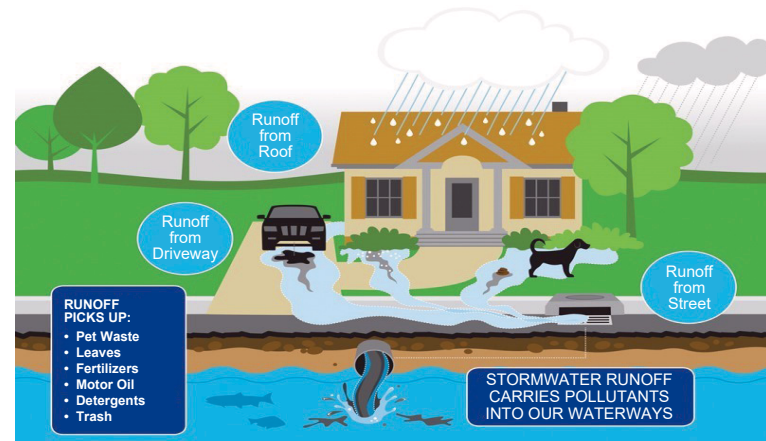


# Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership

## HEADING TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION

### PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION GOALS:

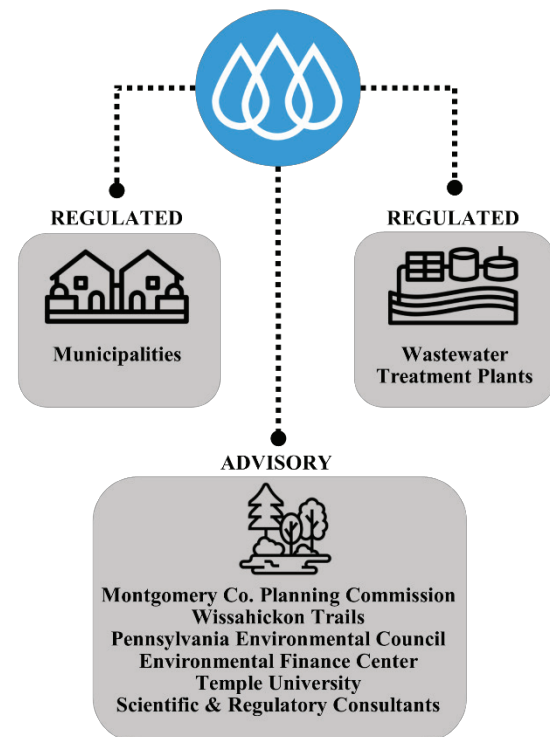
- 💧 REDUCE VOLUME & VELOCITY
- 💧 RESTORE BASEFLOW
- 💧 REDUCE IMPERVIOUS COVERAGE
- 💧 IMPROVE NATURAL HABITATS
- 💧 REDUCE EROSION
- 💧 IMPROVE ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS



## DECISION-MAKING IN THE PARTNERSHIP

### STAKEHOLDERS

#### Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership



The WCWP is a voluntary collaboration where every participating municipality has a say in what happens with the Partnership.

The WCWP Management Committee comprised of municipal representatives (usually a municipal staff member) from each participating community in the watershed serves as the main governing body, guiding decision-making in the Partnership and formulating recommendations that the representatives can then take back to the elected officials in their respective municipalities for consideration.

## UNDERSTANDING THE COST

Containing/reducing the costs of restoring the Watershed is one of the main reasons for the WCWP. Federal and state environmental regulations have only become stricter (and more costly) overtime. By pooling the resources and finances of the Partnership's member communities, the WCWP is intended to help municipalities comply with these stricter regulations while reducing costs through the achievement of greater economies of scale.

In preparation for the approval of the WQIP by federal and state regulators, the Partnership has started developing a funding formula that would distribute the anticipated costs to participating municipalities in an equitable fashion based on the following factors:

- 💧 IMPERVIOUS COVER
- 💧 LAND AREA IN THE WATERSHED
- 💧 NUMBER OF IMPAIRED STREAMS
- 💧 WASTEWATER FLOW
- 💧 POPULATION

Based on the current funding formula being considered by the Partnership, the anticipated annual administrative allocation would be \$10,000 per municipality and treatment plant with annual project allocations ranging from under \$50,000 to over \$400,000 for each municipality. It should be noted that grant funds will also be pursued to offset municipal costs.

### CONTENTS:

- 💧 Working Together
- 💧 Water Quality Planning
- 💧 Accomplishments
- 💧 Implementation

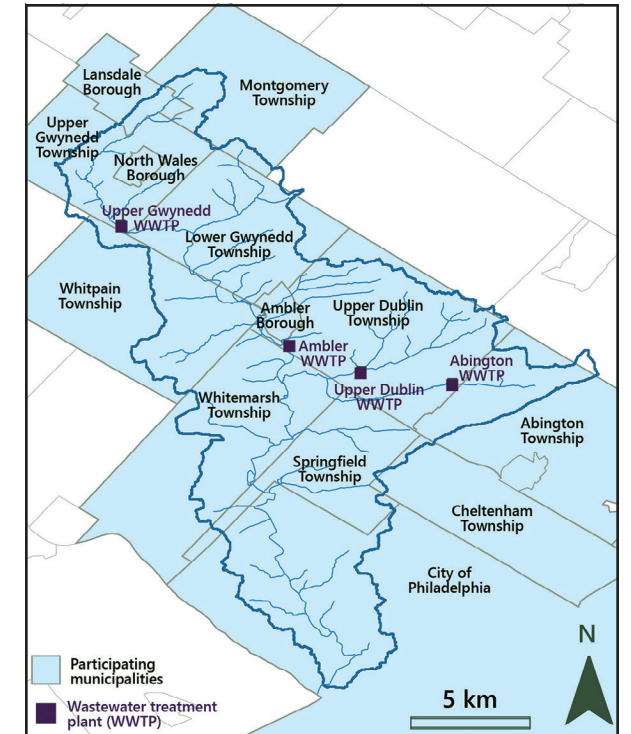
# Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership

*Water is a natural resource upon which we are all dependent. Ensuring that local waterways are clean is not simply an expenditure of funds, it is a necessary investment to ensure the future of our communities.*

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR A CLEANER WISSAHICKON

The Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership (WCWP) is a coalition of 13 municipalities and four wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) collaborating with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address impaired aquatic life health and stormwater management in the Wissahickon Creek Watershed. Our overarching goal is to synthesize a holistic watershed plan that protects and improves the Wissahickon Creek

- 💧 Abington Township
- 💧 Ambler Borough
- 💧 Cheltenham Township
- 💧 Lansdale Borough
- 💧 Lower Gwynedd Township
- 💧 Montgomery Township
- 💧 North Wales Borough
- 💧 Springfield Township
- 💧 Upper Dublin Township
- 💧 Upper Gwynedd Township
- 💧 Whitmarsh Township
- 💧 Whitpain Township
- 💧 City of Philadelphia



## ABOUT THE WATERSHED

The Wissahickon Creek Watershed is located in southeastern Pennsylvania, in Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties. The headwaters commence just below a parking lot in a large suburban mall. The mainstem flows approximately 27 miles before joining with the Schuylkill River in the City of Philadelphia. The watershed drains 64 square miles and spans portions of 15 municipalities.

The mainstem of the Wissahickon and most of its tributaries are considered impaired for aquatic life uses PADEP. This impairment determination is largely based on the results of long-term aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling in the watershed. Many of these segments are also classified as impaired due to nutrient and siltation levels. In response to the impairment and new EPA/PADEP regulations, thirteen municipalities and four wastewater treatment plants of the Wissahickon Watershed joined together to form the WCWP. Since its formation, the WCWP has been working on a watershed-wide "Water Quality Improvement Plan" (WQIP) that would restore the health of the Wissahickon Creek and its tributaries including addressing regional stormwater management issues.

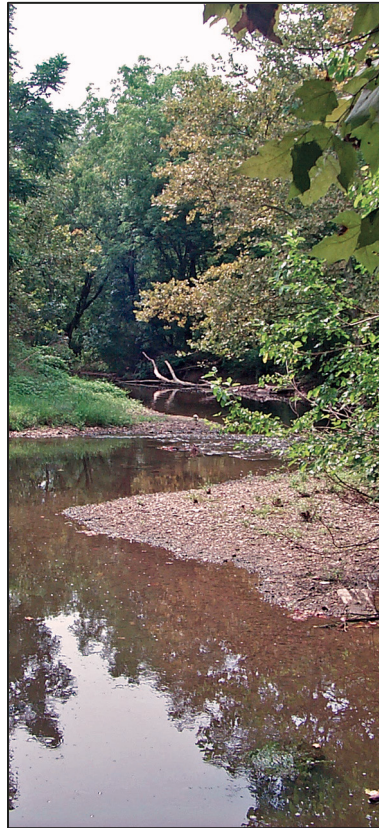


### WCWP WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS (WWTPs):

Abington Township WWTP, Ambler Borough WWTP, Upper Gwynedd Township WWTP, Upper Dublin Township WWTP (BCWSA)

### WCWP LEGAL & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERS:

Cerulean LLC; Environmental Finance Center- University of Maryland; Kleinfelder, Inc.; Land Concepts LLC.; Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox LLP.; Montgomery County Planning Commission; Pennsylvania Environmental Council; Temple University; and Wissahickon Trails








## WHAT IS A WATER QUALITY PLAN?

Short for Water Quality Improvement Plan, the Partnership's WQIP is an adaptive, flexible management plan and will provide a mechanism to improve water quality and habitat in the Wissahickon Creek Watershed through continual incorporation of new data and information and identification of opportunities and actions to positively impact the watershed over time.





The WQIP serves as a roadmap for municipalities and participating WWTPs to identify and prioritize projects, policies, and collaborative programs where efficiencies can be gained by working together. It includes a framework to assess the effectiveness of the plan and ensure regular evidence-based updates.

**Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)** are devices and actions that improve or prevent the pollution and/or flooding resulting from stormwater runoff.





-  **STORMWATER PROJECTS & POLICIES**  
 Over 60 projects throughout the watershed have been identified that will mitigate stormwater impacts and participating municipalities have committed to evaluate the adoption of stronger local policies.
-  **TREATMENT PLANTS OPTIMIZATION**  
 Wastewater Treatment Plants in the Watershed have also committed to optimizing their operations to further reduce nutrient loads to the Creek.
-  **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**  
 The WQIP calls for educational outreach designed to raise awareness of WCWP's efforts and its importance to participating communities.
-  **IMPLEMENTATION METRICS**  
 Annual tracking of progress through the monitoring of BMPs implemented, increases in area treated by BMPs, increases in linear feet of stream restoration and bank stabilization, increases in protected open space and water quality in the Creek.
-  **REPORTING**  
 The WQIP includes reporting methods to the state agencies and participating communities.

## BENEFITS OF WORKING TOGETHER

Facing increasingly more stringent (and costly) environmental regulations, the participating municipalities and wastewater treatment facilities acknowledge the many benefits of working together as part of the Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership:

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
|   |    |    |   |
| <b>HOLISTIC APPROACH</b>   | <b>ECONOMIES OF SCALE</b>   | <b>INCREASE CAPABILITY</b>   | <b>ENDURING PARTNERSHIPS</b>   |
| Water does not recognize jurisdictional boundaries. By working together, we are able to more effectively tackle the issues of water quality and stormwater management across the entire watershed. | Collaborating and working more efficiently will allow communities to capitalize upon the cost savings of larger watershed projects that more effectively address water quality and stormwater management. | Organizations enhance their ability to tackle challenges when they combine their strengths and knowledge. WCWP helps municipalities ensure regulatory compliance that would be more difficult and costly on their own. | Collaboration breaks down the walls between municipal partners to make the most out of mutual assets, pooled resources, & shared purposes to meet broadly distributed obligations to ensure regulatory compliance. |

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

-  **INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS**  
 The Partnership consists of 12 municipalities and 4 wastewater treatment facilities in Montgomery County and the City of Philadelphia. Each have signed off on an inter-governmental agreement committing the municipality to the goals and objectives of the Clean Water Partnership.
-  **DATA COLLECTED**  
 A comprehensive sampling plan has been designed and implemented. We now have a clear understanding of the Wissahickon Creek and a better view of the causes of impairment.
-  **SCIENTIFIC MODEL DEVELOPED & PROJECTS IDENTIFIED**  
 Multiple methods of analysis including modeling of the watershed have been used to identify over 60 priority projects across all thirteen municipalities in the watershed. These analyses will help us focus on what matters most.
-  **DRAFT WQIP CREATED & REVISED**  
 The draft WQIP has been developed and submitted to the EPA and PADEP. Feedback from regulators is currently being integrated for a revised submission. The Partnership expects adoption of the WQIP by EPA & PADEP in 2022.



## MAKING A BIGGER, MORE LASTING IMPACT

The strategies proposed by the Partnership in the WQIP stands to treat more acres for water quality and stormwater management than the historic trend as well as more traditional approaches offered through the development of individual Pollution Reduction Plans (PRP/PRP Plus).

