

Symposium - A History of Protecting the Future: The Story of the Honey Hollow Watershed



What You Can Learn from Honey Hollow—Techniques for Soil and Watershed Protection

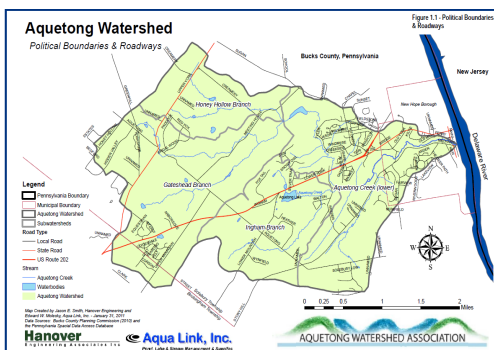


Introduction

The Honey Hollow Symposium brought together experts in the fields of agronomy and watershed protection to review the conservation legacy of Honey Hollow and to review the latest innovations in watershed protection and soil science. Participants learned how to protect water and soil resources on their own properties. This fact sheet summarizes some of the information from the event.

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a single location. All the water exits at an outlet that is typically at the lowest elevation of the watershed into another body of water. In the image below, the yellow represents Aquetong Watershed's drainage area which flows into the larger body of water – The Delaware River.



Why Should I Care About Watershed Health?

- Rivers and streams are major sources of drinking water
- Water quality is directly related to what you do on the land
- Development stresses our rivers and streams by creating impervious (hard) surfaces which do not allow rainwater to soak into the ground. Runoff increases while infiltration decreases

- Stormwater runoff carries pollutants straight into our waterways
- Stormwater runoff accelerates streambank erosion causing excess sediment to build up in streams and possible loss of property
- Sediment is the #1 pollutant of streams in Bucks County

Actions You Can Take to Further Watershed Protection

1. Find the watershed you live in.

Check with your county planning commission or conservation district watershed specialist. If you live in or near Philadelphia, you can use the watershed locator tool on the Philadelphia Water Department's Website: www.phillywatersheds.org/your-watershed/find-your-watershed

2. Find out which groups may be active in your watershed.

Look for the list at the back of this handout for some of the region's active watershed groups and environmental organizations. You can also check with your municipal Environmental Advisory Council or Park and Recreation Departments about environmental groups active in your community.

3. Volunteer with your watershed group.

Many watershed groups sponsor clean-ups, tree plantings, invasive species removal, nature walks, educational seminars, and kids programs throughout the year.

4. Practice good housekeeping and conservation measures at your home.

Here are a few things you can do in your home and property to help protect water resources, reduce soil erosion, and minimize pollution:

Lawn and Garden Care:

- Use fertilizers sparingly – follow directions
- Don't fertilize before a rainstorm
- Consider using organic fertilizer
- Let your grass clippings lay
- Wash your spreader equipment on a pervious surface



Pet Waste

- Bag it
- Flush pet waste down the toilet or place in trash

Property Management – Car Maintenance

- Stop drips – check for oil leaks regularly
- Use ground cloths or drip pans beneath vehicle
- Never dispose of oil or other engine fluids down a storm drain or in ditch
- Recycle used motor oil

Washing Car

- Use soap sparingly
- Use a hose nozzle with trigger
- Pour soapy water down sink – not in street
- Wash car on a grassy surface
- Go to commercial car wash- they recycle and send water to sewer system

Residential Roofs

- Re-direct downspouts to pervious areas
- Construct a rain garden to capture roof runoff
- Use rain barrels to capture roof runoff



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Streambank Erosion

A natural process of channel adjustment over geologic time. This natural process can be dramatically accelerated by human activities.

Causes of Streambank Erosion

- Changes in land use
- Removal of riparian vegetation



Impacts of Erosion

- Impaired water quality – clouds water
- Degraded Aquatic Habitat – smothers aquatic life and reduces oxygen availability



What Can Streamside Landowners Do?

If your property includes a stream or creek, here are some important steps you can take to help keep your stream healthy and minimize streambank erosion:

- Avoid mowing to the edge of streambank. - Create a no-mow zone or meadow
- Plant edges with native vegetation that is relatively fast growing and able to thrive in wet soils
- Establish a warm season grass buffer or forested riparian buffer. A width between 35-75 feet from edge of stream, but any width will be better than a mown edge.

- Remove invasive plants
- Utilize Bioengineering if situation requires stream channel or bank work
- Contact your local county conservation district or PA Department of Environmental Protection office for consultation on your project as permits might be needed
- Use hay bales or silt fences to prevent soil from washing into a stream
- Never store loose soil near a stream

Benefits of Riparian Buffers

- Slows flow of runoff – tree canopy intercepts rain, minimizing erosion
- Stabilizes streambanks – deeper roots of native vegetation help stabilize soil
- Filters pollution– plants absorb excess nutrients in runoff
- Improves aquatic habitat - canopy cover provides shade & cools water. Leaf litter and terrestrial insects provide important food sources



Web Resources

BioOrganics www.bio-organics.com

Bucks County Audubon Society
www.bcas.org

Bucks County Conservation District
www.buckscdd.org

Bucks County Planning Commission
www.buckscounty.org/government/

Heritage Conservancy
www.heritageconservancy.org

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
www.agriculture.state.pa.us/portal/

US Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/

Penn State University Cooperative Extension

www.extension.psu.edu/

Watershed Groups Near Honey Hollow

Aquetong Watershed Association
www.aquetongwatershed.org/

Primrose Creek Watershed Association
www.primrosecreek.org/



Bucks County Audubon Society promotes environmental education, the demonstration of energy and resource conservation and advocacy for local, state and national policies that support sustainability of the natural world.



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Visit the Bucks County Audubon Society's Visitor Center to learn more about the history of Honey Hollow. The property boasts 110 beautiful acres of woodland, meadows and wetlands and is easily explored when you enjoy our many miles of trails. Learn more about our educational programs and free bird walks when you visit www.bcas.org.



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