



Pike County:

Where People, Land and Water Meet

Will your actions today protect the natural resources
for the next generation?



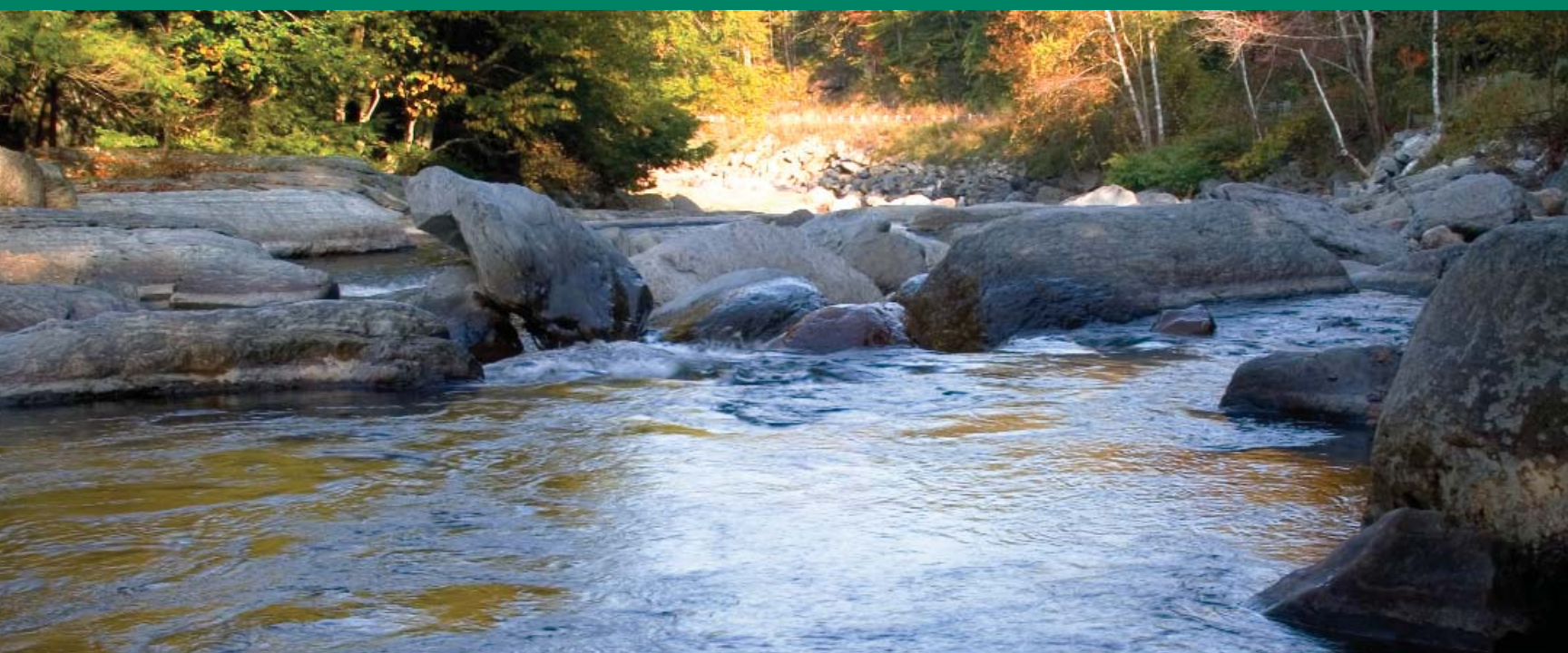
Residents & visitors of Pike County share fond memories of swimming and fishing in our lakes and streams as well as exploring our many forested trails. **Will healthy lakes, streams and forested trails be available for future generations to enjoy?**

Pike County owes its economy and social well being to the scenic beauty of our area. Our exceptional natural resources support the quality of life that our residents, visitors and businesses enjoy.



In the next decade Pike and other counties in the Northeast PA region will attract thousands of new residents. The challenge is to protect these same natural and economic resources in the face of increasing land development pressures. Whether you live in the city or the country...whether your home is large or small...whether you have a lot of time or money to invest or just a little...there is something you can do to help protect these vital resources.

This guide will provide you with some simple steps on what you can do in your community and around your home to protect the quality of life in Pike County.



Plant a Tree for Future Generations

Trees are perhaps one of Pike County's most important resources. Our publicly and privately owned forests support our communities in many ways.

- **Water Quantity** – Trees are mini-reservoirs – their leaves, branches and roots catch and store rainfall, reducing water runoff.
- **Water Quality** – Trees act as filters – native trees and plants along lakes, streams and wetlands catch dirt and debris protecting the quality of the water.
- **Economic Strength** – The forest industry depends on healthy, well managed forests but so do other areas of our local economy. The scenic vistas, summer camps, hunting and fishing clubs, summer residents and tourists all depend on our forested areas.
- **Wildlife Habitat** – Trees protect stream banks, provide shade, control temperature and provide food and shelter for wildlife.

Here's What You Can Do:

- **Plant trees and maintain existing trees on your property wherever possible.** Trees protect your home from wind, reduce heating and cooling costs and enhance your property's value.
- **Practice sustainable forestry to ensure forest health.** Contact your Department of Conservation Natural and Resource's District Service Forester at 570-895-4011 to get you started.
- **Support municipal and county actions that protect our forests.**



FACT: Just three trees, properly placed around a house, can save up to 30% of energy use.

Trees are an important part of our long-term conservation efforts.

Trees contribute to our health and quality of life.

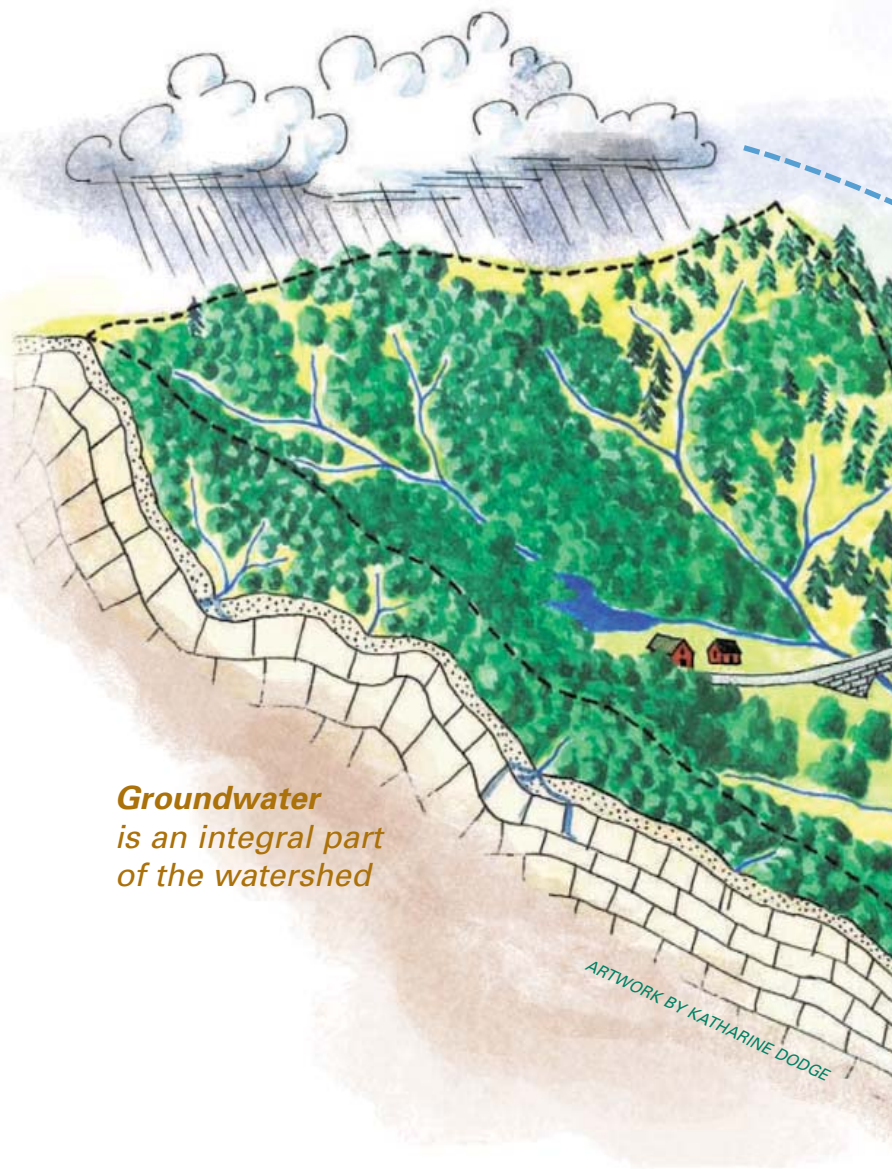
If You Wouldn't Drink It — Don't Pour It on the Ground!

Pike County residents, visitors and businesses depend *entirely* on groundwater for their water needs. Contaminated water is often difficult to detect, expensive to cleanup and a threat to both human and environmental health.



Here's What You Can Do:

- **Don't pour household hazardous wastes** (paint, moth balls, drain cleaners, etc.) **down the drain or on the ground.** Choose natural, less toxic options.
- **Encourage county and local officials to start a household hazardous waste collection program.**
- **Have lawn and garden soils tested before applying fertilizers and do not apply before a rainfall.** Contact your local Penn State Cooperative Extension office, 570-296-3400, to get a soils test kit to help measure the amount of fertilizer to use in your lawn or garden.
- **Properly dispose of used motor oil.** Recycle used motor oil by taking it to a service station or local recycling center. One gallon of used motor oil can pollute up to two million gallons of water.
- **On icy pavement, use sand, ashes or chip the ice off when possible.** If using salt, use in moderation.
- **Have your water tested.** Water testing can provide important information on the quality of your water and treatment measures that may be needed.



*Groundwater
is an integral part
of the watershed*

Clean Water Depends on You.

Clean water is required not only for basic human survival, but is also necessary for maintaining good health.

FACT: Watersheds are natural systems linking land, people and water.

We All Live Downstream

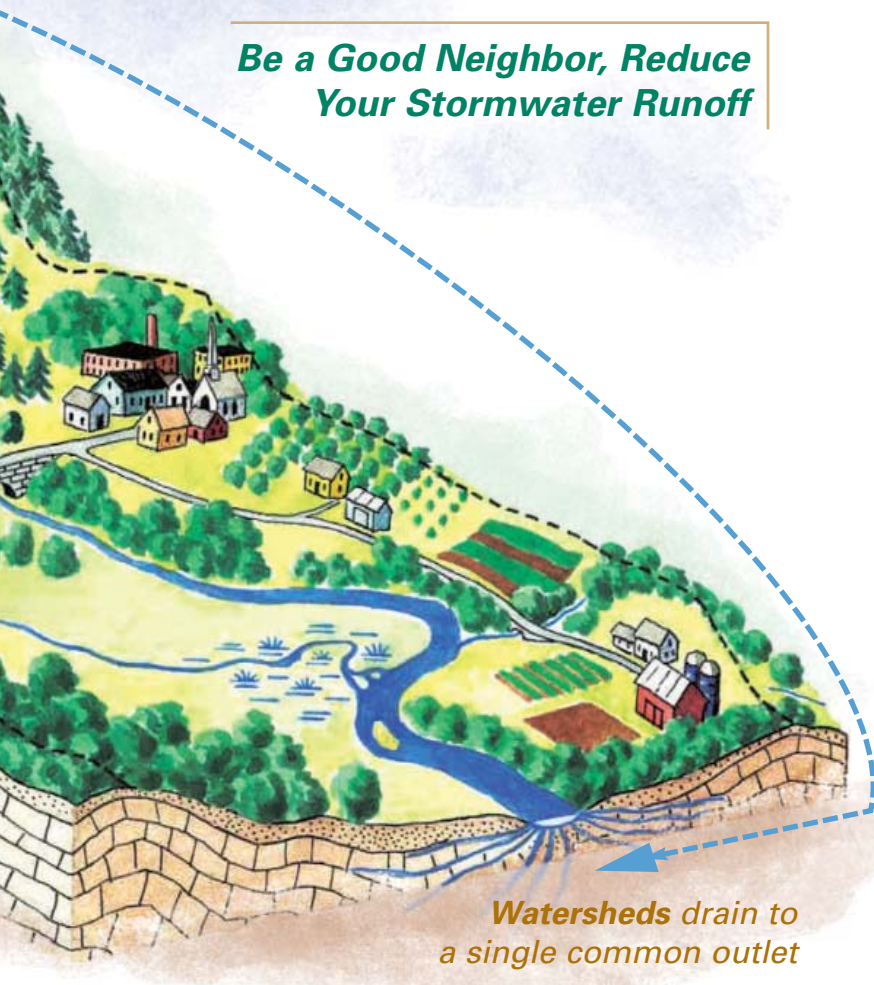
What happens when land is changed from forests and fields to roads and buildings? For many Pike County homeowners, this continued development means constant stormwater-related problems including:

- Washed-out lawns and driveways
- Reduced property values
- Flooded basements
- Conflicts between neighbors
- Damaged septic systems
- Polluted swimming areas
- Damage to public and private roads
- Polluted drinking water



Stormwater is simply water from rainfall or snowmelt that travels across land. Stormwater runoff demonstrates the direct link between how people live on the land and how our actions effect our natural resources.

Be a Good Neighbor, Reduce Your Stormwater Runoff



Here's What You Can Do:

There are many ways that homeowners can reduce stormwater runoff from their properties:

- **Minimize impervious surfaces** (sidewalks, driveways, patios, etc.) by using mulch or stone pavers for these areas.
- **Plant native plants**, wherever possible, in place of lawn areas to better absorb heavy rainfalls.
- **Do not remove trees and other plants next to streams, lakes and wetlands.**
- **Direct rain gutters onto lawn or garden areas** where more water can seep back into the ground.
- **Construct rain gardens and use rain barrels** to collect and recycle rooftop water runoff.
- **Ask local officials to adopt stormwater ordinances to manage runoff from new development.**

A watershed can be compared to a large basin that captures all the precipitation (rain, snow, etc.) that falls within its border.

Learn more in "A Citizen's Guide to Clean Water." For a free copy of this book call 570-226-8220.

What Goes Down the Drain Ends Up in Your Backyard

The most common treatment for household waste water in Pike County is the on-lot septic system. When installed, used and maintained properly, on-lot systems decrease water pollution.



The most critical step in maintaining an on-lot system is **pumping the tank**. Having a tank pumped every three years is a good rule of thumb. Poor maintenance and improper use increase the risk of an on-lot system malfunctioning or even failing, which means water pollution and expensive repair costs.

Here's What You Can Do!

- **Avoid septic tank treatment additives.** No additive can alleviate the need to regularly pump your septic tank; some, may actually clog your absorption field or pollute groundwater.
- **Do not pour cleaning products or old medicines down the drain.** These can kill “good” bacteria that break down waste in your septic system.
- **Do not pour grease and oils from cooking down household drains.** These can clog your absorption field.
- **Keep trees and shrubs at least 35 feet away** from your absorption field to prevent roots from plugging or breaking pipes.
- **Do not park vehicles or place large inflatable swimming pools on your absorption field** – they can compact soils and break pipes.
- **Practice water conservation measures** to avoid overloading an absorption field, which can lead to system failure.



FACT: Poorly functioning septic systems pose health risks.

Maintain Your Septic System.

Help protect family health and keep your financial investment secure.

Water Conservation... Every Drop Counts

Frequent drought conditions as well as a steady increase in the region's population have made it extremely important to conserve water.



Besides making you a good neighbor, saving water also saves you money. By conserving water, any homeowner, whether on their own private well or a community well, can extend the life of water-using appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines and water heaters. Using less water can also reduce energy costs.

Here's What You Can Do:

Inside the Home

- Turn the faucet off while brushing teeth.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Keep a container of water for drinking in the refrigerator instead of letting a faucet run until cold water flows.
- Install low flow plumbing fixtures and repair leaks.

Outside the Home

- Use a broom, instead of a hose or power sprayer, to clean driveways and decks.
- Wash the car with water from a bucket.
- Water the lawn only when needed and during the coolest part of the day.
- In landscaping, use native plants that require less care and water.
- Adjust lawn mowers to a higher setting.



FACT: A clean and adequate supply of water is essential to maintaining good health.

A Leak Inside a Toilet can Waste up to 200 Gallons of Water a Day.

Conserve water, it is the right thing to do.

Community Starts with You

Land use is decided at the local level in Pennsylvania with citizens and government officials working together to identify what natural resources are important in each community.



Get involved with a local citizen group or committee. These groups play an important role as a voice for resident concerns when trying to communicate with community associations and municipal, county, state and even federal government agencies.

Here's What You Can Do:

- **Get involved in community planning.** Attend monthly public municipal meetings.
- **Get to know your local municipal officials.** Participate in the update of comprehensive plans and local ordinances. Support actions that protect groundwater, and conserve forests, streams, lakes and wetlands.
- **Get involved with your community association.** Support association efforts to protect community lakes, streams and forests.
- **Help guide your community's future.** Volunteer for your local planning commission, environmental advisory council or other advisory group.

Involved and active citizens are essential. *Get Involved.*

Effective planning cannot happen in a vacuum; it must be a reflection of community values.

You Can Make a Difference

To find more ways to make a difference in your own backyard and help protect the natural resources of Pike County contact one of our contributing Partners' offices:

Delaware Highlands Conservancy
508 River Street
Hawley, PA 18428
570-226-3164

Delaware Township Supervisors
116 Wilson Hill Road
Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328
570-828-2347

Pike County Conservation District
556 Route 402, Suite 1
Hawley, PA 18428
570-226-8220

Pike County Commissioners
506 Broad Street
Milford, PA 18337
570-296-7613

Pike County Environmental Concerns & Who to Contact

Erosion & Sediment Pollution from Earthmoving Activities

Waterways, Wetlands, & Floodway Concerns
Pike County Conservation District
570-226-8220

Well or Water Supply Contamination
PA Department of Environmental Protection
Northeast Regional Complaint Line
866-255-5158

Sewage/Septic Concerns
Contact your Municipal Office

Wildlife Concerns
PA Game Commission
Northeast Regional Office
570-675-1143

Littering/Dumping Waste in a Waterway
PA Fish & Boat Commission
Northeast Regional Office
570-477-5717