

B. Bushkill Township is requesting the upgrade of Sobers Run (main stem, east and west branch) from High Quality (HQ) Stream to Exceptional Value (EV) through the category of 4.2 (c): Outstanding national, state, regional, or local resource water. The Township is requesting the upgrade to obtain higher level of protection to coincide with the land use regulations and land conservation efforts to protect the Sobers Run watershed. A level of threat exists due to the development pressure and loss of critical watershed and riparian habitat. Unless the lands that provide groundwater recharge or that surround water supplies are permanently protected, the natural resources and water quality will be degraded. The Township's request for EV upgrade satisfies the qualifers of both Coordinated water quality protective measures along a watershed corridor (local and regional) combined with Coordinated water quality measures with real estate interests. The Sobers Run watershed includes area of statewide and local significance including PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) State Park- Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center (1100 acres of State Park land); Areas unprotected that have statewide significance for protection of biological diversity include the Blue Mountain, Rismiller Woods, Moorestown Wetland, and Knechts Pond, as identified in The Nature Conservancy's A Natural Areas Inventory of Lehigh & Northampton Counties, Pennsylvania, 2002. Over the past 5 years, six plans were completed which all support protecting Sobers Run including: Sobers Run Coldwater Conservation Plan (2005), Two Rivers Area Greenway Plan (2005), Nazareth Area...2030 Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan (2006), Bushkill Township Open Space Plan (2007), Lehigh Valley Greenways Plan (2007), and PPL Corridor Landowner Outreach report (2008).

Plan Actions completed to date include:

- Official Map (Ordinance No.2005-01) adopted April, 2005; result of Sobers Run Coldwater Plan and Two Rivers Area Greenway Plan
- Act 167 Stormwater Management Ordinance (No.2007-02) adopted April 2007; result of Nazareth Area...2030 Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan
- Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) hired to establish coordinated regional zoning with the 8 municipalities in the Nazareth Council of Governments (COG), including Bushkill Township
- Conservation easements on 25.47 acres of woodlands and riparian areas via dedication of open space out of 81.74 total subdivision acres; result of the Official Map
- Bushkill Township Open Space Referendum passed by voters November 2005; 0.25 percent tax increase in earned income tax for open space fund; \$450,000 annually acruel for purchase and/or easement of high value conservation areas in LVPC Natural Resources Plan, A Natural Areas Inventory (2002), and Bushkill Township Open Space Plan; additional funds leveraged via Northampton County Open Space Program and DCNR
- PPL Corporation land donation of 15.9 acres along Sobers Run to Bushkill Township; additional conservation easement of 47.7 acres along PPL and Sobers Run Corridor; result of Bushkill Township Open Space Plan, Lehigh Valley Greenways Plan, and DCNR Lehigh Valley Greenways initiative
- Over 100 acres of land conservation outreach initiated by Heritage Conservancy
- 119 acres acquired on Blue Mountain (Kittatinny Ridge) - headwaters to Sobers Run and Bushkill Creek

C. Describe the types of persons, businesses and organizations likely to be impacted by this proposal.

To the best of our knowledge, there are no water users or permitted users in the watershed that would be impacted.

D. Does the action requested in the petition concern a matter currently in litigation? If yes, please explain.

No

E. For stream redesignation petitions, the following information must be included for the petition to be considered complete. Attach supporting material as necessary. ***PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT FOR ANSWERS TO E. #1-9 WITH ACCOMPANYING MAPS**

1. A clear delineation of the watershed or stream segment to be redesignated, both in narrative form and on a map.
2. The current designated use(s) of the watershed or segment.
3. The requested designated use(s) of the watershed or segment.
4. Available technical data on instream conditions for the following: water chemistry, the aquatic community (benthic macroinvertebrates and/or fishes), or instream habitat. If such data are not included, provide a description of the data sources investigated.
5. A description of existing and proposed point and nonpoint source discharges and their impact on water quality and/or the aquatic community. The names, locations, and permit numbers of point source discharges and a description of the types and locations of nonpoint source discharges should be listed.
6. Information regarding any of the qualifiers for designation as high quality waters (HQ) or exceptional value waters (EV) in §93.4b (relating to qualifying as High Quality or Exceptional Value waters) used as a basis for the requested designation.
7. A general description of land use and development patterns in the watershed. Examples include the amount or percentage of public lands (including ownership) and the amount or percentage of various land use types (such as residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and the like).
8. The names of all municipalities through which the watershed or segment flows, including an official contact name and address.
9. Locational information relevant to items 4-8 (except for contact names and addresses) displayed on a map or maps, if possible.

: All petitions should be submitted to the :
: Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection :
: P.O. Box 2063 :
: Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063 :
