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he Lehigh Valley, with two counties, 62 municipalities and over 600,000 residents, is the third largest metropolitan region in Pennsylvania. But despite this fact (the dense population), the 730 square miles that encompasses the Lehigh Valley includes many public wild places: a national park, a national wildlife refuge, a national heritage corridor, a national wild and scenic river, a national scenic trail, state game lands, state forest lands, two state parks more than 20 county parks and greenways, and scores of municipal parks and open spaces.

Altogether, these wild publicly-owned lands are open for outdoor recreation and enjoyment, and provide habitat for hundreds of native plants and wildlife. Additionally, the natural components of these places—the soils, plants and geology—biologically treat and filter rain and surface water as it moves over and through the land. So not only does the Lehigh Valley’s wild spaces provide us with healthy, outdoor recreation opportunities, they also help provide us with clean, safe drinking water, too.

Oughoughton Creek, near Martins Creek



## SUPPORTING THE WCLV

To make a donation that will help the Watershed Coalition continue to educate the residents and businesses of the Lehigh Valley on critical natural resource issues, please fill out the form below:

Donation Level:

- Spring \$25
- Run \$50
- Creek \$75
- River \$100+

*All donations are tax-deductible.  
Thank you for your support.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

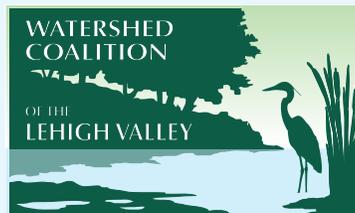
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail the completed form with your donation to:  
**Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley**  
P.O. Box 3407  
Wescosville, PA 18106



# WATERSHED COALITION

## OF THE

# LEHIGH VALLEY

- BERTSCH-HOKENDAUQUA-CATASAUQUA
- BUSHKILL CREEK
- COOK'S CREEK
- FRY'S RUN
- MARTINS-JACOBY
- PERKIOMEN
- SAUCON CREEK

*Preserving and enhancing the watersheds of the Lehigh Valley.*

## History/Background

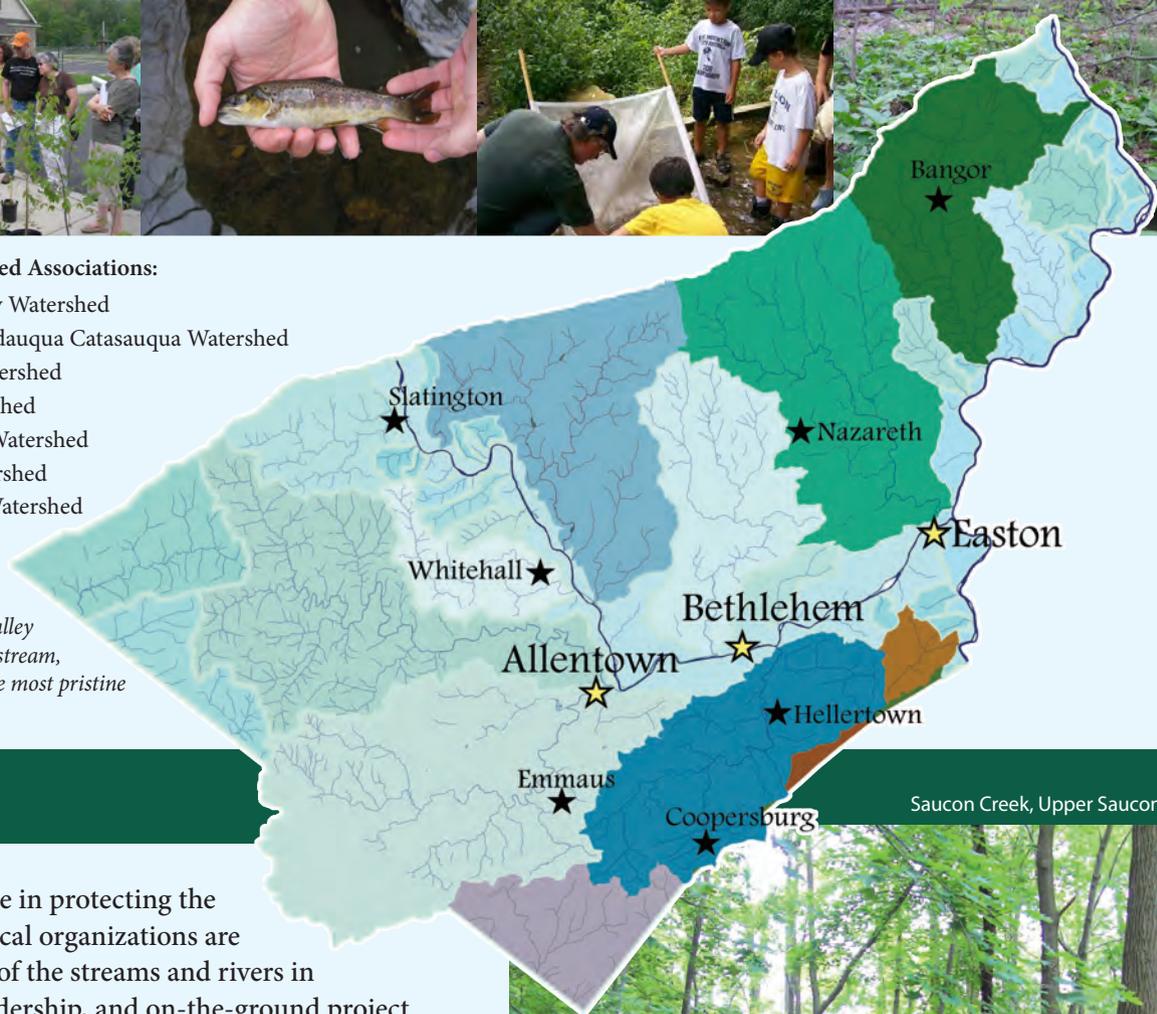
The Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley grew out of the ongoing work of the Green Valley Coalition, a group of involved stakeholders who joined forces in the late 1990's to advocate on behalf of smart growth and natural resource conservation in the Lehigh Valley. In 2010, the Board of the Green Valley Coalition made the decision to reorganize the group to create an umbrella coalition representing all the community-based Watershed Associations. The vision of the newly-organized Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley is *To preserve and enhance the watersheds of the Lehigh Valley*. The Coalition anticipates pursuing its vision through outreach and education, resource and information sharing, and advocacy on key issues critical to water resource health in the Lehigh Valley.



### Partnering Watershed Associations:

- Martins - Jacoby Watershed
- Bertsch Hokendauqua Catasauqua Watershed
- Perkiomen Watershed
- Bushkill Watershed
- Saucon Creek Watershed
- Fry's Run Watershed
- Cook's Creek Watershed

*Flowing through both the public and private lands of the Lehigh Valley is over 1,000 miles of stream, some considered of the most pristine and high quality.*



## Watershed Associations

Community-based watershed associations have taken a leading role in protecting the water and land resources within their boundaries for many years. These local organizations are generally made up of citizen volunteers who take an interest in the health of the streams and rivers in their area. Watershed Associations use community participation, local leadership, and on-the-ground project development and construction to restore degraded waters and protect the health of pristine waters. In recent years, a number of larger "umbrella" watershed organizations have sprung up, like the Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley. The aims of these groups is to promote collaboration and innovation, and share resources among adjoining and near-neighboring watershed associations. Regular meetings help to encourage communication and strengthen partnerships, leading to more effective efforts at protection, and a greater reach into local communities.



*Community leaders and volunteers working to protect the health of our waters.*

