

# Master Watershed Stewards

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**PennState Extension**

# Master Watershed Steward Program

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Many states throughout the nation offer natural and water resource steward volunteer programs through university extension services; these programs train citizen volunteers in the basics of water resources stewardship. Now Penn State Extension, with the help of other local environmental groups, has launched Pennsylvania's own Master Watershed Steward program.

### Where is the program offered?

Allegheny  
Berks  
Bucks  
Chester/Delaware  
Cumberland  
Dauphin/Lancaster/Lebanon  
Lackawanna/Luzerne/Wyoming  
Lehigh/Northampton  
Monroe  
Montgomery  
Philadelphia  
York

### How do I become a Penn State Master Watershed Steward?

Contact your local extension office for program information and training opportunities.

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*Protecting water by educating  
and empowering volunteers  
across the Commonwealth*







## What is the Penn State Master Watershed Steward Program?

The Penn State Master Watershed Steward program was established to educate and empower volunteers to protect environmental resources. The program provides interested individuals with extensive training in watershed management and natural resources. In return for the training, participants dedicate volunteer time to educate the community about environmental stewardship based on university research and recommendations.

Training and volunteer service are coordinated at the county level by extension staff, partners, or trained volunteers. Each year 15-20 people per county are selected for the program. Those accepted to the program attend training classes that focus on a broad range of water and natural resource topics, including groundwater, stream ecology, wetlands, invasive plants, water recreation, wildlife, forestry and stormwater management. There is a one-time registration cost to those accepted into the program, with scholarships available to those with financial hardships.

## What do Penn State Master Watershed Stewards do?

Master Watershed Stewards volunteer in the community to improve the health of our streams, rivers and other natural resources.

### Volunteer Opportunities include:

- Organizing educational events such as rain barrel building workshops and seminars on backyard stormwater management.
- Participating in stream restoration projects.
- Sampling water quality and stream assessments.
- Coordinating and conducting stream clean-ups.
- Planning and carrying out habitat improvement projects.
- Working with municipal officials on stormwater.
- Teaching adults and children about the environment.



## What is required of a Penn State Master Watershed Steward?

To become a Master Watershed Steward, you need a **keen interest** in the environment, a **willingness to learn** and most importantly, a **strong desire to make a difference** in the community. Whether you are a teacher, an accountant, a construction worker, a homemaker, or retired, **YOU** can become a Master Watershed Steward!

To become a certified Master Watershed Steward, you must complete a minimum of 40 hours of training and fulfill 50 hours of volunteer service. In subsequent years, you can maintain your Master Watershed Steward status by giving at least 20 additional volunteer hours and attending at least 10 hours of continuing education annually.