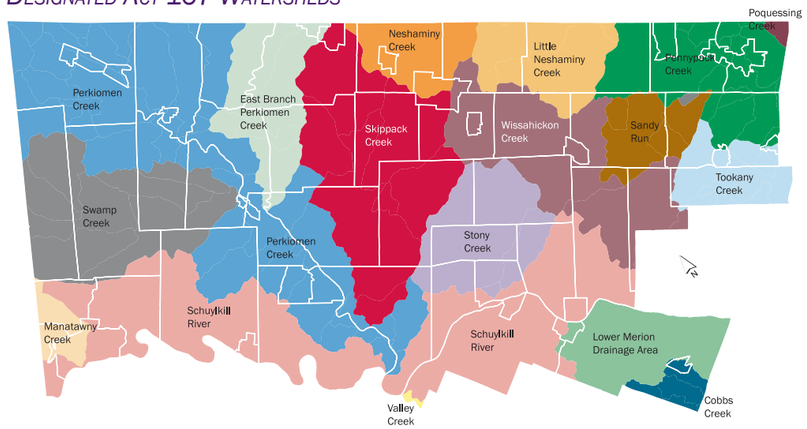
Accomplishing the Vision

Stormwater Management

Stormwater ignores government boundaries and can have a cumulative impact on a watershed. In fact, the quantity of stormwater produced in a developing watershed can increase rapidly even when individual stormwater control facilities are built. To address this impact and determine the best design of future stormwater facilities, Montgomery County is preparing stormwater management plans (Act 167 plans) for each designated watershed. These plans outline release rate requirements and other regulations local municipalities must adopt for their stormwater control ordinances.

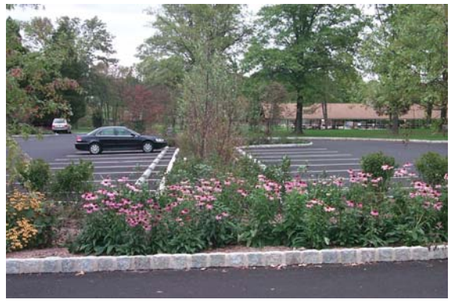
DESIGNATED ACT 167 WATERSHEDS



Best Management Practices (BMP)

Best management practices can dramatically improve stormwater control. These practices include:

- Naturalized basins.
- Vegetated swales.
- Reduced or disconnected impervious surfaces.
- Rain gardens.
- Bioretention areas or bioswales.
- Porous pavement.
- Infiltration basins.
- Sediment forebays.
- Stormwater extended detention ponds.
- Stormwater ponds.
- Constructed wetlands.
- Existing basin enhancements.



This bioswale protects water quality and makes the parking lot more attractive.

This naturalized basin filters stormwater by removing pollutants and allowing water to infiltrate into the soil.

To view this plan online visit:

www.montcopa.org/plancom/comprehensiveplan

For additional information, contact the Montgomery County Planning Commission at 610.278.3722 or mcpcwebmaster@mail.montcopa.org.

This brochure is a summary of the 2025 county *Water Resources Plan,* an element of the Montgomery County comprehensive plan. Other elements of this comprehensive plan include the *Vision Plan,* the *Land Use Plan,* the *Transportation Plan,* the *Economic Development Plan,* the *Open Space, Natural Features, and Cultural Resources Plan,* the *Housing Plan,* and the *Community Facilities Plan.*

These plans were financed in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

James R. Matthews, *Chairman* • Thomas Jay Ellis, Esq. • Ruth S. Damsker

WaterResources

Water Resources Plan Summary

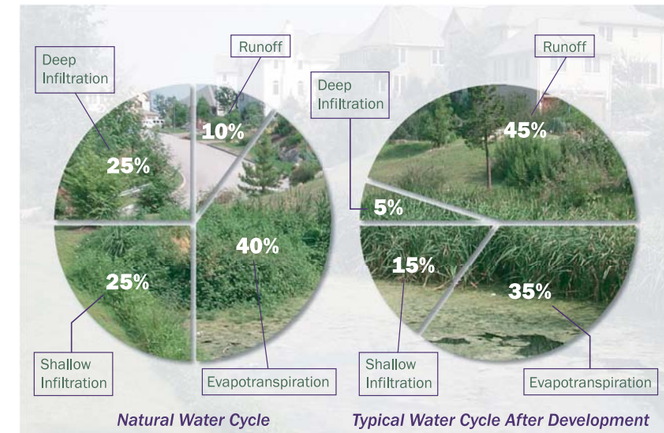
Shaping Our Future

A Comprehensive Plan for Montgomery County

Adopted by the county commissioners in 2005

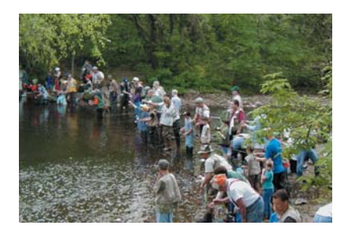
Current Trends

The water cycle is a natural process that is profoundly affected by people and development. Over the past few decades, the human impact on water has been recognized and addressed with various regulations, including requirements for stormwater control, discharges into streams, and withdrawals from groundwater supplies. In addition, substantial public and private investment has successfully been made to improve water. Nevertheless, the county still experiences flooding, water shortages, and pollution in some locations.



Runoff increases dramatically when development occurs.

Under the Water Resources Plan, the county will have an adequate supply of water in all areas and for all purposes, both consumption and natural habitat.



With the Water Resources Plan, the county's water will be safe and clean.

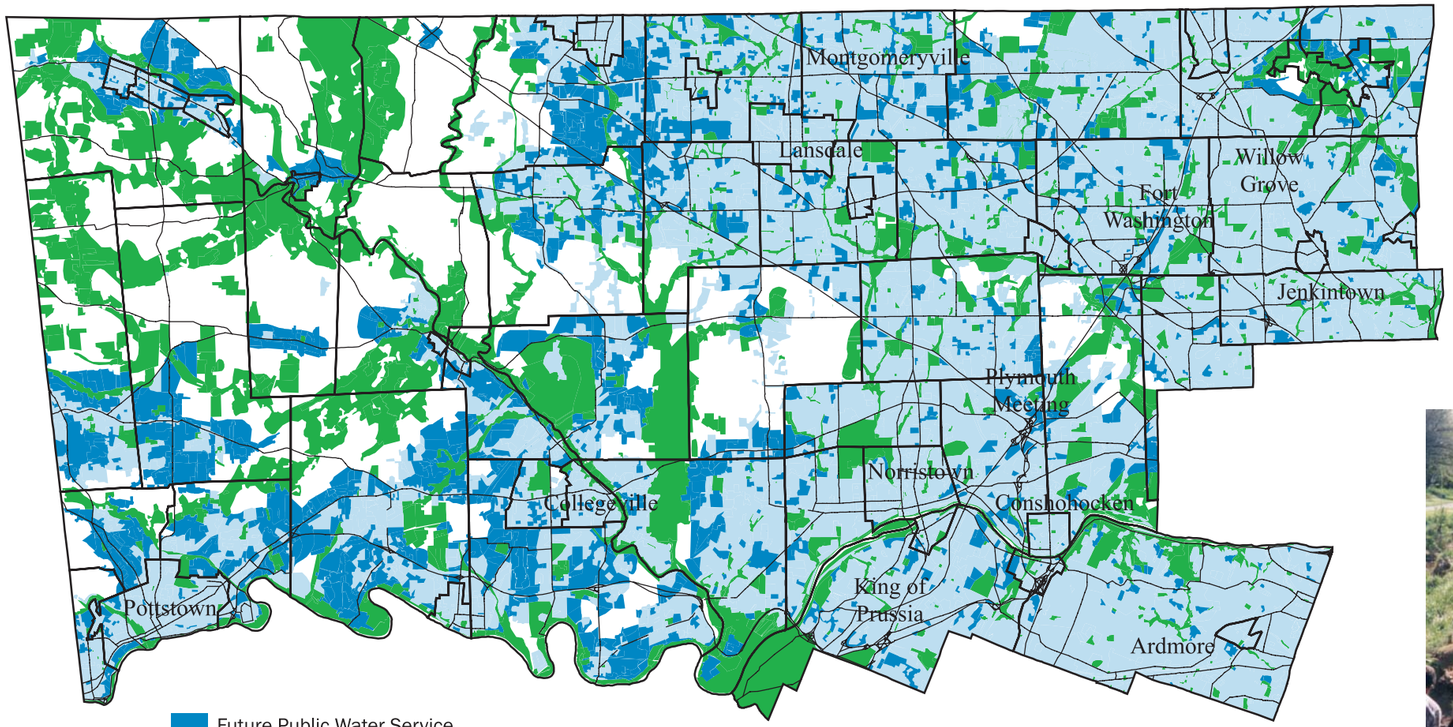
Vision for the Future

The county's Water Resources Plan shows how government, developers, businesses, and residents can work together to better manage water resources.

As shown in the Water Resources Plan, the impact of flooding on people and properties will be mitigated.

Using the Water Resources Plan as a guide, stormwater facilities will be improved by mimicking the natural water cycle.

Existing and Future Public Water Service
Montgomery County in 2025



Future Public Water Service
Existing (2000) Public Water Service
Existing and Preserved Open Space and Preserved Farmland
Areas without Future Public Water Service

Note: Mapping based upon 2000 Land Use information.

Volunteers help with a streambank stabilization project that will reduce erosion and improve water quality.

Water Supply

Most of the county's new homes and businesses will be served by public water, either through existing lines or through extensions into future public water service areas. These future service areas generally correspond to the designated growth areas in the *Vision Plan*, although water service sometimes extends into rural areas where there are concentrations of failing wells or into existing developed areas already served by public sewers.

New development should be limited in areas not expected to be served by public water. Local municipalities with large numbers of failing wells should prepare local water resource plans to help mitigate the impact of new rural development.

All county water users, whether they are served by public water or wells, should adopt and promote strong water conservation measures, including low-flow fixtures, drought-tolerant landscaping, and reuse of water.

Water Quality

Over the past few decades, the quality of the water flowing through Montgomery County has improved significantly. This is due mostly to government regulation of discharges from sewer plants and industrial operations combined with public funding for plant upgrades.

Despite these improvements in water quality, pollution still exists. Much of this pollution comes from nonpoint sources such as runoff from parking lots, roads, farms, golf courses, suburban lawns, construction sites, animal concentrations, and other sources.

The effects of this runoff can be mitigated with stormwater best management practices (see back page), better erosion and sediment control on construction sites, less impervious surface, better farm practices, and more protection of natural areas, including steep slopes, wetlands, riparian corridors, floodplains, and woodlands.

Flooding

Despite everyone's best efforts, flooding is a natural occurrence that will continue in the future. The following actions will help reduce the impact of future floods, especially where natural floodplains have already been developed.

- Improve the flood warning system for the public and emergency services.
- Keep new buildings out of floodplains or, when old brownfield sites in revitalizing towns are being rebuilt, require new buildings to be elevated above flood levels.
- Maintain the drainage system and make sure debris does not block inlets, outlets, and bridge underpasses.
- Identify man-made constriction points on local streams and, over time, widen these constriction points.
- In places that have flooded repeatedly, potentially acquire properties and relocate the occupants.
- Effectively enforce floodplain regulations.
- Adopt natural resource protection ordinances, including riparian corridor and wetland ordinances.
- Inform the public about the real dangers of flooding.

New development on existing developed land in floodplains should be elevated and floodproofed.