



TURTLE TRACKS SUMMER 2006 EDITION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TURTLE CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Stormwater Management

Not Just Flooding

In the Fall 2005 edition, we started to look at stormwater-related issues by focusing upon our erosion and sedimentation problems and how those relate directly to excessive runoff following rain events.

As local development has increased, so has the volume of initial stormwater runoff. Even though many municipalities have improved their ordinances, trying to insure no more runoff after a site is developed than there was before, the change from natural land with an infinite number of infiltration and runoff points to developed land with nearly no infiltration and channeled runoff exiting at one or two pipes leads us to the reality we see of more volume coming off these site faster than before.

We will look more at the numerous consequences in our Fall 2006 edition.



Erosion, Sedimentation, Streambank Destabilization
and Low Water Table

TCWA

What Action is TCWA Taking?

We are taking several different approaches to the very complex set of problems. TCWA has partnered with several watershed municipalities, local agencies, other organizations, and individual professionals in the Inter-Municipal Environmental Forum (IMEF).

Working with Monroeville, Murrysville, Penn Hills, Penn Township, Westmoreland Conservation District, 3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program, and Duquesne University's Center for Environmental Research and Education (CERE), and with funding from The Heinz Endowments, IMEF has used four main approaches to address non-point source pollution issues – the key to which is stormwater, which respects no political boundary.

One, to raise awareness, to offer solutions, and to create direct connections among all 33 watershed communities, we presented a stormwater management forum in 2004. A second is scheduled for October 24th.

Two, to help our municipalities cost-effectively address their federal and state non-point source requirements of the



NPDES Phase II Program, we have offered a series of compliance and education presentations and workshops for elected officials, staff, solicitors, and engineers. Some of these have been held in conjunction with Local Government Academy. Others have been aimed at just our watershed communities.

Three, we have received two companion Growing Greener Grants. The first was sponsored by Murrysville to look at municipal operations with an eye towards doing things better, cheaper, and with fewer negative environmental impacts. The second was sponsored by TCWA and is looking at ways for municipalities to work cooperatively across the watershed to reduce non-point source pollution and stormwater-related damages.



Land Form and Rainfall Maps of our Region

Landbase Systems

Four, we are stretching our resources and reducing costs by building upon what each IMEF organization is accomplishing independently.



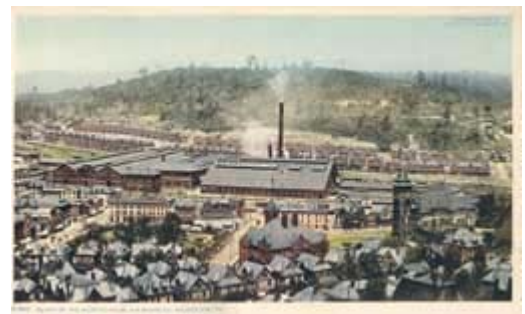
Heinz Endowments Support for TCWA

Our identification of stormwater as the lynchpin of so many water quality and quantity issues, and our efforts to address these problems on a multi-municipal level are in tune with The Heinz Endowments' goals for this region. On that basis, our application for one year of funding to further this work was approved by the Endowments' Board of Directors. We were awarded \$100,000. This money will be used to expand stormwater education, continue our multi-municipal approach to watershed-wide management, and develop an advertising campaign to inform the community at large about stormwater effects and what individuals can do change things for the better.

TCWA's Funding History and Future

Our files show that when the first meetings began in 1968, those involved were very concerned about many of the same water quality and water quantity issues we are still dealing with today, including stormwater. The flood gates and concrete channel in Lower Turtle Creek had been built to protect valley industries from flooding coming upstream from the rising Mon River. It was clear that without a comprehensive strategy to address the upstream erosion from development, the subsequent sedimentation in the channel would compromise it and the flood gates' function.

Due to the critical nature of this issue, as well as mine drainage and sewerage, by the time TCWA was incorporated in 1970, it had substantial fiscal and material support from the Westinghouse Corporation and Allegheny County. Within a few years Westmoreland County was also providing support.



Westinghouse Air Brake, Wilmerding, PA

L. S. Glover

This support continued until Westinghouse fell upon hard times in the early 1990s. Another donor was never found to fill these shoes, so TCWA's operation was scaled back accordingly. In 2001 Allegheny County's budget crisis prompted withdrawal of their funds. In 2005 Westmoreland County shifted TCWA's support to their conservation district.

While we scrambled to find new funding sources, the administrative and staff time reimbursements from our grant projects kept us afloat. Notoriously meager, these funds would never be enough to sustain the group into the future. However, with responsibilities to carry out these grant projects, we have no choice but to

find funding sources to support TCWA operations. This pressure comes at a time when corporate and foundation giving is more narrowly focused and fewer dollars are available.

This explains why The Heinz Endowments funding is so vital and so deeply appreciated.

In order to position ourselves to receive future foundation and corporate funding, we must not only have quite a bit of product to show for the money invested, but we must demonstrate that we are also a stable organization, supported by a wide spectrum of our community. Memberships by individuals, families, small and large businesses, municipalities, and organizations are one way to show this support. In-kind and monetary donations for operations and for specific projects by these same entities are another way.

This explains why your membership, or your donation, or your volunteer time is so vital and so deeply appreciated. Thank you!

Stormwater Education

Through the Heinz Endowments grant noted on Page 2, TCWA will continue our non-point source presentations and workshops for municipalities, enhanced with use of an EnviroScape® model to demonstrate real world effects of excess stormwater runoff.

We are constructing a new and improved website at www.tcwa.org (click on the yellow New Website link).



New Website Homepage at tcwa.org

We will also be able to begin an ad campaign to let our 193,000 residents learn the basics and get ideas about steps they can take to reduce stormwater runoff volume. The biggest advantage of these funds will be the ability to hire a full time Program Coordinator to meet the demand for programs at local libraries, civic and social organizations, scout troops, and schools.

Calendar

TCWA Meetings

Room 220 The Castle 7:00 p.m.
July meeting scheduled for the 26th
Please check with the office, it may be changed.
August 30th
September 27th
October 24th – 5:00 at The Lamplighter
Immediately prior to the Stormwater Forum
(Please make reservations for dinner and forum.)



School Programs



Community Events



Streambank Restoration



AMD Remediation



Stormwater Assistance



Flooding Assistance

All by TCWA

Join Us!!! Become a member of the Turtle Creek Watershed Association and become a partner in a dynamic local conservation effort. A broad base of financial and volunteer support from local individuals, families, communities, business, and industry will allow all of us together continue improving the quality of life in this region.

(Don't forget - it's tax deductible!)

Membership Form 2006

Name: _____

Individual \$10 Family \$15

Address: _____

Life \$100 Organization \$25

E-mail: _____

Small business \$50 Municipality \$100

Phone: _____ (h)

Corporate \$150 Other \$_____.

_____ (w)

Permission to list donor name: Yes No

Please make checks payable to:
Turtle Creek Watershed Association

Mail to:
325 Commerce Street, Suite 204
Wilmerding, PA 15148

Thank you very much!



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website: www.tcwa.org/ (go to the New Website link)

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