



Watershed Plant Resurvey Project (2026-2028)

The purpose of this project is to identify and document the plant biodiversity in the Little Sewickley Creek watershed and compare it to a similar survey conducted in 1984-85. The botany department of Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH) has curated and housed 166 specimens collected in the watershed during the 1984-85 survey. Staff from the botany department of CMNH would revisit the 1984-85 sites at dates corresponding to those of the 1984-85 specimens and collect specimens of the same species for comparison. This would allow museum staff to identify regional changes that impact area plants and identify plants of conservation concern. The project will make gathered specimens available for research and build upon the museum's botany department's work to document biodiversity and biodiversity changes in western Pennsylvania.

As part of this project museum staff will train a group of high school students from Fern Hollow Nature Center (FHNC) to complete much of the surveying. The project will occur over three years, and the specimens collected will be deposited in the herbarium of CMNH. All specimens will be documented with an iNaturalist observation (i.e. students will take photos of specimens and post them to the iNaturalist app). iNaturalist will copy the metadata from the photographs thus recording time, date, and location information which will be used to make herbarium labels. Students will collect live specimens and press them for transport back to the museum. The museum staff will encourage interested students to visit the museum to learn how to mount specimens and to learn about the changes in plant biodiversity over the forty years since the 1984-85 survey.

The Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association will use the findings of the project to summarize the plant biodiversity in the watershed and post that summary on its website. In addition, the association and the students from Fern Hollow Nature Center will make presentations at the association's annual meetings (normally held in November) describing the ongoing results of the project. The association hopes that by documenting the plant biodiversity in the watershed the local community will better appreciate its natural beauty and support efforts to conserve it.

Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association anticipates that the outputs, outcomes, and impact of the project will include the following: (1.) Collected plant specimens curated and housed at Carnegie Museum of Natural History herbarium. (2.) Project summary on webpage of Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association. (3.) Presentations of ongoing results at annual November membership meetings of Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association. (4.) Involvement of local students in the



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conservation efforts of the Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association. (5.) Better community appreciation of the richness of plant diversity in the Little Sewickley Creek watershed. (6.) Enhanced community interest in support of Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association and its conservation mission.

The project will take place over a three-year period beginning in the spring of 2026 and concluding in the fall of 2028. The projected expenses for the project are:

Cost Description	Amount
CMNH salary and wages	\$10,200
CMNH supplies	\$2,000
CMNH administration	\$1,000
FHNC salary and wages	\$7,350
FHNC supplies	\$2,000
FHNC administration	\$450
TOTAL	\$23,000