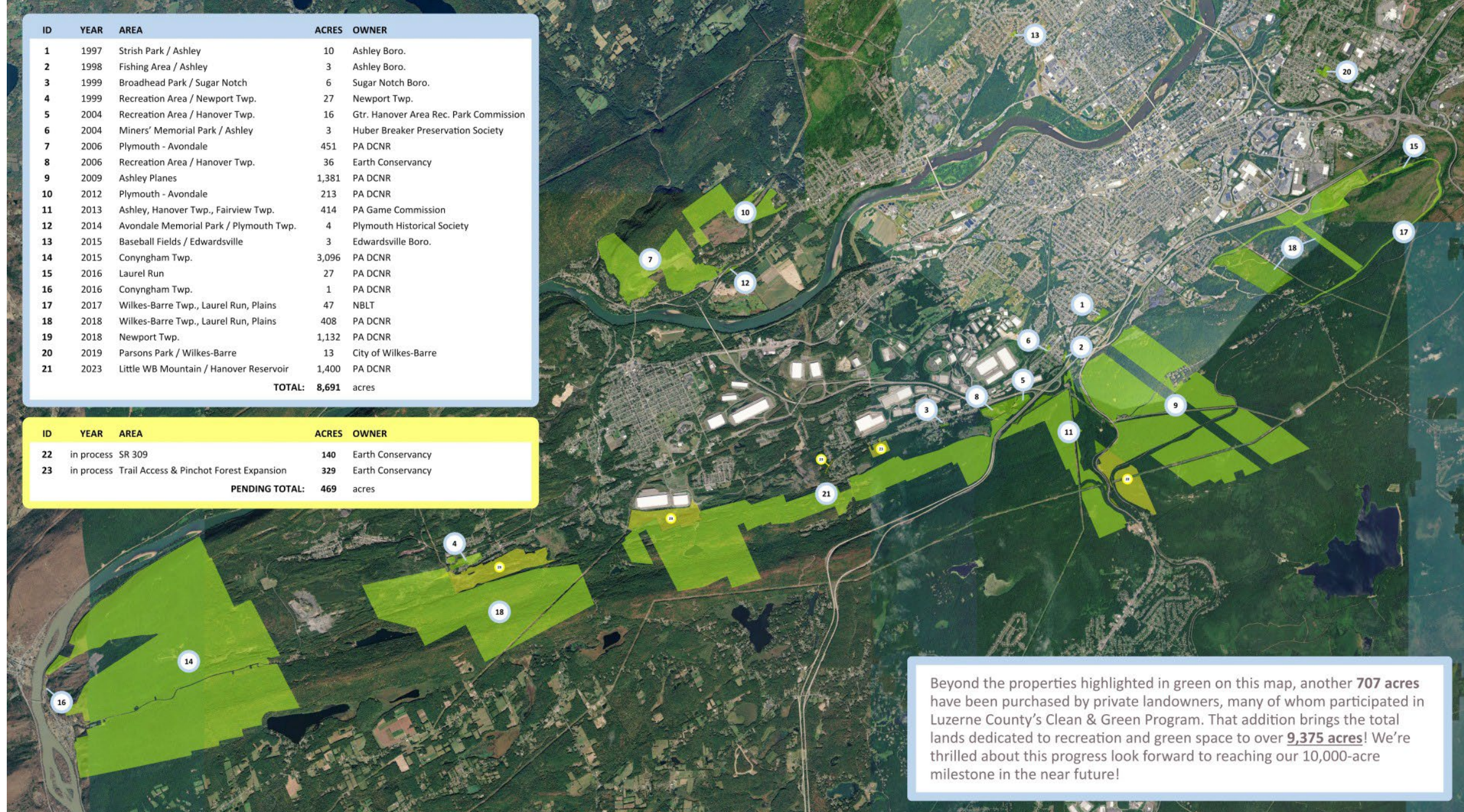




Nanticoke Creek Restoration

ID	YEAR	AREA	ACRES	OWNER
1	1997	Strish Park / Ashley	10	Ashley Boro.
2	1998	Fishing Area / Ashley	3	Ashley Boro.
3	1999	Broadhead Park / Sugar Notch	6	Sugar Notch Boro.
4	1999	Recreation Area / Newport Twp.	27	Newport Twp.
5	2004	Recreation Area / Hanover Twp.	16	Gtr. Hanover Area Rec. Park Commission
6	2004	Miners' Memorial Park / Ashley	3	Huber Breaker Preservation Society
7	2006	Plymouth - Avondale	451	PA DCNR
8	2006	Recreation Area / Hanover Twp.	36	Earth Conservancy
9	2009	Ashley Planes	1,381	PA DCNR
10	2012	Plymouth - Avondale	213	PA DCNR
11	2013	Ashley, Hanover Twp., Fairview Twp.	414	PA Game Commission
12	2014	Avondale Memorial Park / Plymouth Twp.	4	Plymouth Historical Society
13	2015	Baseball Fields / Edwardsville	3	Edwardsville Boro.
14	2015	Conyngham Twp.	3,096	PA DCNR
15	2016	Laurel Run	27	PA DCNR
16	2016	Conyngham Twp.	1	PA DCNR
17	2017	Wilkes-Barre Twp., Laurel Run, Plains	47	NBLT
18	2018	Wilkes-Barre Twp., Laurel Run, Plains	408	PA DCNR
19	2018	Newport Twp.	1,132	PA DCNR
20	2019	Parsons Park / Wilkes-Barre	13	City of Wilkes-Barre
21	2023	Little WB Mountain / Hanover Reservoir	1,400	PA DCNR
TOTAL:			8,691	acres

ID	YEAR	AREA	ACRES	OWNER
22	in process	SR 309	140	Earth Conservancy
23	in process	Trail Access & Pinchot Forest Expansion	329	Earth Conservancy
PENDING TOTAL:			469	acres



Beyond the properties highlighted in green on this map, another **707 acres** have been purchased by private landowners, many of whom participated in Luzerne County's Clean & Green Program. That addition brings the total lands dedicated to recreation and green space to over **9,375 acres!** We're thrilled about this progress look forward to reaching our 10,000-acre milestone in the near future!



Done well, reclamation doesn't just fix land – it reshapes regions.

