

STATEWIDE WATER PLAN VISION AND PURPOSE

Pennsylvania has abundant and magnificent water resources. These resources should provide the basis for an exceptional quality of life for Pennsylvania's residents, an opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts, an attraction for visitors, unparalleled natural beauty, thriving ecosystems, agriculture prominence, and economic prosperity throughout the Commonwealth. All those with an interest in Pennsylvania have a stake in the use, enhancement, and stewardship of the state's water resources. Indeed, the Pennsylvania Constitution vests a right to pure water and the values of the natural environment in all Pennsylvanians, and imposes a duty to conserve and to maintain public natural resources for this generation and generations yet to come.

In order to achieve this vision, the State Water Plan will offer tools and guidance for all those who make decisions that affect the Commonwealth's water resources or who make decisions based upon the availability of water of adequate quantity and quality. The Plan should be useful to those who wish to locate and to design their projects so that the availability of water resources does not constrain them; those who wish to preserve high environmental quality where it exists and to achieve it where it does not; local governments with planning, conservation, and economic development responsibilities; and Commonwealth and interstate compact agencies. This Plan should serve their needs by providing a qualitative and quantitative description of water resources in Pennsylvania based upon accurate, transparent, and readily accessible data, and guidance on the use of that description and those data in the decisions that face the Plan's users. The Plan is a starting point for considering the opportunities available to Pennsylvanians for managing the state's water resources to achieve our vision for the Commonwealth.