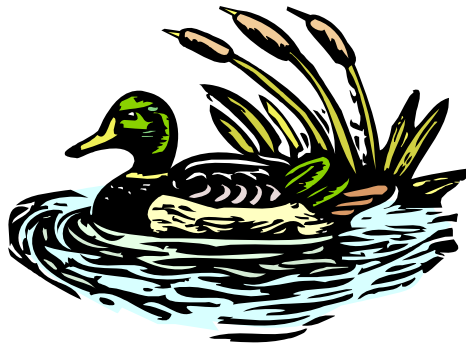


COMMON PRACTICES TO IMPROVE STREAM HEALTH

- ♣ *Maintain riparian buffers along the stream on your property.*
- ♣ *Remove invasive plants and plant native species.*
- ♣ *Do not use pesticides within 100 feet of the stream.*
- ♣ *Do not put yard waste or household refuse in or near the stream.*
- ♣ *Volunteer with your local watershed group, or start one for your watershed.*



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Conservation Districts, Inc. and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Program."

For more information on practices and programs for improving stream quality contact :

Perry

Conservation District

31 West Main Street
P.O. 36
New Bloomfield, PA 17068

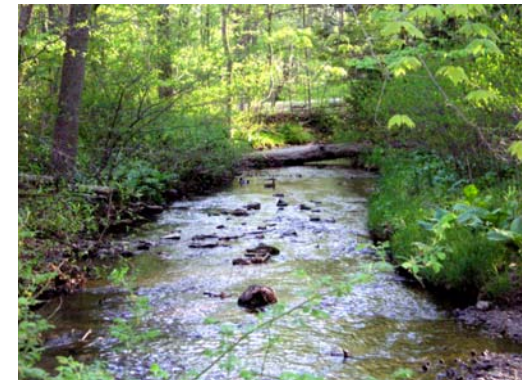
Phone: 717-582-8988 Ext. 4
Fax: 717-582-3771

Perry County Impaired Streams

Problems



Solutions



**Perry
Conservation District**

PERRY COUNTY IMPAIRED STREAMS: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

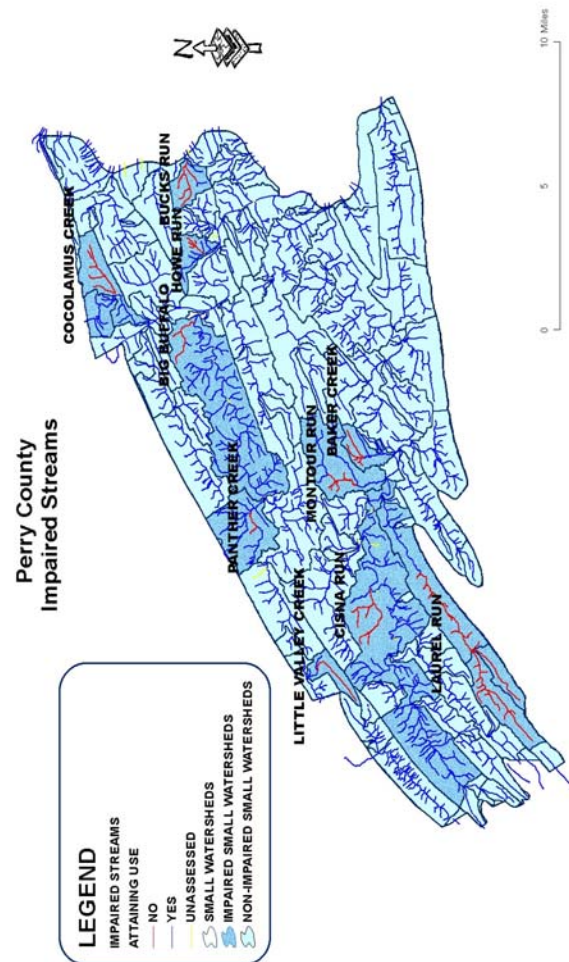
Problems:

Most Perry County streams are healthy. However, about 21 miles (out of 1500) are impaired. A stream is labeled impaired when it does not support its designated use. In Perry County that designated use generally is the stream's ability to support wildlife. Impairment can be caused by several different types of pollution sources. In Perry County the predominant cause of impairment is siltation resulting from surrounding erosive land use practices. Siltation is the accumulation of sediments or soils in excess of what the stream channel can transport. This results in smothering of habitat for stream wildlife, and negatively impacts biological diversity.



This accumulation of sediment is directly related to land use practices in the watershed. Watersheds are impacted by all of our actions in many different ways. Land use practices that remove vegetation or disturb soil in the stream corridor have a dramatic impact on stream quality.

Riparian buffers, the vegetated area on either side of the stream, play a very important role in keeping streams healthy. Plants and trees stabilize soil and stream banks, filter nutrients and other pollutants, provide food and habitat for wildlife, and regulate stream temperatures.



Solutions:

There is a definite correlation between stream bank erosion, inadequate riparian buffers and poor stream quality. Research has shown riparian buffers that are 50 feet or greater in width, from the edge of the stream are considered the most effective in maintaining a stream's health. Riparian buffers that have a variety of vegetation, such as plants, shrubs and trees, offer the greatest benefits. Buffers will help stabilize stream banks, provide habitat for wildlife, and filter the two most common pollutants, sediment and nutrients, from surrounding lands.



Land use practices or best management practices that are commonly used to promote healthy streams:

- ♣ Riparian Buffers
- ♣ Conservation Tillage
- ♣ Cattle Crossings
- ♣ Cattle Walkways
- ♣ Stream Bank Fencing
- ♣ Proper Dirt Road Maintenance
- ♣ Erosion and Sediment Control Practices