

What steps can you take to reduce pollution in your local watershed?

Everyday human activities can contribute to water pollution, so we need to work together to reduce this pollution in our communities. Here are a few ways you can help:

- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly;
- Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion prone areas;
- Dispose of used antifreeze, oil, paints, and other household chemicals properly, not in storm sewers or drains; and
- Keep litter, pet waste, and debris out of street gutters and storm drains because these drain directly into local waterways.

Join the Paint Creek Regional Watershed Association!

Meetings are held at 6:00 pm on the third Monday of each month in the

Windber Borough Building
1409 Somerset Avenue
Windber, PA 15963

Call 814-467-9014
for more information!

To learn more about the conservation efforts in the Paint Creek Watershed, please visit the K-C Stream Team website at www.kcstreamteam.org/paintcreek.htm to view the Paint Creek Restoration Plan.

For more information on pollution and ways you can conserve your watershed, please visit these websites:

Abandoned Mine Reclamation Clearinghouse
www.armclearinghouse.org

Department of Environmental Protection
www.depweb.state.pa.us

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Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team

430 Main Street, Fourth floor
Johnstown, PA 15901

Phone: 814-532-5049

Fax: 814-536-5764

E-mail: mreckner@kcstreamteam.org



Paint Creek Watershed Awareness

Photo: Tom Clark



Babcock Creek

Learn how to
conserve your
local watershed

Paint Creek Watershed

A watershed is the region that is drained by a river or stream. The Paint Creek Watershed covers approximately 38 square miles throughout Paint, Scalp Level, and Windber Boroughs; and Adams, Ogle, Paint, and Richland Townships.

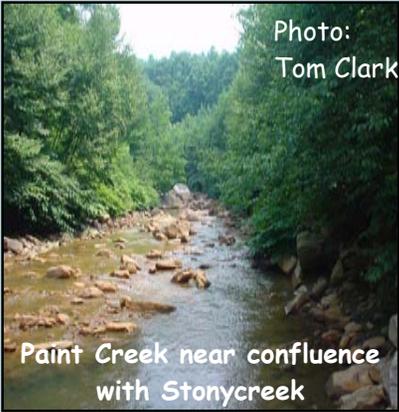


Photo: Tom Clark

Paint Creek near confluence with Stonycreek

Paint Creek, which is a smaller watershed within the Stonycreek River Watershed, has three major streams running

into it: Babcock Creek, Little Paint Creek, and Seese Run. These once clean and beautiful streams are polluted from past mining operations and human disregard. Now, conservationists interested in restoring the Paint Creek

Watershed to its natural state are taking action to improve water quality and to inform and engage residents within the Watershed.

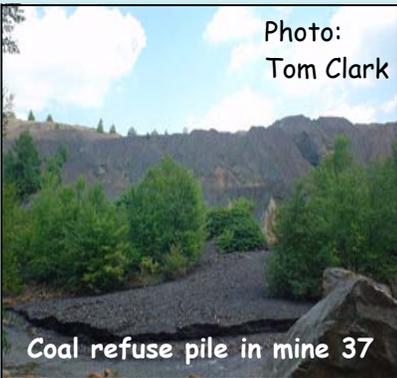
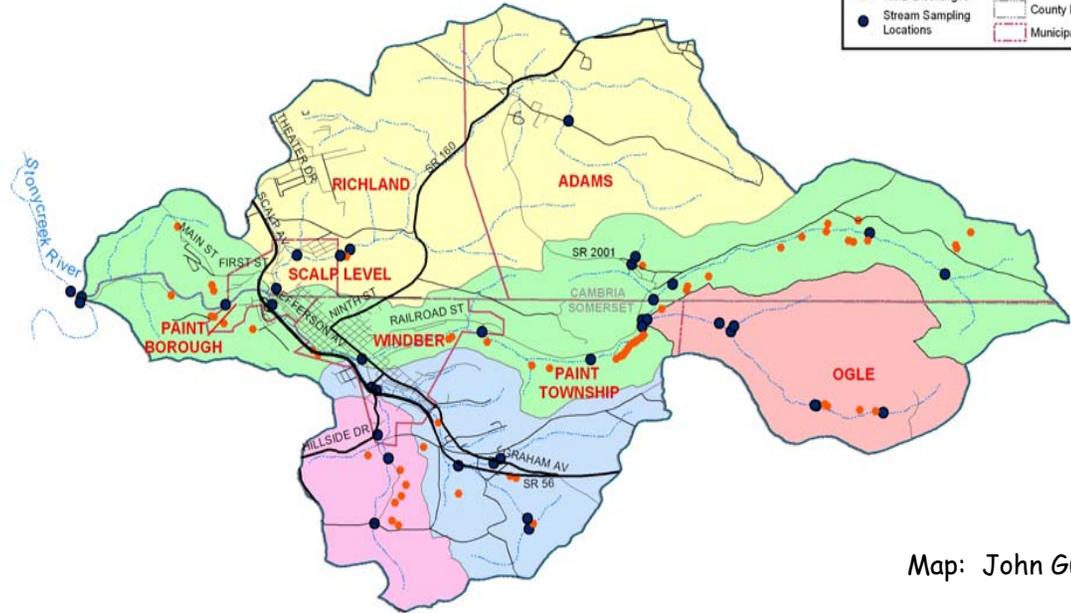


Photo: Tom Clark

Coal refuse pile in mine 37

Paint Creek Watershed



Map: John Gustkey

Where did all the pollution come from?

At the end of the 1800's, mining and logging operations took over the Paint Creek Watershed. Both mining and logging contribute to water pollution. Pollution from mining is called abandoned mine drainage (AMD), and it is responsible for the orange coloring and rotten egg smell in the local streams. Improper logging procedures contribute increased sediment in streams because there is no root system to stabilize the soil along stream banks. Both AMD and sedimentation negatively impact water quality and aquatic habitat. The streams within the Paint Creek Watershed are also impacted by many other pollutants.

Often, the sources of these pollutants are difficult to pinpoint because there are so many different factors contributing to their cause. This pollution can be caused by:

- Agricultural runoff;
- Illegal dumping of grease, oil, and toxic chemicals;
- Runoff from fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides; and
- Runoff and road salts from roads and paved parking areas.

These pollutants enter waterways during rain events or snowmelts. As this rain water makes its way down hillsides, it picks up the different pollutants and deposits them in lakes, rivers, and streams.