

Where are the Master Watershed Stewards?

Many states throughout the nation offer Master Watershed Steward volunteer programs through their land grant university extension services. These programs train volunteers in the basics of water resources stewardship.

Now, Penn State Extension, with the help of other local environmental groups, is offering PA's own Master Watershed Steward Program.

Where is the Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Program offered?

Currently, the MWS Program is offered in the following counties:

**Allegheny
Berks
Bucks
Chester/Delaware
Cumberland
Dauphin/Lebanon/Lancaster
Lackawanna/Luzerne/Wyoming
Lehigh/Northampton
Monroe
Montgomery
Philadelphia
York**

Contact your local extension office for information.

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PennState Extension

Master Watershed Steward Program

extension.psu.edu



*Protecting water resources by
educating and empowering volunteers
across the Commonwealth.*



What do Penn State Master Watershed Stewards do?

Learn. Grow. Teach. Give back.

Master Watershed Stewards volunteer in the community to improve the health of our streams, rivers and other natural resources.

What is the Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Program?

The MWS program was established to educate and empower volunteers to protect the environment by providing extensive training in watershed management and natural resources.

Each year 15-20 people per county are selected for the program. Trainees attend classes that focus on a broad range of water and natural resource topics, including groundwater, stream ecology, wetlands, conservation education, invasive plants, water recreation, wildlife, forestry and stormwater management.

In turn, participants dedicate volunteer time to perform projects and educate the community about environmental stewardship based on university research and recommendations.

Training and volunteer service projects are coordinated at the county level by extension staff, partners, or trained volunteers.



Master Watershed Steward

Volunteer opportunities include:

- ✓ Organizing educational events, such as rain barrel building workshops and seminars on backyard stormwater management.
- ✓ Participating in stream restoration projects.
- ✓ Performing stream water quality assessments.
- ✓ Coordinating and conducting stream clean-ups.
- ✓ Planning and carrying out habitat improvement projects.
- ✓ Working with municipal officials on stormwater projects.
- ✓ Teaching adults and children about the environment.



What is required of a Penn State Master Watershed Steward?

Requirements for a Master Watershed Steward (MWS) include a **positive outlook**, a **keen interest** in the environment, a **willingness to learn** more and most importantly, a **strong desire to make a difference** in your community.

To become a certified MWS, a 40-hour training program and 50 hours of volunteer service is required the first year.

In subsequent years, certification is maintained by contributing a minimum of 20 volunteer hours and 10 hours of continuing education annually.

There is a one-time registration fee to those accepted into the program to cover the cost of the manual, name tag, and meeting facilities.

Stewards come to the program with diverse life experiences and knowledge. No matter your background, **YOU** can become a Master Watershed Steward!