




Neshaminy Creek at Dark Hollow Park

THE WATERS AROUND US

INTRODUCTION TO SESSION II OF “CLEAN WATER IS EVERYONE’S BUSINESS”

FEBRUARY 24, 2024

 Buckingham Environmental Advisory Commission

WELCOME TO SESSION II

Introductions & thanks to:

Participants

➤ *How many were here for Session I?*

Township officials

Township staff

Buckingham Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC)

colleagues



Hansell Park. Photo: A. Strout

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE EAC

All-volunteer group of Buckingham residents

Advises township on environmental matters

Liaises with other EACs

Undertakes activities on township's behalf

➤ Grants, native-plant sales, tree-planting/streambank restoration, roadside cleanups, educational events


Meets 3rd Wednesday of every month* at 7 pm at the Township Building

➤ Join us!

*Except August & December

Group photo credit: Bucks County Herald



 Buckingham EAC

LAST TIME AROUND... A QUICK RECAP OF SESSION I



Focus: drinking water


FUN FACT:

- About ½ of Buckingham residents get water from private wells
- About ½ on public water

Discussion included:

How private wells work; how township protects our water; differences between taste & health concerns in water; “forever chemicals” like PFAS; where, how and how often to test well water; an overview of PA drinking-water standards

Session I & II presentations will be posted to the township website.
PLUS: Helpful materials are available in back of room

 Buckingham EAC

SO, WHAT'S ON TAP TODAY?

The quality of the waters around us.

Here in Bucks, we are blessed with an abundance of water courses that drain to the Delaware and out to sea.

But our creeks, springs and other local waters are threatened by a ho-hum-sounding enemy. **The EPA has called polluted runoff “one of the greatest threats to clean water in the U.S.” And that includes the water we drink.**

Today, you'll learn:

- How to manage runoff (aka stormwater) on your property
- How native plants can improve water quality
- Impermeable-surfacing regulations, 101
- About microplastic pollution & our iconic streams
- About riparian buffers & streambank restoration



THE STORY OF RUNOFF

It's simplicity itself:

What goes up, must come down.

What goes in, will come out.

And we all live downstream.

This is the Runoff Story.

In the next hour or so, we will hear from local experts about why runoff matters and—especially—what we can do about it.



RUNOFF—ALSO CALLED STORMWATER—STARTS WITH RAIN.



Rain is life-giving and -sustaining and nothing can live without it.

But when it rains harder or longer than the ground can absorb, excess water runs off roofs, across lawns, down driveways, roadways and other impermeable surfaces, picking up pollutants as it goes.

WHAT POLLUTANTS, YOU ASK? (YOU MAY BE SORRY YOU DID.)

Fertilizers.

Pesticides.

Dog poop.

De-icing agents.

Driveway coatings.

Oil leaks.

Cigarette butts.

Paper-based litter.

Plastic litter (much more on this to come).

Etc., etc., etc., etc....

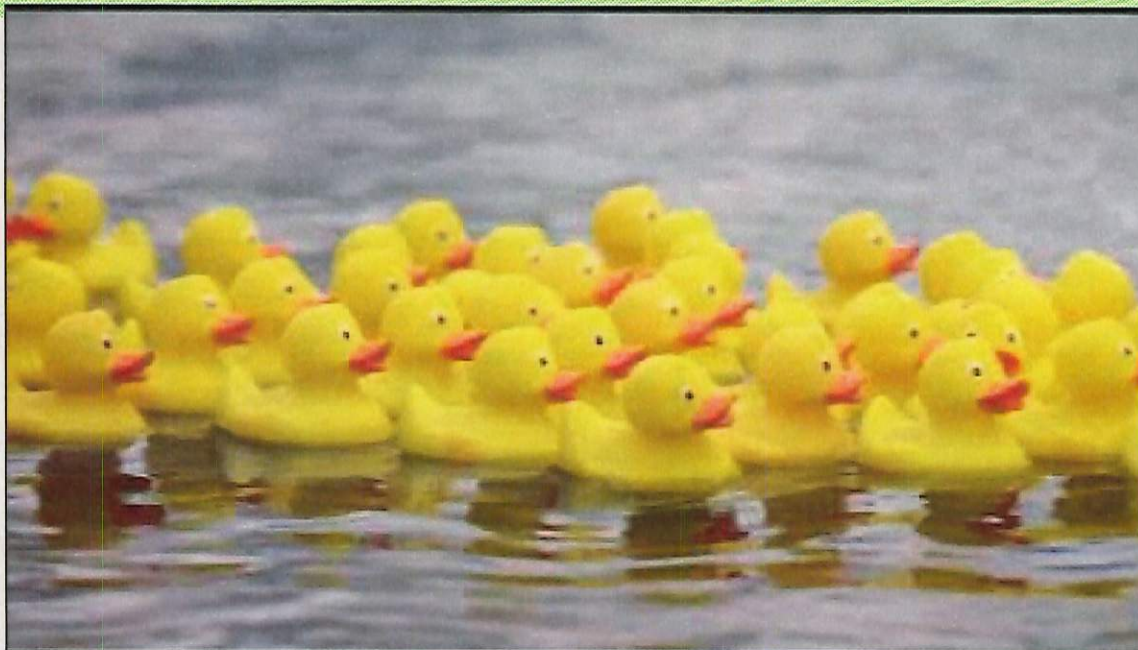


Pointed commentary in Buckingham

THIS PSA TAKES A PLAYFUL LOOK AT A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

Let's watch:

[Fowl Water:](#)
[Think Blue](#)
[Massachusetts](#)



IN BUCKS COUNTY, IT RAINS. A LOT.

And even more—& more intense—rainfall events are baked into our future. ☹️

That means it's on all of us to do our part to minimize polluted runoff.

[Hover over photo to bring up "Play" button.]



Watson Creek, June 27, 2023.
Video: A. Strout

WHAT CAN WE, AS RESIDENTS, DO? PLENTY:

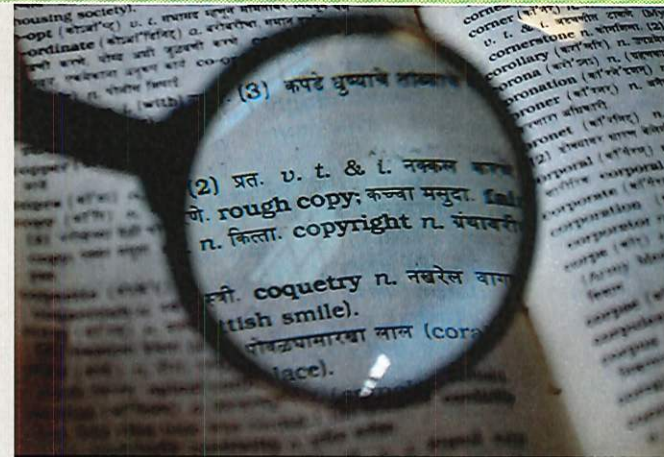


CB East volunteer tree-planters, Holicong Park Extension, October 2023

- ✓ Don't litter. (Duh.)
- ✓ Limit or forego fertilizer & pesticides.
- ✓ Limit your impermeable surfacing.
- ✓ Pick up pet waste immediately.
- ✓ Opt for a "country lawn."
- ✓ Wash your car on the lawn, not your drive.
- ✓ Spare the rock salt—
try chemical-free kitty litter instead.
- ✓ Build a rain garden on your property.
- ✓ Support local efforts to curb single-use plastic.
- ✓ Plant native trees, plants & shrubs.

AND HERE, TO HELP US DIVE INTO THE DETAILS, ARE...

- *Karen Ogden*, Watershed Specialist,
Logan Freed, Conservation Specialist
Bucks County Conservation District
- *Jeff Schumacher*, Owner,
Schumacher Landscape Design & Build
- *Richard Hengst*, Director of Conservation,
Bucks County Trout Unlimited
- *Diane Smith*, Director Of Education,
Bucks County Audubon & EAC co-chair*
- *Jim Walter*, Master Watershed Steward, Master Well Owner,
Master Gardener & EAC co-chair



*Jim Walter will be giving Diane Smith's presentation today.

THANK YOU!




For more information on Sessions I & II,
contact Buckingham EAC co-chairs

Jim Walter
jwalter881@verizon.net

or

Diane Smith
gsdskybear@yahoo.com

Photos: Andrea Strout

 Buckingham EAC