

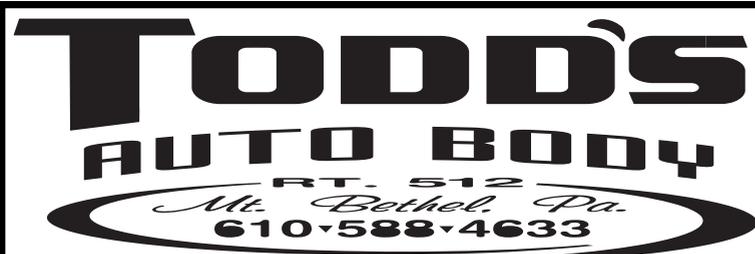
MT. BETHEL ABSTRACT

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For more information, contact Director of Human Resources
Shawn McGovern at 610-530-5510 or mcgovern@cetronia.org.

Certify Your Property as Watershed-Friendly

By Penn State Extension

LEHIGH VALLEY - Is your property watershed friendly?

Many property owners strive to lessen environmental impacts and use sound ecological practices, while others would like to learn how to do more. By making wise choices and following some simple guidelines managing your garden and lawn, you can help protect Pennsylvania's watersheds.

Why does this matter? Stormwater runoff is precipitation that does not infiltrate and flows over the ground, roofs, buildings, sidewalks, and parking lots, through storm drains, before reaching the nearest waterway. Runoff picks up pollutants such as fertilizer, pesticides, pet waste, trash, sediment, chemicals and more, during this movement before dumping them directly into waterways. This can create inhospitable habitats for fish and other wildlife, potentially affect our drinking water, and increased stormwater can lead to flooding and other issues. However, every property owner can make a positive impact on the health of our waterways.

The Watershed-Friendly Property Certification recognizes Pennsylvania residents who incorporate best practices to minimize and/or eliminate potential harmful impacts to our water resources, as well as provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators. The certification is open to properties with different aesthetics and sizes, from small urban plots up to 15 acres, that include enough best-management practices for reducing stormwater runoff and pollution, conserving water, and providing beneficial habitats for wildlife and pollinators to reach the qualifying 85% score.

To learn more: Master Watershed Stewards will host a Watershed-Friendly Property Certification webinar on Monday, April 12th at 7:00 p.m. Registration and details can be found at:

<https://extension.psu.edu/watershed-friendly-property-certification-program>.

Financial and other support for the "Watershed-Friendly Properties – an education and certification program" has been provided by the Department of Environmental Protection's 2020 Environmental Education Grants Program. Project partners include Nurture Nature Center, Easton, PA, and Penn State Extension.

“Essential Services” Courtesy Of Pa Game Commission — And Mother Nature

By BWS

POCONOS - Even if you don't hike, hunt, or spend any time at all in nature, the forests of Pennsylvania serve you in ways that make life better.

Views, for starters. Just seeing green views enhances mood, reduces blood pressure, and counteracts stress. All around Barrett and Paradise townships, unspoiled land protected by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and others unrolls in every direction. No depressing McMansions. No cookie-cutter developments. Just open landscapes and the seasons unfolding as you go about your business.

Safe drinking water, too. In the process of managing forests to improve wildlife habitat, the Game Commission keeps woodlands healthy. And healthy woodlands are the first, best defense of drinking water. As rain and snowmelt percolate through the soil, contaminants get filtered out before the water reaches Tank Creek, Devil's Hole, and Mill Creek — or your well. People around the country have to pay for water that's treated to make it drinkable. Here, preserved land supplies it naturally.

Even the air is cleaner in forestland. When noxious stuff like ammonia or sulfur dioxide settles on the leaves of a tree, the tree actually absorbs the toxic chemicals — scrubbing air clean for you and your family to breathe. Trees capture particulate matter, too — the sooty grunge that settles on windowsills in cities — which clogs the air and leads to heart and lung disease.

If those aren't enough gifts from the forest for you, here are some more: Trees absorb the carbon dioxide we breathe out and release the oxygen we breathe in. They store climate-changing carbon in their wood. They're big-time recyclers, soaking up water from the earth and releasing it from their leaves, to fall back to earth as purified rain. And their roots hold soil in place, preventing erosion.

So when the Game Commission works to keep habitat in State Game Lands 221 hospitable for game birds, deer, and bear, they're protecting air, water, and hospitable habitat for all kinds of nature's creatures. Including us.



PennState Extension

