

Hamlin and Railroad Runs

Hamlin Run is a 3.3 square mile watershed and Railroad Run is a 2.4 square mile watershed located in Norwich Township, McKean County. Both waters are direct tributaries to Potato Creek which drains into the Allegheny River. Land use consists of approximately 100% forest with abandoned mine lands. Both watersheds were placed on PADEP's 1996 303(d) list of impaired waters. The aquatic life use was listed as impaired for pH due to abandoned mine drainage.

In 2009, PADEP contracted with McKean County Conservation District to survey and confirm the 1996 cause of impairment. Results of those surveys confirmed the cause of impairment but revealed that the impairment was slight and could be easily restored. As a result, PADEP contracted with McKean County Conservation District in 2010 to prepare a watershed base restoration plan to restore the water quality of these waterways. This plan identified management practices and implementation schedules and funding priorities. In 2015, the McKean County Conservation District received a PADEP Growing Greener grant to implement this plan. Stakeholder interest, a remediation plan, and funding source make these watersheds a good TMDL alternative candidate.