

What is a watershed?

A watershed is the area of land from which surface and groundwater water drain to the lowest point. This point could be another stream, a lake, a river, a bay, or an ocean. Watersheds can be large or small. Every stream, tributary, or river has an associated watershed, and small watersheds join to become larger watersheds.

What is watershed Management?

Watershed management is the process of reviewing the impact that human and natural activities have on the watershed.

WASHINGTON COUNTY'S MAJOR WATERSHEDS

Antietam Creek Watershed

The Antietam Creek is a tributary to the Upper Patuxent River. The Antietam Creek segment lies east of Hagerstown, Maryland having drainage areas in Maryland of 187.0 square miles. Another 104.9 square miles of Antietam Creek drainage is contained in Pennsylvania. Little Antietam Creek is classified as Class III (natural) trout waters. Water quality in this segment ranges from fair to good. High bacteria levels are due to agricultural runoff and malfunctioning septic systems.

[Antietam Creek Watershed Alliance \(ACWA\)](#)

The watershed alliance is an organization made of citizens concerned for their local watershed. The mission of the group is to protect, promote and restore the Antietam Creek through education, preservation and hands on projects. To get involved or learn more visit their web site or contact officers via email at ACWA.us@verizon.net

Beaver Creek Watershed

Beaver Creek is a Class III Natural Trout; tributary to the Antietam Creek. The Beaver Creek was found to have water temperatures well above the Natural Trout Water Standards (Class III).

[Beaver Creek Watershed Association \(BCWA\)](#)

The Beaver Creek Watershed Association's mission is to reduce sediment and other problems by preserving existing and establishing new riparian buffers and stream bank stabilization through the planting of trees and other forms of vegetation.

To learn more information visit their web site or contact them through mail at:

Beaver Creek Watershed Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 207
Funkstown, MD 21734

Also **check out** Washington County Soil Conservation Districts website on stream restoration projects in the Beaver Creek Watershed. www.conservationplace.com

Sideling Hill Creek Watershed

Sideling Hill Creek is a tributary of the Potomac River, which flows into the Chesapeake Bay, its watershed is a part of the larger 64,000 square mile Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The Sideling Hill Creek segment includes 23.1 square miles. The total drainage area includes an additional 80.5 square miles in Pennsylvania. Sideling Hill Creek and all tributaries are classified as Class IV waters (to be protected for use as recreational trout waters). Land in the watershed is largely forested with some farmland. Included in the drainage area is the Sideling Hill Wildlife Management Area.

Sideling Hill Watershed Organization

To learn more information visit their web site, also see list of numerous contacts for there protect and restore efforts.

<http://www.sidelinghillwatershed.org/contact.html>

Tonoloway Creek Watershed

Tonoloway Creek, also known as Great Tonoloway Creek, is a tributary stream of the Potomac River. The Tonoloway Creek drainage is located just east and northeast of Hancock, Maryland. This segment is quite small consisting of only 2.1 square miles. The remainder of the watershed is in Pennsylvania and is 111.5 square miles in size. Several orchards are found in the segment, but no towns and very few dwellings. All surface waters are classified as Class IV (recreational) trout waters. Water quality in this tributary is good.

Little Tonoloway

Little Tonoloway Creek is a tributary of Tonoloway Creek in Fulton County, Pennsylvania. Little Tonoloway Creek joins Tonoloway Creek approximately 5.5 miles (9 km) upstream of the Potomac River. All surface waters in this segment are classified as Class IV (recreational) trout waters. Water quality in this segment is good.

Conococheague Creek Watershed

Conococheague Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River, is a free flowing stream that originates in Pennsylvania and empties into the Potomac River in Maryland. The Conococheague Creek segment lies to the west of Hagerstown, Maryland. The watershed drainage area consists of 65.8 square miles with a main stream length of 22.0 miles. The great majority of the stream's drainage, 497.6 square miles, is contained in Pennsylvania. Most of this watershed is agricultural and forest, except for the eastern edge which drains the western urban fringe area surrounding Hagerstown.

Little Conococheague

Little Conococheague Creek is a tributary stream of the Potomac River. Little Conococheague Creek is located just west of Conococheague Creek. Of its total drainage of 18.0 square miles, 16.7 square miles are located in Maryland. A large tract of land in the upper segment, the Indian Springs Wildlife Management Area is forested.

Marsh Run Watershed

Tributary to the Antietam Creek was found to have water temperatures well above the Natural Trout Water Standards (Class III).

Potomac River Watershed

The mainstem of the Potomac River is 112.3 miles in length. It follows a winding course through most of its length. Upstream reaches flow through primarily forested land, while the land draining the lower reaches is principally agriculture several small towns are located along the river's banks. The major threats to water quality include, acid drainage from coal mines, sediment, nutrients, heavy metals from sewage and other sources in urban and suburban areas.

[The Potomac Watershed Partnership](#)

The Potomac Watershed Partnership's mission is to create a collaborative effort among federal, state, and local partners to restore the health of the land and waters of the Potomac River Basin. For more information on their organization visit their website or contact Heather Montgomery at the Potomac Conservancy at 301-608-1188 x209.