What is a watershed?
No matter where you live or play, you’re in a watershed! So what is it and how does it work? A watershed is an area of land where all the water (surface and groundwater) flows to the lowest point – usually a stream, lake or river.

Imagine your bathtub is a watershed and the drain is a river. Any water that falls inside the tub (watershed) will eventually go down the drain (river) carrying dirt and soap with it. The high sides of the tub (like mountains and hills) keep the water from ending up on the floor (or in other watersheds).

What is our watershed?
Swarthmore Pennsylvania is located within the Delaware River Basin Watershed. Our sub-basin is called the Chester-Ridley-Crum watershed. Crum Creek flows 24 miles. Springing from Paoli, it passes thru Chester and Delaware County finally joining the Delaware River in Eddystone by the Boeing Plant.

The Lower Crum Reservoir provides drinking water for 200,000 Delaware County Residents! Over 19 million Gallons of water is drawn a day to provide drinking water to local residents.

For more about our watershed visit www.crcwatersheds.org/crum

This brochure was created by the Swarthmore-Rutledge School Home and School Association www.srskids.org

Publication of this flyer for this watershed education program has been partially funded by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund under a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
SAVES MONEY AND ENERGY
Rain barrels help lower water costs when the stored water is recycled for lawn or garden irrigation. It also saves the energy it would have taken to clean the drinking water used from the tap.

REDUCES WATER POLLUTION
Rain Barrels help reduce water pollution by reducing storm water runoff, which oftentimes picks up pollutants in its path, such as oil, grease and animal waste, and transports these pollutants to the nearest creek, river or storm drain.

HELPS RECHARGE GROUNDWATER
Storing rainwater for garden and lawn use helps recharge groundwater naturally.

STEWARDSHIP
Foster environmental stewardship and an interest in science by students, teachers, administrators, and members of the community.

EDUCATES
Enhance community awareness of storm water runoff and non-point source pollution.

HAPPY PLANTS
Rain is a naturally soft water and devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals. For this reason, plants respond very well to rainwater. After all, it’s what plants in the wild thrive on!