

Watershed-Friendly Property

CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Having safe clean water to drink, and clean rivers and streams for wildlife and recreation is essential. It is all of our responsibilities to **protect our water**.

How can you help?

- 💧 Learn about the potential impacts your property choices can have on water resources.
- 💧 Make the best decisions for your yard.
- 💧 Create vital habitat for song birds, hummingbirds, butterflies and a whole host of other wildlife.
- 💧 Have a positive impact on keeping our water clean.

The Nurture Nature Center and Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Program have developed the Watershed -Friendly Property Certification Program to recognize those that are making good choices on their property and making a positive difference in our environment.



The Watershed-Friendly Property Program focuses on:



Stormwater Runoff

Stormwater runoff is when precipitation flows over land or impervious surfaces and does not filter into the ground. If rainwater falls on impervious surfaces (i.e., driveways, sidewalks, roofs, and compacted soil), flooding can occur. Too much rainfall in a short period of time can cause flash floods, resulting in hazardous conditions and damage to local habitats.

Watershed-friendly property owners maximize the amount of water absorption, slowing the flow of stormwater on their property.



Reducing Pollution

When fertilizers and pesticides are used outdoors (ie., applied to lawns and yard areas), these chemicals can be carried to local waterways by stormwater runoff. Excess nutrients such as nitrates from fertilizers can impact groundwater and surface water, impacting human and ecosystem health.

Watershed-friendly property owners ensure that water resources are not contaminated by minimizing the use of herbicides and pesticides and properly disposing of unused chemicals.



Conserving Water

Clean water is essential for every living organism but there is not an endless supply. Water shortage concerns during droughts can result in less groundwater for households and less water in streams and lakes for wildlife habitat. It is critical to conserve water and allow the natural systems to recharge so that there is always a steady supply.

Watershed-friendly property owners conserve water within their household and on their property.



Supporting Wildlife and Pollinators

In an ecosystem, every living organism plays a vital role and interacts with each other and the land. Vegetation is essential for shelter and food. If a landowner uses non-native plants and insecticides on their property, it impacts what can grow and thrive. Considering that one-third of the food we eat is dependent on pollinators, it is important to provide them a suitable habitat.

Watershed-friendly property owners provide wildlife and pollinator habitats on their property.

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Are you watershed-friendly?

To participate, complete the online application (<https://nurturenaturecenter.org/wfp-cert/>). If you qualify, you will receive a certificate verifying that your landscape is watershed friendly and eligible for the Watershed Friendly Property sign. The certificate and the sign show your commitment to managing a healthy watershed. Help us expand the number of watershed-friendly properties throughout the Commonwealth and educate residents, communities, educational institutions, and businesses about the value of a healthy watershed and best practices for improving water quality. Healthy landscapes make healthy communities.

Take 10 minutes to find out if your property is watershed-friendly and what you can do to make it friendlier here: <https://nurturenaturecenter.org/wfp-cert/>.

About the Partners

Master Watershed Steward Program



The Master Watershed Steward program transforms citizens into a managed, educated, organized volunteer force addressing local conservation priorities. A key strength of the program is its focus on collaboration, working with a broad partnership of local and state organizations, agencies, and government. People who want to make a difference are given the information and the opportunity to do so, guided by local conservation professionals who organize, supervise, and engage the volunteers to make a positive impact in their communities and their water quality. More information can be found here: <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/watershed-stewards/about>



Nurture Nature Center (NNC) is a science-based community center, founded in 2007, focused on local environmental risks. Using a blend of science, art and community dialogue, NNC offers programming about environmental risks that people care about in their community. The Center hosts thousands of visitors, both adults and children, every year. NNC has done environmental education programming, including programming for science teachers, on the topics of flooding, climate change, local food issues as well as other environmental issues of public concern. More information can be found here: <https://nurturenaturecenter.org/>

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