The Partnership
The purpose of the Buck & Doe Run Watershed Partnership is to engage municipalities and other stakeholders to preserve and enhance the Buck and Doe Run Watershed as a significant regional asset, and to advance watershed stewardship by providing watershed education and information, by implementing stream restoration and protection projects, by encouraging municipal initiatives, and by supporting other partner efforts to improve the environmental quality of the watershed and its streams and communities.

Buck & Doe Run
Buck Run begins in West Caln and Sadsbury Townships while the headwaters of Doe Run begin in Highland, Londonderry, and West Fallowfield Townships. Buck & Doe Run intersect to form a single stream just before they reach the west branch of the Brandywine Creek. The watershed encompasses 11 municipalities, 49 square miles of land, and 80 miles of stream.

Buck Run Creek from Covered Bridge Road

Doe Run off of Route 82 (Doe Run Road)

Thank you to the Elk Creeks Watershed Association for the use of their educational pamphlet as a model and inspiration for the Buck & Doe Run Watershed brochure.

Buck & Doe Run Watershed Partnership
P.O. Box 32
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(610) 383-9515
http://www.buckanddoerunwatershed.org/

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We all depend on clean water to live. Water from rainfall, snowmelt, and lawn maintenance flows through our yards, streets, and neighborhoods to creeks and rivers, taking with it a variety of harmful pollutants. Because the land, the water beneath it, and the creeks and rivers are all interconnected, what is absorbed into the ground near our homes affects us and everyone who lives downstream.

What is a watershed?
A watershed is the land area from which water flows downhill to form a stream. In our case, the Buck Doe Run Watershed is anywhere on land where water flows to either the Buck Run or Doe Run creeks. Eventually, the water within the Buck and Doe Run creeks empties into the west branch of the Brandywine Creek. The Brandywine then flows south, meets the Christina River and joins the Delaware River, which runs into the Delaware Bay and finally, the Atlantic Ocean.

What is your watershed address?

Buck Run & Doe Run
Brandywine Creek
Delaware River
Delaware Bay
Atlantic Ocean
What You Can Do...

Plant flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees native to the Buck and Doe Run creeks.
Native plants rarely need additional water, fertilizers, or pesticides and can survive weather extremes. They provide wildlife habitat and four-season interest to your home landscape. Native plants hold soil so it does not erode into wetlands and streams where sediment can suffocate fish, frogs, and other important creatures.

Don’t spend so much time mowing, #1! Mow your grass, but not so short and not so often. Taller grass means deeper roots, which means less watering. Plant native trees and shrubs where shade and cover are desired, or in steep or other difficult to mow areas. Connect the beds so they are easier to mow.

Don’t spend so much time mowing, #2! Replace the native landscape that existed prior to your house by creating a meadow, a woodland grove, or a wetland. Taller vegetated natural areas slow the flow of rainwater and filter pollutants that come from the roads and lawns before reaching underground drinking water supplies. Natural areas provide a place for songbirds to live. It is important to check your township ordinances to ensure that this is allowable.

Treat your lawn like the ecosystem it is and minimize chemical dependency. Allow clover to grow; it creates its own nitrogen, decreasing fertilizer needs. Let lawn clippings stay or apply them as compost to your lawn. This also reduces the need for fertilizer. Choose a lawn care company that uses natural, organic, and/or slow release products and practices Integrated Pest Management.

You, too, can practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM): Monitor pest and weed invasions. Accept the small invasions and control the larger ones with beneficial insects, amphibians, and birds. Weeds can be controlled by corn gluten or other organic materials, and some pests can be scared away with the water noise. Chemicals upset the balance of nature and may cause more harm than good.

Make every raindrop count! Use a rain barrel. Create a rain garden in poorly drained areas or divert your downspout to outlet to your rain garden. Native wetland plants help to clean the water as it returns to underground drinking water supplies. Rain gardens attract critters that eat unwanted insects.

Looking to the Future: Becoming a Greenway Corridor
The idea of the greenway corridor is an effort of the Brandywine Conservancy. Conservancy representatives will be visiting municipalities in the watershed to promote the greenway concept and to educate officials and residents on its location and function. It is important to note that this is NOT an effort to construct a hard surface trail. It is an effort to conserve, protect, enhance, and preserve the ribbon of green that exists along Buck Run from the Route 30 roadway to its confluence with the Brandywine. The greenway is important for wildlife (habitat and migration), water quality (non-point source pollution and thermal pollution), and preserving a sense of history, place, and beauty unique to the Brandywine Valley. If you or your municipality would like more information on the greenway corridor, please contact Robert Lonsdorf, Brandywine Conservancy, (610)388-2700.
Covered Bridges: Currently, three covered bridges exist which cross Buck or Doe Run creeks. Two are located on private property and inaccessible to cars; the Mary Ann Pyle Bridge and the Hayes Clark Bridge built in 1881 and 1971 respectively. The Speakman covered bridge crosses the Buck Run Creek, T-Branch. It is located just north of Covered Bridge Road on Frog Hollow Road, off of Route 82 south.

Brandywine Conservancy Environmental Management Center: The center works to preserve the natural and cultural resources of the Brandywine Valley area. Since its founding in 1967, the center has issued over 40,000 acres of land as protected. The conservancy also provides conservation easements, assistance to local governments, water protection, and historic preservation.

Laurels Preserve: As a core part of the Brandywine Conservancy Environmental Center, the Laurels contains about 500 acres of hardwood forest including oaks, white ash, poplar, beech, and hickory trees. The limestone bedrock underneath the Laurels yields cool groundwater, which is the feeder spring to Doe Run creek. The preserve is inhabited by many migrating birds, waterfowl, white-tailed deer, and wild turkeys.

Delaware River: The Delaware River is the longest undammed river east of the Mississippi River. It stretches 330 miles from its east and west branches at Hancock, New York, to the mouth of the Delaware Bay. Buck and Doe Run is one of 216 tributaries that contributes to the river flow.

Fort Delaware: Fort Delaware is situated on Pea Patch Island in the middle of the Delaware River just north of the entrance to the Delaware Bay. The fort was re-constructed prior to the Civil War and began housing Confederate prisoners in 1861. During that time, over 30,000 soldiers passed through the doors of the fort. Visitors can catch a ferry from Fort Delaware State Park in Delaware City, Delaware, or Fort Mott State Park in Pennsville, New Jersey. The fort is open Wednesday through Sunday during the summer season.
MAP COURTESY OF CHESTER COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY
Resources

Use the following resource list for help, advice, and encouragement in making your home and watershed a healthy, happy, and beautiful place to live for generations to come.

**Backyard Habitat:**
National Wildlife Federation: [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)
[www.habitatresourcenetwork.org](http://www.habitatresourcenetwork.org)

**Watershed Protection:**
Center for Watershed Protection: [www.cwp.org](http://www.cwp.org)
Delaware River and Bay Authority: [www.drba.net](http://www.drba.net)
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary: [www.delawareestuary.org](http://www.delawareestuary.org)
Chester County Water Resources: [dsf.chesco.org/water/site/default.asp](http://dsf.chesco.org/water/site/default.asp)
Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin: [www.wradrb.org](http://www.wradrb.org)

**Cooperative Extension Service:**
*In Delaware*: [ag.udel.edu/extension/](http://ag.udel.edu/extension/)
*In Pennsylvania*: [www.extension.psu.edu](http://www.extension.psu.edu)

**Brandywine Conservancy**: [www.brandywineconservancy.org/](http://www.brandywineconservancy.org/)

**Fort Delaware**: [www.visitthefort.com/](http://www.visitthefort.com/)

**Historical Resources:**
Delaware Historical Society: [www.hsd.org/](http://www.hsd.org/)
Pennsylvania Historical Museum and Commission: [www.phmc.state.pa.us](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us)

**Integrated Pest Management**: [www.paipm.cas.psu.edu](http://www.paipm.cas.psu.edu)

**Rain Gardens**: [www.cbf.org](http://www.cbf.org) (Search for rain gardens)

**Runoff, Dumping, and Environmental Emergencies:**
*In Delaware*: Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control: [www.dnrec.delaware.gov](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov)
*In Pennsylvania*: Chester County Conservation District: [www.chesco.org/conservation](http://www.chesco.org/conservation); (610)925-4920
Department of Environmental Protection: (484)250-5900

Brochure Courtesy of Chester County Conservation District,
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