



### *What is a Watershed?*

A watershed is an area of land that captures rain or snowmelt and channels this water into a common stream, river, marsh or lake. Since water flows downhill, watershed boundaries generally follow ridgelines, with the water collecting and forming creeks, wetlands or ponds in valleys or other landscape depressions.

### *What Contributes to Healthy Watersheds?*

Land use within a watershed plays an important role in the water quality and overall health of a watershed. As precipitation falls it is intercepted by either vegetation, natural surfaces such as soils or lawns, or impervious surfaces such as roads, rooftops and driveways. As the precipitation then begins to move across the natural or built landscape, this rainwater can pick-up pollutants and debris that can ultimately impact stream health. In addition, many of the land uses in Bennett's Run watershed rely on on-lot sewage disposal systems, which need to be properly maintained to prevent surface and ground water contamination.

*Learn More About Your Watershed*

<https://wikiwatershed.org/model>

## HOW DO WE CONTINUE TO PROTECT BENNETT'S RUN?

Bennett's Run watershed is a healthy and thriving watershed, so how can our community make sure it stays that way?

- Employ innovative stormwater management techniques that use natural systems to handle increased stormwater runoff due to development and more intense storms as a result of a changing regional climate.
- Observe how water travels across your land and make sure you are not negatively impacting water quality through the excessive use of lawn care products, snow melt products, or the loss of fluids from vehicles or machinery.
- Understand the impacts of forest loss, especially near streams, which leads to increased soil erosion, decreased infiltration of rainfall and pollutants, and an increase in water temperature that can have negative impacts on aquatic life.
- Encourage sustainable and best management farming practices that help mitigate the potential impacts of certain agricultural practices on stream quality.
- Promote the removal of any impediments that artificially restrict the free-flowing nature of streams. Such impediments can impact the movement of nutrients and aquatic life through the stream network, alter water levels at certain times of the year, and increase instream water temperatures.
- Work to develop thoughtful and collaborative planning initiatives and policies that protect the natural environment and enhance the quality of life within our communities.

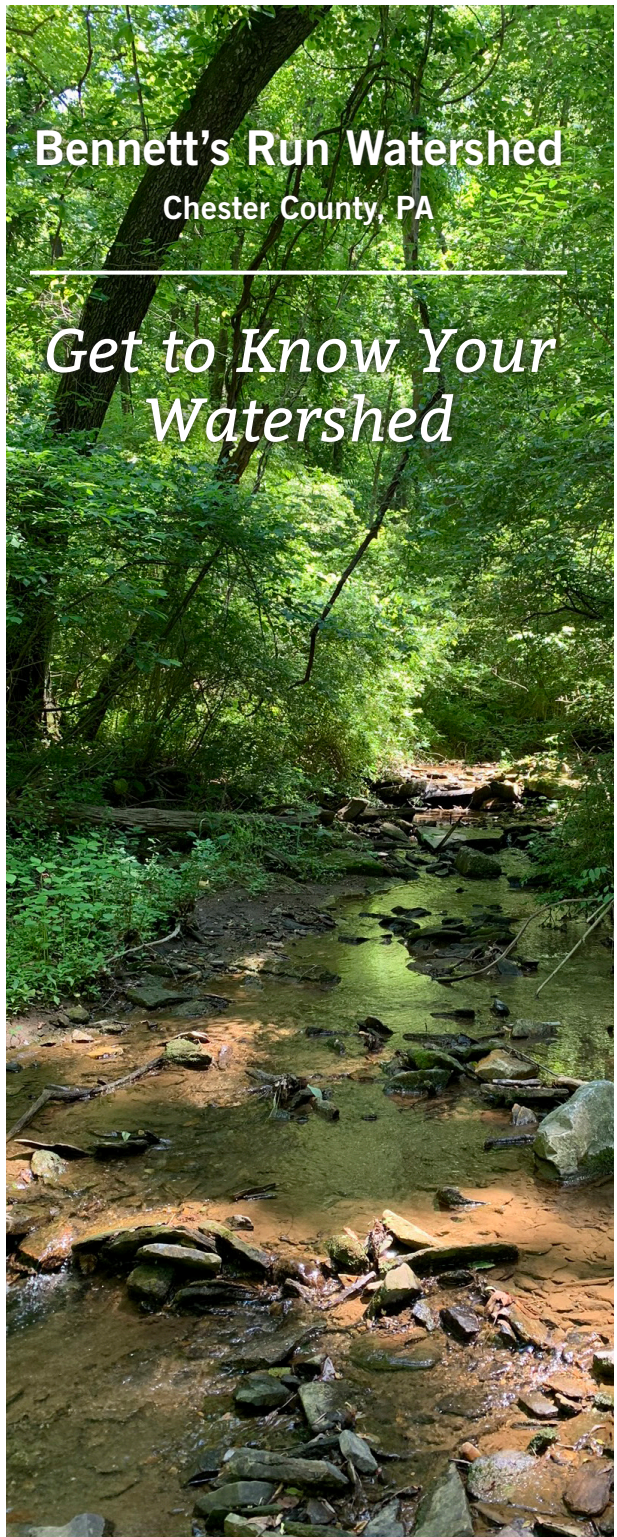


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<https://www.brandywine.org/conservancy/Bennetts-run>







## BENNETT'S RUN WATERSHED

Bennett's Run watershed is defined by the area of land that drains into a stream called Bennett's Run, which then flows into the main stem of the Brandywine Creek just below Pocopson Road. Brandywine Creek is the source of drinking water for over 500,000 people and flows into the Christina River in Wilmington, a tributary of the Delaware River. The Bennett's Run watershed is primarily located in Pennsbury Township, with small portions in Kennett and East Marlborough Townships.

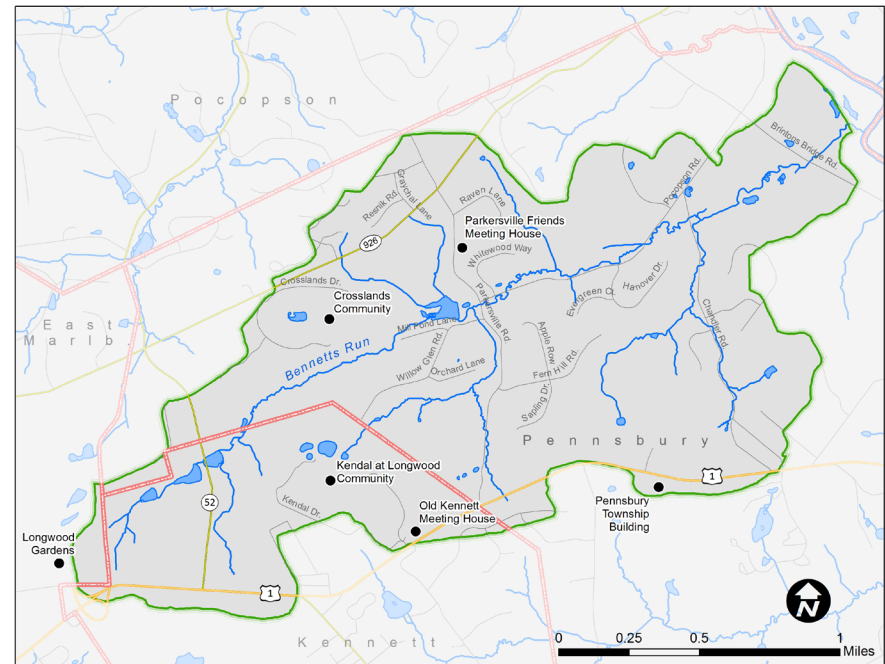
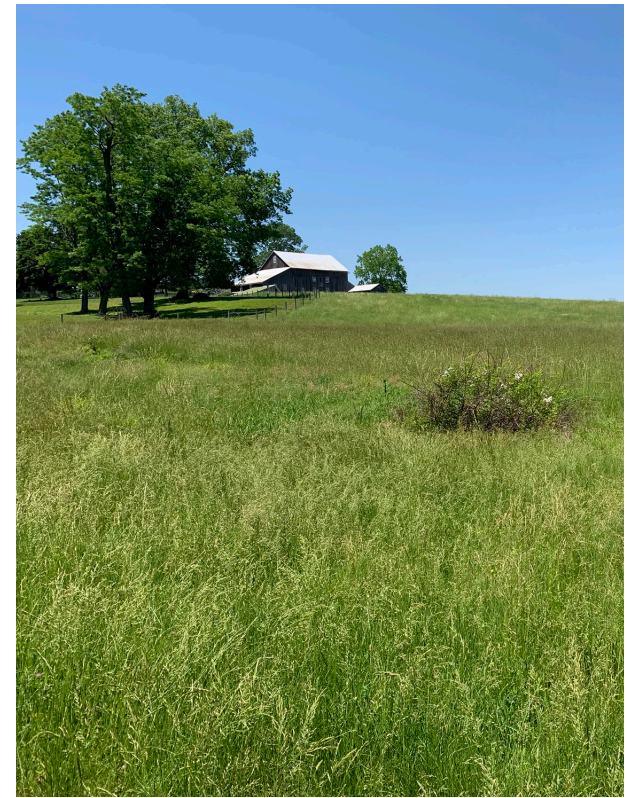
### *Bennett's Run: Key Facts*

- The watershed covers 1,844 acres, or 2.88 square miles.
- It contains just over 10 miles of stream.
- Of those, 7 miles are forested.
- The primary land uses in the watershed are single-family residential homes on lots of one acre and greater.
- Land in the watershed is almost exclusively privately owned.
- More than 40% of the watershed is forested.

### *The Health of Bennett's Run Watershed*

Unlike many of the streams in neighboring watersheds, Bennett's Run has good water quality and is defined by the state as an attaining stream. An attaining stream (as opposed to an impaired stream) is one that has met certain state water quality standards for its designated use. There are several factors that contribute to the health of Bennett's Run.

- Approximately 40% of the watershed is forested. Forests intercept precipitation, helping to absorb water, prevent soil erosion, decrease the chance of flooding, and help filter pollution.
- About 70% of the streams (intermittent or perennial) forming the Bennett's Run watershed are to some degree forested. Forested stream corridors, often referred to as riparian buffers, provide shade (lowering stream temperatures), improve instream habitat, and help filter out harmful pollutants that may otherwise enter the waterway. In addition, forested streams help process and degrade instream pollutants more efficiently.
- Although the land characteristics of the watershed contribute significantly to the health of Bennett's Run, changes in land use or activities on the land may threaten its continued health. Additional awareness of how some land use practices impact stream quality and the benefits that can be derived from alternative approaches can ensure that Bennett's Run remains healthy for future generations.



Bennett's Run Watershed