Who Protects the Antietam Creek?

You can help!

The Antietam Watershed Association’s mission:

- to preserve the Antietam Creek as a resource for the community
- to protect the regional water supply
- to proceed co-operatively with community members and municipalities.

The AWA hopes that every person, property owner, organization and business will join the local watershed association’s efforts.

You can help!

By adapting one or more of these watershed protection techniques to your home or business, water will be filtered and more absorbed into the ground before it enters our local Antietam Creek and its tributaries.

Tips to Help Protect Your Watershed

- Wash your car on the lawn to water the grass at the same time and keep the harmful acids and detergents from entering the stream.
- Gutters and down spouts need to drain onto vegetative or gravel-filled seepage areas.
- Compost grass clippings and leaves.
- Use natural alternatives to chemical fertilizers.
- Don’t mow to the edge of the stream. Save time and energy by planting moisture-loving shrubs and trees along banks.
- Pick up after your pets and dispose of waste in garbage or toilet.
- Recycle used motor oil
- Dry sweep driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing down or using motorized blower.

For more information:

- Center for Watershed Protection
  Ellicott City, MD.
  www.cwp.org

- Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Inc.
  Phillip Morrill Environmental Center
  410-268-8816
  www.savethebay.cbf.org

- PA Native Plant Society
  Website includes a list of companies and organizations that can provide native plants if you are unable to find them locally.
  www.pawildflower.org

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  “Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation” - a booklet on landscaping to protect the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

- Washington Township Transfer Station
  12721 Buckans Train East
  Waynesboro, PA 17268
  717-762-4413
  Mon—Sat 8:00 a.m.—4:15 p.m.
  Recyclables accepted at no charge

A CD of the East Branch of the Antietam Creek Stream Survey done in September 2005, by The Center for Watershed Protection and AWA volunteers is available by contacting the AWA.

We thank The Alexander Stewart, M.D. Foundation for a grant for this brochure.

(Top: Kenneth Lehman Stream Restoration planting, Nov. ’05
Bottom: Tree roots supporting bank of the Antietam upstream from Raintree Park.)

Antietam Watershed Association
32 West Main Street
Waynesboro, PA 17268
717-762-9417
www.antietamwso.org
Bioretention areas are gradually replacing the older water retention pond so often seen in low areas near major highways and large parking lots. They are appropriate for the same type of location, especially where there is a reasonable amount of stormwater. The area is excavated and under-drainage, such as stone and a sand filter, is put in place. A permeable soil mix covers the surface of the area and it is landscaped with native wetland trees and shrubs. This provides filtered water as well as a type of cooling to the air, and is particularly useful for areas near cold water tributaries such as Antietam Creek.

STREAM BANK RESTORATION

(Hess Properties’ Stream Bank Restoration project April ’04)

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation Farm Stewardship Program and local partners have a goal to restore wooded stream buffers along our Antietam and its tributaries. Plant buffers along streams provide habitat for wildlife such as songbirds, waterfowl and game animals. Wooded buffers known as riparian restorations improve stream quality and cool the water to support fish, reduce stream bank erosion and flooding.

STREAM BANK FENCING WITH CATTLE CROSSING

Electric fencing adjacent to streams and wetlands, along with controlled cattle crossings, reduce excess nutrient leaching from manure. The water that runs through pastures is less contaminated; cattle stay healthier and have fewer foot and leg injuries. These conservation practices are part of the CB Farm Stewardship Program, along with restored planting of native trees and shrubs along the stream banks.

Paved roads, parking lots and sidewalks with impervious surfaces do not allow rain water to be absorbed. The resulting runoff along with any pollutants moves quickly into storm drains and nearby creeks. Curved swales of grass, with appropriate additional drainage along the channel underneath the soil allows a portion of the runoff to soak into the ground. This provides some filtration and reduces the amount of water pouring into storm drains and creeks during heavy storms.

(AWA has sponsored a state roadside clean up along Battlemake Run Road since 2003. Members palpate regularly.)

TRASH CLEAN UP

Forests and roadways where people dump trash are a threat to the water supply. Tires, rusting metal, paint cans, aerosol cans and chemicals are some of the items found dumped on roadways. Faithful walkers who adopt a road are setting a good example for all: to properly dispose of trash and hazardous materials. Contact the Washington Township Transfer Station for guidelines, or your contracted trash collection service.

Pristine forests are our first defense against contaminated waterways!

(Dry Swale to help absorb parking lot run off)

(Drainage of Rodney and Vicki Clark, Waynesboro, PA)

BAYS CAPING

Bayscaping is a planned landscape design benefiting people, wildlife, our local Antietam Creek, and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. Using Bayscaping principles for your business, schools and homes, you can reduce mowing, fertilizer and pesticide use. Proper planting of native trees, shrubs, perennials and groundcovers can reduce soil erosion on slopes and provide a cool break and shade to help heat or cool buildings.

Since rain water carries excess nutrients and chemical contaminants away from our yards and paved areas, plants can help slow and filter the runoff into our local waterways. Choosing plants that need minimal care, adapt to wet or dry periods, and attract beneficial insects helps our environment.

(Home of Rodney and Vicki Clark, Waynesboro, PA)

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