

I want to join and get involved with the Hicks Creek Watershed.

Name

Organization

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone

Email



HOW CAN YOU HELP

HCWA needs your help and you don't need to be an expert. All you need is concern for the environment.

Volunteers are needed to ensure our success. Various ways in which you can help:

- Become a member
- Volunteer for projects
- Help with annual clean ups
- Come to meetings
- Donate your expertise
- Make a donation

Your contribution will help improve the environment, which will subsequently enhance the quality of life within your watershed.



MEMBERSHIP DUES

(Please check one)

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Time Member | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$100.00+ |

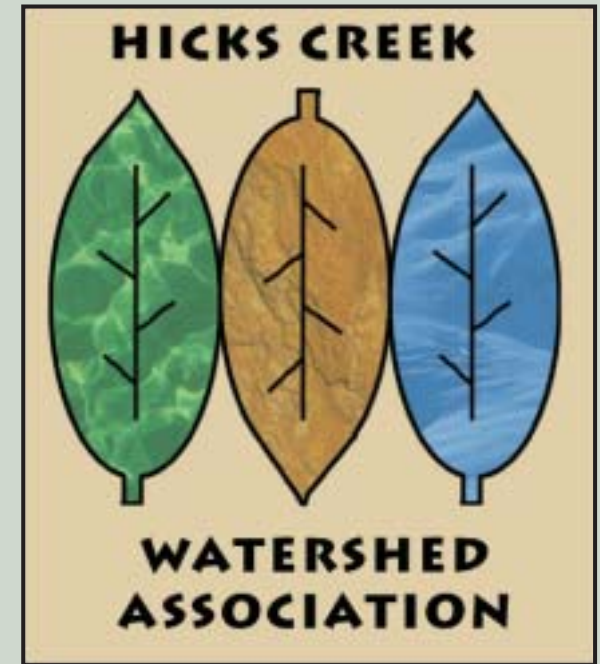
Please make checks payable to: HCWA

Mail to: HCWA, P.O. Box 91
West Pittston, PA 18643

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL OR WRITE

HICKS CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 91
WEST PITTSSTON, PA 18643
(570) 654-0933

Funding provided by the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, (EPCAMR) under the Regional Watershed Support Initiative PG supported by the PA DEP Bureau of Mining & Reclamation. The EPCAMR nor the PA DEP-BMR is not responsible for the accuracy or validity of the information contained herein, and any interpretations or conclusions drawn there from.



HICKS CREEK
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
(HCWA)
WAS FORMED IN AUGUST 2001.

Its **mission** is to restore and protect Hicks Creek Watershed by promoting environmental integrity including restoring Hicks Creek to a flowing creek, reducing the risk of flooding, controlling erosion and sedimentation, reducing and preventing pollution and educating the public about the environmental issues concerning the watershed.

HICKS CREEK WATERSHED

Hicks Creek Watershed has an area of approximately 5 square miles or 3220 acres. Hicks Creek is approximately 4 miles long, beginning at the top of Peterson Mountain, Exeter Township; running adjacent to upper Schooley Avenue, Exeter Borough; then flowing north-east to the intersection of Exeter Avenue and Route 92 by Scovell Island, where it enters the Susquehanna River through the Luzerne County Flood Protection dike. Eventually the water travels to the Chesapeake Bay and ultimately ends up in the Atlantic Ocean. The watershed consists of approximately 50% forestlands, 30% residential development, 10% agricultural/parks, and 10% industrial/commercial development.

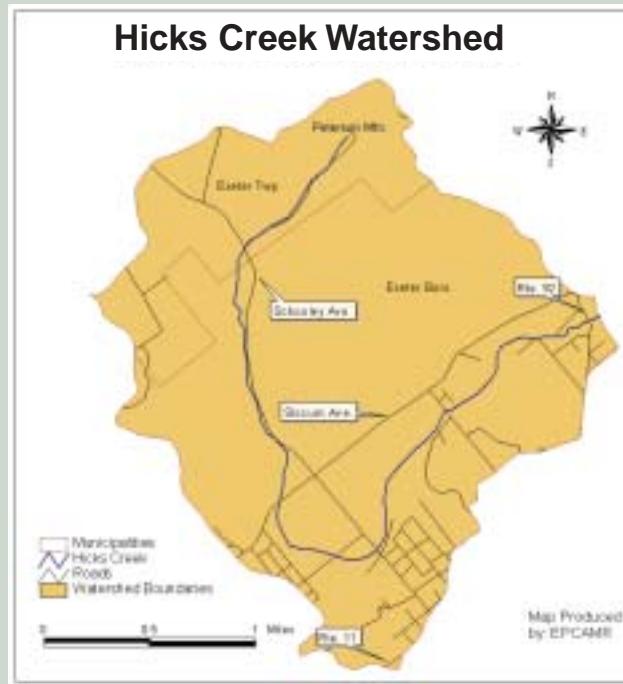


HISTORY

Hicks Creek Watershed has been impacted by mining, flooding events, channel relocation and urban development. Creek flow is interrupted where the water falls into the mines through fractures in the creek bed. Due to past mining practices, the original creek channel was relocated. As a result of the Agnes Flood of 1972, the creek became a part of the flood control project channel developed over 20 years ago. Urban development and improper drainage raise flash flooding potential.



Hicks Creek Watershed



CURRENT CONDITION & PROBLEMS

Hicks Creek takes on typical urban stream characteristics including low dry weather flow, flash flooding, minimal diversity of aquatic life, excessive undesirable stream bank vegetation, stream bank erosion, sedimentation, siltation and nonpoint source pollution.

The upper section of the creek above Slocum Avenue flows all year. Water from the creek flows into the mine pool through a fracture in the creek bed, resulting in minimal to no flow below Slocum Avenue. During times of heavy rain and snow melt the creek flows.

The creek channel has a drop of 12 feet over a 1.9-mile section. Pitch along with sediment and erosion in the stream channel has caused severely reduced flow in the lower sections of the creek.

Another unique aspect of the Creek is that it flows through a pumping station before discharging to the Susquehanna River. When the Susquehanna River reaches flood stage the dike gates are closed and the creek must be pumped to the river through the dike.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACTIVITIES

Annual stream cleanup; annual stream walk; \$700,000 DEP Flood Control Project awarded to Exeter Boro; Wilkes University environmental engineers evaluated potential impact of proposed development to assist local officials with better educated land use decisions; public education through flyers, informative newspaper articles and monthly educational newsletters; partner with the Luzerne Conservation District and the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR) for technical assistance and training; partner with Susquehanna River Basin Commission to perform water quality testing to support a baseline watershed assessment; HCWA is a member of Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition and HCWA is involved in the PA DCNR Rivers Conservation Plan.



UPCOMING EVENTS

HCWA plans to coordinate watershed educational programs with the local schools, volunteer water quality monitoring programs, a stream bank restoration project and a watershed assessment of the Hicks Creek Watershed.

GRANTS

HCWA has received an EPCAMR AMD RWSI Grant (\$4,773) for organization support, watershed field tours, public education outreach with in school districts, water quality monitoring, filing for non-profit status and production of this brochure.

HCWA has received a DEP Geographic Information System Grant (\$3,000) for GIS software and training.

HCWA continues to apply for grant funds for an assessment that will identify and prioritize problems, identify potential opportunities and supply the essential information for the development of a watershed restoration plan.