



# There is an **URGENT NEED** for a **RENEWED COMMITMENT** to **PENNSYLVANIA'S COMMUNITIES** and **NATURAL RESOURCES.**



**GROWING GREENER** has transformed Pennsylvania by empowering communities to protect working farms and special places, clean up rivers and streams, create and improve parks, and revitalize cities and towns. After a decade of success, the funding sources that support Growing Greener are nearly gone.

To ensure that our communities can continue their work, the Commonwealth needs to renew Growing Greener by investing \$200 million annually in vital conservation, restoration and community revitalization projects.



## **GROWING GREENER - A LEGACY OF SUCCESS**

Growing Greener has been hugely successful, directing critical investments to every county in the state. In the past four years alone, Growing Greener has helped people:

**Protect more than 33,700 acres of Pennsylvania's family farmland;**

**Conserve more than 42,300 acres of threatened open space;**

**Improve public recreation through 234 community park projects;**

**Restore more than 1,600 acres of abandoned mine land.**

The data shows that Growing Greener projects have improved our quality of life, the economy and the environment throughout Pennsylvania.

## **GROWING GREENER IS RUNNING OUT**

Growing Greener II ends in 2011. Compounding the problem, the Environmental Stewardship Fund, which also funds Growing Greener projects, is being used to pay debt service on the Growing Greener bonds, rather than supporting vital local projects.

## **THE NEED TO RENEW GROWING GREENER**

The success of Growing Greener is undeniable, but there is much more left to do to ensure Pennsylvania's treasures are here for our children and grandchildren to enjoy:

- We are losing three times as much forest, wildlife habitat, farmland and other open spaces to development as we are able to conserve;
- Our rivers and streams – and the communities that depend on them – are threatened by flooding and pollution;
- The Commonwealth currently has 16,000 miles of streams that are unfit for swimming or fishing;
- Abandoned mines scar 189,000 acres in 44 counties and are the cause of 5,300 miles of dead streams
- Pennsylvania has made good progress in protecting productive farmland to safeguard our food supply but more than 2,000 families remain on a waiting list to protect their farms;
- 58% of the state's population lives in older communities that have an urgent need for investment aimed at improving livability and prosperity: rehabilitating parks, establishing trails, planting trees, managing stormwater, renovating waterfronts and redeveloping brownfields.

## **SUPPORT FOR GROWING GREENER IS STRONG AND BIPARTISAN**

- Poll after poll shows strong and consistent public support for programs that protect water quality, conserve open space and threatened family farms, and build communities.
- Support of voters and elected leaders is bi-partisan: Governor Ridge initiated Growing Greener and Governors Schweiker and Rendell both signed into law major expansions and reauthorizations with overwhelming bipartisan support in the legislature.

