



# Watershed Currents

Publication of the LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Watersheds Education 102

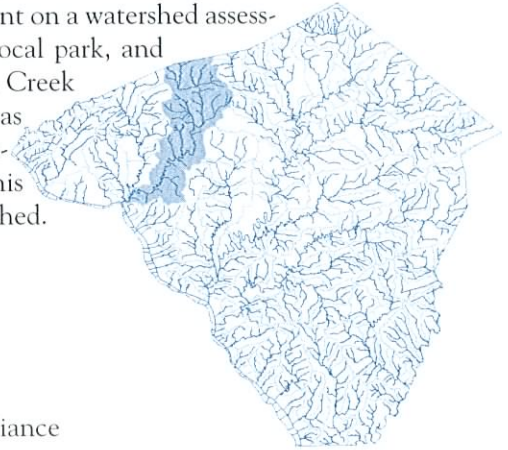
**W**hat is a watershed? A watershed is the area of land that drains to a specific body of water, whether a stream, pond, lake, river or ocean. A watershed area can be as large as the Susquehanna River or as small as a backyard. So everyone lives in a watershed.

Do you know what your "watershed address" is or what watershed you live in? Just like your home address is broken down from country to state to city to street, your watershed address can be done the same way. Why is this information important? Because whatever we do in Lancaster County will eventually affect the water quality of our friends and neighbors downstream.

What can concerned citizens, businesses, municipal officials, school students, and others do to protect their local watersheds? They can form a volunteer watershed organization. With fifteen volunteer watershed groups, the watershed initiative is very strong in Lancaster County. Each group's approach is different, but all are doing great watershed protection work. These groups carry out a variety of activities, such as, performing water quality testing, educating local students and residents, procuring funds through grants for stream rehabilitation projects, and helping local residents with stream property issues. All of these functions are important aspects of a successful watershed group.

Below is a list of Lancaster County volunteer watershed organizations and the kinds of work they are doing to improve their watersheds for the future. Check them out and get involved in watershed protection!

**T**he Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance was formed in 2000 by concerned citizens, municipal officials, elected officials, and business leaders. The Chiques group is gaining experience in the watershed arena. The group has been awarded several Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Growing Greener grants for projects in the Chiques Creek watershed. They have received money for start-up costs in forming the group, worked with a local consultant on a watershed assessment, completed their first stream restoration project, erected educational signs at a local park, and have been actively monitoring the water quality of the Chiques Creek. The Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance has purchased several water quality testing kits with funding that was provided to them. The group's volunteers have been trained by water quality professionals to monitor several parameters in their local waterways. The group intends to use this water quality information to help them determine future projects throughout the watershed.



Map of Chiques Creek Watershed



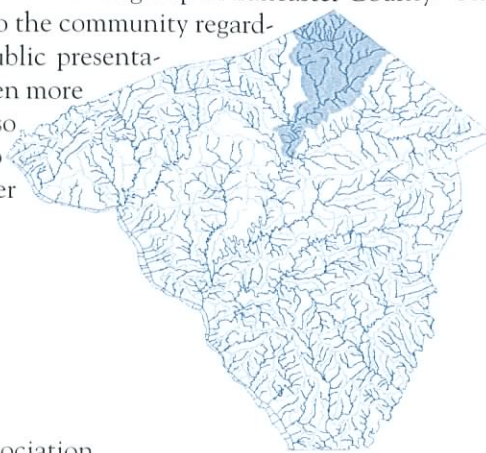
Rife Run stream project through Mummau Park

*For More Information Contact:*  
Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance  
Rapho Township  
971 N. Colebrook Rd.  
Manheim, PA 17545  
e-mail: [manager@raphotownship.com](mailto:manager@raphotownship.com)  
Website: [www.raphotownship.com](http://www.raphotownship.com)

Lancaster County has 1,365 miles of stream, of which 514 miles (38%) is degraded or polluted.



The **Cocalico Creek Watershed Association** was formed in 2003 and is a fairly new watershed group in Lancaster County. The Cocalico Creek group has done a tremendous amount of education and outreach to the community regarding watershed protection measures. The result of countless stream cleanups, public presentations, community dinners, insightful guest speakers, and community stream studies has been more informed residents about their local water resources. The Cocalico Creek group has also created watershed brochures, newsletters, and display boards promoting their mission to watershed residents. If you have not heard about this group chances are it is only a matter of time before they reach you and their message hits home.



Map of Cocalico Creek Watershed

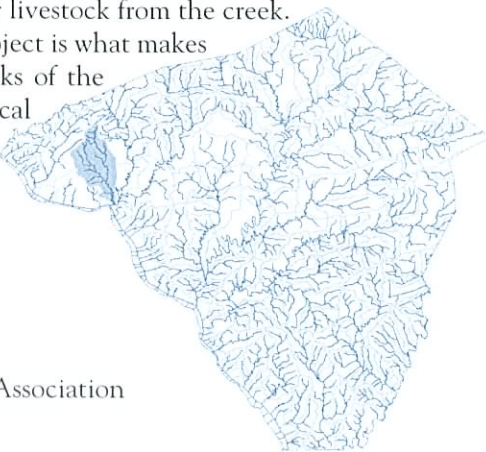
For More Information Contact:  
 Cocalico Creek Watershed Association  
 Jedd Moncavage, President  
 P.O. Box 121  
 Reinholds, PA 17569  
 e-mail: jeddm@teamaginc.com



Cocalico Creek stream cleanup event

The number one pollutant in Lancaster County streams is sediment followed closely by nutrients.

The **Donegal Fish & Conservation Association** (DFCA) is one of the county's most storied conservation groups. DFCA was formed in 1965 by a local teacher at Donegal High School. The group's main focus was to create a wild trout stream habitat in their own backyard. Since Donegal Spring Creek is fed by cold, spring water all year long, the group felt this would be an excellent opportunity. The group started out small doing minor stream work and then eventually large scale stream projects. The group works with local farmers, by educating them on the importance of fencing out their livestock from the creek. To date, DFCA has fenced nearly seven miles of streamside pastures. This not-so-small project is what makes DFCA so special. The group annually holds a fishing derby for local kids on the banks of the stream. In addition, the group holds a spring sports show fundraiser and sets up stands at local fairs and crafts shows to solicit new members. The history of DFCA is inspirational and their members are dedicated to the conservation of trout habitat in Lancaster County.



Map of Donegal Creek Watershed

For More Information Contact:  
 Donegal Fish & Conservation Association  
 Kurt Enck, President  
 419 Martin Ave.  
 Mount Joy, PA 17552  
 e-mail: fishmagic@earthlink.net  
 Website: www.donegalfish.com



Stream bank fencing along the Donegal Creek

One of the more noteworthy groups in Lancaster County is the **Donegal Chapter of Trout Unlimited** (DTU). The efforts of DTU volunteers are visible all around Lancaster County. One of the more impressive DTU transformations took place on Lititz Run. DTU volunteers began by rolling rocks into the creek to create cover for aquatic life, and then worked with the municipality to get more work completed. The group fenced off streamside pasture fields, created wetlands, planted trees and shrubs, removed dams, and promoted educational aspects. DTU efforts have been influential in restoring Lititz Run over the last 10 years. DTU volunteers are also involved in numerous educational programs throughout the year. Events that promote watersheds, fly-fishing, conservation activities, or cold water resources are touched upon by DTU. Donegal Trout Unlimited is committed to helping restore, educate, and assist the coldwater resources of Lancaster County.

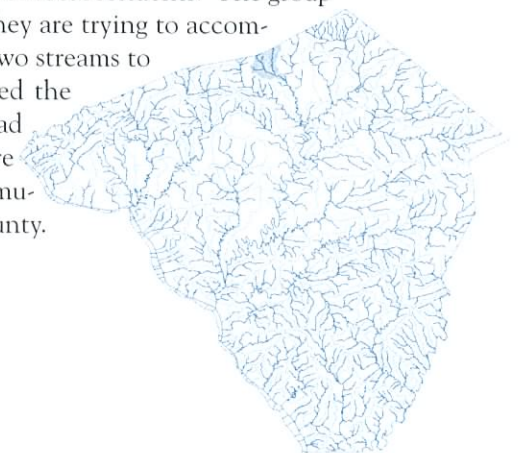


Riparian Park stream work along Lititz Run

For More Information Contact:  
 Donegal Trout Unlimited  
 Bob Kutz, President  
 P.O. Box 872  
 Brownstown, PA 17508  
 Website: www.donegaltu.org  
 (717) 940-1541

Since 1999 watershed groups and other conservation groups have received over \$6 million in grants for watershed protection/restoration projects in Lancaster County.

The **Furnace Run/Segloch Run Watershed Alliance** (FRSRWA) is a unique watershed group. What makes FRSRWA so unique is that the group is not trying to restore the problems of the past instead they are trying to protect their pristine watershed for the future. Human influence on these two watersheds has been minimal. In fact, Segloch Run is classified by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as an "Exceptional Value" stream meaning this stream has some of the cleanest waters in the Commonwealth. In addition, DEP has upgraded Furnace Run to a "High Quality" stream which is the next highest stream ranking behind Exceptional Value. The Alliance promotes the value of these types of watersheds to local residents. The group has held several community events to notify local citizens about their group and what they are trying to accomplish in the watershed. Recently FRSRWA completed a watershed assessment of their two streams to identify valuable watershed features that should be protected. This project has spurred the group to look at additional watershed issues, such as; fish habitat, local dirt & gravel road challenges, lack of riparian buffers in some locations, and increased development pressure throughout the area. The group feels with dedicated volunteers and a supportive community Furnace and Segloch Run can continue to be the watershed gems of Lancaster County.



Map of Furnace & Segloch Run Watersheds

For More Information Contact:  
 Furnace Run/Segloch Run Watershed Alliance  
 253 Elser Hill Rd.  
 Lititz, PA 17543



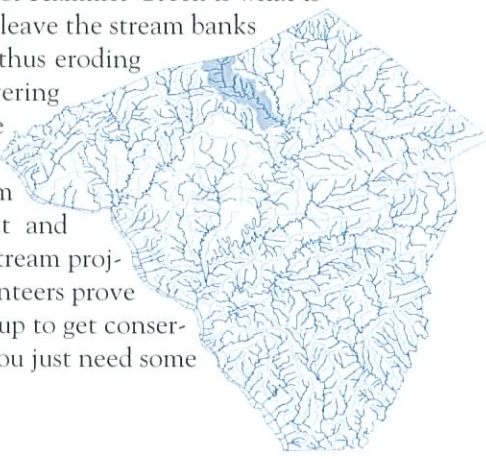
Furnace Run members talking about riparian buffers



The **Hammer Creek Watershed Association** (HCWA) has accomplished a great deal since its establishment in 2000. The group has already completed four stream restoration projects in the mid-reaches of the watershed that total over 3 miles worth of work. HCWA has worked with numerous entities to accomplish these projects, from local consultants, to the Lancaster County Conservation District, and even the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The goal for all of the projects was to restore eroded and severely vertical stream banks with a stream that would have a floodplain. The majority of Hammer Creek is what is commonly called “entrenched” and rising stormwater can never fully raise high enough to leave the stream banks and flood its natural floodplain. Instead, the water digs a deeper channel in the stream thus eroding more stream bank and causing massive amounts of sediment to enter into the stream covering vital aquatic habitat. The Hammer Creek group has accomplished its goal of restoring the floodplains to several sites and received another added benefit in the process – a wildlife area in their backyard. The group recently completed a large scale stream

rehabilitation/relocation project and is aiming toward several other stream projects in the future. HCWA volunteers prove that you do not need a large group to get conservation practices in the ground you just need some determination.

*For More Information Contact:*  
 Hammer Creek Watershed Association  
 Gary Trostle, President  
 21 Buch Mill Rd.  
 Lititz, PA 17543  
 e-mail: dgtrost@dejazzd.com



Map of Hammer Creek Watershed

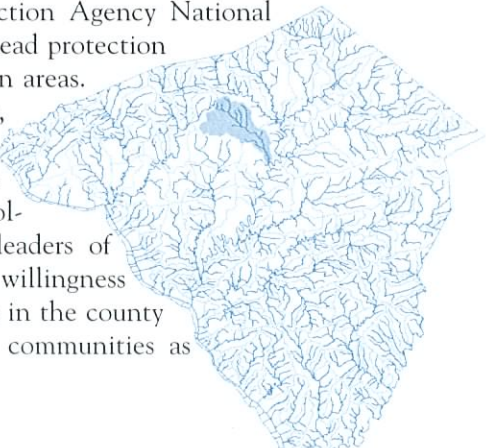


Hammer Creek volunteers planting yet another riparian buffer

The **Lititz Run Watershed Alliance** (LRWA) has established the template for a successful watershed group. The group formed in 1997 after local officials noticed members of the local chapter of Trout Unlimited working on the stream. The group, comprised of residents, businesses, industries, agricultural leaders, municipal officials, and the local school district has nearly completed restoration work on the entire length of Lititz Run. The group is now working on tributary streams that drain into Lititz Run to continue their watershed initiative. The Alliance has received many awards since its establishment, including the CF Industries National Watershed Award for 2002. It was recognized as an Environmental Protection Agency National Showcase Watershed for the Northeast Region as well. LRWA is also involved in wellhead protection programs, riparian buffer promotion, wetland establishment, and creation of conservation areas.

In addition, LRWA has created a very successful environmental educational program, “Warwick Watershed Day.” This educational activity involves outdoor learning for all 5th grade students in the Warwick School District and dedicated volunteers willing to teach the leaders of tomorrow. LRWA has shown a willingness to assist other watershed groups in the county become a vital piece of their communities as well.

*For More Information Contact:*  
 Lititz Run Watershed Alliance  
 P.O. Box 308  
 Lititz, PA 17543-0308  
 Website: [www.warwicktownship.org](http://www.warwicktownship.org)



Map of Lititz Run Watershed



Mature riparian buffer along Lititz Run in the Millport Conservancy

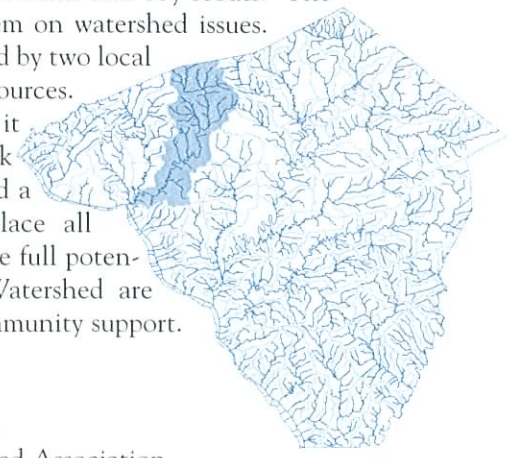
Yet another watershed group formed in 2003 was the **Little Chiques Creek Watershed Association**. Surrounded by watershed associations, Mount Joy Borough officials felt that the needs of the Little Chiques Creek watershed required attention. The Little Chiques group started out with several stream cleanup events with local residents and boy scouts. The group has now expanded into educational activities for the community to inform them on watershed issues. Recently, a detailed watershed assessment was completed for the Little Chiques watershed by two local environmental consultants and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The local watershed group along with other entities will review the assessment and use it as a blueprint for future projects in the watershed. Recreation, water quality, stream bank stability, and education are all aspects of the assessment. With an assessment plan and a

dedicated organization in place all that is needed to maximize the full potential of the Little Chiques Watershed are additional volunteers and community support.

*For More Information Contact:*  
 Little Chiques Creek Watershed Association  
 P.O. Box 25  
 21 E. Main St.  
 Mt. Joy, PA 17552  
 Website: [www.littlechiqueswatershed.com](http://www.littlechiqueswatershed.com)



Historic Mill Dam in Little Chiques Park, Mount Joy



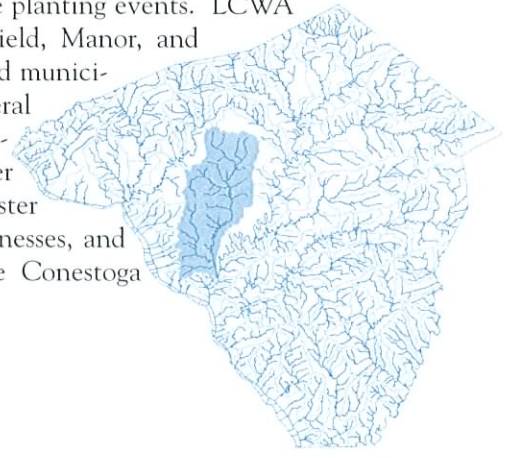
Map of Little Chiques Creek Watershed

The challenges facing the **Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance** (LCWA) are multifaceted but the organization is trying to solve these issues in their own unique way. One of the many goals of LCWA is the promotion of watershed education to local residents. To this end, the group maintains a website ([www.littleconestoga.org](http://www.littleconestoga.org)) that describes the goals and projects of the LCWA, holds public meetings where current projects are discussed and future projects are planned, distributes informational newsletters, created a colorful educational brochure, and conducts countless riparian buffer tree planting events. LCWA also has completed several stream rehabilitation projects in Manheim, East Hempfield, Manor, and Lancaster Townships in recent years. The group works with developers, landowners and municipalities on the creation of riparian buffer areas, removal of invasive plants and general cleanup of stream sites throughout the watershed. Finally, LCWA has established several key partnerships and constantly expands on these resources. Groups like the Lancaster County Conservancy, Franklin & Marshall College, Millersville University, Lancaster Country Day School, Lancaster County Academy, Hempfield High School, local businesses, and various boys and girls clubs have worked with the group in protecting the Little Conestoga Watershed.

*For More Information Contact:*  
 Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance  
 P.O. Box 6355  
 Lancaster, PA 17607  
 e-mail: Derek Reese, LCWA President ([DReese@teamlanc.org](mailto:DReese@teamlanc.org))  
 Todd Trout, LCWA Vice-President ([trout@e-lcds.org](mailto:trout@e-lcds.org))



LASA stream project after completion and buffer establishment



Map of the Little Conestoga Creek Watershed

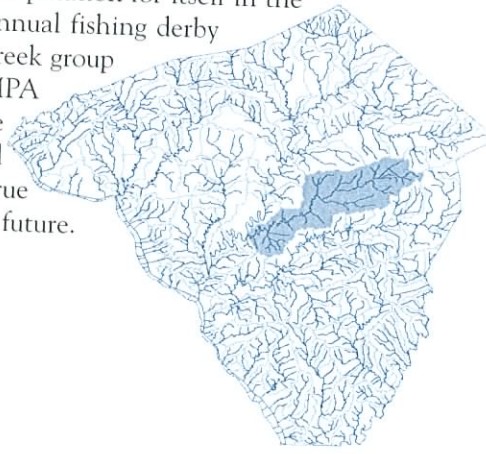


One of the more unique groups working on watershed protection in the county is the Millcreek Preservation Association (MPA). The Millcreek group was formed in 2003 by English and Amish residents/farmers concerned with water quality issues in the Mill Creek watershed. This was the first time in Lancaster County that local farmers had come together to work on water resource issues in their area. Since their first meeting the group has established a reputation for itself in the community. Newsletters, stream bank fencing projects, tree planting events, and an annual fishing derby have helped the group spread the word in regards to what they are all about. The Millcreek group has also realized the value of partnerships and has formed many since their inception. MPA has worked with the Lancaster County Conservation District, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Isaac Walton League, and local foundations. The Millcreek Preservation Association has established itself as a true watershed steward in the community and is looking to build upon this foundation in the future.



Mill Creek farm after stream bank fencing was implemented

For More Information Contact:  
Mill Creek Preservation Association  
P.O. Box 300  
Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505



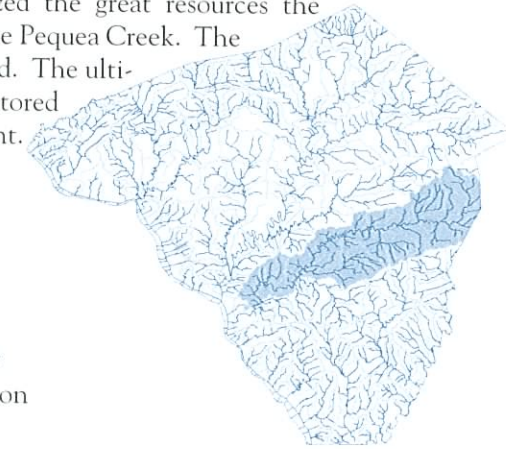
Map of the Mill Creek Watershed

When members of the Paradise Sportsmen's Association (PSA) think watershed protection they also think fishing opportunities for local residents. PSA members are dedicated sportsmen looking for local areas around their homes to utilize their sporting skills. When the Association started they noticed local streams were degraded by agriculture and threatened by growing development. The group met with local farmers offering to "fix" their streams. After several visits, the farmers agreed to let the sportsmen do some stream work. They started out small, working on sections of spring-fed creeks like Londonland Run and Eshleman Run. The group then expanded its efforts as more local farmers realized the great resources the Association offered. PSA is broadening its efforts even farther to another water body, the Pequea Creek. The group is working with local landowners on restoring several areas in this larger watershed. The ultimate goal of the Paradise Sportsmen's Association involves connecting all of the restored streams and creating one long corridor of water that all can access for angling enjoyment.



Wanner Road stream restoration project along the Pequea Cr.

For More Information Contact:  
Paradise Sportsman Association  
41 Peach Lane, RD #2  
Ronks, PA 17572



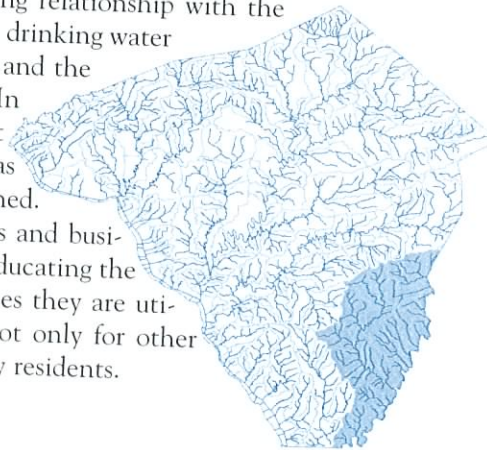
Map of the Pequea Creek Watershed

The Octoraro Watershed Association (OWA), established in 1967, is one of the county's oldest watershed groups. OWA's commitment to new and innovative watershed protection activities has set them apart from most. Because the majority of the Octoraro watershed feeds into the Octoraro reservoir, OWA has a close working relationship with the Chester Water Authority, owners of the reservoir. The Chester Water Authority supplies drinking water to the city of Chester and neighboring communities so clean water is essential. OWA and the authority have worked on several projects and the two groups share many resources. In recent years, OWA closely worked with the farming community, educating them about the importance of conservation practices and farmland preservation. The association has reached out to the Amish community trying to encourage them to protect the watershed. This innovative approach has produced future learning opportunities in Amish schools and businesses. OWA's philosophy of educating the public about the water resources they are utilizing is an excellent model not only for other watershed groups but all county residents.



Octoraro Nursery stream restoration project

For More Information Contact:  
Octoraro Watershed Association  
517 Pine Grove Rd.  
Nottingham, PA 19362  
(717) 529-2132  
e-mail: owa1@epix.net  
website: www.theowa.org



Map of the Octoraro Creek Watershed

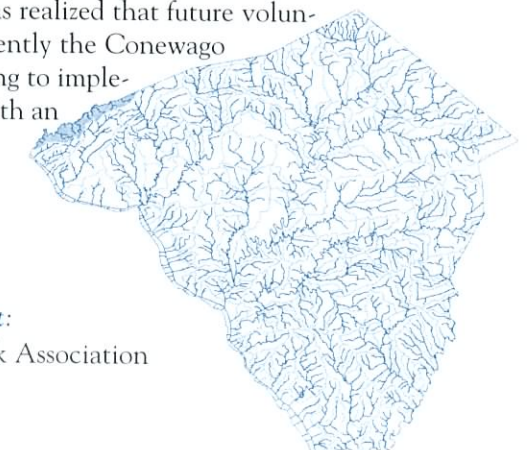
The Susquehanna River watershed supplies roughly 50% of the freshwater to the Chesapeake Bay.

One rapidly rising watershed group is the Tri-County Conewago Creek Association (TCCCA). Established in 2002, the Association is always looking for new activities for volunteers or community members. The group holds a variety of events including, stream-side clean-ups, testing the water quality of local streams, hiking adjacent riparian areas on a bird watching tour, salamander surveys, art show fundraising events, and tree plantings. TCCCA has realized that future volunteers are interested in all aspects of the watershed from wildlife to water quality. Recently the Conewago group just completed a watershed-wide assessment of their watershed and is now looking to implement projects suggested in the plan. TCCCA has proven that dedicated volunteers with an eye on conservation can accomplish a great deal in a short amount of time.



Conewago Creek

For More Information Contact:  
Tri-County Conewago Creek Association  
Matt Royer, President  
P.O. Box 107  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022  
e-mail: conewagocreek@yahoo.com  
Website: www.conewagocreek.net



Map of the Conewago Creek Watershed





Lancaster County Conservation District  
 1383 Arcadia Rd Rm 6  
 Lancaster PA 17601-3149

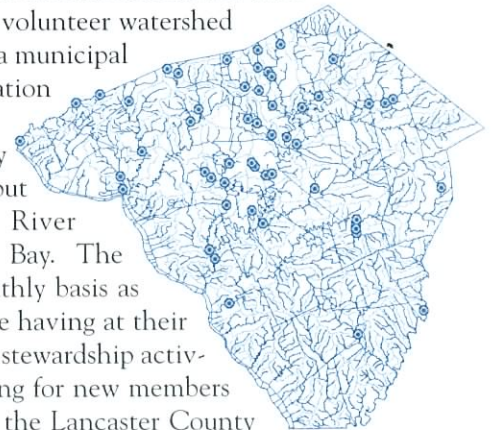
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The Water Quality Volunteer Coalition (WQVC) is a dedicated group of retired seniors volunteering their time to sample local streams and creeks throughout Lancaster County. Volunteers in the program are trained to monitor local water bodies on a monthly basis for a host of chemical, physical, and biological parameters. The data these volunteers gather goes into a national database that can be accessed by millions of people. Individuals that might use this data include federal and state



*WQVC volunteers being trained in water monitoring*

environmental agencies, a local volunteer watershed group, teachers and students, or a municipal water authority. The information these seniors are gathering is crucial for better water quality not only in Lancaster County but for the entire Susquehanna River Watershed and the Chesapeake Bay. The WQVC has meetings on a monthly basis as well to discuss issues they may be having at their sites or to learn about watershed stewardship activities. The group is always looking for new members to join in on the fun. Contact the Lancaster County Conservation District for more information.



*Map of WQVC monitoring points in the county*

**Additional Information**

If you are interested in watershed protection in your area please contact your local watershed group. For more information on the Watershed Program at the Lancaster County Conservation District or to start your own watershed group, please contact Matthew W. Kofroth, Watershed Specialist for Lancaster County.

Lancaster County Conservation District • 1383 Arcadia Rd. • Lancaster, PA 17601 • (717) 299-5361 ext 124  
 e-mail: [matt.kofroth@pa.nacdnet.net](mailto:matt.kofroth@pa.nacdnet.net) • Lancaster County Watershed Associations website: [www.lancasterwatersheds.org](http://www.lancasterwatersheds.org)

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