



Power of a Diverse Collaborative Network

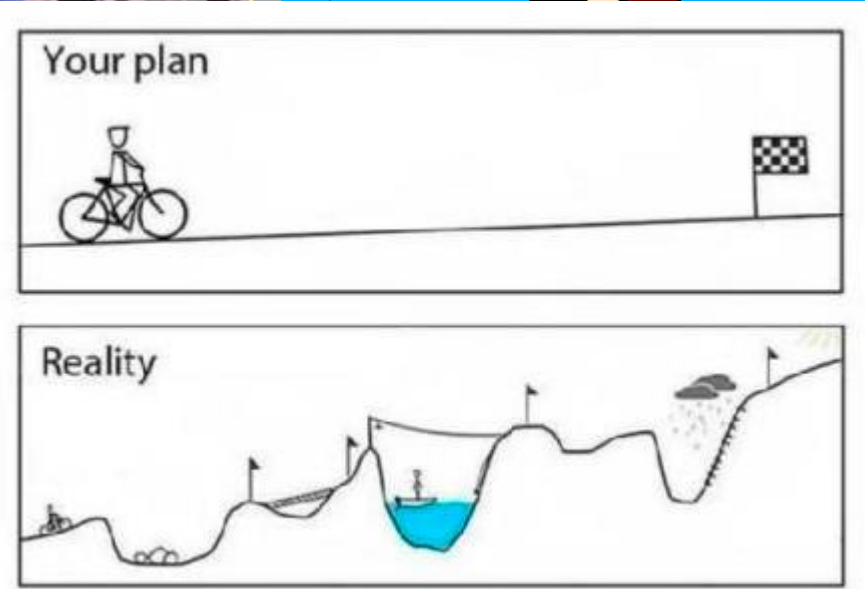
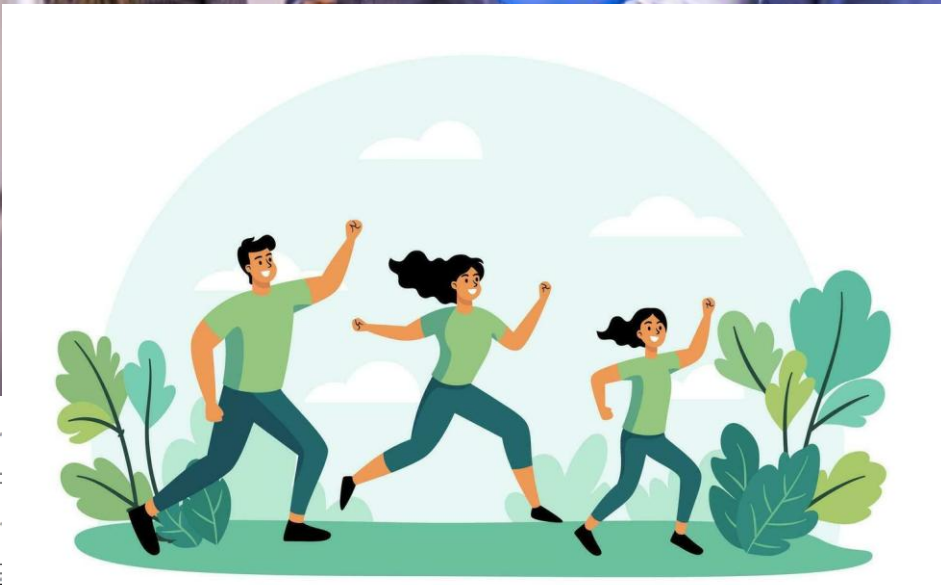
All working towards a common goal of Clean and Clear by 2040

Photo from Lancaster Water Week



Lancaster
CLEAN WATER PARTNERS







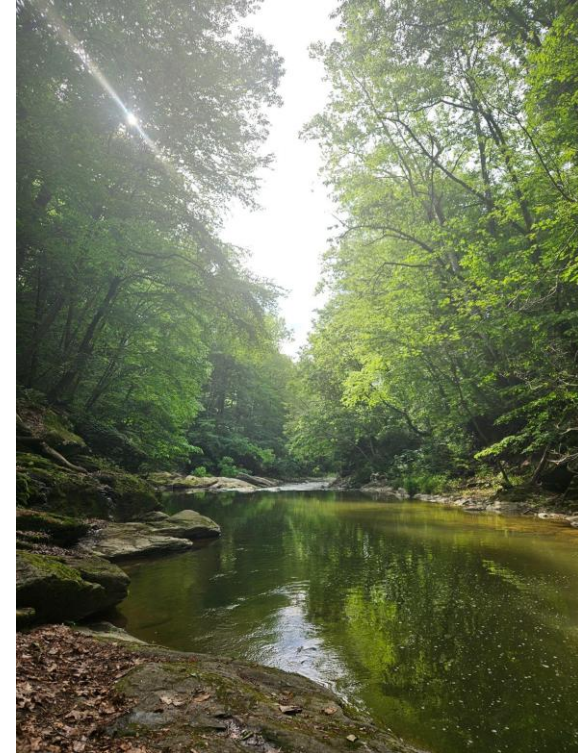
The entire community
is working towards the **same goal** at the **same time**
- to improve our local water quality





Advocate for Collaborative Processes and Policies at DEP

- Tell state legislators - support state funding for ACAP, CEG, 319, GG, and CAP
 - They are essential and need to grow!
- Availability of working capital is key so creating agency policies that allow higher %'s will help
- Write policies that are friendly and welcoming for collaborative work, not just policing or compliance



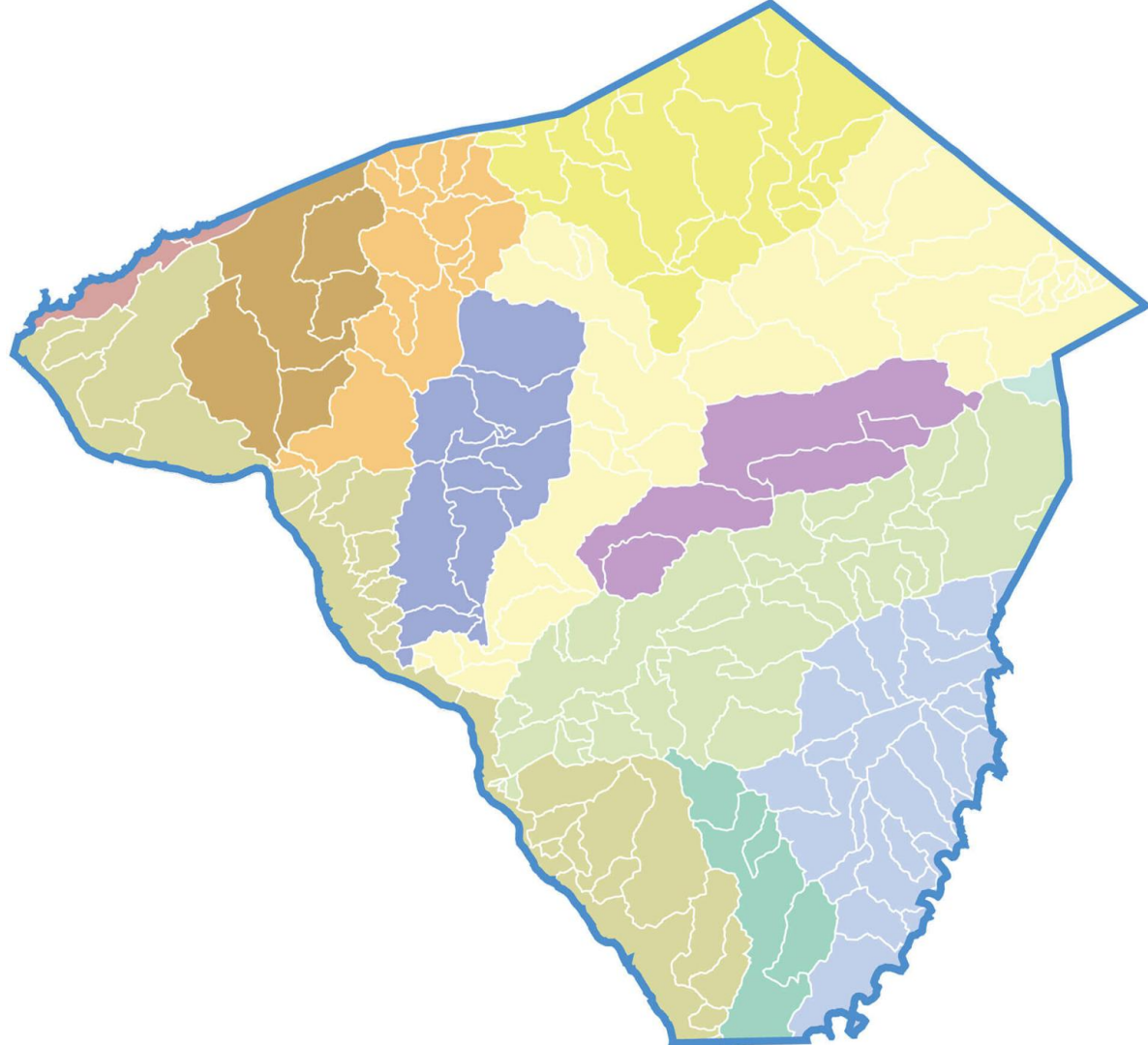
Pennsylvania's State Constitution states...



“...the people have the right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment.”

– Article I, Section 27





Agriculture

**~4,860 farms; Average size is 71 acres
(state average is 144 acres) USDA 2022 Ag Census**

Jointly, the county's Agricultural Preservation Board and Lancaster Farmland Trust have 113,000 acres of farmland preserved. Nearly 80% of preserved farm owners that work with the Farmland Trust are Plain, Amish, or Mennonite farmers.

We are the #1 county in the nation for farmland preservation.



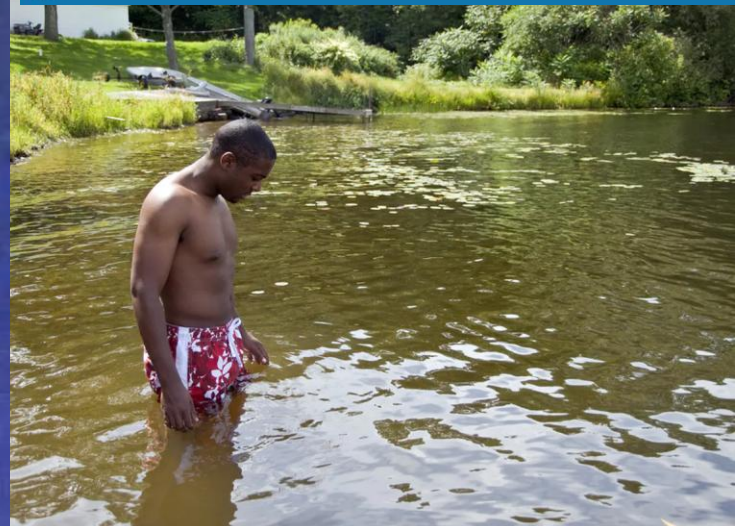


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Source: Ches



 dreamstime.com

ID 147103621 © Carbouval



Water Quality in Lancaster

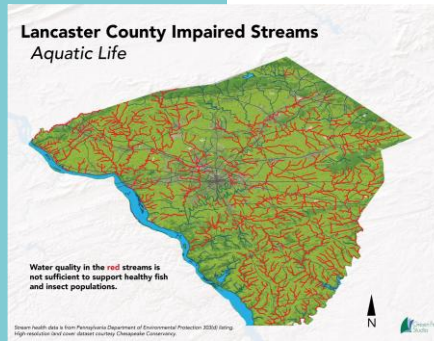
Problem

More than half of Lancaster County's 1,400 miles of streams are impaired.

Lancaster County streams have the highest amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment in monitored areas of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Solution

Build and sustain a local multi-sector collaboration, supported by a strong backbone organization, to advance a community-led Common Agenda toward a shared result.



A shared vision of Clean and Clear Water in Lancaster County by 2040.





Lancaster
CLEAN WATER PARTNERS

A network of 100+ partner organizations all working towards a shared goal:

Vision

Clean and clear water in Lancaster County by 2040

Mission

Collaborate, accelerate, and expand efforts to restore and sustain healthy waterways in Lancaster County.

Our 2040 Result and Progress Indicators

Result: Clean and Clear Water in Lancaster by 2040

To achieve clean and clear water in Lancaster by 2040, the partners will track the following key population and watershed-level measures:

Water Quality	Land Management	Engagement and Capacity
• 20 streams changed from impaired to supporting aquatic life • Positive trends at monitoring sites: ◦ Decreased nutrient and sediment loading ◦ Less salt ◦ Lower temperature ◦ Higher dissolved oxygen in tributaries ◦ Improved macroinvertebrate scores	• 600 acres of high-quality wetlands restored and/or floodplains reconnected • 90% of farms implementing effective runoff reduction practices • 75% of streams buffered, stabilized, and/or restored • 15% increase in tree canopy • 30% of the county is permanently protected lands • 60% of developed land treated by stormwater management practices	• 75% of Lancaster residents have an accurate awareness of clean water issues in the county • 50% of people taking action for clean water • \$25M per year for the restoration and protection of Lancaster's waterways • A connected and growing network of 200+ active partners reflecting the diversity of Lancaster County

Our Values



Collaboration not duplication

We support and elevate one another to achieve greater impact together than we could alone, combining our unique strengths instead of duplicating efforts.



Think big, be bold

We operate with a bias toward action and innovation, driving results that build momentum for bold solutions and lasting positive change in our communities.



Trust

The partners have confidence in each others' abilities and share a commitment to a community-based approach that fosters accountability and trust.



Clean and clear water for all

Access to clean water is a fundamental right. Through collaboration, we amplify diverse voices and work to ensure equitable access for all, particularly for those who have historically been denied.



Transparency

We communicate how decisions are made and operate with genuine openness and authenticity.



Responsive leadership

We are responsive to one another and our communities, adjusting our approach to meet evolving challenges and opportunities>

Shared Measurement

Rapid Stream Delisting Dashboard

1. Use this dropdown to choose area of interest 2. Use this dropdown to choose catchment(s) of interest

Lancaster

Co49

Area Overview

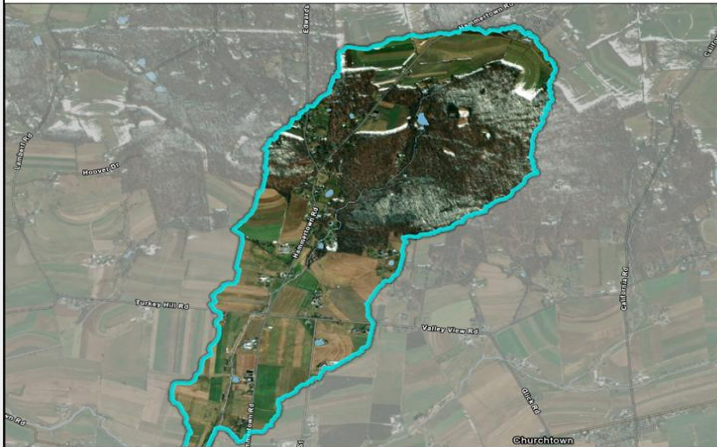
HUC12 Name Upper Conestoga River	Catchment Area (ac) 895	2015 Environmental Justice Area Tract overlap? No
HUC12 Code 020503061103	Total Parcels 84	2022 PennDOT designated Urban Area overlap? No
Class A Trout Streams? No	Priority Parcels 11	PA Most Effective Basin (MER) overlap? Yes

Budget

Estimated total cost for full implementation

Geography

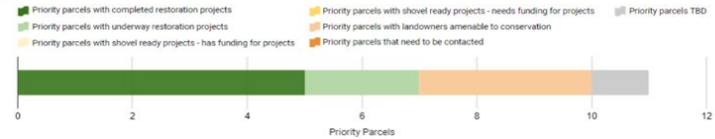
Municipalities
Caernarvon Twp



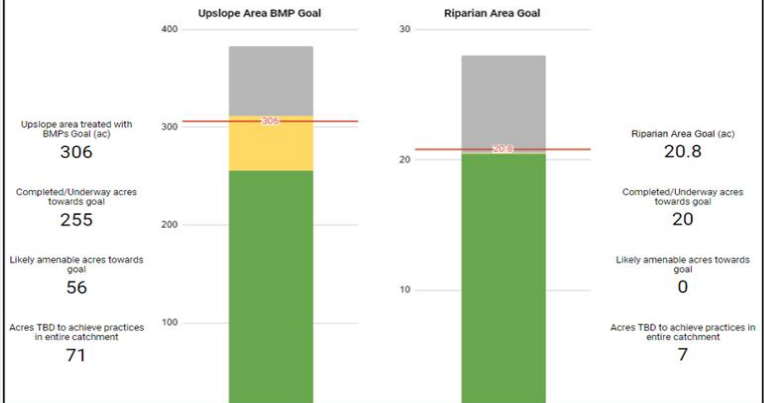
Water Quality & Stream Information

IBI score needed for delisting 50	Date of IBI Score 2011 Sm	Physical Habitat Assessment Score N/A	Stream Designated Use(s) WWF	Total Stream Length (mi) 2.1
Latest IBI Score 35.2		Impairment (source - cause)		Total Aq Impaired Stream (mi) 2.1
Grazing In Riparian Or Shoreline Zones - Siltation ; Grazing In Riparian Or Shoreline Zones - Organic Enrichment				

Parcel Status



Goals & Progress



Mutually Reinforcing Activities



Buffer Team

Meets monthly



Communications Team

Meets monthly



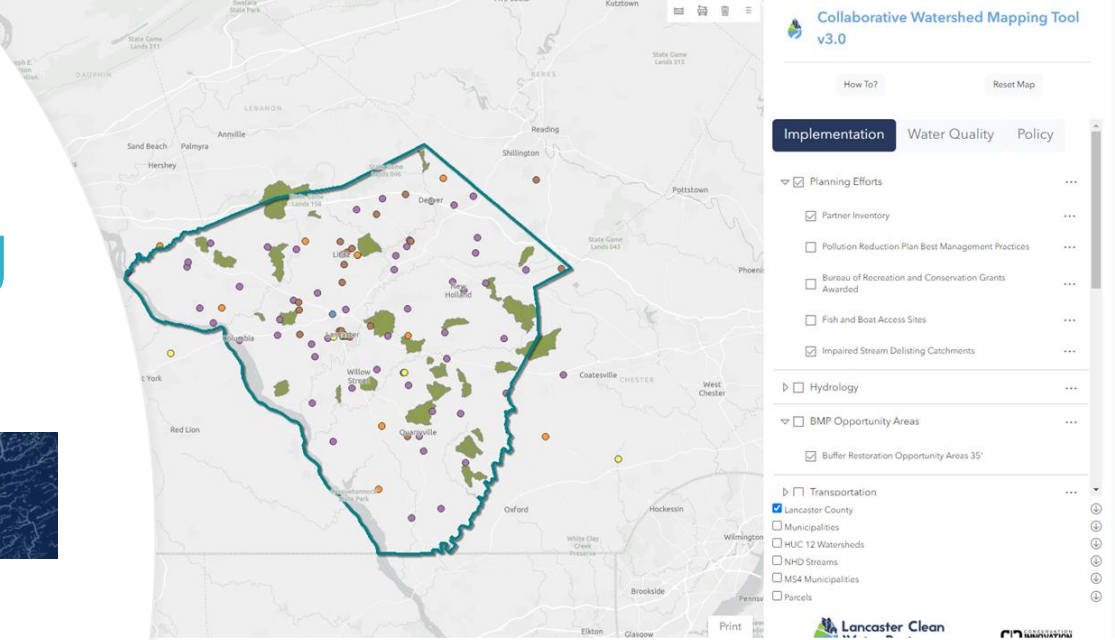
Stormwater Team

Meets twice a year
with workgroups



Monitoring Team

Meets quarterly



One of Lancaster's Stars - Dr. Ruth Patrick

My father “influenced me to realize that the most important things in life [are] to understand the natural world and . . . to be kind to my fellow man, even though I might not understand them.”

~ Ruth Patrick, *Hometown Legends: Ruth Patrick*, WHYY TV, aired October 30, 2004

Photo Credit: Bayard Webster/The New York Times



**Hammertown
Run**

Winter 2014

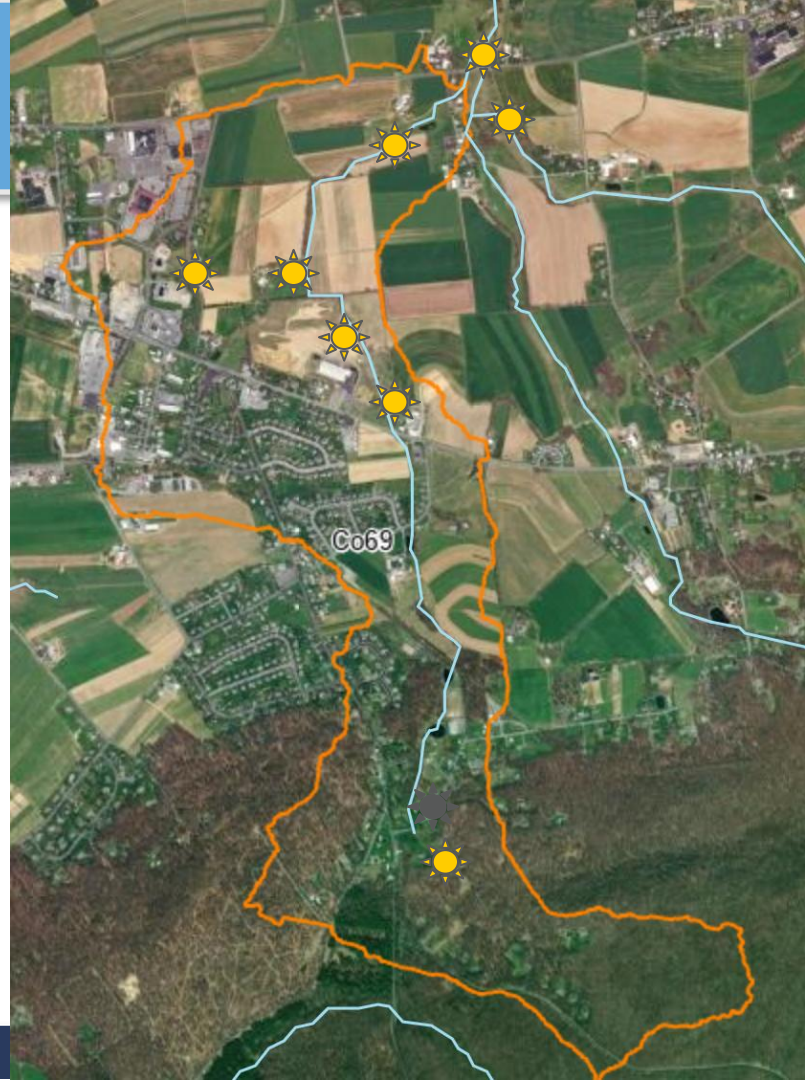


**Hammertown
Run**

Spring 2024



CEDAR CREEK



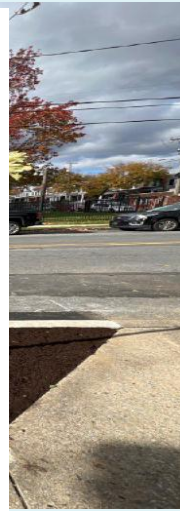
Saturday 11:03 AM



Hey, Mike!

Finally got to visit my property to see this fantastic sight of my new tree & sidewalk!

Thanks so much!



Partner Spotlights



Continuous Communication



Lancaster C

610 likes • 730 followers



Posts

About

Mentions

Reels

Photo



2026 Newsletters



January 2026



February 2026



March 2026



April 2026



2025

Clean Water Conversations

3.4K

Downloads

31

Episodes

39

Countries

1.2K

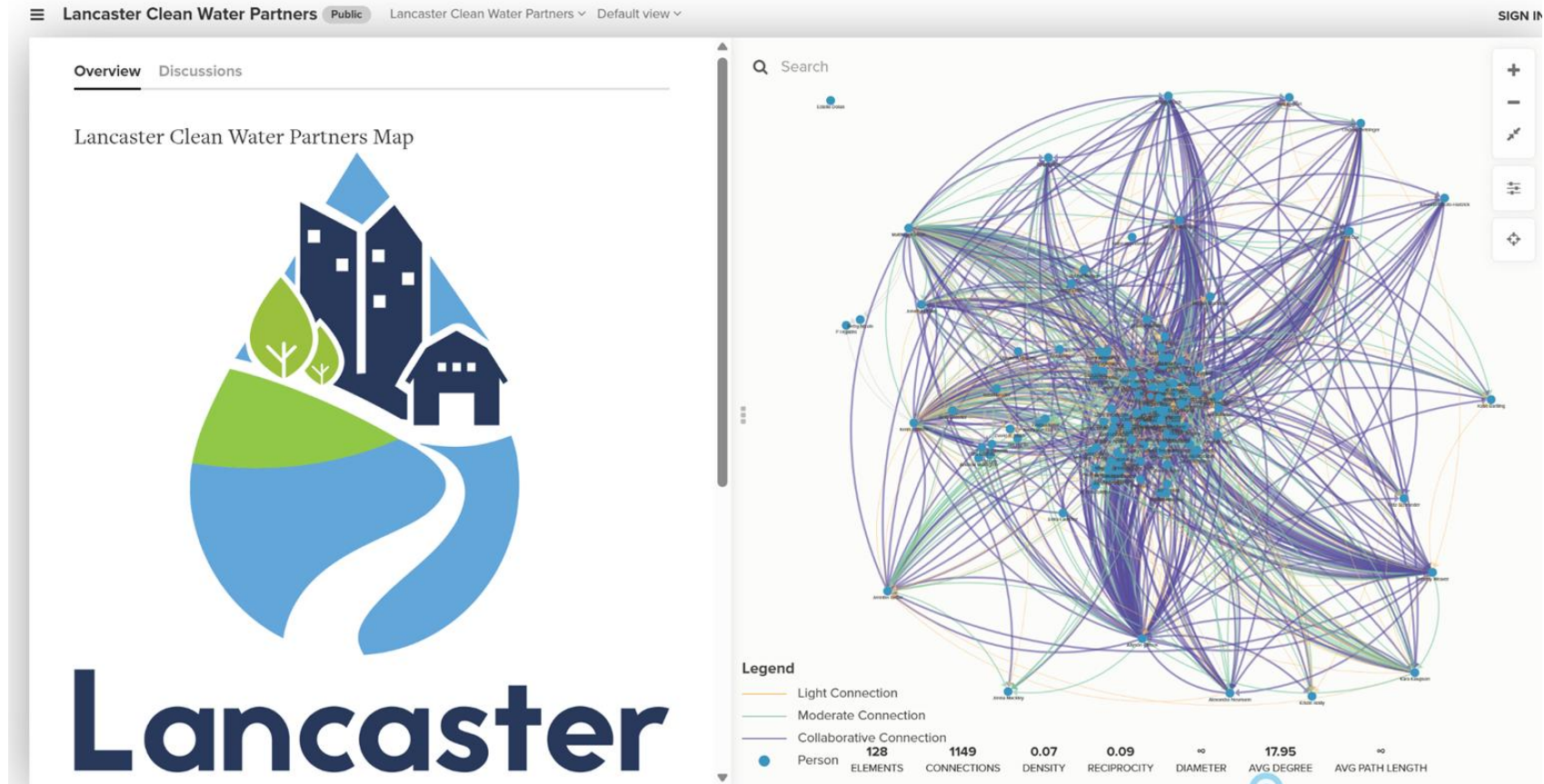
Minutes

Top 50%

All Shows

Buzzsprout

What 100+ partner organizations looks like



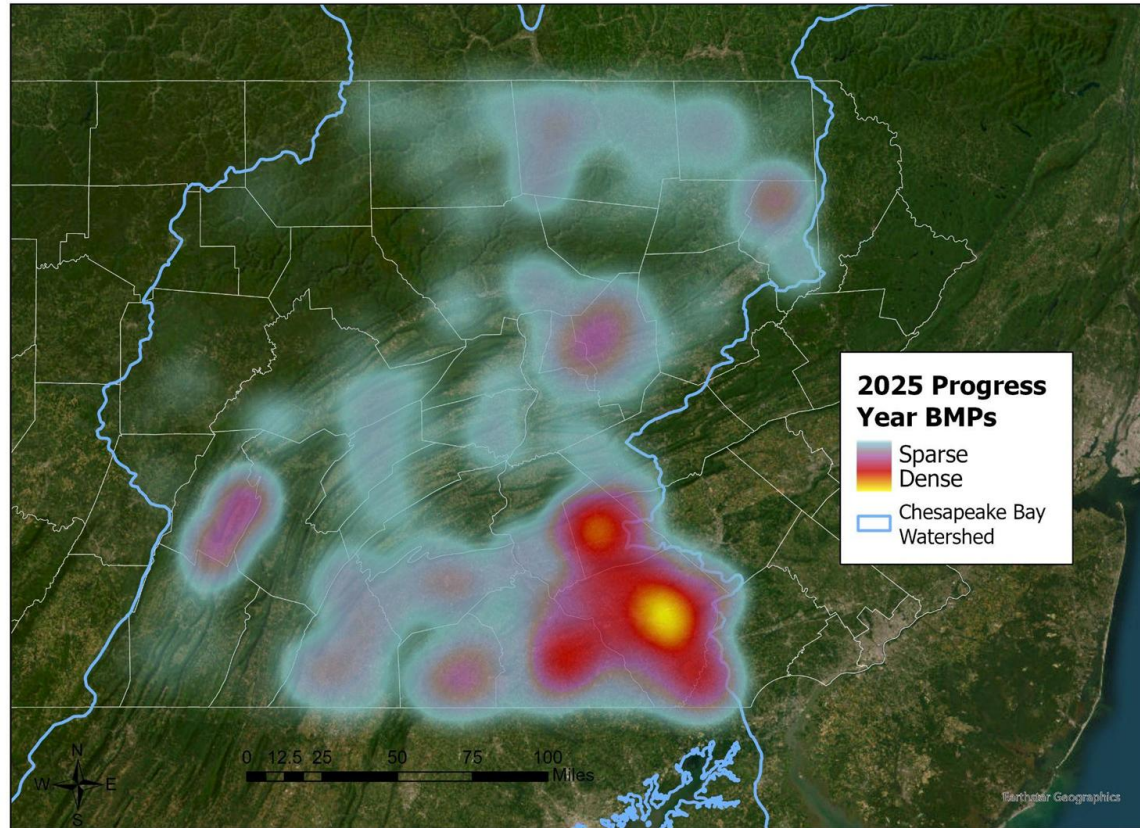
PROGRESS

Is it working?

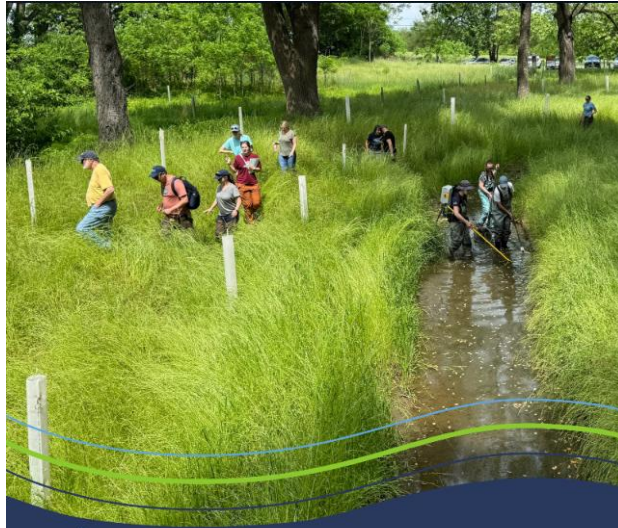


PROGRESS!

2025 Progress Year BMP Heat Indicator



CAP Opportunity with New Numbers



Lancaster
CLEAN WATER PARTNERS

Lancaster Countywide Action Plan
A Strategy for Restoring Lancaster's Waterways

2024 Update

"Lancaster County has demonstrated tremendous success through collaboration and strategic, data-driven investments to clean up their local waters."
- Jill Whitcomb, PA Department of Environmental Protection

Photo courtesy of Lancaster Farmland Trust.

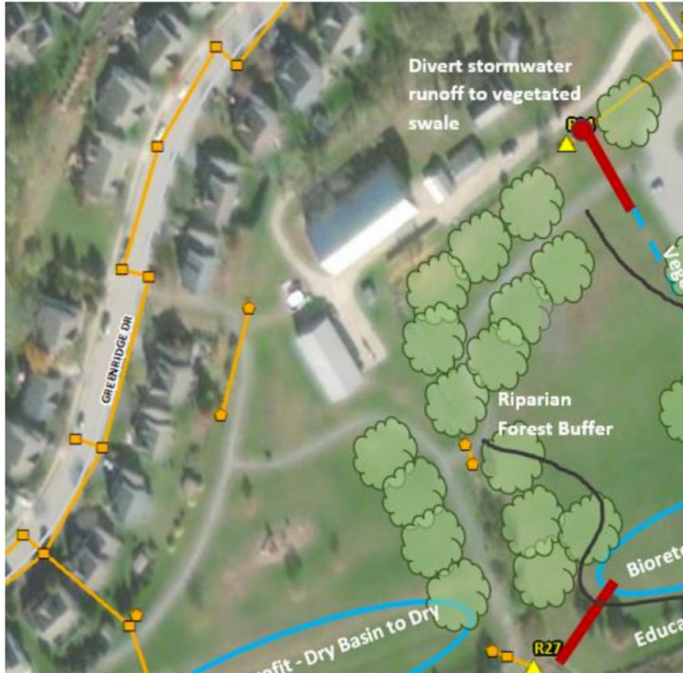


CAP Implementation Project

- Murry Ridge Park G



Posted in [CAP Implementation Grants](#), [Success Stories](#)





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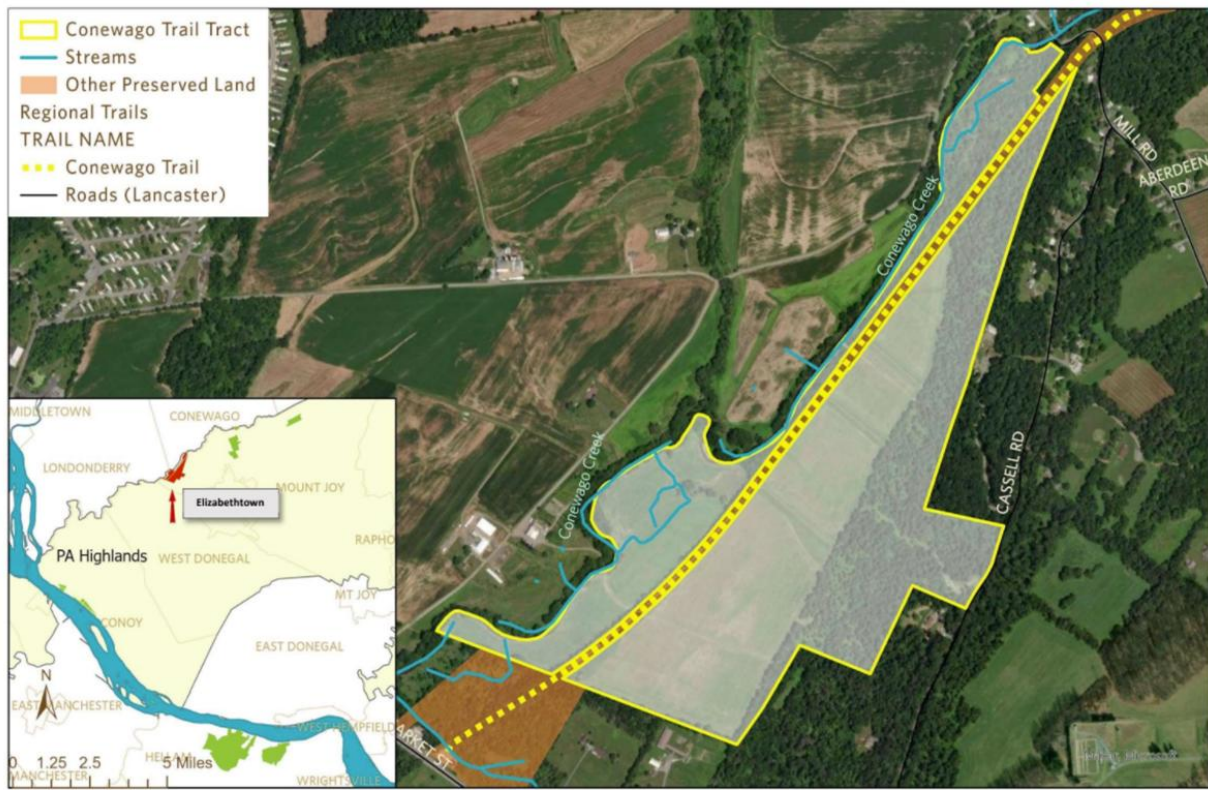
Potential Future Restor



Upcoming: Conewago Trail Nature Preserve Mount Joy Township, Lancaster County



0 500 1,000 Feet



Lancaster Conservancy worked for 10 years in this area and recently acquired the Conewago tract at auction. It would have been sold for commercial development doubtfully would have allowed the same the MS4 project presented here to proceed as planned.



Conserving what we have

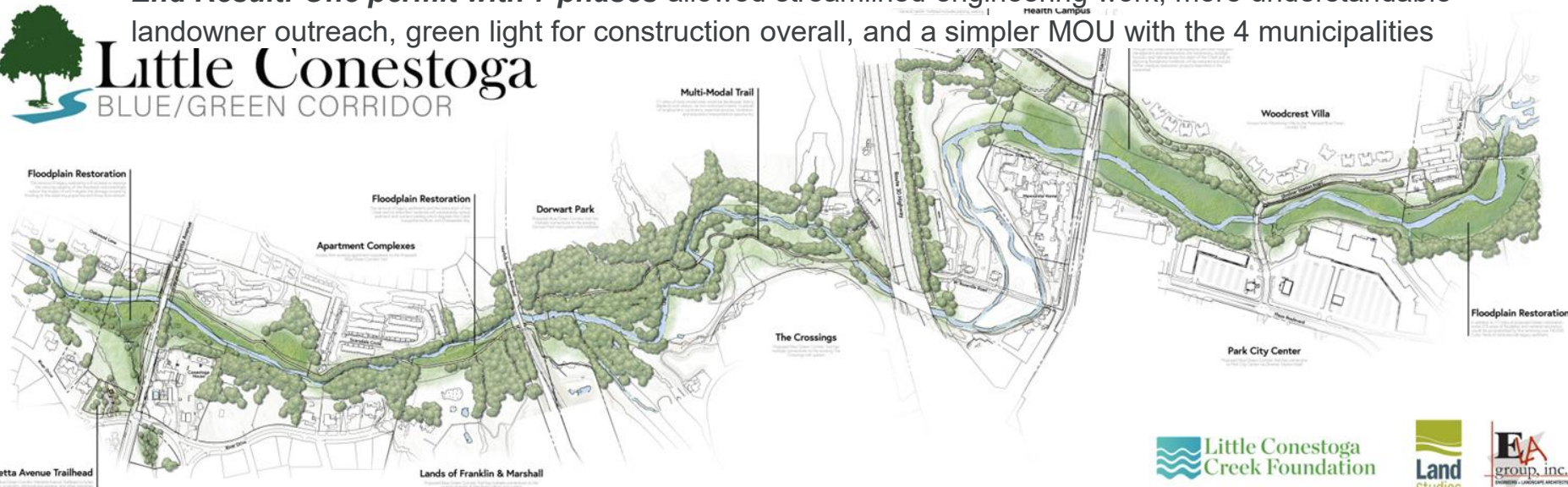
Example Project - Watershed Permit Concept

Little Conestoga Creek Blue/Green Corridor, Lancaster, PA. 1.2 million pound sediment reduction with associated N & P

- Stream restoration and floodplain restoration initially presented as *7 individual projects, 7 permits*
- 40 landowners, 3.5 miles, 4 municipalities partnered with PADEP, USACE
- **End Result: One permit with 7 phases** allowed streamlined engineering work, more understandable landowner outreach, green light for construction overall, and a simpler MOU with the 4 municipalities



Little Conestoga BLUE/GREEN CORRIDOR

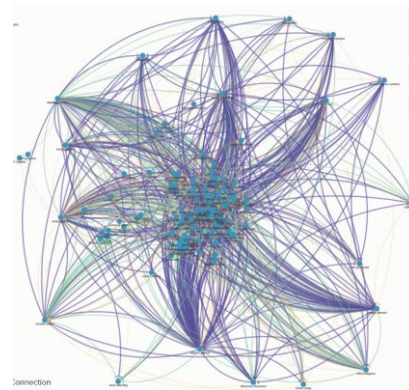


What We Do to Make Collaboration Real

We have to zoom out, think beyond the permit requirements for clean water results.

So we connect partners to other tools and partners

- Low Volume Roads
- Nonprofits that have \$ or capacity to do specific projects
- Mapping
- Water authority administrator conversations about PFAS
- Source water protection plans
- MS4 permits and public comment periods
- Host professional learning opportunities
- Attend the association meetings armed with success stories, not an ask



Sunnyside Peninsula: New Environmental Center

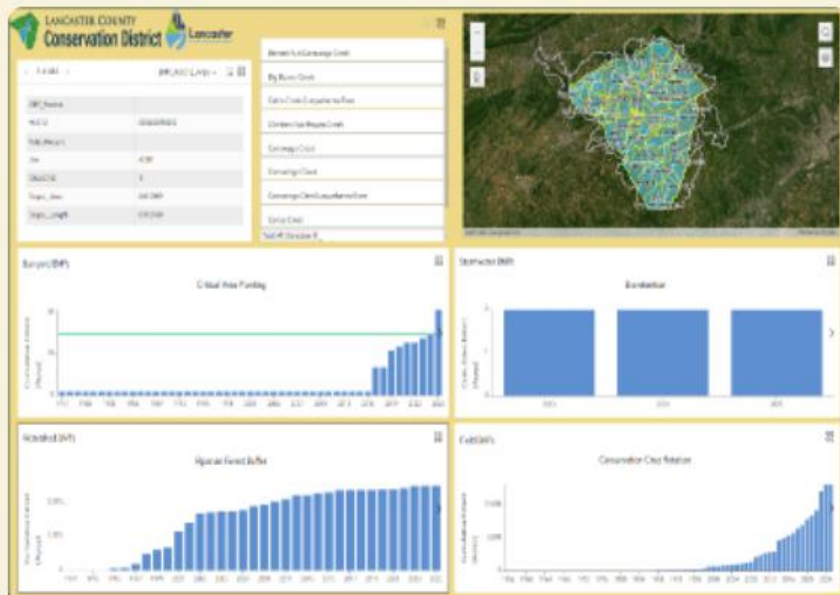
- Home to 8 leading environmental nonprofits
- Public programming including environmental education, green workforce development and outdoor recreation
- New 70-acre nature preserve



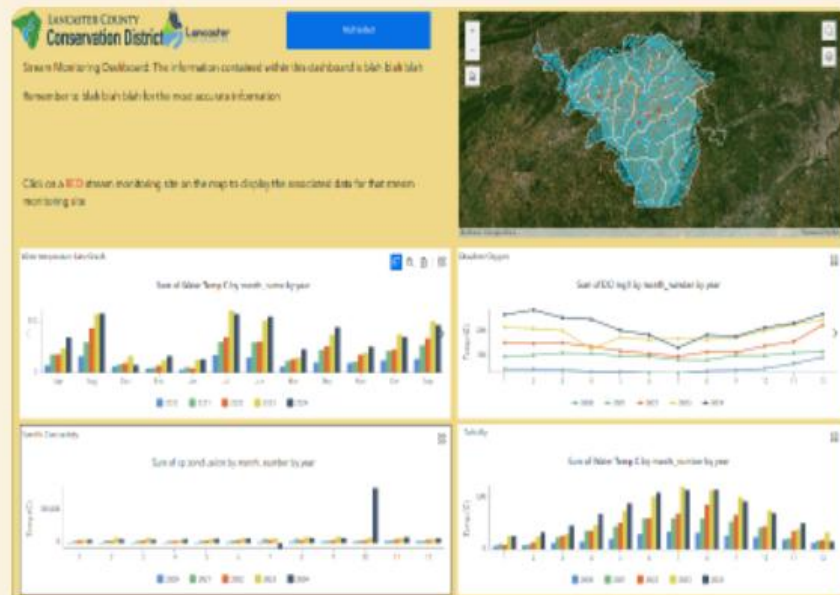
Resources



Explore Our Dashboards



BMP Dashboard



Stream Monitoring Experience

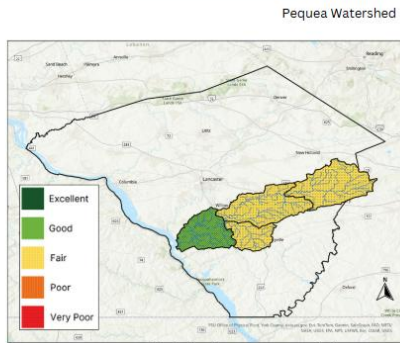
Overview

Crossing the border between Lancaster and Chester counties, the Pequea watershed spans 154 square miles and contains about 240 miles of stream with 4 distinct sub-watersheds. It is named after a clan of Shawnee Native American tribe who had a village along the creek, with origins of the name meaning "dust" and "ashes." There has been a recent Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) developed for the Pequea watershed, laying out a plan to restore 25 miles of stream segments impaired for aquatic life use. Agricultural land use (cropland and pastured land)

dominates the Pequea, with forested areas consisting of almost a quarter of the land cover. Most of the streams within the watershed have a designated use of Warm Water Fisheries (WWF), followed by Trout Stocked Fisheries (TSF). There is forward momentum occurring regarding Best Management Practice (BMP) Implementation within the watershed, with multiple stream restoration projects being implemented, as well as conservation practices being employed on farmland.

Pequea Average Watershed Score

The overall watershed score for the entire Pequea watershed is **Fair**. This score was calculated by averaging the individual final scores across all four Pequea sub-watersheds. In relation to the sub-watersheds, the score of Fair is to be expected as three of the four sub-watersheds had a Fair score overall. The categories with the most potential for improvement include scores within Water Quality and Agriculture & Vegetation. Out of the four sub-watersheds, Climber's Run was the only one to obtain a score that fell within the Good range. Every sub-watershed, however, scored in the Good range for the Urban & Stormwater category.



Map displaying the Pequea Watershed

Watershed

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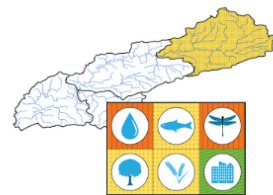
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HUC 12 Watershed Breakdown

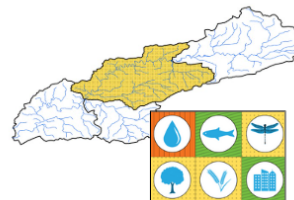
Headwaters of Pequea Creek

Serving as the headwaters of the watershed, this sub-watershed is particularly important at setting the quality of water flowing downstream into the Susquehanna River and ultimately to the Chesapeake Bay. There are about 73 miles of stream within this sub-watershed and overall scored within the **Fair** range. Scoring categories that fell within the Poor range include Macroinvertebrates and Water Quality, mostly due to the low percentage of stream miles supporting aquatic life due to sedimentation and excess nutrients. Improvements made in the Riparian Zone and Agriculture & Vegetation categories will help to boost those categories in the Poor range.



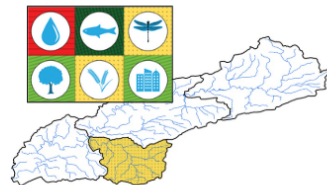
Eshleman Run

The Eshleman Run sub-watershed consists of about 80 miles of stream feeding into the Pequea Creek. Made up largely of agricultural land, namely cropland, this sub-watershed has large potential for conservation practice implementation. Overall, Eshleman Run scored in the **Fair** range. This is evident, as half of the scoring categories (Macroinvertebrates, Riparian Zone, and Agriculture & Vegetation) were in the Fair range. Water quality was Poor, mostly due to a low percentage of stream miles supporting aquatic life which is commonly attributed to sediment impairment.



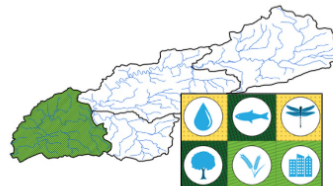
Big Beaver Creek

With about 34 stream miles feeding into the Pequea Creek, the Big Beaver Creek sub-watershed scored within the **Fair** category overall. None of its waters were found to be supportive of aquatic life, causing a Poor water quality score. There is also a low amount of nutrient management plans reported on agricultural zoned land to help manage waste on those lands. This is particularly important as the majority of land-use within this sub-watershed is labeled as agricultural. The Macroinvertebrate score has room for improvement, however is anticipated to be remedied as water quality improves.



Climber's Run

The Climber's Run sub-watershed, containing about 53 stream miles, is the last sub-watershed along the Pequea Creek before its waters reach the Susquehanna River. This sub-watershed obtained a score of **Good** on average, largely due to the amount of forested areas contributing to the excellent riparian zone and fish scores. It could use some improvements in the water quality, agriculture & vegetation, and macroinvertebrate categories. It's also worth noting that no categories in this sub-watershed scored in the Poor range.



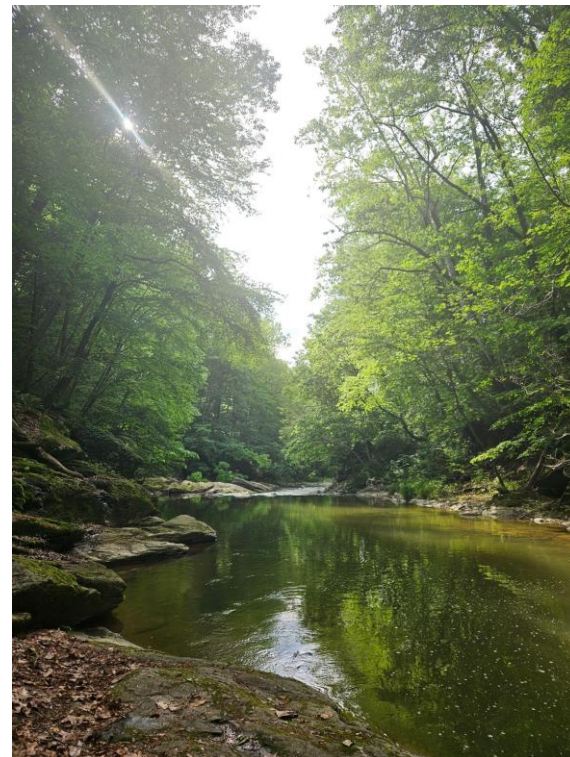
**What can I do to
be part of this?**



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- Availability of working capital is key so creating agency policies that allow higher %'s will help
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We're looking for a few good scholars!



Photo credit: Lancaster Clean Water Partners



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From the headwaters of the Chiques Creek to the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, explore how natural systems, land use, policy, agriculture, and behavior change intersect to create opportunities across Lancaster's community and watersheds.

[Schedule](#)

4th Saturday of the month

Apply by:
September 7,
2026



Apply Now

1 Zoom Session - 1st Thursday of
the Month from 7-8:30pm

Monthly Topics

January: Building Watershed Knowledge, Building Trust

February: Water is Life - Human Health, Personal Strength

March: Agri-culture, Stewardship, and Leadership

April: The Business of Agriculture

May: Plans, Partnerships, and Sinking into Your Watershed

June: Water Week & Where the Fields Meet the 'Burbs

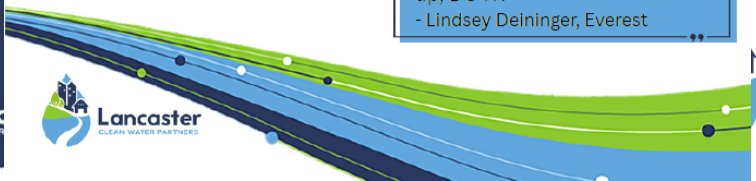
September: Urban Explorations in Lancaster City

October: Agenda is designed by the scholars

November: Trip to the Chesapeake Bay

December: Commencement

"It was one of the most rewarding, educational experiences I've ever had. If you're on the fence about signing up, DO IT!"
- Lindsey Deininger, Everest





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- to improve our local water quality

