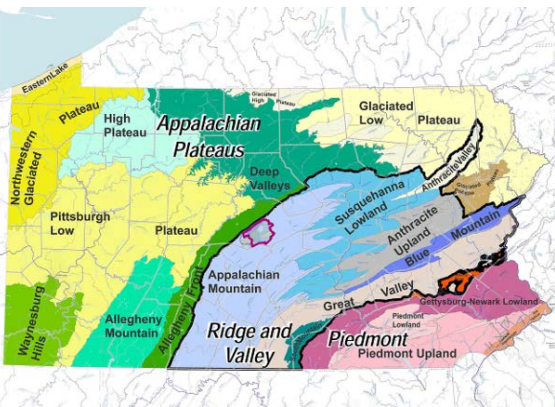




GREEN STREETS | GREEN JOBS | GREEN TOWNS INITIATIVE

The Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Partnership (G3) aims to stimulate the green jobs market and enable families to work where they live and play. Small to mid-sized communities can boost their local economies and protect water resources through the use of watershed planning, design and construction of stormwater best management practices.



Spring Creek Watershed (purple outlined in center)

1 White Paper Produced

1 Workshop

100 White Papers Distributed



RiverStewards



RiverStewards

For a white paper that demonstrates how a regional governance structure for the management of water can lead to green infrastructure implementation.

Municipal governments throughout Pennsylvania need to address their stormwater runoff, wastewater management, aquifer recharge, and other water quality issues affecting their local waterways, particularly those within a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) community or one with impaired waters subject to a total maximum daily load (TMDL). However, the budget and staff allocated to addressing point and non-point source water pollution in most municipalities is inadequate. Unfortunately, municipal leadership does not understand fully the need for multi-municipal collaboration to address water issues on a watershed-wide level, which may help them avoid costly fines and can save money through cost-sharing. Therefore, many Pennsylvania waterways remain impaired, leading to pollution issues further downstream in the Chesapeake Bay.

Because of the current individualized efforts among Pennsylvania municipalities at managing stormwater runoff and other water quality issues, and the slow progress this method makes, a new way of thinking was needed.

RiverStewards developed a white paper that detailed the steps and resources needed to create a regional governance structure for the management of municipal water quality and quantity. By working collaboratively with other municipalities in the Spring Creek Watershed, each municipality is better able to address their issues and have a greater collective impact on the watershed. The pilot project upon which the white paper was based involved the University Area Joint Authority (UAJA), members of the Spring Creek Commission, and other interested stakeholders within the Spring Creek watershed near State College, PA.

The process included multiple public meetings and stakeholder subcommittee workgroups to build understanding and open a dialogue about the problem and solutions. RiverStewards anticipated reaching hundreds of municipalities and water utilities, as well as others, through ongoing outreach after the paper's release.

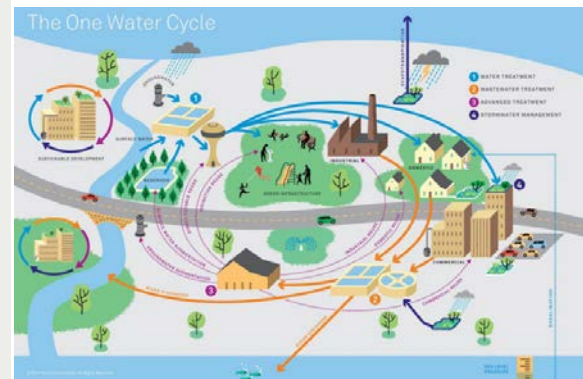
PROJECT OUTREACH

- During the One Water planning process, Penn State students and faculty were involved in some of the public meetings (both as facilitators and participants), as were a wide variety of constituents from the Spring Creek Watershed. Janie French, the facilitator, and committee members did their best to include all segments of the population through public notices, social media postings, and other outreach. By managing water holistically, the price of water bills should be lowered for all constituents, and overall water quality improved.
- The white paper was distributed electronically to members of various relevant organizations (PSATS, PSAB, PMAA, SRBC, DEP) and hard copies were on-hand for those who requested it. The white paper was posted to the RiverStewards website. RiverStewards staff are available to assist municipalities and water utilities work through their own One Water planning process.
- The white paper can be read at <https://riverstewards.info/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Spring-Creek-One-Water-White-Paper-2019-FINAL.pdf>.

Year Awarded: 2018

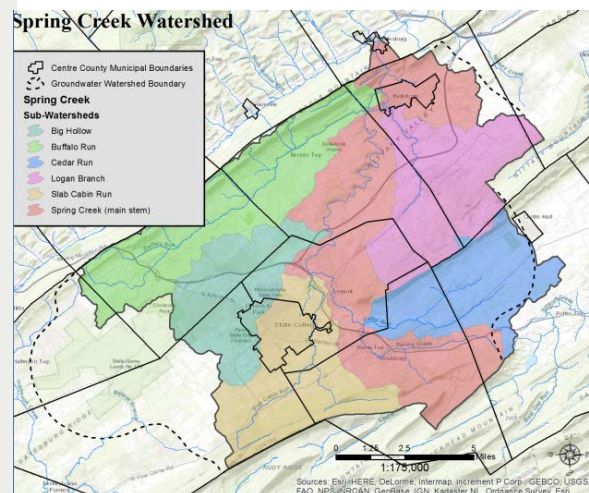
Award Amount: \$7,520

Match Amount: \$2,094



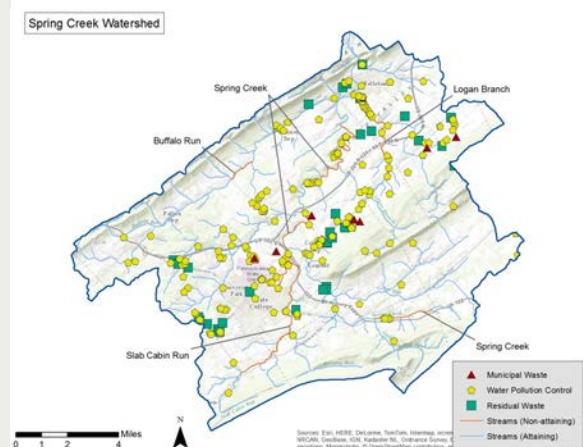
“We envision a future where more and more Pennsylvania communities look at water as a valuable resource, not something to just treat and then send downstream. By incorporating some or all of the One Water concepts in their water management practices, Pennsylvania’s water quality will be improved, ultimately helping us meet our Chesapeake Bay requirements in a timelier manner.”

Jessica Aiello, Executive Director of RiverStewards



SUSTAINABILITY & GROWTH

RiverStewards planned to continue outreach and engagement related to the project throughout the summer and fall of 2019 until as many Pennsylvania municipalities knew about the One Water concept as possible. They intend to get the PA Department of Environmental Protection to endorse the Blueprint for One Water and the white paper as approved resources that they can provide to municipalities across Pennsylvania for use in addressing their water quality and quantity concerns. The white paper and pilot project in the Spring Creek watershed provided the data and real world examples needed to garner support at a higher level.



Project Partners: Chesapeake Bay Trust, Headwaters Charitable Trust, RiverStewards, Spring Creek Watershed Commission, University Area Joint Authority, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency