

APPENDIX G
PUBLIC MEETING INFORMATION

INITIAL PUBLIC MEETINGS SUMMARIES

**INITIAL ROUND PUBLIC MEETINGS SUMMARY
BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN**

**WORTHINGTON-WEST FRANKLIN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
FEBRUARY 7, 2007**

An initial series of two public meetings was held in February 2007 to introduce the watershed conservation plan project and solicit public input. The first of these meetings was held in the northern portion of the watershed at the Worthington-West Franklin Volunteer Fire Department on February 7, 2007. Twenty-five people registered at the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting included:

1. Project Introduction (Brian Shema – ASWP)
2. Project Overview (George Reese – GAI)
3. Visioning Session
4. How to Participate

Project Introduction

This presentation provided an introduction to the watershed plan concept; the role of ASWP, DCNR, and the steering committee; and an overview of project activities to date. Static displays were provided to introduce ASWP and its role as facilitator in developing the watershed conservation plan.

Project Overview

The project overview included a PowerPoint presentation and static displays to introduce the plan development process, the goals and intent of the plan, and provide an overview of the watershed and its resources. A copy of the presentation is included in this appendix.

Visioning Session

An open discussion visioning forum followed the presentations organized around four major themes: opportunities, challenges, the watershed in 10 years, and how do we achieve our goals. Ideas discussed in this session included the following.

Opportunities

- Rural, small town atmosphere.
- Butler-Freeport Trail is a regional resource and is nearing completion. Buffalo Township owns the trail. The final 5.3 miles has received funding and construction should be completed by fall 2007.

- Great opportunity to connect the Butler-Freeport Trail to other regional trails on the east side of the river, including Baker Trail and Rachel Carson Trail.

Challenges

- Land is increasingly being posted (no trespassing) as new people move into the area and buy land from long-term residents. There is a difference in property rights perceptions between these groups. There is now much less access for recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, and hiking than in the past.
- Changing land uses are causing stormwater impacts because these are not adequately controlled on site. It was noted that DEP has mandated that Buffalo Township prepare a stormwater ordinance.
- Flooding is a recent and historical problem. Buffalo Township experience \$1.8 million in damages to roads and bridges during hurricane Ivan.
- Strip mining and urban sprawl are viewed as two obvious threats to environmental quality
- Urban sprawl reduces open space and the natural beauty of the area suffers. Traffic resulting from sprawl is becoming a problem.
- Two major abandoned mine discharges are located along Buffalo Creek at Freeport. Not a lot of obvious AMD problems elsewhere in the watershed.
- Farms are being displaced by development. Land is worth more as residential real estate than as farmland. If the next generation of farm families could make a living in agriculture, they would stay on the land. However, most people do not feel that this is a viable option.
- Major water quality problems in Buffalo Creek have historically been erosion and chemical spills.
- Sewage is perhaps the biggest current threat to water quality.
- Invasive species such as hemlock wooly adelgid and Japanese knotweed are, or will be, big problems.

Vision for the Watershed in 10 Years

- Would like to see the watershed stay the same as it is now.
- Plenty of greenspace between developments.
- More trees and greenspace needed.
- More riparian buffers are needed.
- Maintain and improve water quality.

Achieving Goals

- Zoning can control development. The watershed plan can also help.
- Individual responsibility can (should) be the way to achieve goals. Education is needed to attain this. Need to educate in schools and wherever we can reach people. Science in schools is neglected.
- The public, with government help and support, needs to make it happen.
- We need to get young people involved.

How to Participate

Three handouts were distributed to meeting attendees. These included: Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan: An Introduction; Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan: Getting Involved; and the Initial Questionnaire. Copies of these handouts and a summary of the responses to the questionnaire are contained in this appendix.

**INITIAL ROUND PUBLIC MEETINGS SUMMARY
BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN**

**FREEPORT AREA HIGH SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 15, 2007**

An initial series of two public meetings was held in February 2007 to introduce the watershed conservation plan project and solicit public input. The second of these meetings was held in the southern portion of the watershed at the Freeport Area High School on February 15, 2007. Thirteen people registered at the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting included:

5. Project Introduction (Brian Shema – ASWP)
6. Project Overview (George Reese – GAI)
7. Visioning Session
8. How to Participate

Project Introduction

This presentation provided an introduction to the watershed plan concept; the role of ASWP, DCNR, and the steering committee; and an overview of project activities to date. Static displays were provided to introduce ASWP and its role as facilitator in developing the watershed conservation plan.

Project Overview

The project overview included a PowerPoint presentation and static displays to introduce the plan development process, the goals and intent of the plan, and provide an overview of the watershed and its resources. A copy of the presentation is included in this appendix.

Visioning Session

An open discussion visioning forum followed the presentations organized around four major themes: opportunities, challenges, the watershed in 10 years, and how do we achieve our goals. Ideas discussed in this session included the following.

Opportunities

- The watershed contains many different environments, there is a great diversity of land uses and natural communities.
- Everything that we could need is already here – fishing, hunting, wildlife, small towns.
- A lot of effort has already gone into making Buffalo Creek a quality fishery, including stream restoration.

- There is a quality trout and smallmouth bass fishery.
- Many people use the Butler-Freeport Trail for its unique scenery and accessibility.
- There are unique geologic characteristics where Buffalo Creek cuts through limestone strata.
- Numerous historic features including industrial remains along the Butler-Freeport Trail (mining, brick making, and glass making).

Challenges

- Urban sprawl
- Invasive species
- Public access for hunting and fishing is very limited.
- Greater environmental protection
- Water well quality
- Rising nutrient levels, herbicide levels and general degradation of surface waters due to agriculture.
- Conversion of farmland to urban development.

Vision for the Watershed in 10 Years

- More open space
- Greater public access to streams and land for outdoor recreational use.
- Maintain rural landscape
- Increased biodiversity
- Additional game lands and hunting opportunities.
- Improved water quality

Achieving Goals

- Wise use (green development techniques)
- Improved planning and zoning
- Public education to promote smart growth and conservation
- Environmental education – utilize the Fox Chapel School District format to increase environmental education.
- Watershed group is needed to organize and implement.
- Critical to involve local government and organizations (sportsmens clubs, Kiwanas, Elks, Freeport Renaissance Association, churches, scouts, youth groups, media, teachers, historical societies).

How to Participate

Three handouts were distributed to meeting attendees. These included: Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan: An Introduction; Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan: Getting Involved; and the Initial Questionnaire. Copies of these handouts and a summary of the responses to the questionnaire are contained in this appendix.

**REGISTRATION SHEETS
INITIAL PUBLIC MEETINGS**



PLEASE REGISTER

Name: Don Bowser
Address: 974 WORTHINGTON SLATE LICK RD
WORTHINGTON PA 16262

Name: Roger H Claypoole
Address: 817 Worthington Slate Lick Rd.
Worthington, Pa. 16262

Name: JOHN HAVEN
Address: 213 PAMROSE DRIVE SARVER, PA 16055

Name: Dale Good, 210 E. Main St.
Address: Worthington, PA 16262

Name: Connie Feeney
Address: Rt Box 2A Worthington Pa 16262

Name: Dewey Stewart
Address: Box 654 Worthington, Pa. 16262

Name: Kris Bowser
Address: 145 W Main St Worthington, Pa 16262

Name: MAYOR Kevin M Feeney
Address: 354 west Ross St worthington PA 16262

Name: Scott Reardon
Address: 488 Craigsville Rd. Worthington PA 16262

Name: LARRY & Kim Wible
Address: 183 East Main St Worthington PA 16262



PLEASE REGISTER

Name: Joseph J. Molloy

Address: 110 Buffalo St Freeport, Pa 16229

Name: JOE & CINDY HARBISON

Address: 301 High St FREEPORT PA. 16229

Name: DAVID BEALE - ACD

Address: 124 ARMSDALE RD
KITTANNING, PA

Name: Ronald Radtke

Address: 172 Mary George Rd Chilora PA 16025

Name: Shawn Stennett

Address: P.O. Box 572 Worthington PA 16262

Name: Cody Stewart

Address: P.O. Box 654 Worthington PA 16262

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____



PLEASE REGISTER

Name: RON STEFFEY
Address: PO Box 777, Kittanning, PA 16201

Name: SUSAN Smith
Address: Box 257 Worthington, Pa. 16262

Name: Joyce Napier Kowski
Address: 536 FRANKLIN ST. Freeport, Pa. 16229

Name: Monica White
Address: Freeport, PA 16229

Name: Joan Huth
Address: 209 Sixth St, Freeport PA 16229

Name: Kathy Bouser
Address: 339 Ross St Worthington, Pa 16262

Name: TERRY LANK
Address: 159 OLD PIKE RD FREEPORT PA 16229

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____



PLEASE REGISTER

2 Name: Roy & Marilyn Smetana
Address: 149 Monroe Rd Sarver

Name: Jeremy Riggle
Address: 153 Old Pike Rd Freeport

Name: MARC Riggle
Address: 153 OLD PIKE RD Freeport

Name: ROBERT GORDG FREEPORT
Address: 105 MAIN ST.

Name: Celeste Reese
Address: 460 Monroe Rd Sarver

Name: Brian Lasko - Creekside Mushrooms
Address: 117 Kimberly Drive

Name: EDWARD J. GULICK
Address: 106 BEATTY DR SAXONBURG

Name: DAVID BEALE
Address: ACT

Name: TEMMY LAWF
Address: 159 OLD PIKE RD Freeport PA 16229

Name: John Mores
Address: 137 Kelvington Dr Monroeville PA
1 15146



PLEASE REGISTER

Name: Linda Humphreys
Address: 1225 Sarver Rd, Sarver PA 16055

Name: TRISHA O'NEILL
Address: ASWP

Name: JOELANNE SWIETHELM
Address: ASWP

Name: Debbie Swettenham
Address: 1225 Sarver Rd Sarver PA 16055

Name: Charles Bier
Address: 372 Kepple Rd Sarver 16055

Name: _____
Address: _____

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Address: _____



PLEASE REGISTER

Name: Andy Lindsay
Address: 218 Iron Bridge Rd Freeport

Name: _____
Address: _____

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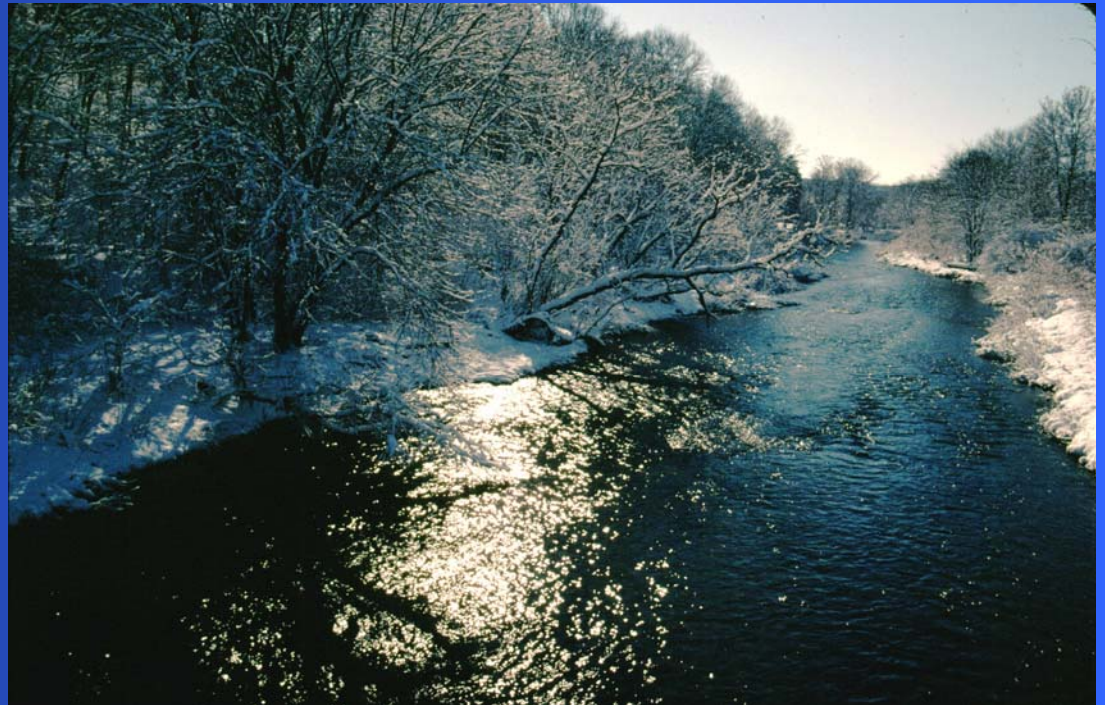
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**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION
INITIAL PUBLIC MEETINGS**

BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN

Public Meetings: Winter 2007



AUDUBON SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

- ASWP works to inspire and educate the people of southwestern Pennsylvania to be respectful stewards of the natural world.
- Locations at Beechwood Farms and Todd Nature Reserves
- Landowner and stewardship advocate in the watershed since 1942.



RIVERS CONSERVATION

The Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Program was established to conserve and enhance river resources through preparation and accomplishment of locally initiated plans.

Administered by Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

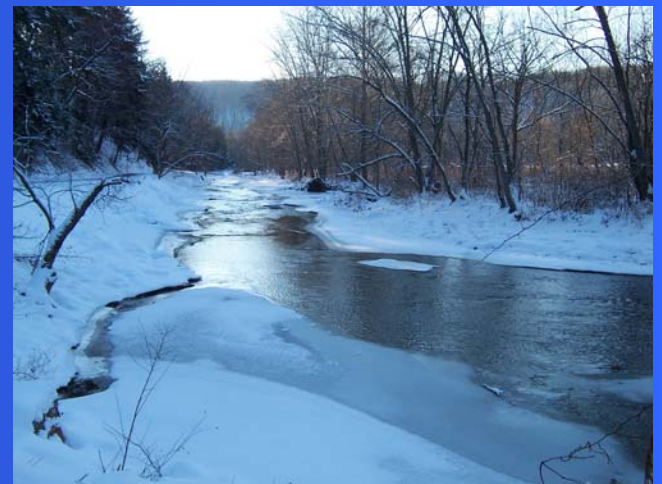
In December 2005 the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania received funding from DCNR to develop a **River Conservation Plan** for the Buffalo Creek Watershed.

CONSERVATION PLAN

Is a comprehensive watershed or river corridor study.

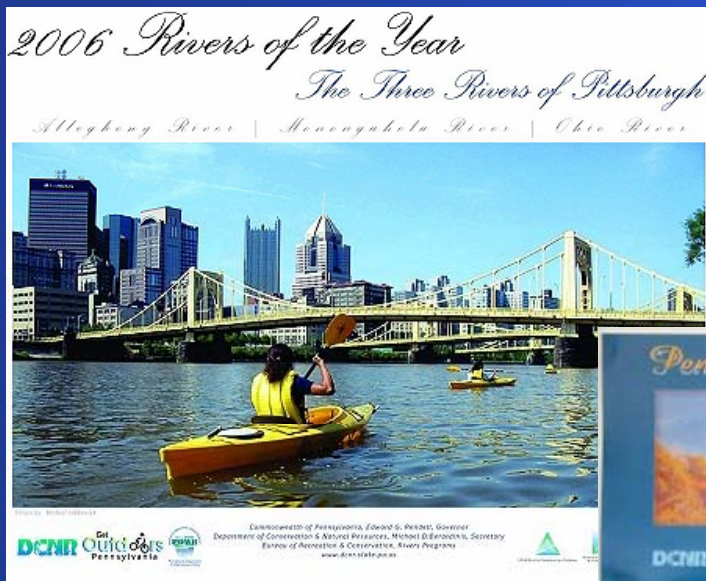
This study requires:

- **inventory** of existing natural, recreational, and cultural resources,
- **analysis** of the issues, concerns and threats to resources and values,
- specific **recommendations** that set forth priorities and actions leading to the development of a long-term watershed or river corridor management program.



RIVERS REGISTRY

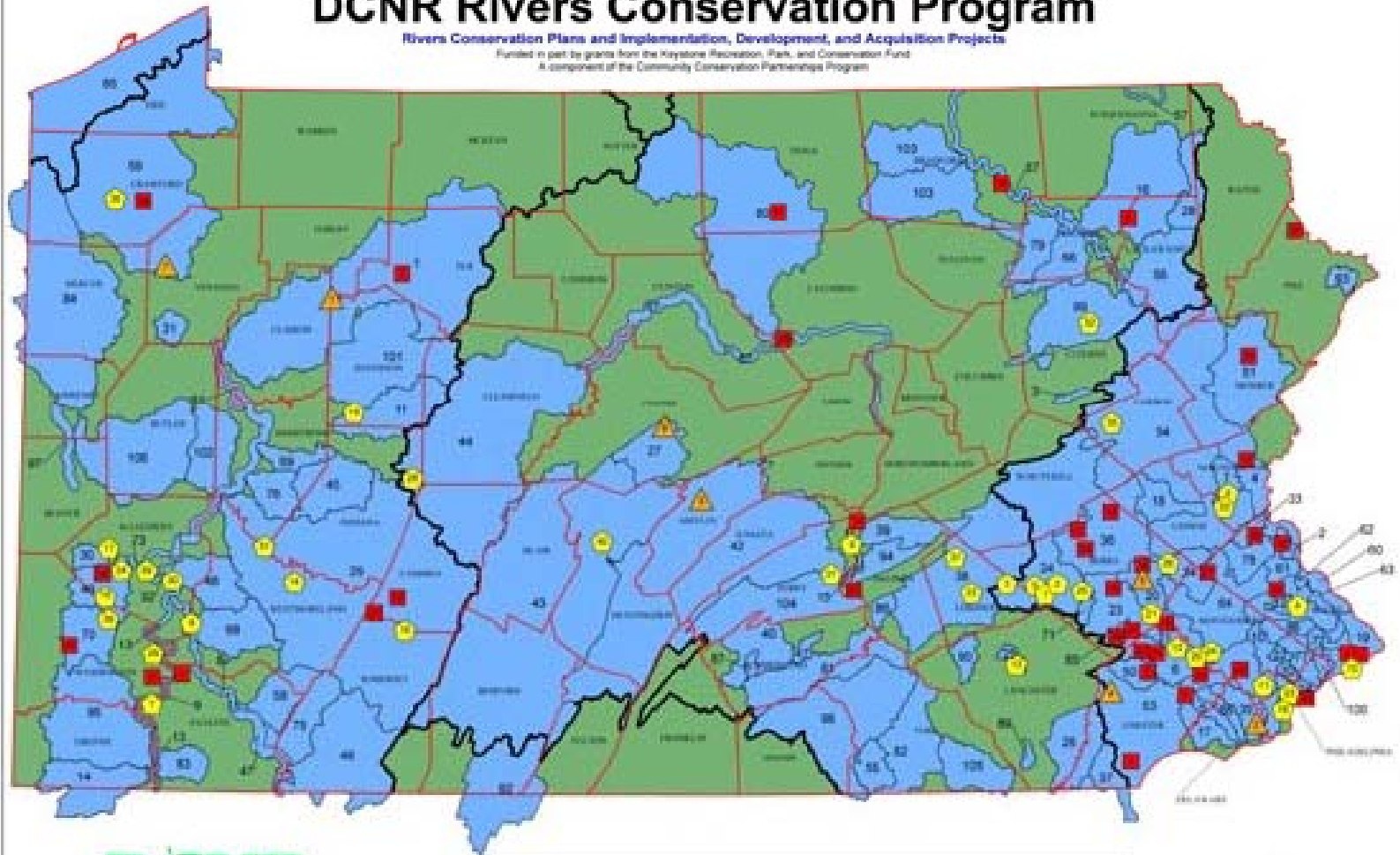
- With a Conservation Plan, watershed is eligible for listing on the **Pennsylvania River Registry**.
 - Endorses local initiatives by statewide recognition program.
 - Registry status **must be achieved** to qualify for additional implementation, development or acquisition grants.
- Currently 81 rivers on the Registry.



DCNR Rivers Conservation Program

Rivers Conservation Plans and Implementation, Development, and Acquisition Projects

Funded in part by grants from the Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund
A component of the Community Conservation Partnerships Program



DCNR

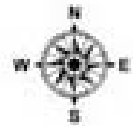
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

Revised: July 2005

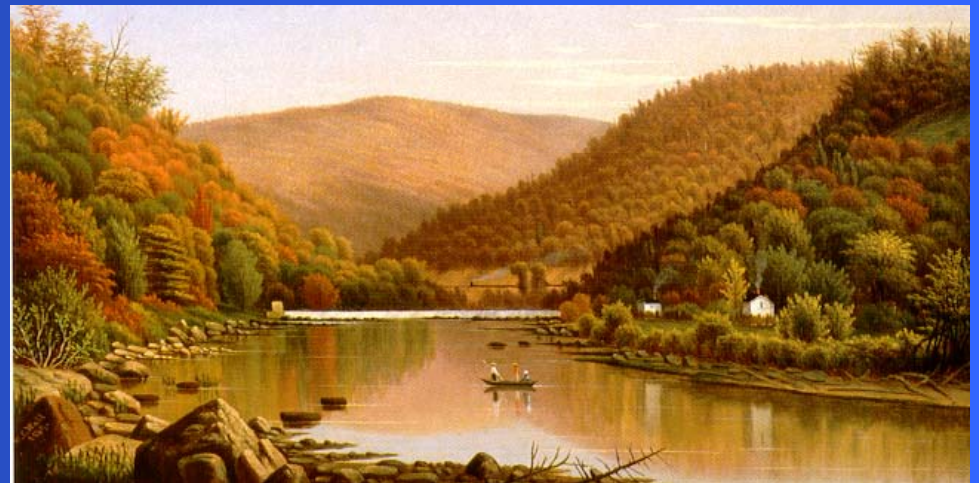
- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | Development Projects |  | River Basin Divide |
|  | Acquisition Projects |  | County Boundaries |
|  | Implementation Projects |  | River Conservation Plans |



© 2005 DCNR, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

KISKI CONEMAUGH WATERSHED

- Completed in 2000.
- Over \$300,000 in implementation grants were received prior to the plan even being completed.
- Projects receiving funding identified from issues/ opportunities addressed in the Draft Plan and throughout the public participation process.

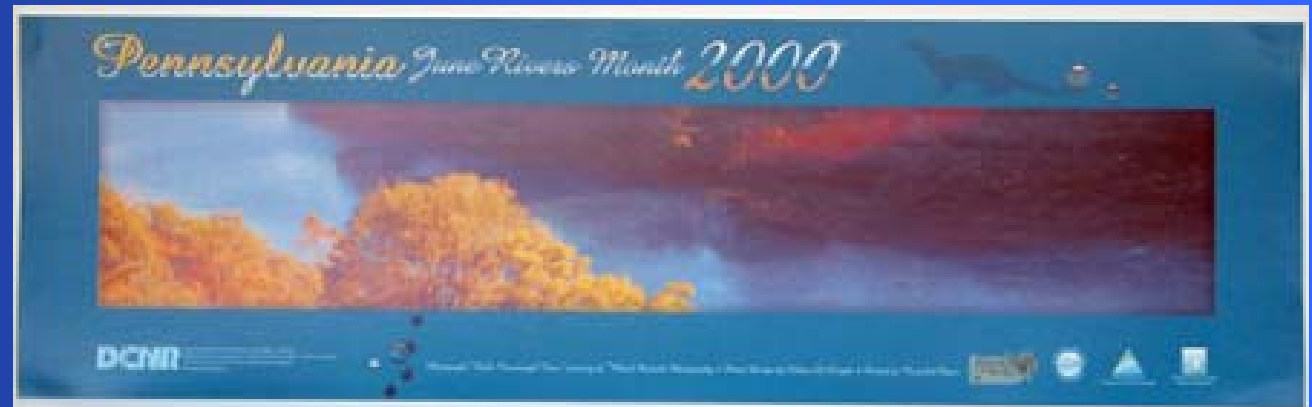


FUNDED PROJECTS

- Stream Restorayion/ AMD Remediation
- Riparian Buffer/Streambank Stabilization
- Stream Access
- Community Park Enhancements
- Trail Improvements
- Open Space/Greenway Enhancements
- Environmental Education
- Dry Fire Hydrant Installation
- Geographic Information Systems Watershed Modeling
- Urban Tree Inventories Internship Programs

FUNDED PROJECTS

- Volunteer Water Monitoring/Education Project ~ Stream Team Program
- Surveys for National Natural Landmarks Registry
- Conferences ~ AMD awareness
- Dirt and Gravel Roads ~ GIS Buffering Model
- Urban Tree Planting
- Interpretive Signage
- Internship Program



LOCAL SUPPORT

DCNR requires that a majority of local municipalities pass a resolution of support for the Plan.

To date 9 of 19 have done so:

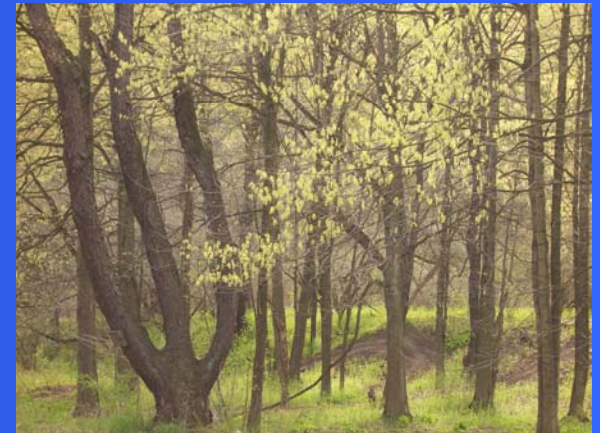
- Fairview
- Buffalo
- Clinton
- Jefferson
- Saxonburg
- Freeport
- East Franklin
- Worthington
- Sugarcreek



LOCAL SUPPORT

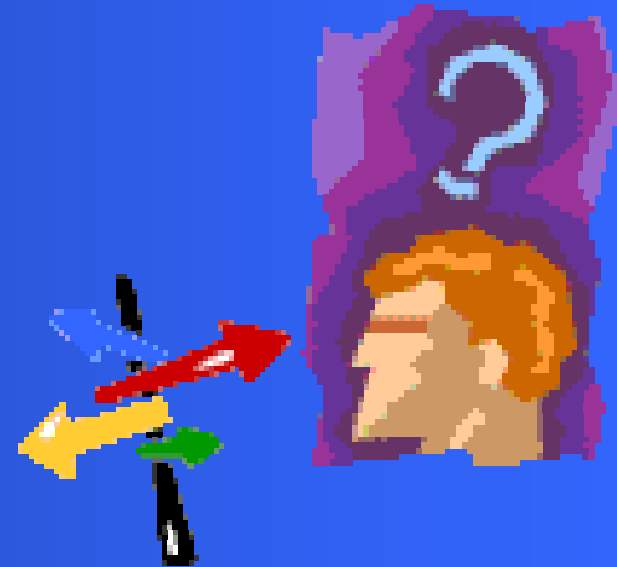
In addition, the following have indicated their support:

- Armstrong County Board of County Commissioners
- Butler County Board of County Commissioners
- Butler County Association of Township Officials
- Armstrong Conservation District
- Butler County Conservation District
- PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Armstrong County Conservancy Charitable Trust
- Western PA Watershed Program
- Arrowhead Chapter Trout Unlimited
- Farm Bureau of Butler County
- PA Department of Environmental Protection



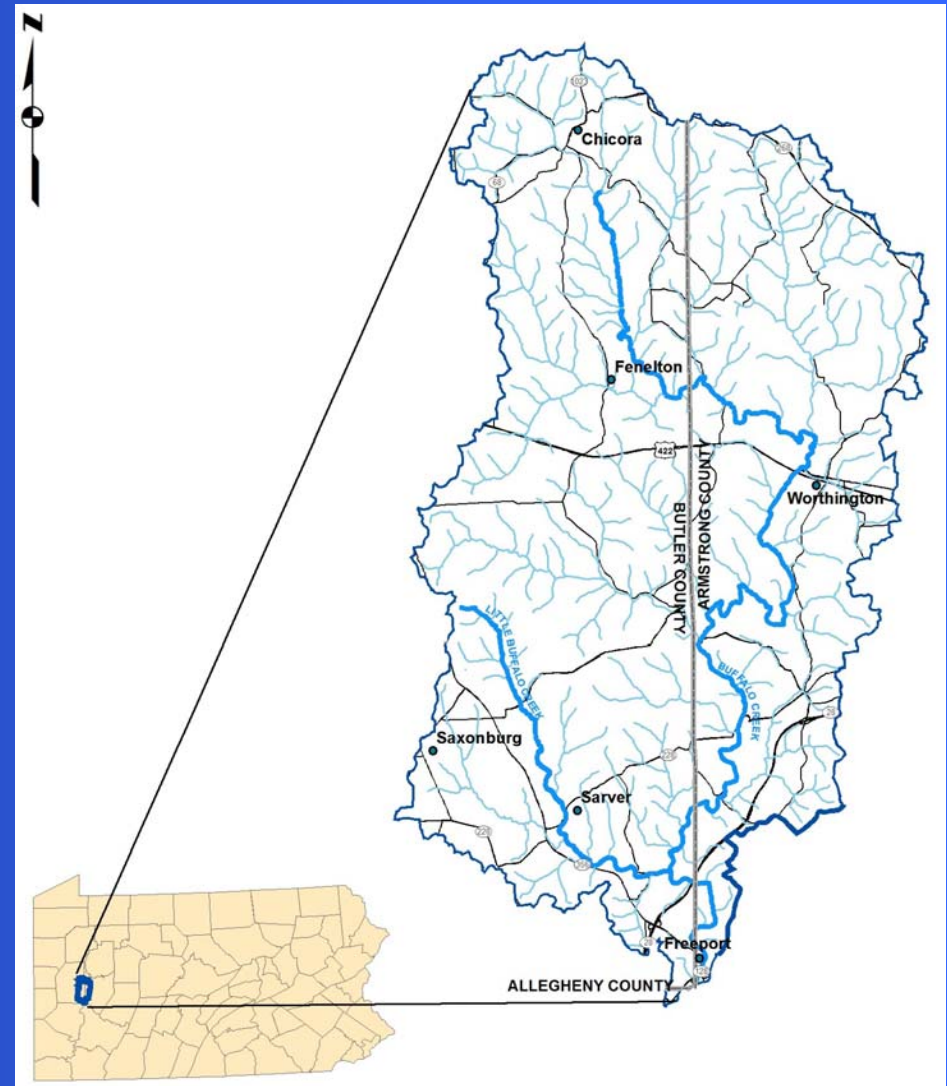
PUBLIC INPUT

- Public involvement is a keystone in the process.
- **We need your input!!!**
 - ✓ Public Meetings
 - ✓ Questionnaires
 - ✓ Website (www.aswp.org)



BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED

- 171 square miles
- Armstrong, Butler, Allegheny Counties
- Headwaters near Chicora
- Enters Allegheny River at Freeport
- Named for large herds of woodland bison at the “Buffalo Glades”



THE WATERSHED

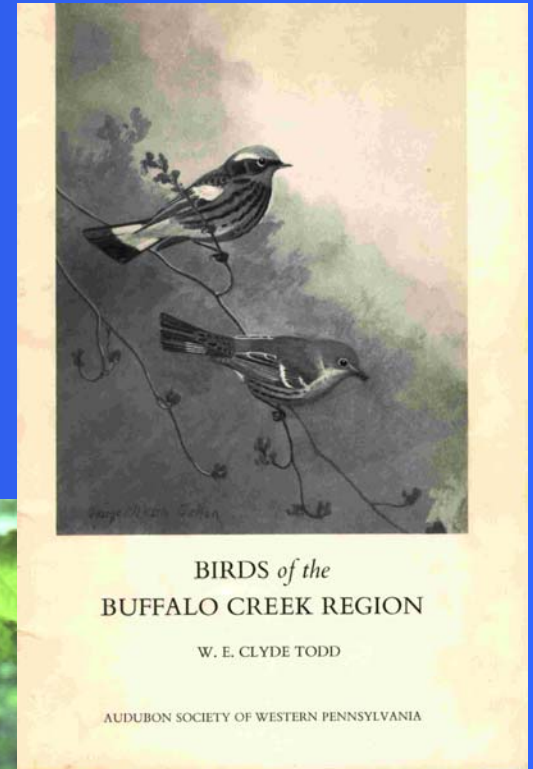
- 15 townships and 4 boroughs
- 25,342 people in 2000
- Chicora, Worthington, Saxonburg, Sarver, Freeport



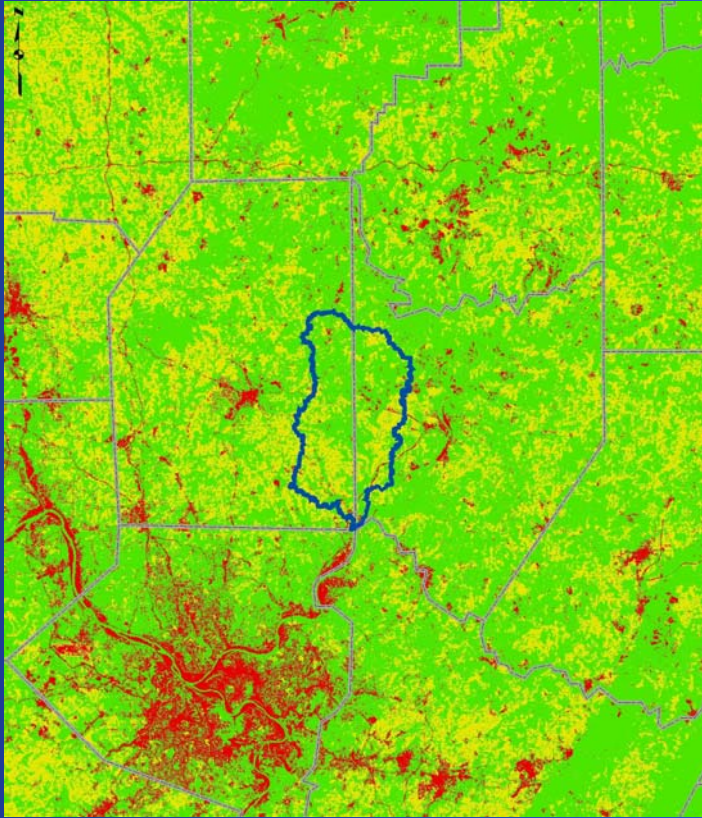
WILD AND PICTURESQUE...

The valley of Buffalo Creek is a mere gorge, its bottom usually quite narrow, and the neighboring slopes steep and rugged, sometimes rising as precipitous sandstone cliffs, rendering the scenery along the creek among the most wild and picturesque in western Pennsylvania.

W.E. Clyde Todd 1898



TODAY AND TOMORROW



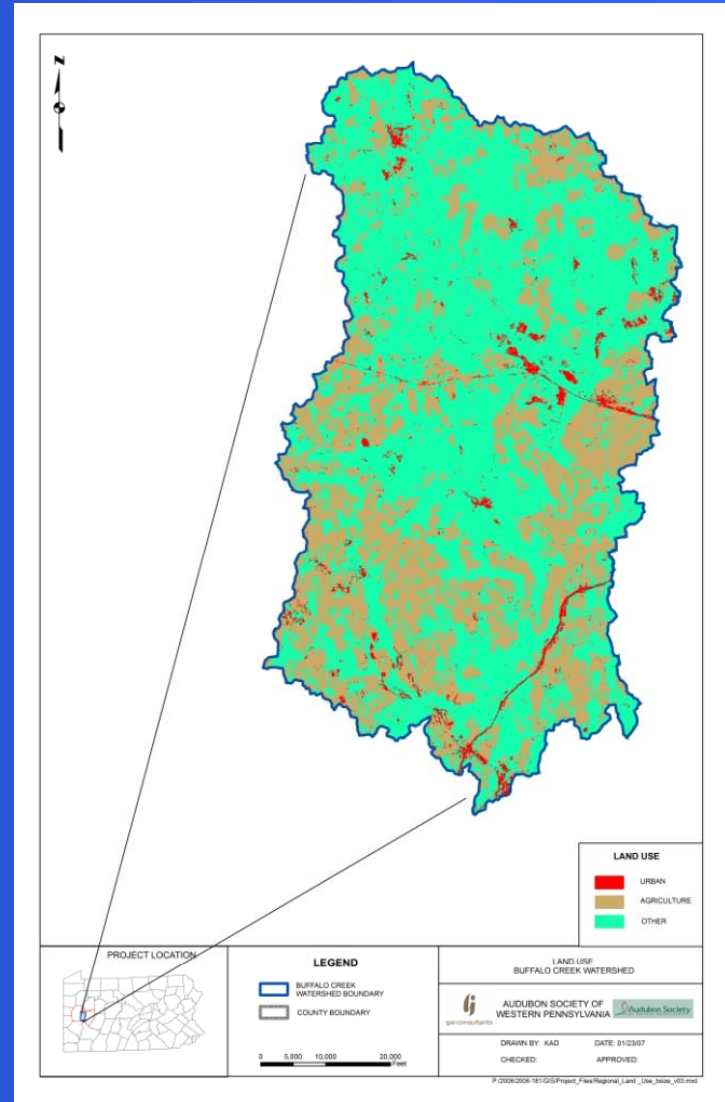
.....among the most wild and picturesque in western Pennsylvania.

PLAN COMPONENTS

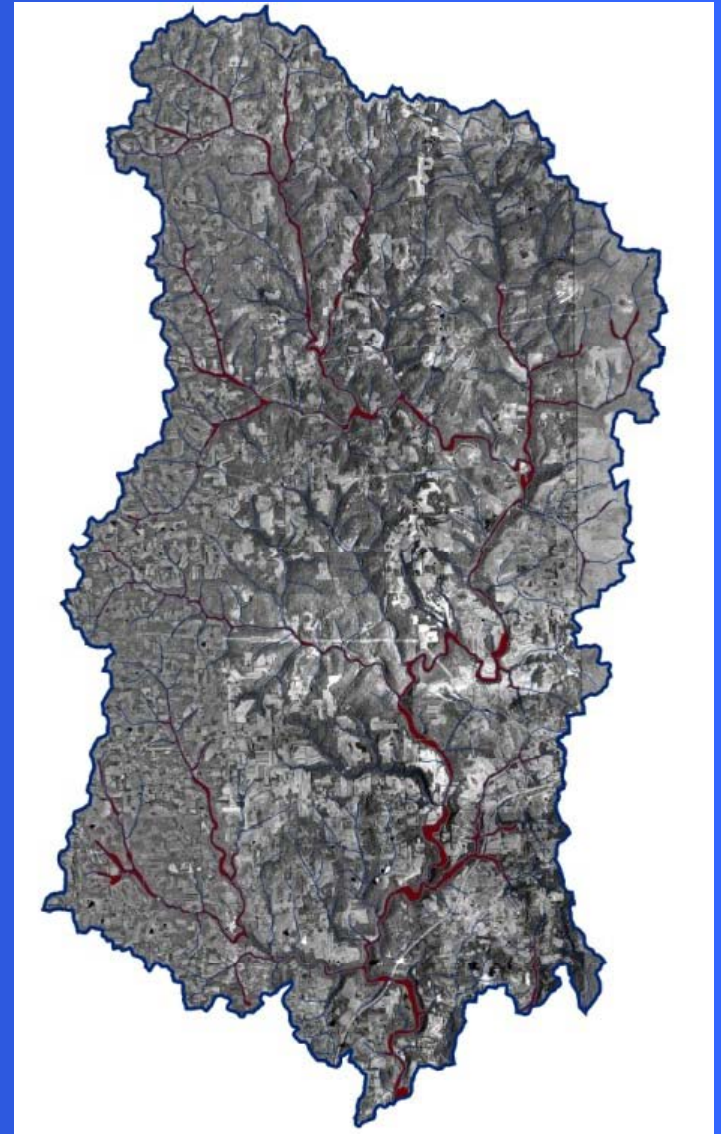
- Land Resources
- Water Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- **Action Plan**



LAND RESOURCES

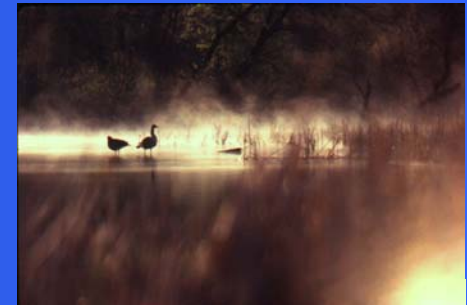


WATER RESOURCES



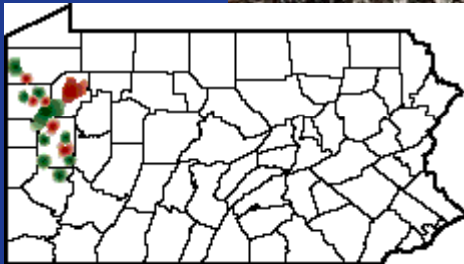
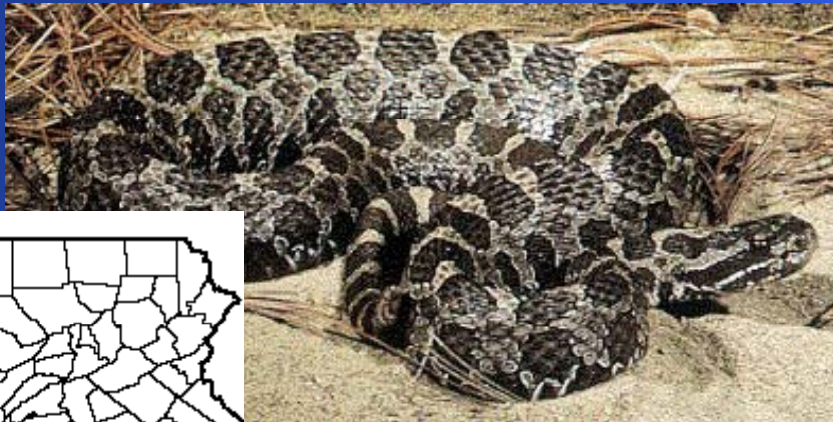
341 Miles of Streams

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES



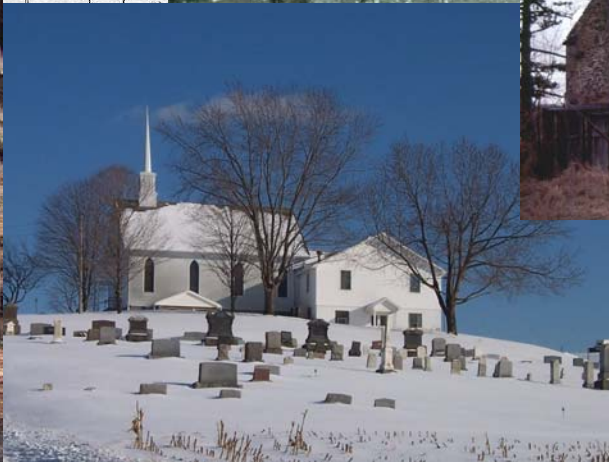
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Butler County Natural Heritage Inventory:
2 Conservation Areas (Buffalo Headwaters and Buffalo Basin) and 2 natural communities of high significance (Buffalo/Little Buffalo Valleys and Todd Nature Reserve)
- Buffalo Creek Valley Important Bird Area (IBA #22)

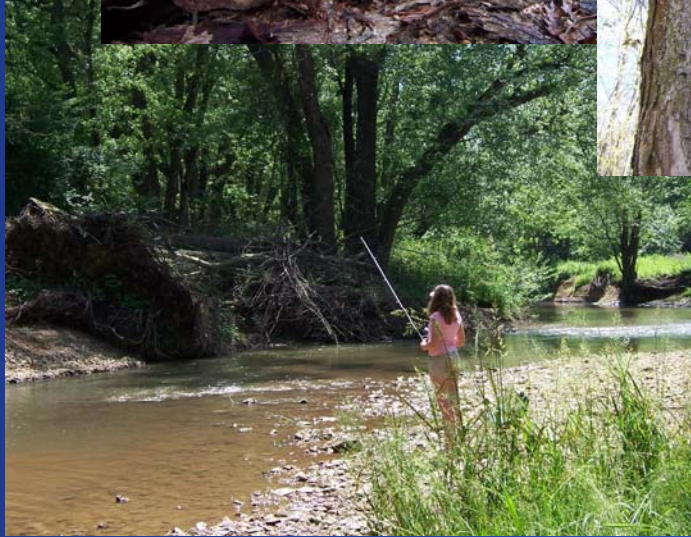


PFBC photo by Robert T. Zappalorti

CULTURAL RESOURCES



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES



STEWARDSHIP



= Responsibility

GET INVOLVED!!

- Questionnaire
- Meetings
- Website (www.aswp.org/rcp)
- Get the word out
- Tell us your ideas



HANDOUTS
INITIAL PUBLIC MEETINGS



BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN AN INTRODUCTION

The Buffalo Creek Watershed drains 171 square miles of eastern Butler County, western Armstrong County, and extreme northeast Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. It includes portions of 15 townships and four boroughs as shown on Figure 1.

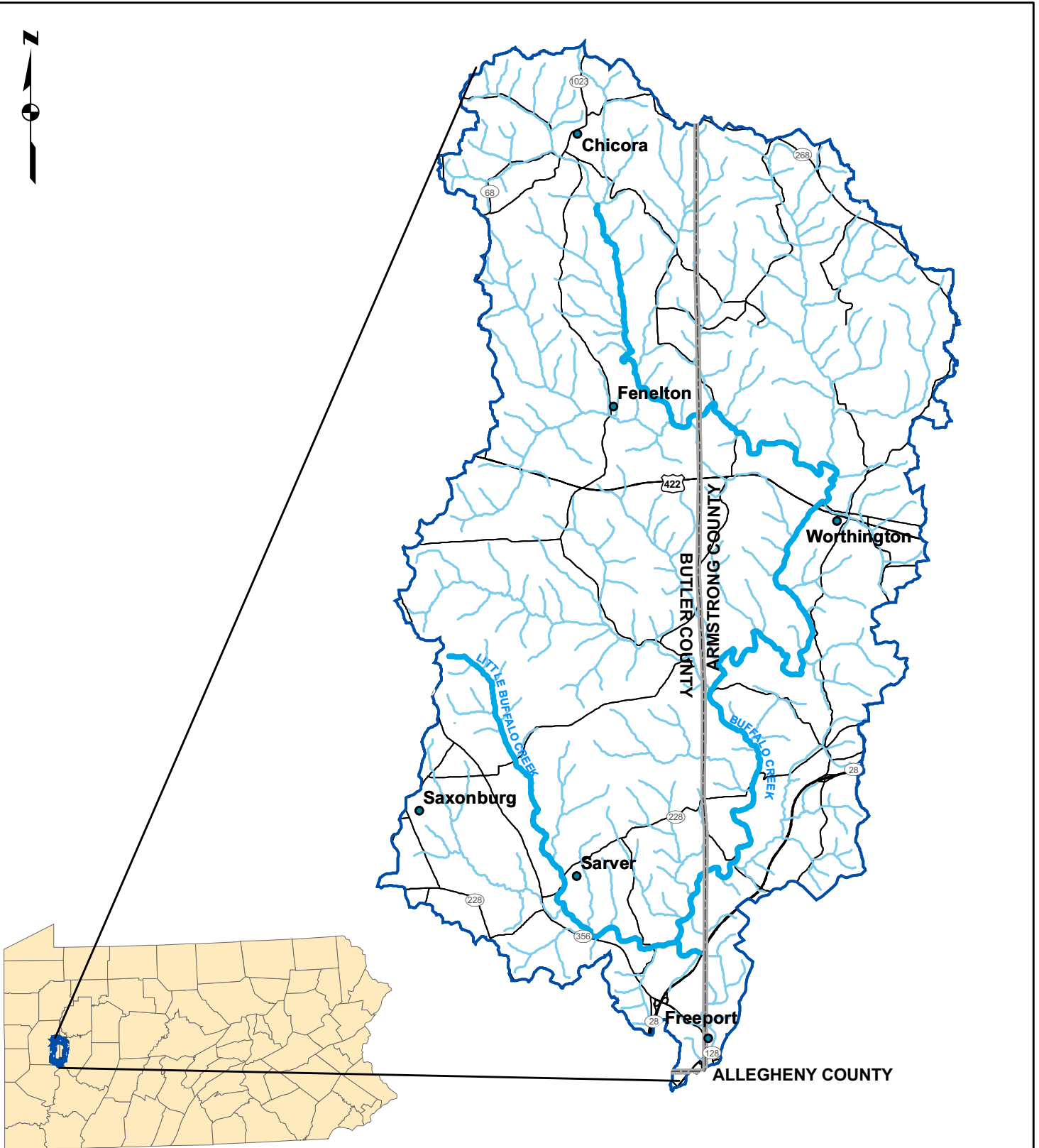
The development of a River Conservation Plan for the Buffalo Creek Valley is an initiative of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP). ASWP works to inspire and educate the people of southwestern Pennsylvania to be respectful stewards of the natural world. We have pursued these goals at our Todd Nature Reserve in Buffalo Township since 1942.

The Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Program was established by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to conserve and enhance river resources through preparation and accomplishment of **locally initiated** river conservation plans. The program provides technical and financial assistance to municipalities and river support groups to carry out planning, implementation, acquisition and development activities, and is funded through the Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Act. ASWP has received funding from DCNR to develop a River Conservation Plan for the Buffalo Creek Watershed.





The River Conservation Plan is a comprehensive watershed or river corridor-based study identifying significant natural, recreational and cultural resources. Issues, concerns and threats to resources and values are determined locally as part of planning, and methods to conserve, restore, and enhance waterways are recommended. Upon completion of a Conservation Plan, the watershed is eligible for listing on the Pennsylvania River Registry. The Registry recognizes rivers in communities that have completed conservation plans. It is also an avenue to endorse local initiatives by binding them together in a statewide recognition program. In order for a river to be placed on the registry, it must have an approved plan and local municipal support. Registry status must be achieved to qualify for additional implementation, development or acquisition grants. To date, nine municipalities have provided letters of support for the Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan.

Our watershed contains a wealth of ecological, recreational, and cultural resources. Both opportunities and challenges await in the future. These issues require that the watershed's stakeholders find common ground, and plan for the future with common goals. The Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan will provide a vehicle to accomplish this. By finding common ground, facilitated through the Conservation Plan, stakeholders can provide for the long-term viability and sustainability of the watershed, its unique landscape and ecological features, and the quality of life for residents and visitors.

Public involvement and input is crucial for the success of the Plan. ASWP has initiated a comprehensive public involvement process to facilitate this effort. We invite you to participate! For more information, contact Brian Shema at Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania: 412-963-6100 or bshema@aswp.org.



LEGEND

-  BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED BOUNDARY
-  MAJOR TOWNS
-  MAJOR STREAMS
-  MAJOR ROADS

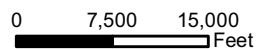


FIGURE ES-1
WATERSHED LOCATION MAP
BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED



DRAWN BY: AML
CHECKED: AJB

DATE: 01/31/2007
APPROVED: GTR



BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN

GETTING INVOLVED

- Attend the Conservation Plan Public Meetings to share your thoughts and ideas.
- Visit the Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan Website - aswp.org
- Register for News and Updates on the plan and progress being made.
- Tell us what you think by:
 - Participating in Surveys
 - Calling Us
 - Sending an Email
 - Sending a Letter

LEARN ABOUT THE WATERSHED

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania - aswp.org
PA Rivers Conservation Program - dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/rivers/
PA Bureau of Watershed Management - dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgmt/wc/
US EPA Surf Your Watershed - epa.gov/surf/
Armstrong Conservation District - armstrongcd.org
Butler County Conservation District - bccdonline.org
Arrowhead Chapter Trout Unlimited - arrowheadtu.com
Butler Freeport Trail Council - butlerfreeporttrail.org
Freeport Historical Society - fahs-pa.org
Butler County Historical Society - butlercountyhistoricalsociety-pa.org
Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program - wpawp.org/
Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation - wpcamr.org

GET OUT THERE

Todd Sanctuary, 367 Kepple Road, Sarver - aswp.org
Butler Freeport Trail - butlerfreeporttrail.org
State Game Lands 259, West Franklin and Sugarcreek Townships - pgc.state.pa.us
State Game Lands 164, Donegal Township - pgc.state.pa.us
State Game Lands 304, Clearfield Township - pgc.state.pa.us
Fish Buffalo Creek - sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/mpag1

SURVEY RESULTS
INITIAL PUBLIC MEETINGS



**BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN
INITIAL QUESTIONNAIRE**

The Buffalo Creek Watershed is located in eastern Butler, western Armstrong, and northern Allegheny Counties, PA. Buffalo Creek originates near Chicora and flows into the Allegheny River at Freeport.

1. Please tell us where you live:

County _____ Municipality _____

Do you live in the watershed? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Not Sure

2. What are the most important qualities of the area?

3. What are the most important challenges facing the area?

4. How can the watershed be improved?

5. Rank the following in terms of important issues to be addressed in planning for the watershed (1= most important):

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ___ Agricultural Preservation | ___ Natural Landscapes |
| ___ Commercial Development | ___ Outdoor Recreation Opportunities |
| ___ Environmental Education | ___ Residential Development |
| ___ Flooding | ___ Rural/Small Town Atmosphere |
| ___ Historic Preservation | ___ Water Quality Improvement |
| ___ Job Opportunities | ___ Other _____ |

6. Rank the importance of the following outdoor activities to you (1 = most important):

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| ___ ATV Riding | ___ Fishing | ___ Running |
| ___ Biking | ___ Hiking/Walking | ___ Swimming |
| ___ Birding | ___ Horseback Riding | ___ Team Sports |
| ___ Camping | ___ Hunting | ___ X-C Skiing |
| ___ Canoeing/Boating | ___ Photography | |
| Other _____ | | |

7. Describe the current state of the watershed.

8. Describe the area in 20 years.

9. Are there specific resources/ opportunities/ challenges that should be considered in the plan? (i.e. flooding, stream access, recreation areas)

10. Are there currently sufficient opportunities to participate in decision making and planning for the future in the watershed?

11. Would you be interested in participating in a watershed organization for the Buffalo Creek Watershed?

Yes ____ No ____

12. Other Comments.

Would you like to be notified of future meetings and developments?

Name _____
Address _____
email _____

See our website for a summary of questionnaire results: www.aswp.org

**BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN
INITIAL QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY**

Worthington Meeting, February 7, 2007

25 Registrants

15 Surveys Returned

2. What are the most important qualities of the area?

- Rural
- Green Space
- Fishing Resources
- Outdoor Recreation Opportunities
- Close to Pittsburgh
- Natural Beauty
- Family Friendly
- Clean Drinking Water

3. What are the most important challenges facing the area?

- Development
- Runoff
- Education
- Strip Mining
- Deer Population
- Lack of Jobs

4. How can the watershed be improved?

- Control Runoff
- More Trees
- Streamside Revegetation
- Zoning
- Less Dumping
- Control Streambank Erosion
- More Natural Landscapes

5. Rank the following in terms of important issues to be addressed in planning for the watershed (1= most important):

Number of First Place Scores

| | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| <u>8</u> | Agricultural Preservation | <u>7</u> | Natural Landscapes |
| <u>4</u> | Commercial Development | <u>8</u> | Outdoor Recreation Opportunities |
| <u>7</u> | Environmental Education | <u>2</u> | Residential Development |
| <u>7</u> | Flooding | <u>6</u> | Rural/Small Town Atmosphere |
| <u>8</u> | Historic Preservation | <u>9</u> | Water Quality Improvement |
| <u>5</u> | Job Opportunities | _____ | Other _____ |

Number of First Place Scores

6. Rank the importance of the following outdoor activities to you (1 = most important):

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-----------|------------------|----------|-------------|
| <u>6</u> | ATV Riding | <u>5</u> | Fishing | <u>1</u> | Running |
| <u>6</u> | Biking | <u>11</u> | Hiking/Walking | <u>4</u> | Swimming |
| <u>6</u> | Birding | <u>1</u> | Horseback Riding | <u>1</u> | Team Sports |
| <u>4</u> | Camping | <u>3</u> | Hunting | <u>1</u> | X-C Skiing |
| <u>6</u> | Canoeing/Boating | <u>3</u> | Photography | | |
| Other _____ | | | | | |

7. Describe the current state of the watershed.

Responses range from Poor to Very Good

9. Are there specific resources/ opportunities/ challenges that should be considered in the plan? (i.e. flooding, stream access, recreation areas)

Trails and Parks
Recreation and Greenspace
Stream Access
Passive Recreation Areas
Dry Hydrants
Flooding

**BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN
INITIAL QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY**

Freeport High School Meeting, February 11, 2007

13 Registrants

9 Surveys Returned

2. What are the most important qualities of the area?

- Rural
- Open Space
- Outdoor Recreation Opportunities
- Forests and Streams
- Small Town Atmosphere

3. What are the most important challenges facing the area?

- Development
- Water Quality
- Groundwater
- Sewage
- Bank Erosion
- Invasive Species
- Lack of Planning

4. How can the watershed be improved?

- Control Runoff
- Sewage Treatment
- Education
- Assess Water Quality
- Identify Threats
- More/Better Planning
- Reduce Invasive Species
- Water Pollution Ordinances
- Reduce Light Pollution from Northpointe
- Reduce Abandoned Mine Drainage
- Keep it the Same

5. Rank the following in terms of important issues to be addressed in planning for the watershed (1= most important):

Number of First Place Scores

| | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| <u>0</u> | Agricultural Preservation | <u>5</u> | Natural Landscapes |
| <u>1</u> | Commercial Development | <u>2</u> | Outdoor Recreation Opportunities |
| <u>1</u> | Environmental Education | <u>1</u> | Residential Development |
| <u>0</u> | Flooding | <u>1</u> | Rural/Small Town Atmosphere |
| <u>0</u> | Historic Preservation | <u>2</u> | Water Quality Improvement |
| <u>0</u> | Job Opportunities | <u>1</u> | Other ___ Biodiversity_____ |

Number of First Place Scores

6. Rank the importance of the following outdoor activities to you (1 = most important):

| | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|----------|------------------|----------|-------------|
| <u>0</u> | ATV Riding | <u>4</u> | Fishing | <u>0</u> | Running |
| <u>2</u> | Biking | <u>4</u> | Hiking/Walking | <u>0</u> | Swimming |
| <u>0</u> | Birding | <u>0</u> | Horseback Riding | <u>0</u> | Team Sports |
| <u>0</u> | Camping | <u>0</u> | Hunting | <u>0</u> | X-C Skiing |
| <u>1</u> | Canoeing/Boating | <u>0</u> | Photography | | |
| Other _____ | | | | | |

7. Describe the current state of the watershed.

Responses range from Fair to High On the Brink of Decline

9. Are there specific resources/ opportunities/ challenges that should be considered in the plan? (i.e. flooding, stream access, recreation areas)

Butler Freeport Trail Improvement/Access
Buffalo/Little Buffalo Valleys Protection
Rural Preservation
Recreational Access
Flooding
Support Agriculture
Effective Planning
New Approaches to Growth
Develop Forest Protection Tools
Stream Access
Historic Resources
Environmental Education

12. Other Comments.

Threats analysis will be very important to success of plan.

DRAFT PLAN REVIEW MEETING PUBLIC SUMMARY

**DRAFT PLAN REVIEW PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY
BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN**

**FREEPORT AREA HIGH SCHOOL
DECEMBER 6, 2007**

Following the completion of the Draft Watershed Conservation Plan in December 2007, ASWP hosted a public meeting at the Freeport Area High School. This meeting was held on December 6, 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the Draft plan and to obtain comment on the document. Twenty-four people registered at the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting included:

1. Project Introduction (Brian Shema – ASWP)
2. Draft Plan Overview (George Reese – GAI)
3. Request For Comments
4. Question and Answer Session

Project Introduction

This presentation provided an introduction to the watershed plan concept; the role of ASWP, DCNR, and the steering committee; an overview of project activities to date; and future timeline for plan completion. Static displays were provided to introduce ASWP and its role as facilitator in developing the watershed conservation plan.

Draft Plan Overview

The project overview included a PowerPoint presentation and static displays to introduce the plan development process, the goals and intent of the plan, a review of key watershed features, identification of issues and concerns, and an overview of the action plan. A copy of the presentation is included in this appendix. The formation of the Buffalo Creek Watershed Coalition was also discussed and opportunities for participation were identified.

Request For Comments

The critical importance of public review and participation in the development of the watershed plan was discussed. The availability of the draft plan for review as either a hard copy or on the project website was identified. Means of providing comments were identified, which included submission of comment forms obtained at tonight's meeting or from the project website, or through general comments submitted via email, U.S. mail, or telephone. Attendees were encouraged to take extra comment sheets to distribute to additional interested parties not in attendance at this meeting.

Question and Answer Session

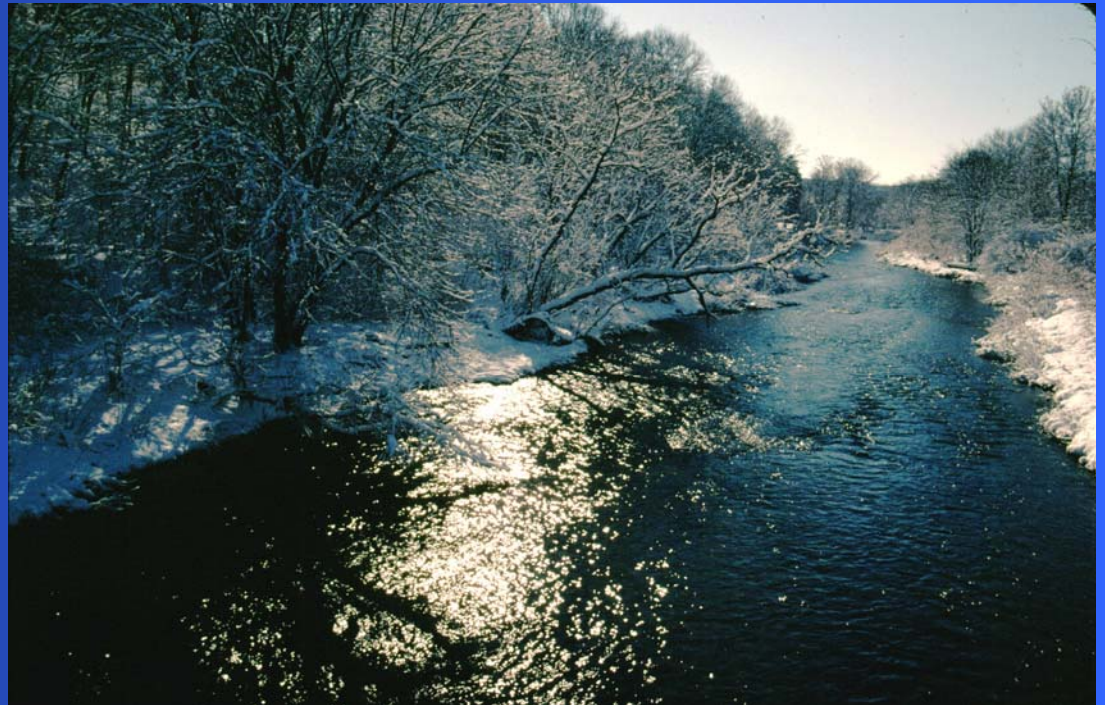
The meeting concluded with an open question and answer session. Discussions included historic resources in Buffalo Township and Freeport, the need for increased stream access, future project schedule, and organization of the watershed coalition.

Three handouts were distributed to meeting attendees. These included: Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan: An Introduction; Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan: Getting Involved; and the Draft Plan Review Comment Sheet. Copies of these handouts are contained in this appendix.

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION
DRAFT PLAN REVIEW PUBLIC MEETING**

BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN

Draft Plan Review: December 2007



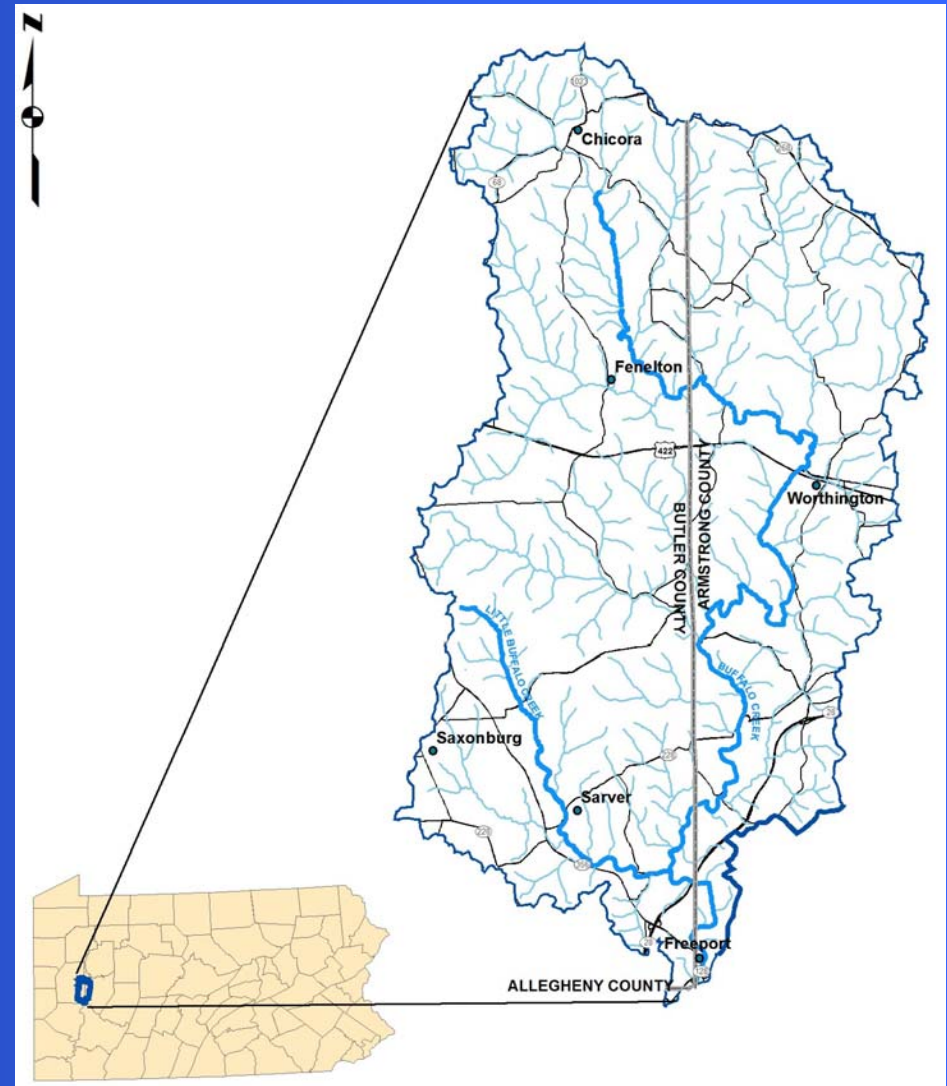
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

- ASWP works to inspire and educate the people of southwestern Pennsylvania to be respectful stewards of the natural world.
- Locations at Beechwood Farms and Todd Nature Reserves
- Landowner and stewardship advocate in the watershed since 1942.



BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED

- 171 square miles
- Armstrong, Butler, Allegheny Counties
- Headwaters near Chicora
- Enters Allegheny River at Freeport



RIVERS CONSERVATION PROGRAM

December 2005: ASWP received funding from DCNR to develop a **River Conservation Plan** for the Buffalo Creek Watershed.

Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Program: DCNR program to conserve and enhance river resources through locally initiated plans.



CONSERVATION PLAN

A comprehensive watershed study.

- **Inventory** of natural, recreational, and cultural resources.
- **Analysis** of issues, concerns and threats to resources and values.
- **Recommendations** of priorities and actions leading to the development of a long-term watershed management program.



PLANNING PROCESS

- Steering Committee (December 2005)
- Public Informational Meetings (February 2007)
- Data Collection
- Draft Plan
- **Public Meeting and Comment Period**
- Final Plan
- Public Meeting



WHAT IS IT?

- A **guide** to the resources of the watershed.
- A **compendium of ideas** to restore, maintain, and enhance resources.
- A **tool** to encourage stewardship of this unique area .
- **Non-regulatory**; strictly for informational and inspirational purposes.



BUFFALO CREEK GOALS

- **Establish common ground** and direction among stakeholders for the watershed;
- **Provide a tool** to help local decision makers to use in making informed decisions;
- **Identify initiatives** for the stewardship of the watershed;
- **Qualify the watershed** for admission to the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry.

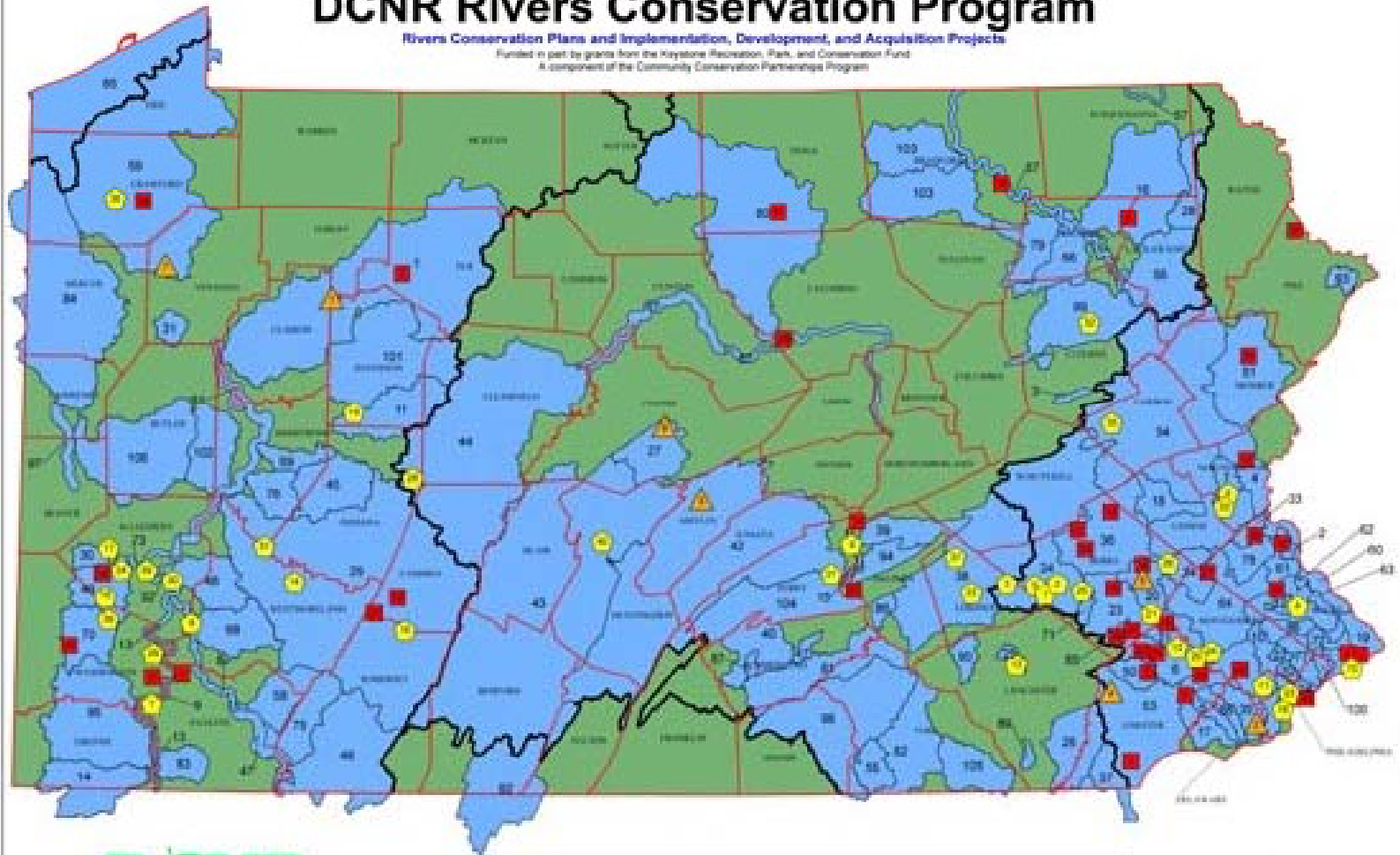
PENNSYLVANIA RIVERS REGISTRY

- Statewide recognition program endorsing local initiatives
- Registry status must be achieved for organizations and municipalities to qualify for additional DCNR Rivers Program grants
 - **Implementation grants** (stream use and access studies, water trail feasibility studies, greenways studies),
 - **Development grants** (trails, stream access points, playgrounds and parks)
 - **Acquisition grants** for recreational or conservation land uses

DCNR Rivers Conservation Program

Rivers Conservation Plans and Implementation, Development, and Acquisition Projects

Funded in part by grants from the Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Fund
A component of the Community Conservation Partnerships Program



DCNR

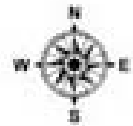
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

Revised: July 2005

- Development Projects
- Acquisition Projects
- Implementation Projects
- River Basin Divide
- County Boundaries
- River Conservation Plans



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IMPLEMENTATION

Development of an **Action Plan**

- Based upon public input.
- Address issues, concerns, and opportunities.
- Includes potential partners, potential funding sources, and priority levels.



PUBLIC INPUT

- Public involvement is a keystone in the process.
 - ✓ Public Meetings
 - ✓ Comments and Questionnaires
 - ✓ Newsletters
 - ✓ Website (www.aswp.org/rcp)
 - ✓ Interviews
 - ✓ Draft Plan Review



WHO?

Everyone with an interest in the watershed:

Individuals, organizations, municipalities.

- Potential partners identified via public coordination, review of organizations in the watershed, and requirements for municipal participation.
- Partnerships are merely suggestions and do not represent a commitment by any party to participate



PLAN COMPONENTS

- Project Area
- Land Resources
- Water Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- **Action Plan**



PROJECT AREA

- 15 townships and 4 boroughs
- Chicora, Worthington, Saxonburg, Sarver, Freeport
- 25,342 people in 2000
- Growing population



LAND RESOURCES

- Rural
- 2/3 of the land in the watershed is forested
- Agriculture has substantially declined in recent decades
- Mining and mineral extraction important industries
- 99 percent private ownership



WATER RESOURCES

- Mainstem extends 34.4 miles.
- Watershed contains at least 341 miles of perennial and intermittent streams
- Most of watershed designated as High Quality waters



WATER RESOURCES

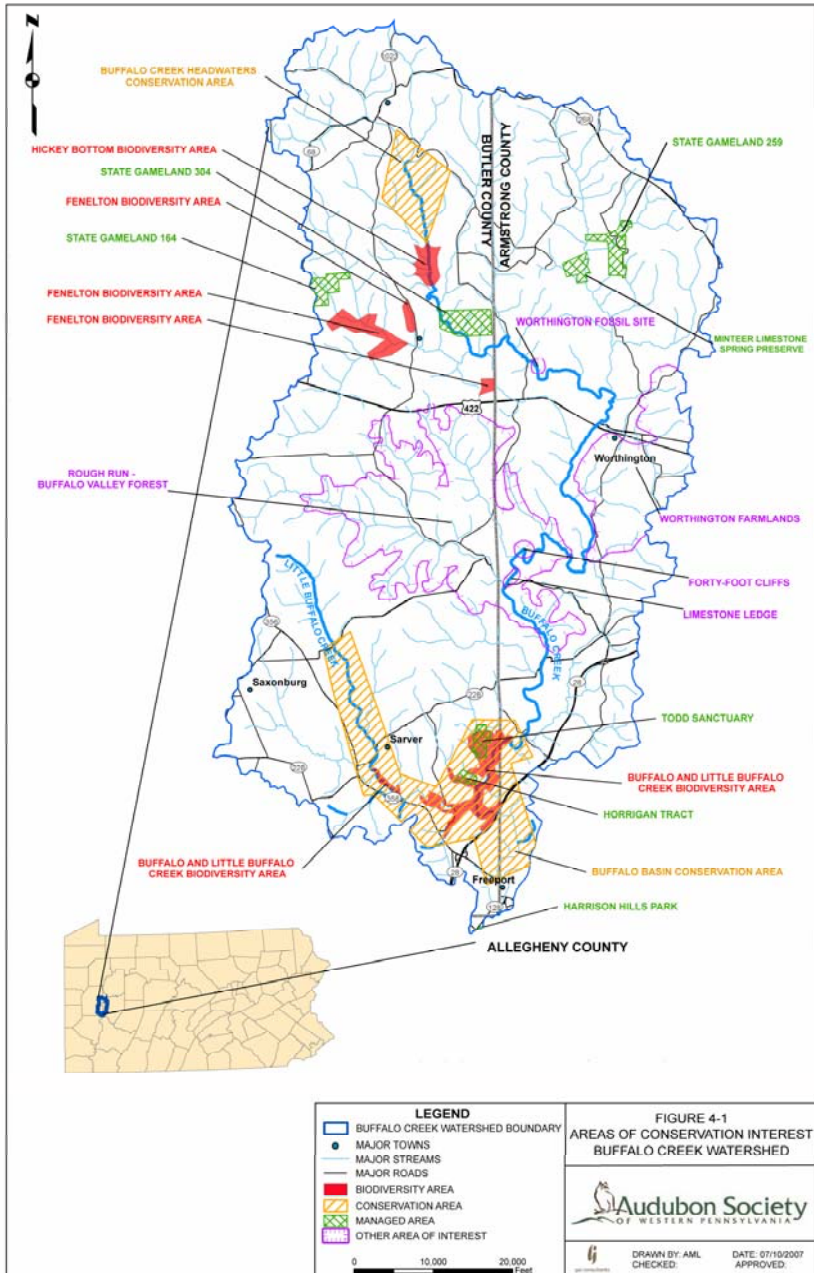
- Maintained relatively good water quality through the rise and decline of industry
- Primary causes of degradation: siltation, nutrients, and metals.
- Primary sources for siltation and nutrients is agriculture, abandoned mine drainage contributes metals contamination.



BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Unique historical record of biodiversity.
- Extensive areas of deciduous forest habitat are regionally noteworthy feature.
- At least 70 species of conservation concern in watershed.
- Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake reaches limit of its range in watershed.
- Indiana Bat breeds and hibernates in watershed.





Western PA Conservancy Photo



CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Hiking, fishing, hunting, bird watching, bicycling, canoeing, and golfing.
- Only 1 percent public land: many activities occur on private lands.
- Outstanding fishery resources on Buffalo Creek and tributaries.
- 21-mile section of Buffalo Creek is notable canoeing resource.
- Comprehensive survey of historical sites does not appear to exist. Currently, only one site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Identified through public meetings, questionnaires, website, interviews, organizations

Foremost among concerns raised was a common theme of the desire to **retain the rural character and natural landscapes that define quality of life in the watershed.**



ISSUES AND CONCERNS

- Sprawl
- Rural preservation
- Water quality degradation
- Stormwater runoff
- Limited public recreational access and opportunities
- Greenspace preservation
- Loss of agricultural land
- Invasive species
- Deer populations
- Need for historic preservation
- Perceived lack of planning
- Lack of economic opportunity



ISSUES AND CONCERNS

- Frustration at a lack of information and coordination among municipalities, organizations, and individuals.
- While there are numerous initiatives and opportunities being pursued by various interests, there is no centralized source of information or advocate for the watershed as a whole.
- Watershed is gaining recognition as a regional destination for its recreational opportunities and scenic landscape. Not currently addressed in a comprehensive manner to maximize benefit.

ACTION PLAN THEMES

- Create a sense of community stewardship. Encourage and enable residents to take active and proactive roles in issues that affect their quality of life.
- Retain the rural landscape and small-town sense of community that typifies the watershed and attracts people to the area.



ACTION PLAN THEMES

- Enhance the regionally significant recreational resources to provide for increased quality of life for residents as well as to increased economic opportunities through tourism.
- Conserve and enhance biological communities, with particular emphasis on the regionally significant forest associations, and reduce potential impact from exotic invasive species



STEWARDSHIP

Create a sense of community stewardship. Encourage and enable residents to take active and proactive roles in issues that affect their quality of life.

- Watershed Coalition
- Community Planning
- Stewardship Programs – Forest, Stream Monitoring, Diversity Areas
- Municipal Programs – Environmental Advisory Committees, Historic Preservation Commissions
- Tourism Promotion

WATERSHED COALITION

A critical first step in implementing the action plan.
Formation is the top priority in the plan.

- ASWP has taken initial steps towards creating a watershed coalition to operate under its auspices.
- ASWP has acquired funding for two full-time employees to work in the watershed over the next three years.
- First informational and training seminars held in August and September of 2007.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Retain the rural landscape and small-town sense of community that typifies the watershed and attracts people to the area.

- Municipal Planning
- Greenways
- Smart Growth
- Forest Stewardship
- Agricultural Preservation and Promotion



BIODIVERSITY

Conserve and enhance biological communities, with particular emphasis on the regionally significant forest associations.
Reduce potential impact from exotic invasive species

- Inventory Efforts
- Stream Monitoring Program
- Forest Stewardship Efforts
- Riparian Buffers and Stream Restoration
- Invasive Species Control
- IBA, Grassland Birds, Massasauga, Indiana Bat Stewardship



RECREATION

Enhance the regionally significant recreational resources to provide for increased quality of life for residents and visitors.

- Recreation Planning
- Community Parks
- Stream Access and Amenities
- Water, Bicycle, and Birding Trails
- Scenic River Status
- Historic Preservation and Reuse
- Tourism Promotion and Business Incubator
- Increased Cooperation and Partnership

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Implementation must be consistent with landowner preferences and private property rights.
- Partnerships are merely suggestions and do not represent a commitment by any party to participate.
- Intent is for plan to serve as an invitation to become involved, and assume active role in implementing recommendations of interest.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

- Comment Sheet
- Website (www.aswp.org/rcp)
- Meetings



WATERSHED COALITION

We need you! To get involved:

- Sign up here tonight.
- Check the website for upcoming activities and events.
- Sign up on the website.
www.aswp.org/rcp



HANDOUTS
DRAFT PLAN REVIEW PUBLIC MEETING



**BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN
DRAFT PLAN REVIEW COMMENTS**

The Buffalo Creek Watershed is located in eastern Butler, western Armstrong, and northern Allegheny Counties, PA. Buffalo Creek originates near Chicora and flows into the Allegheny River at Freeport.

1. Please tell us where you live:

County _____ Municipality _____

Do you live in the watershed? Yes No Not Sure

2. How did you hear about the Plan?

3. Would you be interested in participating in the Buffalo Creek Watershed Coalition?

Yes No

4. Comments on the Draft Plan (use other side as needed).

Would you like to be notified of future meetings and developments?

Name _____
Address _____
email _____

See our website for more information: www.aswp.org/lrcp



BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN

GETTING INVOLVED

- Attend the Conservation Plan Public Meetings to share your thoughts and ideas.
- Visit the Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan Website - aswp.org
- Register for News and Updates on the plan and progress being made.
- Tell us what you think by:
 - Participating in Surveys
 - Calling Us
 - Sending an Email
 - Sending a Letter

LEARN ABOUT THE WATERSHED

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania - aswp.org
PA Rivers Conservation Program - dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/rivers/
PA Bureau of Watershed Management - dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgmt/wc/
US EPA Surf Your Watershed - epa.gov/surf/
Armstrong Conservation District - armstrongcd.org
Butler County Conservation District - bccdonline.org
Arrowhead Chapter Trout Unlimited - arrowheadtu.com
Butler Freeport Trail Council - butlerfreeporttrail.org
Freeport Historical Society - fahs-pa.org
Butler County Historical Society - butlercountyhistoricalsociety-pa.org
Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program - wpawp.org/
Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation - wpcamr.org

GET OUT THERE

Todd Sanctuary, 367 Kepple Road, Sarver - aswp.org
Butler Freeport Trail - butlerfreeporttrail.org
State Game Lands 259, West Franklin and Sugarcreek Townships - pgc.state.pa.us
State Game Lands 164, Donegal Township - pgc.state.pa.us
State Game Lands 304, Clearfield Township - pgc.state.pa.us
Fish Buffalo Creek - sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/mpag1



BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLAN AN INTRODUCTION

The Buffalo Creek Watershed drains 171 square miles of eastern Butler County, western Armstrong County, and extreme northeast Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. It includes portions of 15 townships and four boroughs as shown on Figure 1.

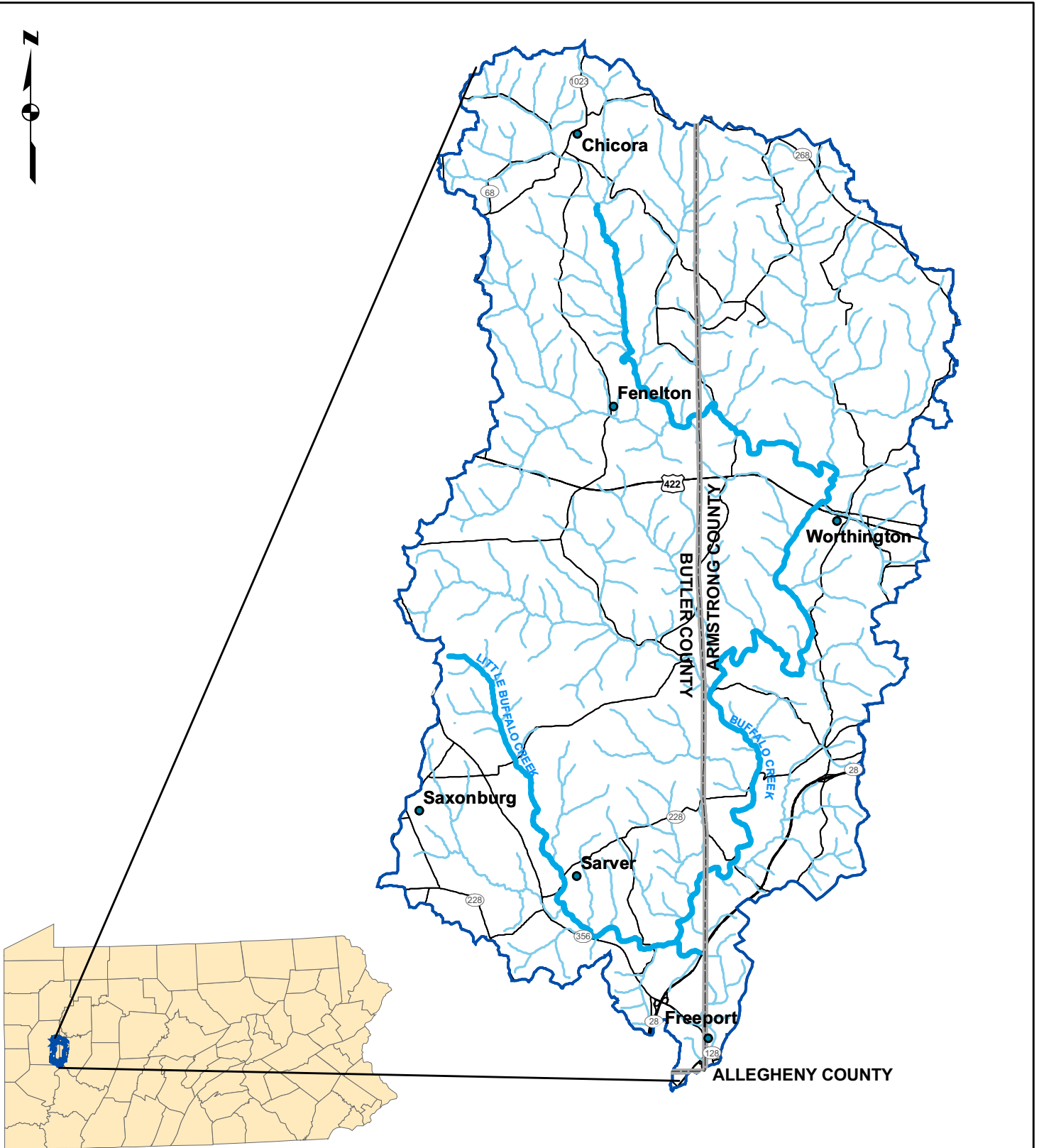
The development of a River Conservation Plan for the Buffalo Creek Valley is an initiative of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP). ASWP works to inspire and educate the people of southwestern Pennsylvania to be respectful stewards of the natural world. We have pursued these goals at our Todd Nature Reserve in Buffalo Township since 1942.

The Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Program was established by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to conserve and enhance river resources through preparation and accomplishment of locally initiated river conservation plans. The program provides technical and financial assistance to municipalities and river support groups to carry out planning, implementation, acquisition and development activities, and is funded through the Keystone Recreation, Park, and Conservation Act. ASWP has received funding from DCNR to develop a River Conservation Plan for the Buffalo Creek Watershed.





The River Conservation Plan is a comprehensive watershed or river corridor-based study identifying significant natural, recreational and cultural resources. Issues, concerns and threats to resources and values are determined locally as part of planning, and methods to conserve, restore, and enhance waterways are recommended. Upon completion of a Conservation Plan, the watershed is eligible for listing on the Pennsylvania River Registry. The Registry recognizes rivers in communities that have completed conservation plans. It is also an avenue to endorse local initiatives by binding them together in a statewide recognition program. In order for a river to be placed on the registry, it must have an approved plan and local municipal support. Registry status must be achieved to qualify for additional implementation, development or acquisition grants. To date, nine municipalities have provided letters of support for the Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan.

Our watershed contains a wealth of ecological, recreational, and cultural resources. Both opportunities and challenges await in the future. These issues require that the watershed's stakeholders find common ground, and plan for the future with common goals. The Buffalo Creek Watershed Conservation Plan will provide a vehicle to accomplish this. By finding common ground, facilitated through the Conservation Plan, stakeholders can provide for the long-term viability and sustainability of the watershed, its unique landscape and ecological features, and the quality of life for residents and visitors.

Public involvement and input is crucial for the success of the Plan. ASWP has initiated a comprehensive public involvement process to facilitate this effort. We invite you to participate! For more information, contact Brian Shema at Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania: 412-963-6100 or bshema@aswp.org.



LEGEND

-  BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED BOUNDARY
-  MAJOR TOWNS
-  MAJOR STREAMS
-  MAJOR ROADS

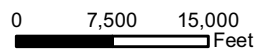


FIGURE ES-1
WATERSHED LOCATION MAP
BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED



DRAWN BY: AML
CHECKED: AJB

DATE: 01/31/2007
APPROVED: GTR