

Work Along the Watershed by the Quittapahilla Watershed Association

(1) Stream Bank Fencing	Farms	Feet
Quittapahilla Creek	3	6330
Bachman Run	3	7716
Beck Creek	5	11491
Snitz Creek	4	5639
Gingrich Run (tributary to Killinger)	2	4390

TOTAL FOR ALL 17 FARMS = 35566 feet (6.7 miles)

(2) Riparian Buffer Plantings

Quittapahilla	3	6330
Bachman	3	7716
Beck	5	16670
Snitz	4	5639
Gingrich	2	4390
Landowners along Quittie		3000

In all 44,787 feet of riparian buffers (8.5 miles) were planted along stream banks (includes 1042 from Cleona Park and Cleona Pumping Station) .

In addition over 7500 feet of live stake plantings along the Quittie.

(3) Stream Bank Stabilization: 4182 feet of stream bank. (1998-2001)

(4) Stream Cleanups (1998-2002)

We removed 1000 pounds each of the first three years and one ton each of the last two years.

(5) Water Quality Testing (1998-2001)

Since 1998 Dr. Paul Wof of Lebanon Valley College has been testing at a number of sites for nitrogen, orthophosphate, turbidity, ph, and temperature.

Specific grant history

Adopt-a-Stream Grant (continuing since 1998)- we have stabilized 3000 feet of stream bank In Quittie Creek Nature Park (1000 feet per year)

Watershed Restoration Grant 1998-1999- – 25,451 feet of stream bank fenced on eleven farms. And riparian buffers planted along the stream

Watershed Restoration Grant 1999-2000- 10,115 feet of stream bank fenced on seven farms. And riparian buffers planted along the stream

Department of Community & Economic Development Grant 2000-2001- for developing an educational wetland. Students will be able to learn about the role of wetlands in flood control and in filtering nutrients before they reach the waterway. The school districts in Lebanon County will be celebrating earth week on 4/22/04 at the wetlands.

Jan: This is some background information. One group that has been involved from the beginning in partnering with us is the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

Background into including the "open cesspool designation by DEP"
This is mainly from a talk I gave at HACC.

...I usually refer to the Quittapahilla as the Quittie- so that is what you will hear me call it. My family moved to Annville in 1976. It was not too long before our move that there were no fish in the Quittie. The Quittie was referred to as an open sewer or a cesspool. Since that time the water quality improved so that the Quittie supports trout. And now people come from all over to fish on its banks.

And with the support of many volunteers and organizations, the Quittie Creek Nature Park was created in Annville. Through community effort the park has become an area that many people enjoy, whether it is bird-watching or to simply enjoy walk along the trails. The park has won a number of awards including- First prize in "Take Pride in Pennsylvania" in 1992 for the conservation of a public park. It has 24 acres of woods, wetlands and limestone bluffs along the Quittie. The National Awards Council for Environmental Projects gave a 1995 Environmental Achievement award for success in protecting the environment while serving as a model for other parks around the country. And Renew America's National Environmental Award Council included the Quittie Creek park in their guide to successful environmental programs for conserving and maintaining a nature park and gave the Quittie Park the 1996 Award for Environmental Sustainability.

After a time we realized that the park was but a small part of a much larger ecosystem. It was with this in mind that in June of 1997 the Quittapahilla Watershed Association was formed. The entire watershed is in Lebanon County and includes the Quittie, Bachman Run, Beck Creek, Killinger Creek and Snitz Creek. The watershed covers 49,472 acres. The Quittapahilla Creek flows into the Swatara Creek, which flows into the Susquehanna River and eventually into the Chesapeake.

Let's back up a second and ask ourselves, what is a watershed?

No matter where you live, you're in a watershed. A watershed is also called a drainage basin. Water drains from higher areas of the basin to lower areas, generally concentrating into a wetland, stream, river or lake. This means that the water, sediment and dissolved materials drain into the basin.

Forming a Watershed Association is one way that individuals can address and resolve their water resource concerns. This grass-roots approach brings residents within the watershed together to plan their future, rather than having their future planned for them.

Important projects have been the planting of riparian buffers and stream bank fencing. What is a riparian buffer? A riparian buffer is when the plantings were along a body of water- in this case along stream banks in the watershed. Why bother to plant riparian buffers? We plant them because they help filter the runoff of sediment and fertilizer from the fields before they reach the stream. You could also ask what we hope to accomplish by fencing? The fencing, by keeping the cattle out of the stream, reduces the sediment caused by the breaking down of the banks as they enter the water, as well as the pollutants when cattle discharge their waste into the stream.

Simply fencing has made incredible changes in the health of the stream bank. Wetland grasses are growing where there had only been mud. You can see pictures of this on our website. Many individuals and townships consider weeds to be problematic. For us weeds are beautiful. Anything to hold the stream bank and prevent erosion. One farmer who neatly trims his grasses to the edge of the stream has lost so much stream bank that he can no longer drive his tractor between his row of trees and the stream's edge.

One of our working partners, Pennsy Supply- has donated over 975 tons of stone for our projects.

What has been the impact of volunteers? Over 6000 hours were contributed to the various projects by dedicated volunteers.