Current Conditions

Franklin County is the third highest loading county in Pennsylvania’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Current loading rates are 7.79M lbs of nitrogen and 394.22K lbs of phosphorous annually. By 2025, Franklin County needs to reduce 2.90M lbs of nitrogen and 99.99K lbs of phosphorous.

Pollutant Reduction Progress

By 2025, Franklin County needs to reduce 2.90M lbs of nitrogen and 99.99K lbs of phosphorous. Franklin County has developed a plan to reduce 1.33M lbs (46%) of the nitrogen goal and 69.65K lbs (70%) of the phosphorous goal. There is no planning target for sediment, but Franklin County’s plan reduced 75.84M lbs of sediment (18%) of the current load.

Priority Initiative Progress

Franklin County has identified 2 priority initiatives within the planning template: Agriculture and Stormwater. Agriculture has identified practices that result in a reduction of 1.31M lbs of nitrogen and 60.81K lbs of phosphorous. The stormwater sector has identified practices that reduce an additional 8.37K lbs of nitrogen and 2.39K lbs of phosphorous. These priority initiatives result in a total reduction of 1.33M lbs of nitrogen and 69.65K lbs of phosphorous.
Information About the Watersheds
Franklin County contains five major watersheds: Conococheague Creek, Conodoguinet Creek, Antietam Creek, Licking Creek, and Tuscarora Creek. These watersheds are some of the highest loading watersheds for nitrogen and phosphorous in Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Watershed. However, monitoring shows that conditions for nitrogen have been improving which means nitrogen levels are decreasing. Conditions for phosphorous are varying, meaning some are improving and some are degrading. Of the 1,705 total stream miles in Franklin County, approximately 25% are impaired.

County Land Use:
Franklin County has a total acreage of 494,602 acres. Agricultural land represents 41% of the total land with 203,970 total acres. Developed land represents 15% of the total land with 72,950 total acres. Natural land, which is made up of forests, streams and wetlands, represents the remaining 44% or 217,681 total acres. Cropland makes up a majority of the Agriculture sector with 112,465 acres. The developed sector is mostly Non-Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) (78%) or 57,035 acres, and a small portion of MS4 (22%) or 15,915 acres.

Local Benefits:
Storm events are the number one way for nutrients and sediment to enter waterways. Increased runoff impacts: flooding, water quality, habitat, etc. Pollutants enter the waterways by two methods: overland runoff or leaching into groundwater.

Learn more and Get Involved
To get involved with the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) please visit: https://bit.ly/2RE7Dzb