

Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan
Cheltenham Township (Abington Township, Jenkintown Borough, Rockledge Borough)
Montgomery County, PA

Project Description:

The Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan was the result of combined efforts from Cheltenham Township, Abington Township, Jenkintown Borough, and Rockledge Borough. These four municipalities recognized that a valuable resource, the Tookany Creek, was becoming further and further impaired. The 20-mile section that runs through the municipalities eventually empties into the Delaware River. The Creek provides the community with a recreational resource, it is home to historic structures and sites, and provides natural habitats for species to thrive. With the help of a \$25,000 DCNR Rivers Conservation Grant, the Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan was put together to help improve the quality of the Creek for the residents of the area. The steering committee used DCNR's River Conservation Planning Process to help write the plan.

From surveys sent out by the steering committee, the residents voiced their concern over the future of the Creek. Over 90% said they think it is both an important natural and scenic resource, and a majority recommended preservation of undeveloped land, protection of the wildlife habitat, and improvement in water quality. To do this, the committee studied the area's geology, soils,

vegetation, wildlife, and water resources. The committee went out and visually inspected every portion of the Creek to get a better sense of its health and how the Creek had been impacted by nearby development.

The final Rivers Conservation Plan outlines five goals: Improve the health of the Riparian Corridor Area; Enhance recreation opportunities and economic



Quote: "Bringing together these four municipalities and creating a plan such as this will be a huge benefit for our communities. With the help of DCNR, we can expect to see a healthier and more widely used Tookany Creek." Bryan Havir, Assistant Township Manager, Cheltenham Township

development; Develop public outreach and education programs; Develop and implement land protection, acquisition, and preservation strategies; and improve watershed communication. The Plan focuses on improving the health of the Creek by protecting the riparian corridor area. Everything from buying easements along the water to encouraging the use of rain barrels and vegetated roof covers is covered.

With the plan in place, the municipalities are moving forward with the plan and are looking forward to a healthier and more useful creek.

Cheltenham Township, Abington Township, and Jenkintown Borough provided matching funds including cash and in-kind professional and volunteer services from private companies and The Heritage Conservancy developed the plan.

Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:

- 1999: \$25,000 Rivers Conservation Grant
- Matching Funds - \$31,010
- DEP Coastal Zone Management Grant - \$17,880
- Cheltenham Township - \$10,000
- Abington Township - \$2,500
- Jenkintown and Rockledge Boroughs - \$630