

Turtle Tracks

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Turtle Creek Watershed Association



FALL 2000

Public Meeting Scheduled for October 26th to Review Draft River Conservation Plan

Mark your calendars! A Public Meeting will be held to review our draft *Turtle Creek Watershed River Conservation Plan*. **This meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 26th at 7:00 p.m. at the Murrysville Community Center, 3190 Carson Street in Murrysville (the former Murrysville Library).** Directions: Take Route 22 East, through the light at McDonalds, make a right onto Carson Street (immediately before Yesterday's Books), the Community Center is on Carson Street, on the left behind the ballpark.

In order to expand our conservation efforts, we applied for and received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to prepare a River Conservation Plan (RCP) for the entire Turtle Creek watershed.

The objectives of our RCP are to identify, through **LOCAL INPUT** as part of the planning process, the following features: (1) an inventory of significant natural, recreational, and cultural resources within the Turtle Creek watershed; (2) issues, concerns, and threats to Turtle Creek's resources and values; and (3) recommendations that public and private entities can undertake to conserve, enhance, and restore Turtle Creek's resources and values.

Once our RCP is finalized, Turtle Creek will be qualified to be placed on the *Pennsylvania River Conservation Registry*. The Registry acts as a vehicle to recognize the Turtle Creek watershed and those individuals and organizations that were involved with completing the RCP, as well as endorse local initiatives in a statewide recognition program. After the RCP is

placed upon the Registry, the Turtle Creek Watershed Association will be eligible for implementation, development, or acquisition grants for the installation of the Action Plan identified in the RCP.

Our project consultant, Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC), has completed the draft RCP, and now **YOU** can have an opportunity to review our draft RCP by attending the October 26th Public Meeting.

After the Public Meeting, 7 copies of the draft RCP will be put on display in several local libraries for a 30-day public review period. These libraries are the following:

Monroeville Public Library
2615 Mossie Boulevard,
Monroeville

Murrysville Community Library
4130 Sardis Road,
Murrysville

Trafford Community Public Library

433 Cavitt Avenue, Trafford
Wilkinsburg Public Library
605 Ross Avenue, Floor 2,
Pittsburgh

Jeannette Public Library

Sixth & Magee Avenue,
Jeannette

Norwin Public Library

299 Third Street, Irwin
North Versailles Township Library

1401 Greensburg Avenue,
North Versailles

In an attempt to provide a scientifically credible, effective, and locally-based RCP, a subwatershed planning approach was utilized by CEC in order to meet the water resource goals of the Turtle Creek Watershed Association. According to the Center for Watershed Protection, subwatershed management units are the most practical for local watershed plans. The Turtle Creek watershed is composed of many individual subwatersheds that can have their own unique water resource objective. Our RCP was designed to be a comprehensive framework for applying management tools within each subwatershed in a manner that also achieves the water resource goals for the Turtle Creek watershed as a whole.

The Center for Watershed Protection maintains that subwatershed planning units should typically have a catchment area of 2 to 15

square miles. Employing this criterion, 14 subwatershed planning units were selected for the RCP. The subwatersheds selected are the following:

Abers Creek

10.64 square miles

Ardmore Run

3.16 square miles

Lower Brush Creek

17.43 square miles

Upper Brush Creek

26.13 square miles

Bushy Run

13.94 square miles

Dirty Camp Run

3.23 square miles

Haymaker Run

10.97 square miles

Lyons Run

8.78 square miles

Sawmill Run

2.02 square miles

Steels Run

4.81 square miles

Thompson Run

15.87 square miles

Lower Turtle Creek

10.02 square miles

Middle Turtle Creek

7.43 square miles

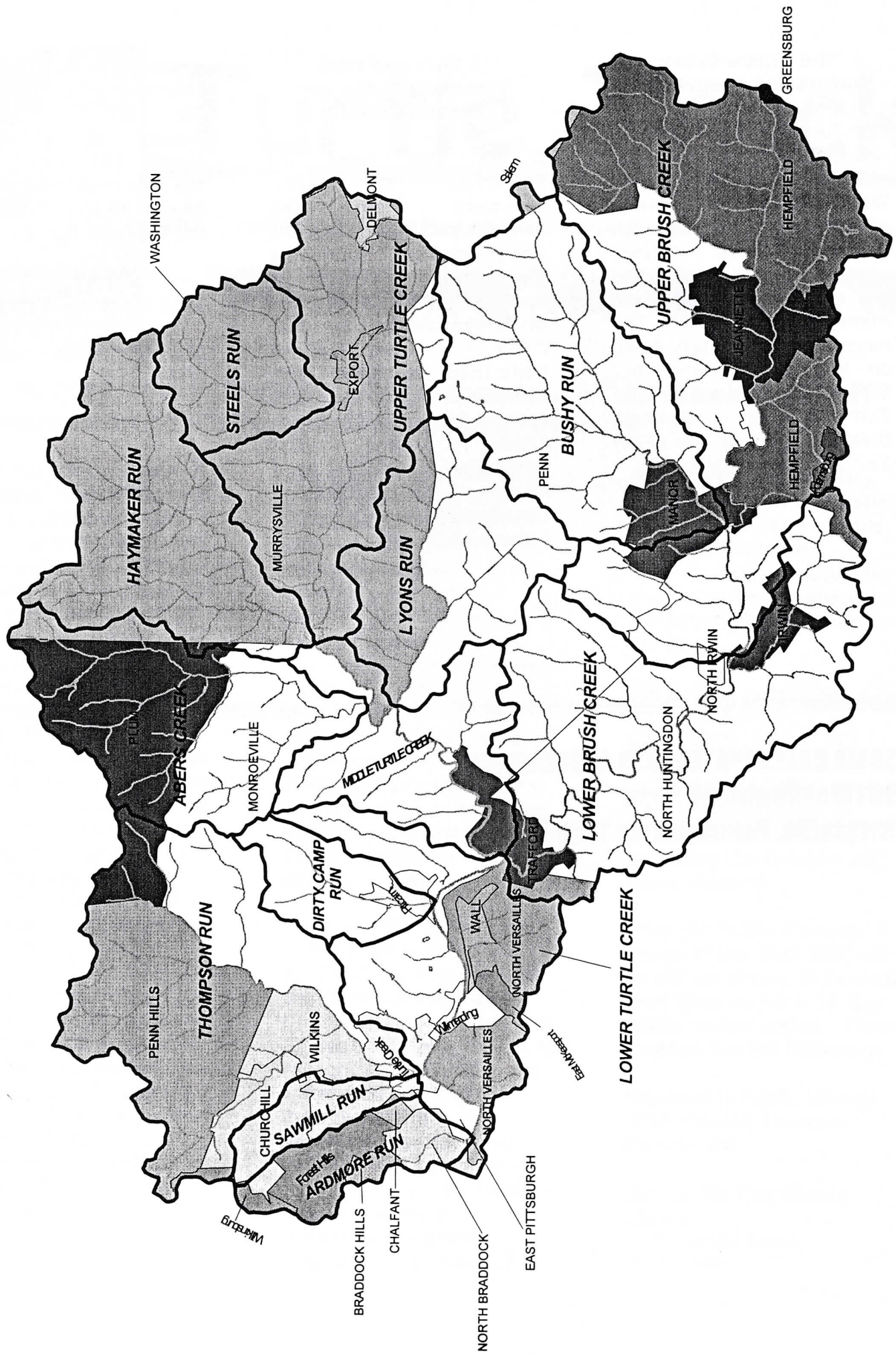
Upper Turtle Creek

12.98 square miles

The Turtle Creek watershed is situated in western Westmoreland County and eastern Allegheny County in southwestern Pennsylvania. Sixty-six percent of the watershed is situated in Westmoreland County, 34 percent in Allegheny County. Turtle Creek flows west from its source in Delmont, Westmoreland County to its mouth where it enters the Monongahela River in North Versailles

Township, Allegheny County. The watershed drains a catchment area of 147.41 square miles that includes forest, farmland, industry, abandoned mined lands, urban, and suburban residential communities. 33 municipalities are located within the Turtle Creek watershed. The lower watershed lies between a heavily urbanized area between the cities of Pittsburgh and McKeesport.

As part of the development of the draft RCP, a subwatershed-based Geographic Information System (GIS) was assembled by CEC. GIS is a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing things that exist and events that happen. GIS technology integrates common database operations such as query and statistical analysis with the unique visualization and geographic analysis benefits offered by maps. These abilities distinguish GIS from other information systems and make it valuable to a wide range of public and private enterprises for explaining events, predicting outcomes, and planning strategies. For example, here is a GIS map generated by CEC illustrating the 33 municipalities and 14 subwatersheds of the entire Turtle Creek watershed area:



The Turtle Creek Watershed Association

The Turtle Creek Watershed Association holds Board Meetings on the second Wednesday of every month at the Turtle Creek Borough Building. These meetings are open to the public, and we encourage **ALL** TCWA members to attend. The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, November 8th at 7:00 p.m. at the Turtle Creek Borough Building. Please call (724) 387-2000 for details.

PA Fish and Boat Commission Survey Brush Creek

During the week of September 18, 2000, biologists from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Southwest Regional Office in Somerset, PA and Division of Environmental Services Office in Pleasant Gap, PA performed synoptic fish community surveys at several locations on Brush Creek. The most interesting finds were sauger (*Stizostedion canadense*) and YOY (young-of-the-year)

smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*). For more information, please call either Rick Lorson (814-445-3454) at the Somerset Office or Rick Spear (814-359-5233) at the Pleasant Gap Office.

TCWA's NEW WEBSITE:

<http://trfn.clpqh.org/tcwa>

TCWA Needs Volunteers!

If you want to become more involved, please call (724) 387-2000. We need your help!

**TURTLE CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
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