



THE GREENBELT Gazette

The CAGA Board hopes you are well and staying safe. The Greenbelt is a great place to take a walk, run, bike ride, or simply enjoy nature. Please maintain the proper social distance of six feet from other people, carry a mask in case you encounter others on the trail, and avoid congregating in park areas. We appreciate your cooperation to keep us all safe. Enjoy the Greenbelt!

20th Annual Tour de Belt- BREAKING NEWS

We were hopeful to host and ride on August 16, 2020 after rescheduling this year's Tour de Belt event. Since March, the Tour de Belt committee has been focused on our first priority- the safety and health of our riders, volunteers and sponsors.

Unfortunately, many future public events have been canceled as COVID-19 continues to require social distancing. We value and abide by the advice of our government officials as well as understand our own obligations to be socially responsible during this difficult time.

CAGA Board of Directors and the Tour de Belt committee have collectively decided to postpone our 20th Anniversary of Tour de Belt from our rescheduled August 16, 2020 date to Sunday, June 6, 2021.

Now the good news! We invite you to participate in our 2020 virtual Tour de Belt event. What's so exciting about participating in this virtual ride is that you can either walk or ride, you will receive a 2020 commemorative Tour de Belt t-shirt, registration fees will stay at the early bird rates of \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members and have the chance to win awesome category prizes.

Join us to celebrate the Greenbelt for 20 days in 2020. The Tour de Belt virtual event will be held from July 20-August 8.

Please look for more information to come. A special email will be sent along with updates to our Facebook pages and website. Register today at: www.caga.org/tour-de-belt

Thank you to our top sponsors LCSWMA, Faulkner Subaru of Harrisburg, KCI, and Highmark & Penn State Health for their continued support!



CAGA's Annual Dinner

Fifty-three of the Greenbelt's friends, volunteers and supporters gathered at the Best Western Premier Central Hotel in Harrisburg on February 7, 2020 for the Annual Dinner to celebrate our accomplishments in 2019 and award some very special volunteers. This year our guest speaker was John J. "Ski" Sygielski, Ed.D, President of HACC, who is an advisory board member for CAGA.



This year's honorees at the dinner were:

Sarah Hopkins, who utilized her depth of experience working for the Pennsylvania State Parks to envision, create and implement a system of interpretive kiosks throughout the Greenbelt highlighting the history and natural features of the Greenbelt.

Jim Rowe rescued the 2019 Tour de Belt from what would otherwise have been a calamitous situation by printing over 1,000 t-shirts for us in just two days.

Bob Finkle mows a lot of grass on the Greenbelt, specializing on maintaining the area at the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. monument. He is our, "anything I can do" guy and is always ready to pitch in.

Aldona Kartorie keeps us on task and keeps the behind-the-scenes machinery running smoothly. She handles CAGA mail, processes Tour de Belt registrations and streamlined our t-shirt distribution process to include pre-ride pick-up.

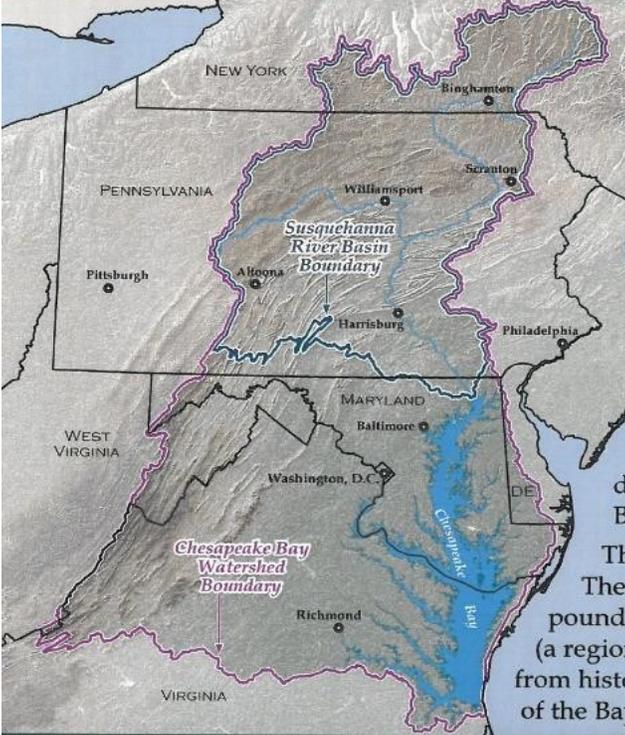
Fort Hunter Extension Project

Unfortunately, like many other important construction projects, work on the Fort Hunter Connector project was halted due to the pandemic. However, the connector is almost done! Work has resumed and will be completed soon. Efforts will be concentrated on finishing up the construction around and under Linglestown Road as well as the north end of Industrial Road. Look for the completion of the installation of fencing, paving, and wayfinding signage.

It is interesting to see the plans of Wilson Consulting come to life as Kinsley Construction builds a safe trail for all. While not officially open, many people have been enjoying the section of the trail along the river over the past couple of months. In this area the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, headquarters on the trail on Front Street, has created a

series of 10 educational panels that have been placed by Dauphin County along the river. Topics include "The River and the Chesapeake Bay," "Rare Birds along the Susquehanna," and "Managing Stormwater." These panels have already added greatly to the experience of the trail and its expansive views of the Susquehanna River. Thank you Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

The River and the Chesapeake Bay



What is a Watershed?
A watershed - also called a basin or drainage basin - is an area of land that drains into a river, lake, or other body of water. Each stream in the Susquehanna River Basin also has its own watershed, known as a sub-watershed or local watershed.

Illustration Credit:
The Watershed Project

The Susquehanna River, the Bay's largest tributary, begins in Cooperstown, NY and flows 444 miles before reaching the Chesapeake Bay. Hundreds of rivers, streams, creeks, and brooks drain into the Susquehanna River along its course to the Bay, providing 50 percent of its freshwater (18 million gallons per minute) on a typical day. The Susquehanna River Basin makes up 43 percent of the Bay's drainage area.

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States. The Bay is known for its seafood production - about 500 million pounds per year - especially blue crabs, clams, oysters and rockfish (a regional name for striped bass). Although harvests have fallen from historic levels, efforts are in place to clean up pollution upstream of the Bay, which can become a model for environmental recovery.



The Chesapeake Bay Watershed (above) - Visit the Chesapeake Bay Program website to learn more about the Bay and its benefits.

Visit www.srbcc.net for more information about the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

A Face Lift for MLK Memorial Site

The Rotary Club of Harrisburg Keystone worked with the City of Harrisburg and CAGA to give the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King memorial site near the 19th Street parking lot a fresh new look. Designed, built and funded mainly by Rev. Dr. Norman L. Lacasse with friends about 20 years ago, with assistance from court-adjudicated youths from the Diakon Wilderness Center, the site features an 11-foot tall granite obelisk, an information kiosk and six flower beds laid out in arcs across the site. The quiet site by Spring Creek memorializes Dr. King's life, teachings love and peace, and his 12 campaigns for racial, social, and economic equality.

Over the years the kiosk had become weathered, the original line of Arborvitae damaged by deer and insects, and the stone dust path eroded. The flower beds were in need of refurbishing with perennial plants and annual flowers. The Harrisburg Keystone Club raised the funds and received a matching grant from Rotary District 7390 for about \$5,000 worth of improvements. Charles Palenz and Bob Finkle were instrumental in helping to prepare the site for planting and Norm Lacasse for designing and planting the site for many years.

Major planting work was completed on May 16, following social distancing guidelines. Over 400 plants went in the ground, with assistance from CAGA board member and Master Gardener, Cindy Hogeman. Two tons of limestone was

moved and put into place as well. This effort aligns with one of six Rotary International's areas of focus, which is helping resolve conflicts and promoting peace among people all around the world.



CAGA's New Website

If you've visited CAGA.org recently you'll see that the website has had an update! Thanks to our volunteer experts, board member Josh Jacoby, and Ryan Reisinger, you'll find a modern look to the site, and improved navigation. Check it out today and find easy access to the most current information and events, online donations and registration for events.

Donate Contact

The Trail ▾ Tour de Belt Join or Help ▾ About CAGA ▾ 🔍

Discover the Trail Donate Become a Member

What's Happening on the Greenbelt?

Tour de Belt Registration Open

Capital Area Greenbel 1,878 likes

TAKE THE CAGA QUIZ!

1. The creation of the Capital Area Greenbelt was part of what nationwide improvement campaign?
A. Environmental Movement B. Organic Movement C. City Beautiful Movement
2. What year was the Capital Area Greenbelt Association formed in order to restore the Greenbelt?
A. 1990 B. 2000 C. 1976
3. How many visitors are estimated to use the Capital Area Greenbelt each year?
A. 5,000 - 10,000 B. 50,000 -100,000 C. 100,000 - 300,000

Answers: 1. C 2. A 3. C

TRAIL MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS

Paxtang Parkway and Creek

Guests Todd Moses and Mike Lower of Skelly and Loy presented to the board their initial concepts for the next phase of the Paxtang Parkway and Parkway Creek restoration. Enhancements will be similar to the work that was done on Asylum Run, to combat erosion long term, make the area more visually appealing and inviting, improve floodplain and sediment storage, and protect the sewer line. Todd and Mike have also provided a summary of the work that has been completed to date. The design and permitting stage will take about two years.



East Harrisburg Cemetery Greenbelt Trail Paving Project COMPLETED!

One of the major remaining problem areas on the Greenbelt was the mud and deteriorated pavement in the East Harrisburg Cemetery. CAGA worked with a number of partner organizations to remedy this problem. Mike Krempasky led the effort along with the support of the Cemetery and Susquehanna Township, which holds a trail easement on this 1,100' section. Our thanks to the Stabler Foundation, McCormick Family Trust and the Harrisburg Bicycle Club who contributed funds toward this project.

We once again partnered with Wilson Consulting to help with design and review of the contractor's work. Hempt Bros. was chosen as the paving contractor for this project, which completed the project at the end of April. The Capital Area Greenbelt Association thanks all the partner organizations and individuals who have contributed to make this trail improvement possible!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As we witness our world turning upside down, one constant we can count on is nature's growing cycle! There is much to be done on the Greenbelt in the spring and summer, and it is a great opportunity to get out of the house and stay busy!

Five Senses Garden

Volunteers are needed for various gardening opportunities. Safe distancing and masks will be required. Bring your own gloves. **Call Cindy at 717-571-2535 to schedule an appointment to avoid crowding.**

Volunteer Coordinator Needed

Do you love working with people and coordinating work? CAGA is in need of a Greenbelt supporter to take on managing our volunteer activities. If this sounds like something you'd enjoy and you have the time to commit, please **contact Cindy at 717-571-2535.**

Landscaping Project Leaders

If you are a plant and landscape expert, enjoy working with people and coordinating work, we are always in need of landscaping project leaders to manage the volunteer efforts to maintain our various gardens and trails. **Contact Cindy, 717-571-2535.**

Maintenance

Do you have mechanical abilities but not enough machines to work on? CAGA is an all-volunteer organization that could benefit from your expertise! We would be happy to include new volunteers in our regular maintenance tasks. Please contact our maintenance chairperson, **Becky Schuchert**, bschuch@epix.net.

Mowing

If you enjoy mowing and have the time to devote to a good cause, we would look forward to meeting you and training you on our various mowers! Previous experience helpful but not absolutely needed. We'll train you! Please contact our maintenance chairperson, **Becky Schuchert**, bschuch@epix.net.

Removing Invasive Plants

CAGA is looking for lead volunteers for workdays to manually remove invasive plants in 2020. Plant identification knowledge is helpful but not required. Volunteers are not permitted to apply chemical herbicides. If you know what to look for and how to get rid of it in an ecologically friendly way, we need your help!

Our focus is along the Paxtang Parkway and Cameron Parkway in early spring. If we start to eliminate the invasive species in our woods, our native plants will have a fighting chance to grow back. Their seeds are hiding in the soil, just waiting for their chance to grow. Please contact **Scott Shepler**, scottshepler2207@gmail.com.

MLK Memorial Garden Spring Planting

The Keystone Rotary Club will be planting perennial plants on May 16 at the Martin Luther King Memorial Gardens. The new additions will create a space that is peaceful and inspirational to visitors, and environmentally friendly as well. Volunteers are welcome to help with the plantings!

The MLK Memorial Garden is located on the Capital Area Greenbelt. Park at the Greenbelt's 19th St parking lot. Walk under the 19th St. bridge and down the trail approximately 100 yards.

If you would like to contribute any Black Eyed Susans, Yarrow (short varieties), Penstemon, Coneflower, or Autumn sedum please contact **Megan**, mmhrotary@gmail.com.

Trailhead Coordinator

If our trailheads are well-kept, well-defined and enticing, we will attract more visitors to designated parking areas to do some exploring on the Greenbelt! Trailheads are the Greenbelt's facade as well as a place to park and obtain information about the trail.

CAGA is in need of a volunteer to focus on these trailheads. This would entail evaluating their current appearance and making suggestions to improve their appearance, overall cohesiveness, and functionality, as well as coordinating volunteer groups to create and maintain that appearance. If this interests you please **contact Becky**, bschuch@epix.net.

The Capital Area Greenbelt Association is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to act as a liaison between all concerned parties, and to organize and plan the continued stewardship of the Capital Area Greenbelt trail.

P.O. Box 15405

Harrisburg, PA 17105-5405

Phone: (717) 921-GREEN (921-4733)

Email: caga@caga.org