

Watersheds 101

Tools and Resources

Watersheds, *An Integrated Water Resources Plan for Chester County, Pennsylvania and Its Watersheds*, is a functional element of ***Landscapes***, the Chester County Comprehensive Plan.

To assist in the implementation of Watersheds, there are a number of tools and resources that can be utilized. The following is a list of resources which complement Watersheds, including a brief description:

Chester County Planning Guidance:

Landscapes, *Managing Change in Chester County 1996 – 2020, Comprehensive Plan Policy Element*, Chester County Planning Commission

- ***Landscapes*** provides a framework for growth that complements the protection of our natural resources, agricultural lands, and heritage.
- Available for purchase for the Chester County Planning Commission.

Community Planning Handbook - A Toolbox for Managing Change, Volumes 1 & 2, Chester County Planning Commission

- The Toolbox introduces municipalities to a wide range of planning techniques that can be used to achieve managed growth both locally and regionally. The Toolbox provides descriptions (an overview of each planning technique) and practical applications (sample ordinance language) on a range of topics, from Water Resources Management, to Historic Resources to Transportation to name a few.
- Available for purchase from the Chester County Planning Commission.

Linking Landscapes: A Plan for the Protected Open Space Network in Chester County, PA, Chester County Planning Commission

- This is the open space Element of ***Landscapes***, the Chester County Comprehensive Plan and includes a set of actions and guidelines for multi-municipal open space planning and protecting, maintaining and restoring open lands.
- Available for purchase from the Chester County Planning Commission.

Watersheds Specific Companion Documents

Chester County, Pennsylvania Water Resources Compendium, Chester County Water Resources Authority

- The Compendium provides a resource document for use by planners, designers, engineers, resources managers, and decision-makers that presents the collective scientific data, current understanding, and most effective strategies for accommodating existing land use and planned growth in a manner that is consistent with the natural characteristics of the County's watersheds.
- Of particular interest is "Section 13: Guidance and Recommendations for Municipal Implementation" which provides a framework and recommendations for municipalities to implement consistent strategies and practices to more effectively protect and manage their natural water resources while accommodating planned growth. These recommendations include both individual and multi-municipal watershed-based approaches and planning.
- Available for purchase from the Chester County Planning Commission.

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Watersheds Specific Companion Documents - continued

Watershed Action Plans for 15 Chester County Watersheds, Chester County Water Resources Authority

- The Watershed Action Plans (WAPs) provide the data, information and results gathered during the development of ***Watersheds*** and the *Compendium*. The WAPs also provide priority needs, management objectives, and recommended actions for each watershed.
- The WAPs are provided to assist municipalities, watershed and conservation organizations and other stakeholders in understanding what the needs are to protect and restore the water resources of each watershed.
- Available on the CCWRA website, www.chesco.org/water, as Adobe Acrobat® files.

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- The CCWRA website includes information on the ***Watersheds*** Plan, including the full Executive Summary as Adobe Acrobat® files.
- The Watershed Action Plans (as described above) are available for download.
- A Resource Library which includes factsheets, newsletter articles, and other materials which are available for use by municipalities, watershed associations, homeowners associations, and others to use and reference in environmental education pieces. In addition to these education pieces, this resource library also has the full text and figures of the "Watershed Primer" as published in the *Chester County, Pennsylvania Water Resources Compendium*.

Municipal Ordinance Tools, Chester County Water Resources Authority

- As part of the development of *Watersheds*, CCWRA is preparing 4 tools to be included in the Chester County Planning Commission *Toolbox* (as described above).
- These tools will include a description and sample ordinance language for:
 - Comprehensive Stormwater Management
 - Conservation Design Techniques
 - Riparian Buffers
 - Wellhead Protection
- The 1st tool, Comprehensive Stormwater Management, is currently under development and is expected to be completed this Summer.

Water Resources Geographic Information System (GIS) Resources, Chester County Water Resources Authority

- 50 GIS shapefiles which were used in the development, and mapping, of *Watersheds* are available for public use to assist in incorporating *Watersheds* information into municipal, and other, plans.
- Available for purchase from the Chester County Department of Computing and Information – Geographic Information Systems.
- The digital files have also been made available to the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access Center (PASDA) for distribution, www.pasda.psu.edu.