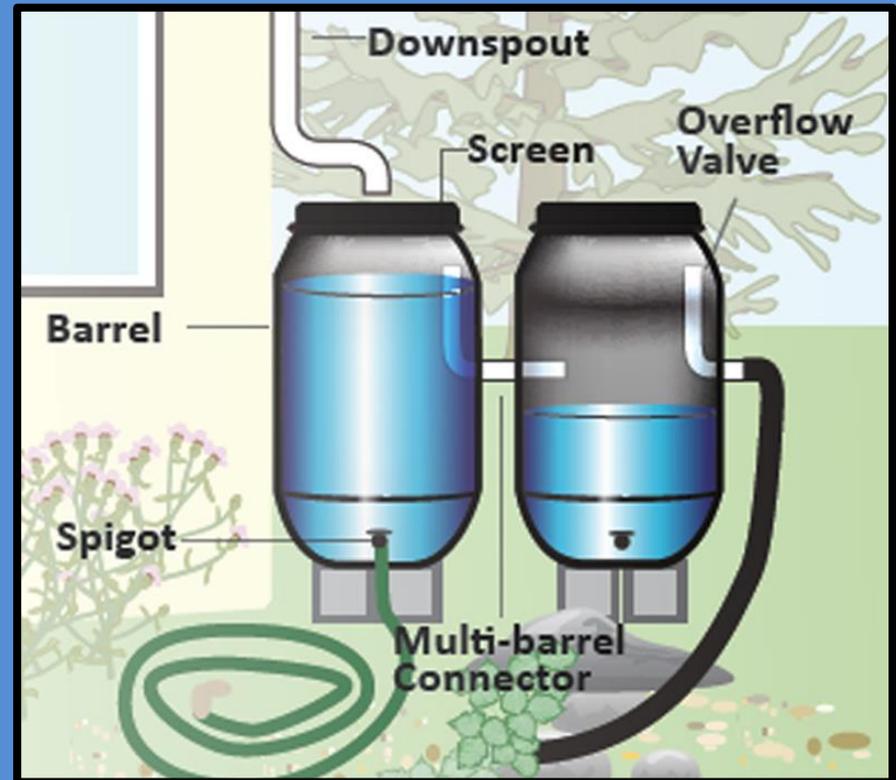


Rain Barrels

A rain barrel is used for economic and environmental purposes. The rain collected from the barrels can be used for gardening, washing your car, or other lawn grooming purposes.

- The downspout connecting the roof and the rain barrel is the pathway the rain takes to the tank. Rain barrels are usually installed above ground, and are typically hidden to prevent the exposure of stored water to sunlight. This decreases potential algae.
- They may be covered and have screen covers to keep out insects, debris, animals and bird droppings. Almost all steel tanks currently produced for household rainwater collection come with a plastic inner lining to prevent leaks and protect the water quality.
- This helps by decreasing the demand for tap water thus helping you save money and keeping streams and rivers from getting flooded.

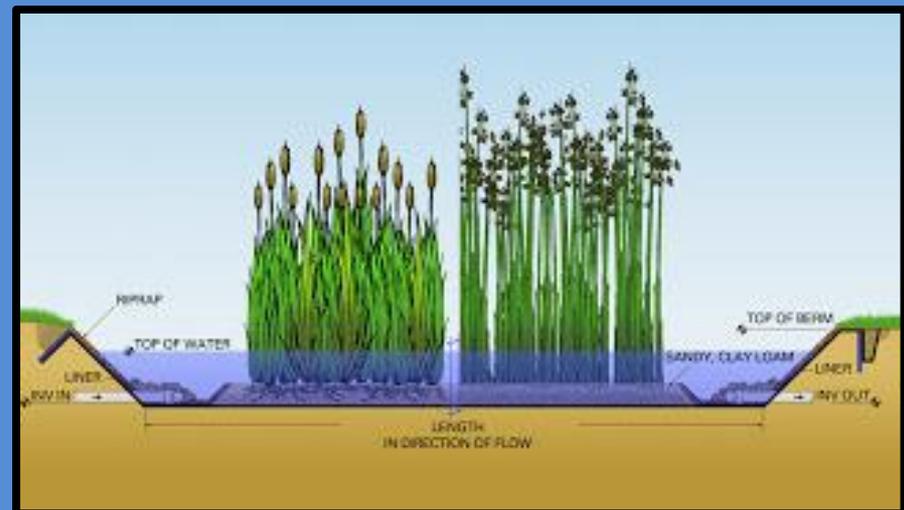


Wetlands



- They are helpful due to the homes they provide for many animals. Clean wetlands are home to birds, fish, and frogs.
- Wetlands plants filter out pollutants so clean water can travel down stream.

- A wetland is a patch of land that develops pools of water after a rain storm. This occurs mainly during the growth season.
- Wetlands are distinguished between bodies of water or land due to the characteristics of the vegetation adapting to within its hydric soil.
- Hydric soil supports the aquatic plants growing around the wetland.



Native Plants Vs. Invasive Plants

Native plants are plants that have already existed before colonization.



- Native plants are not harmful and have adapted to the soil and climate in the area from the beginning.
- Require minimal maintenance.
- The ecosystem provides everything that the plant needs.

Invasive plants are plants that have originated from other parts of the world.

- Invasive plants are very harmful to other plants and are hard to control.
- They spread throughout making them very difficult and expensive to contain.
- They carry pests that harm other plants and animals.



Trees

Importance of Trees

Trunks main purpose is to lift the leaves off the ground and provide shade for the surrounding plants. The trunk helps defend the tree against its surroundings but also plays a huge role in carrying nutrients.

Roots of trees serve as stability and anchor to the ground to receive nutrients from to spread throughout the tree. They help the tree function by reproduction, defense, energy storage, and survival.



Why Trees Matter

Trees provide us with oxygen that helps us live our lives. Paper, fuel, timber, and food are amongst many products that are provided by trees. The habitats of thousands of animals.

Pet Waste

What is it?

There is one thing every pet owner hates: animal feces. It is no surprise to common dog owners that their companion's poop contains many nasty things such as Giardia and hookworms.

How are you affected?

Individual humans are endangered by pet waste as much as the environment. The eggs of parasites in a dog's poop can linger in soil for years. Anyone that comes into contact with that soil, in the form of gardening or walking barefoot, is at risk of infection, especially children.

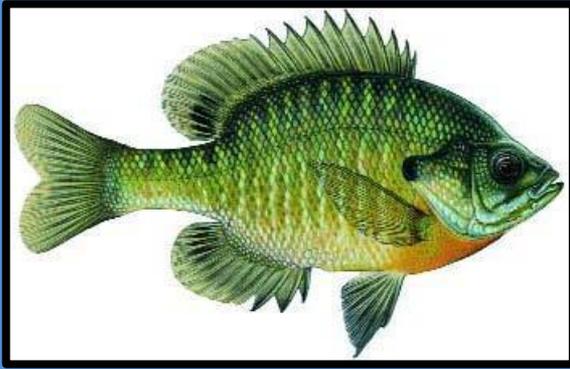


Why is it a Problem?

Dog waste that is not collected by owners becomes an environmental pollutant. When it rains, dog poop, along with all the bacteria and parasites, is washed away and enters streams, rivers, and lakes.

- Over 40% of dog owners do not pick up their dog's feces
- According to the EPA, it takes the waste of about 100 dogs over 2 days to shut down a local watershed.

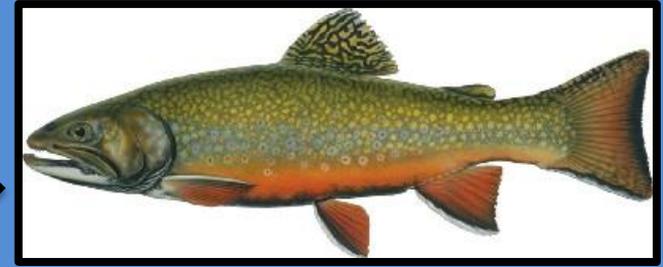
Fish



Types of Fish

Bluegills: Characterized by the bright blue edging visible on their gill rakers, prefer the shallow waters of many lakes and ponds, along with slow moving areas of streams and small rivers. On average, they are 4-8 inches long.

Rock Bass (Rock Perch): Usually 6-10 inches and rarely weighs over a pound, the rock bass is red-eyed. They prefer clear, rocky, and vegetated stream pools and lake margins. They are carnivorous with a diet consisting of smaller fish, insects, and crustaceans.



Types of Fish

The Brook Trout: A member of the salmon family and is the state fish of 8 states (including PA). They prefer lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, and spring ponds with clear water. They are normally 12 inches and about 5 pounds. Their diet includes insects, crustaceans, and mollusks.

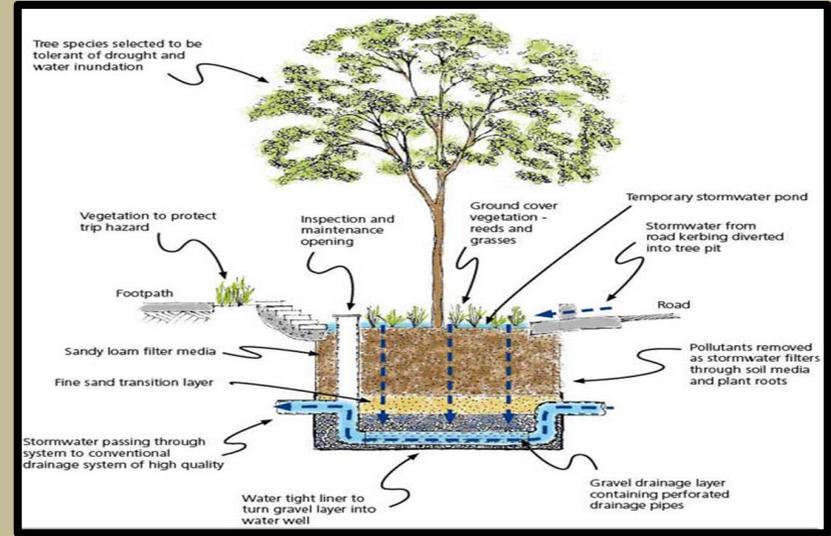
The Smallmouth Bass: Generally brown with red eyes. Smallmouth bass grow to be 2-6 pounds. They prefer to live in clear waters of streams and rivers with rocky or sandy bottoms. Carnivorous, its diet is comprised of crayfish, insects, and smaller fish.



Natural Detention Basins

What is it?

- Storm water control facilities that are planted with native vegetation rather than maintained as a mown lawn. The stems, leaves, and twigs of the native plants help filter storm water.
- Certain plants also take up certain pollutants, such as excess fertilizer, removing them before the storm water is discharged to a creek.



What use Detention Basins?

- Water-quality related programs look at reducing pollutants in storm water discharges.
- Sediment in storm water reduces the ability of the stream to convey storm water, thus increasing flooding.
- Streams that supply drinking water to communities can contain pollutants that increase the cost of treatment, thus a higher cost is passed along to residents and businesses.

Meadows

A meadow is an open space with grasses and other non-woody plants as its main vegetation. Meadows are often referred to as “grasslands.”

Why Meadows Matter

- Due to their open space, meadows provide a sunny environment that many plant and animal species need to survive.
- A variety of wildflowers grow in meadows, making them important for many pollinating insects like bees.
- They serve as a feeding ground for animals, as well as providing nesting places for some species of birds.



Types of Meadows

Permanent Meadows: Naturally occurring meadows that have unfavorable conditions for woody plants like trees and shrubs. Salty ocean spray, constant soil saturation, grazing animals, or high altitude can keep trees from growing in permanent meadows.

Transitional (Man-Made): These are temporary if unmaintained. An old farm field, for example, will turn into a wild meadow for a time, but eventually shrubs and trees will grow and turn the man-made meadow back into woodland.

Water Fowl

Water fowl are ducks, geese, and swans. They are strong swimmers with medium to large bodies. Some of the main features are webbed feet, bills and legs adapted to feed in water.

How are they Important?

The water fowl lay eggs which are food for other animals. Their feces help with soil fertility by adding several nutrients.

How are they Harmful?

Although the waterfowl can be important, they can also cause harm to humans and their surroundings. Water fowl can spread disease through their feces or water borne transmit. The Canadian water fowl can be very aggressive.



Facts

- An aquatic bird that lives around water.
- They have powerful diving skills that give them the ability to dive from the surface or the air to catch prey in the water.
- Their main prey is fish, otherwise they enjoy plants.

