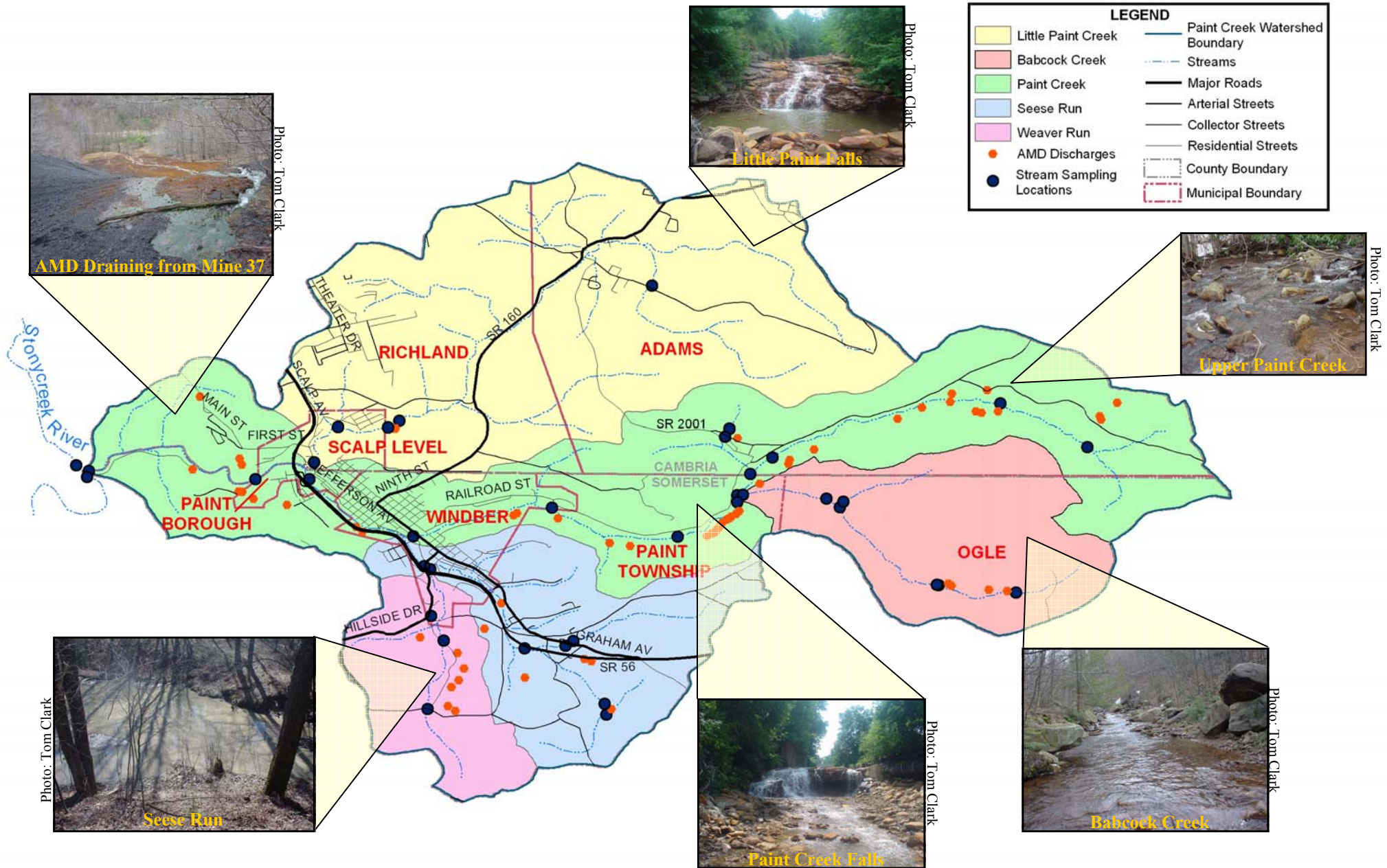


Paint Creek Watershed



This fact sheet has been funded by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund through a Section 319 Federal Clean Water Act grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administered by the PA Department of Environmental Protection.



Your Solution To Fight Pollution!

The Problem:

Abandoned Mine Drainage Impacts:

Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) is drainage flowing from, or caused by, **deep mining, surface mining, or coal refuse piles** (bony piles). AMD contains elevated levels of dissolved and/or suspended metals, especially those of **Iron, Aluminum, Manganese and acidity**, in most cases.



Photo: Tom Clark

Indicators of AMD:

1. Little or no evidence of aquatic life
2. Toxic chemical readings in the stream
3. Stream bottom coating
4. Stream discoloration
5. Colors that indicate metals are present:
 - ⇒ **Orange** — evidence of **iron**
 - ⇒ **White/Gray or Blue** — evidence of **aluminum**
 - ⇒ **Black** — evidence of **manganese**

Urban Impacts:

- Illegal dumping of **grease, oil, and chemicals**;
- **Litter** and pet waste;
- Runoff of **fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, and road salts**;
- **Sedimentation** from eroding stream banks that lack necessary vegetation for stabilization;



Photo: Matt Kowalski

- Sedimentation from dirt and gravel roads; and
- **Flash flooding** hazard from improper sizing of culverts and increasing the areas of hardened surfaces.

Photo: Tom Clark



Paint Creek Upstream of Old Reservoir

The Solution:

Benefits of Cleaning-Up AMD Impacts:

- ☺ Expanded natural fisheries
- ☺ Beautiful river scenery
- ☺ Reduce the cost of providing safe, clean drinking water
- ☺ Increase recreational opportunities
- ☺ Improve the regional economy
- ☺ Enhance biodiversity of plants and animals



Photo: Matt Kowalski

Controlling and Reducing Urban Impacts:

Every resident can do their job to reduce the impacts of pollution into the stream by:

- ☀ **Applying** herbicides, insecticides, and fertilizers to their lawn in moderation.
- ☀ **NOT dumping** grease, oil, paint, or other potentially toxic substance into sewers, storm drains, lawns, ditches, or streams.
- ☀ **Cleaning** up after yourselves and your pets.
- ☀ **Ensuring** that your sewage flows into the sanitary sewer or a sand mound.
- ☀ **Installing** rain barrels to capture rainfall off of your roof to reduce stormwater runoff.
 - * Rain barrels can be used to water gardens and lawns!