"What else can I do??"

Install a Rain Barrel or Two

Having your down spouts drain into rain barrels reduces stormwater going to the stream and provides you with a great chlorine-free source of water for your garden.

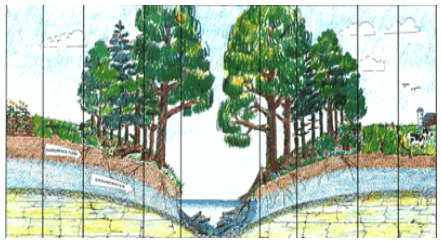
Develop a Rain Garden

Rain gardens can offer a wonderful way to help reduce flooding while enjoying a beautiful variety of plants, and welcoming some new songbirds and other desirable wildlife.

Create a Riparian Buffer

(if you live along a stream)

Riparian buffers are areas along a stream bank that contain a variety of woody (trees and shrubs) and non-woody plants (grasses and flowers).



For a copy of the full booklet Pine Creek and You, contact the NAEC at (412) 364-7006

North Area Environmental Council

P.O. Box 71 Ingomar, PA 15127

This brochure has been funded by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund through a Section 319 Clean Water Act grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

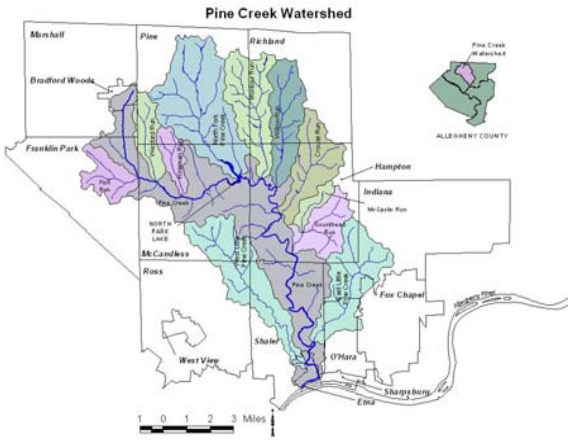
Ideas from:

Pine Creek and You: A Partnership for the Future

A Resident's Guide to Promoting a Healthy Watershed*

*The full 16 page booklet and this brochure provided by the North Area Environmental Council, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Township of Shaler in conjunction with the Pine Creek Watershed Assessment2005

"Why should I care about a HEALTHY watershed?"



You, and the many other people living and managing businesses in the Pine Creek watershed, are integral to its condition.

A healthy stream system can be enjoyed recreationally, can support a healthy natural biological community, and can function in a non-destructive way during heavy rain events.

Our drinking water is taken from either an aquifer, stream or river. Dirty water costs more to purify than cleaner water.

Costs associated with flooding affect every one through federal, state and local tax dollars required to address emergency management and repairs.

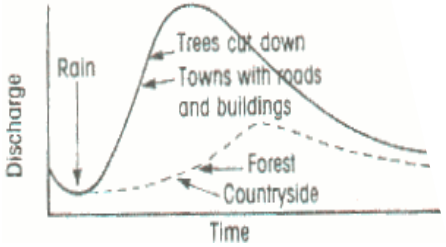
There are ways to enhance water quality and a watershed's recreational value while reducing the risk of flooding.

"How do streams work?"

Streams commonly categorized by what is called the River Continuum Concept which ranks streams and rivers based on their sequence in collecting water. The smallest streams that collect water are called 1st order streams or "headwater" streams. The Pine Creek watershed has many first and second order streams.

The area along a stream is called the Riparian Zone. These areas absorb water into the ground, filter it through leaf litter and other plant material, provides shade, and are the first link in the food web that supports the birds, fish and other wildlife along the stream.

The hilly topography and clay soils of the Pine Creek area cause water to run off quickly and increase erosion and flooding. Land uses that increase impervious surfaces like parking lots, roads and buildings and reduce dense vegetated areas (forests, meadows, etc.) in favor of manicured landscapes can also contribute to flooding and reduced water quality.



"So what can I do??"

Keep Dirt Out of the Water

- Make sure your contractor complies with local guidelines for installing a silt fence or other erosion controls during any earth- moving project.

- Sprinkle hay or straw over exposed dirt to keep rain from washing it away
- Seed any exposed dirt quickly to create an erosion "shield" of grass.

Be Careful With Fertilizers

- Use biodegradable or organic fertilizers.
- Use as light an application as possible, especially on sloped property.
- Apply only when it can be absorbed before a rainstorm (two days before rain is expected is a good rule of thumb).

Wash Your Car, Not the Stream

- Park your car on grass or gravel to wash it. The water will be filtered as it goes through the ground.
- Use organic or biodegradable soap or detergent.
- Or wash your car at a commercial carwash that filters and recycles water.

Pick Up After Your Dog

Dog waste can contribute to high levels of bacteria in a stream. Please pick up after your dog and dispose of the waste appropriately.