

EPCAMR's Guide To *Watershed Protection*

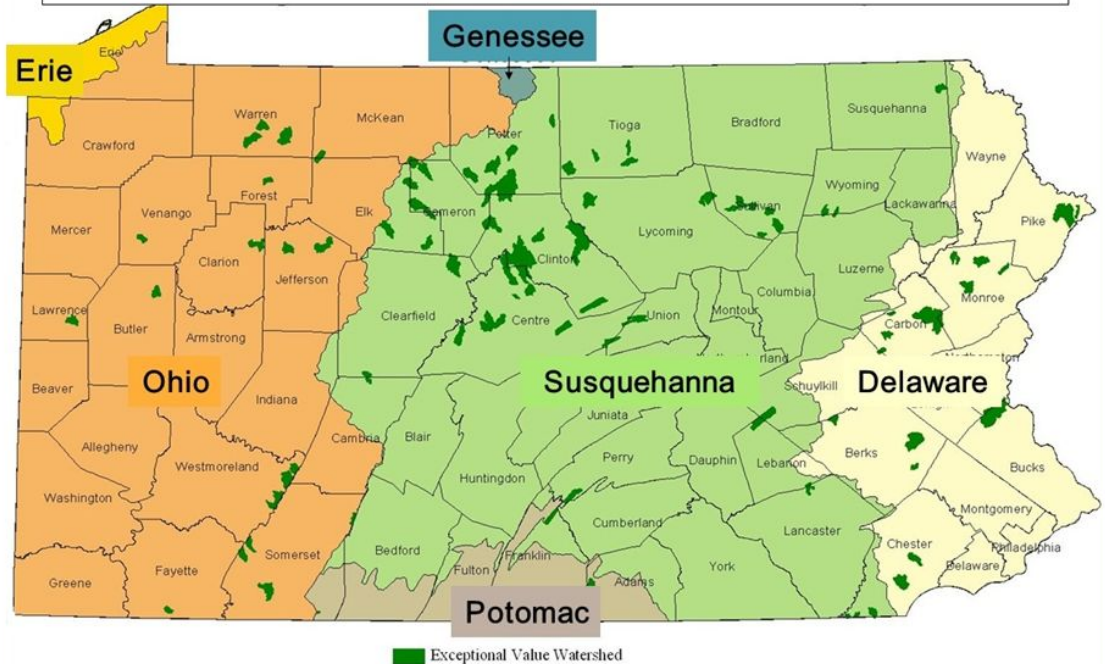


What is a water basin?

A water basin is the large land area made up of many watersheds that drain into the same river or lake.



Six Major Watershed Basins in Pennsylvania



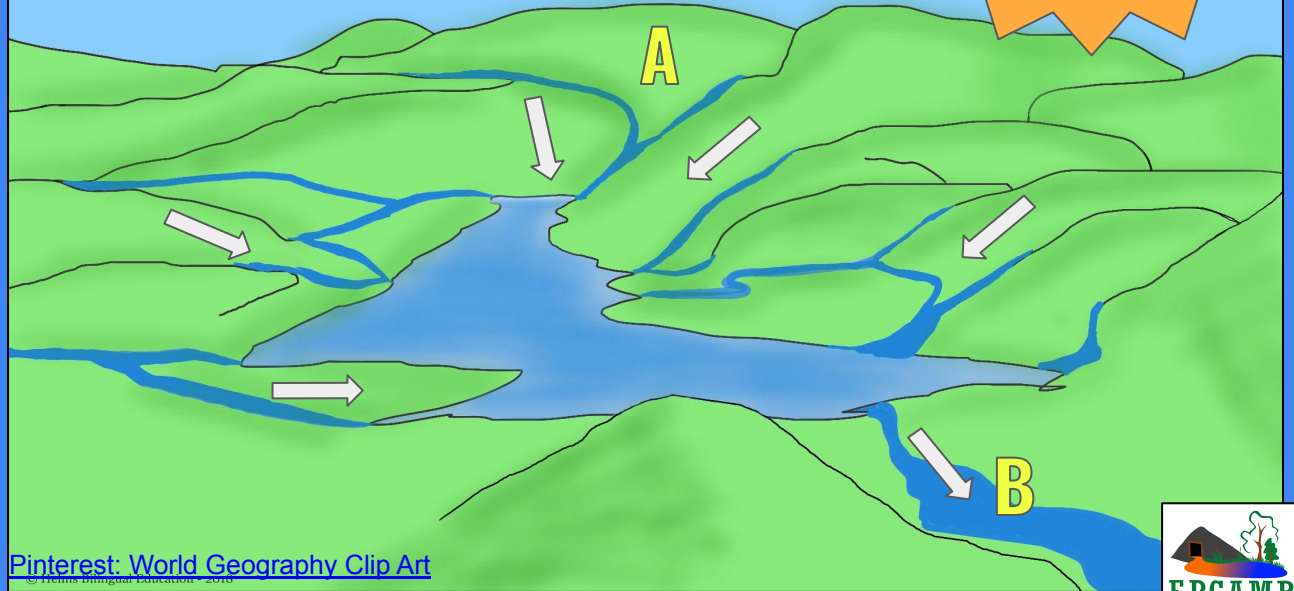
http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgmt/Wqp/WQStandards/antideg/streams_ev.jpg

What is a watershed?

A watershed is like a giant bowl that catches all of the water that falls into it. It is how and where the mountains, forests, and streams “shed” their water.

If oil spills at point A, it will end up all the way at point B!

What happens at any point in a watershed, affects whatever is downstream.



[Pinterest: World Geography Clip Art](#)

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Why Watershed Health Matters!



More fish causes a chain reaction, bringing animals that eat the fish and so on. This brings more wildlife and can promote “eco-tourism”, which helps the local economy!

Clean streams benefit anglers trying to catch fish!



Harveys Creek (Source: Woolly Bugged)

Dirty water is expensive to treat! Having cheaper water to treat keeps more money in your pocket!



You may ask....

so how can I help?

Keep Lawns Natural

When mowing the lawn, set the blade to a higher height. This higher grass will reduce surface runoff and even promote grass health. Not to mention, you have to bag less!

Avoid fertilizers. These chemicals leach into streams and are harmful to aquatic plants and animals. They cause massive algae blooms which strip the water of oxygen!

Clean Wisely



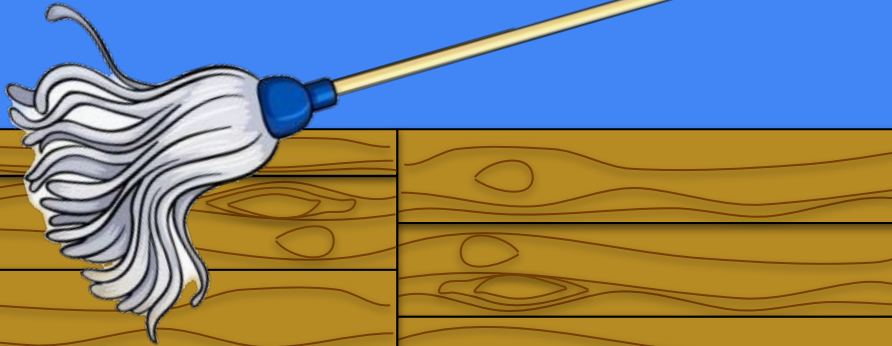
Everyday household cleaners can be very harmful to your local watershed as they often have harsh chemicals. Here are some examples.

- Triclosan (“Antibacterial” products)
- Nonylphenol ethoxylates (Surfactants)
- Phosphates (Laundry detergent)



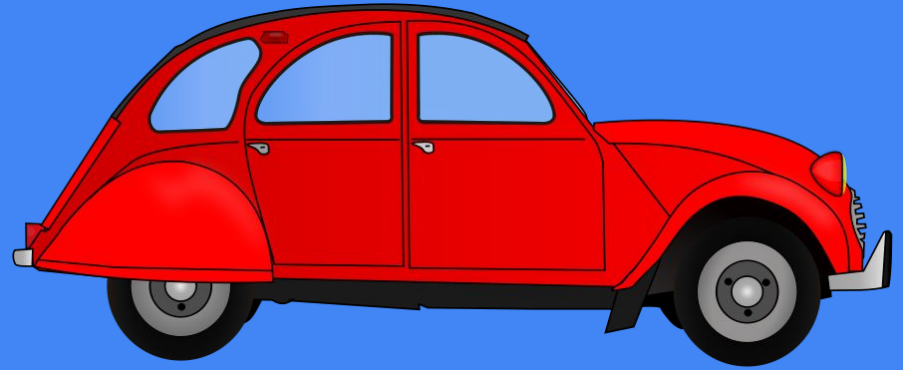
We suggest choosing detergents and cleaners without these chemicals.

There are many environmentally friendly options out there. [Here](#) is a website providing several options!



Car Care

When washing your car, opt for environmentally friendly soaps. Unlike when we wash things inside of our home, this wastewater goes directly into the watershed through stormwater drains.



For even less wastewater runoff, consider washing cars on grass.

The grass will slow runoff and even soak up the waste.

Rock On!

When installing sidewalks, driveways, or patios, consider using surfaces which allow water to infiltrate into the ground. This reduces runoff and watershed pollution.

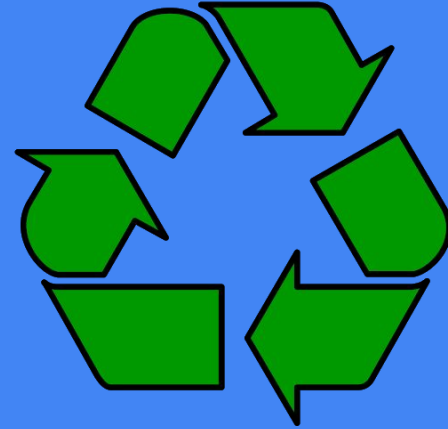
Some potential fixes:

- Gravel driveways
- Patios made of stone pavers and sand
- Stepping stones for walkways
- Gravel or stone sidewalks



To avoid trash finding its way to our water sources, DO NOT pollute. Don't be lazy; use trash cans!

Throw It Out!



For even less pollutants, recycle what you can and try to avoid single-use items as much as possible. There are even reusable versions of single use items like [straws](#), [waterbottles](#), and [plastic wrap](#)!



Clean It Up!

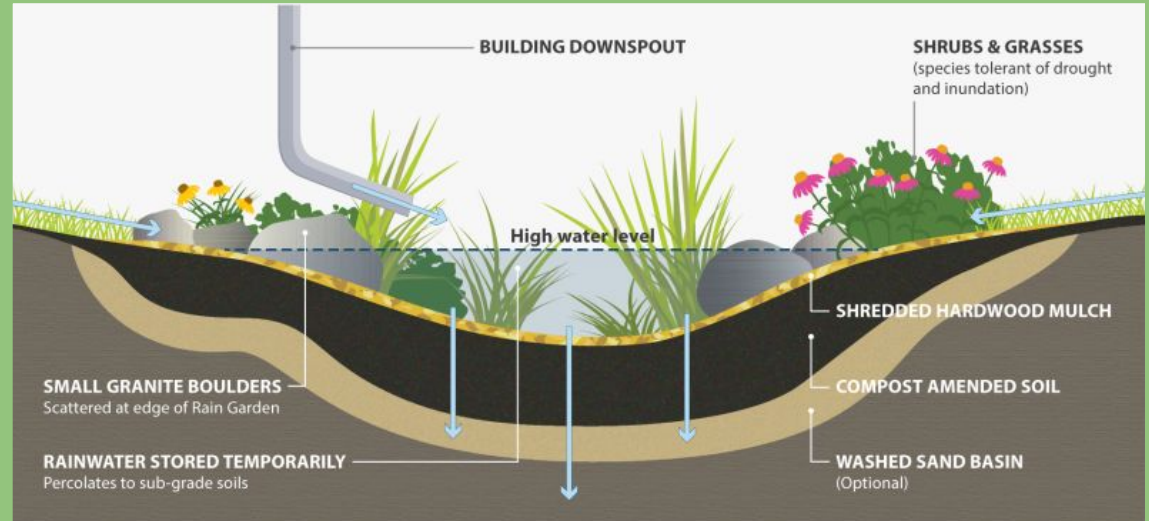
Cleaning up litter and trash along roadways and around storm drains can prevent pollution of immediate waterways. All stormwater drains lead to streams. Keeping litter from entering drains prevents it from entering streams. Cleaning up along streams is just as important!



If you really want to make a difference, volunteer your time at an EPCAMR community cleanup! We all need to do our part, no matter how small. If you want to organize your own cleanup, social media is a great tool!

Play Catch

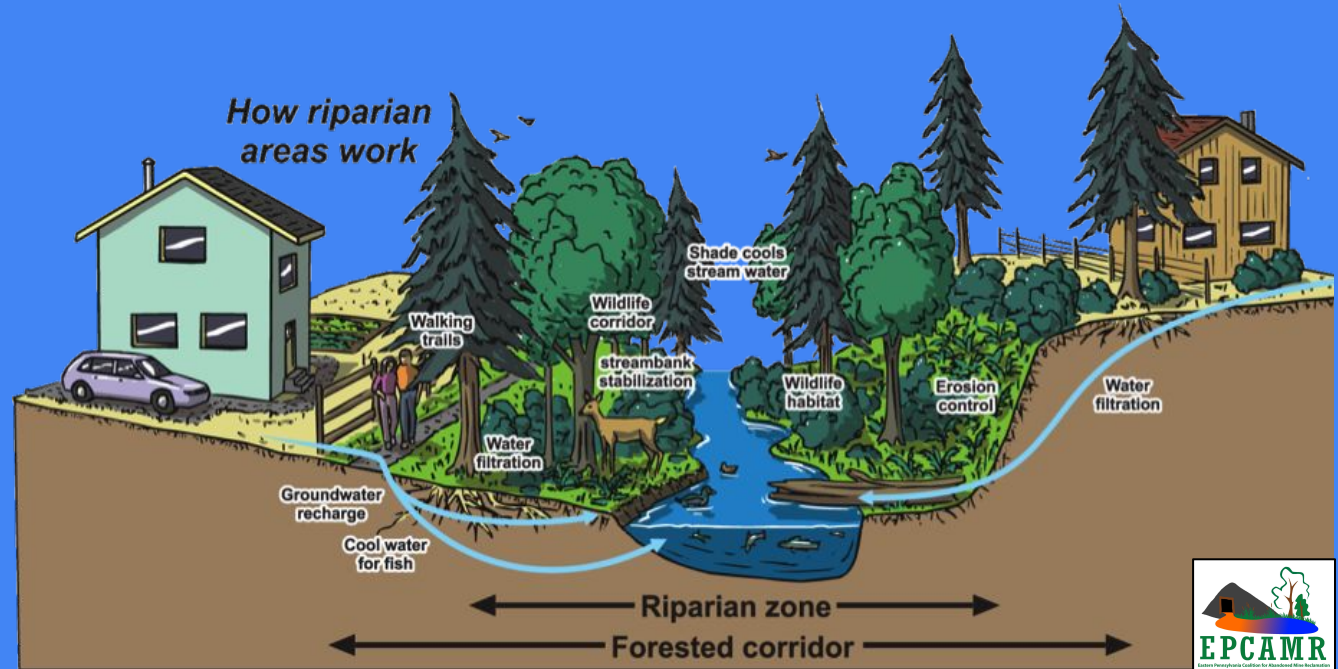
Consider incorporating rain gardens into your landscaping. Other easy options are a rain barrel! These catch the rain and slow runoff.



Let It Grow!

- Prevents streambank erosion
- Reduces stream pollution
- Lowers water temperature
- Provides habitat for wildlife

Planting trees and vegetation along stream banks (riparian areas with community groups) is a fantastic way to promote stream health! Above are some reasons it helps:



Plant Natives



Some flowers are:

- Black eyed susan
- Beebalm
- Summer flox
- Aromatic aster
- Blue wild indigo
- Alumroot
- Dwarf crested iris
- Solomon's seal
- Golden ragwort
- Showy goldenrod
- Wild bleeding heart
- Columbine
- Wild ginger

Plant native wildflowers to increase the abundance of pollinators like bees, butterflies, moths, and even beetles! This promotes the pollinator health and reduces runoff.



Be Tree Aware

Discourage the cutting of trees along steep slopes and near waterways. These trees are crucial for bank stabilization, keeping soil in place, and reducing runoff.

Be sure to take note of downed trees in stream channels and make your local municipalities and conservation districts aware. If not removed, they can pose flood risk and inhibit aquatic passage.



Volunteer with EPCAMR!



**Scan or click
the QR Code
to help!**

Volunteer to become a Lead Observer in [Aquatic Organism Passage](#). You will help determine if Trout and other aquatic species can pass through stream crossings. We can then work to address these issues and help our local fish populations.

Volunteer to help monitor streams that are AMD impacted or Trout streams! Your help allows us to cover more ground and protect our waterways more effectively.



Follow EPCAMR to find out more!

Click the
logos to
check things
out!



Sources

[Facebook Logo: webstockreview.net](http://webstockreview.net)

[Instagram Logo: freepnglogos.com](http://freepnglogos.com)

[LinkedIn Logo: fpsa.org](http://fpsa.org)

[Vegetable Garden: hiclipart.com](http://hiclipart.com)

[Tree: pinterest.com](http://pinterest.com)

[Cartoon Rock: pngitem.com](http://pngitem.com)

[Dragon Fly: pinclipart.com](http://pinclipart.com)

[Mayfly: pngmart.com](http://pngmart.com)

[Brook Trout: pngegg.com](http://pngegg.com)

[Cleaning Supplies Suggestion:](http://aspenclean.com)

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[Mop png: depositphotos.com](http://depositphotos.com)

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[Rain Clipart: webstockreview.net](http://webstockreview.net)

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[PA Watershed Basins: pinterest.com](https://pinterest.com)

[Garbage Can: clipart-library.com](http://clipart-library.com)

[Woman Taking Out Trash : pinclipart.com](http://pinclipart.com)

[Rain Garden: clipartkey.com](http://clipartkey.com)

[Rain Barrel: lvmwd.com](http://lvmwd.com)

[Cleaning Litter: pngitem.com](http://pngitem.com)

[Riparian Diagram: pngkit.com](http://pngkit.com)

[Bee Balm: umces.edu](http://umces.edu)

[Black Eyed Susan: pinclipart.com](http://pinclipart.com)

[Wildflower Info: extension.psu.edu](http://extension.psu.edu)

[Sponge png: favpng.com](http://favpng.com)