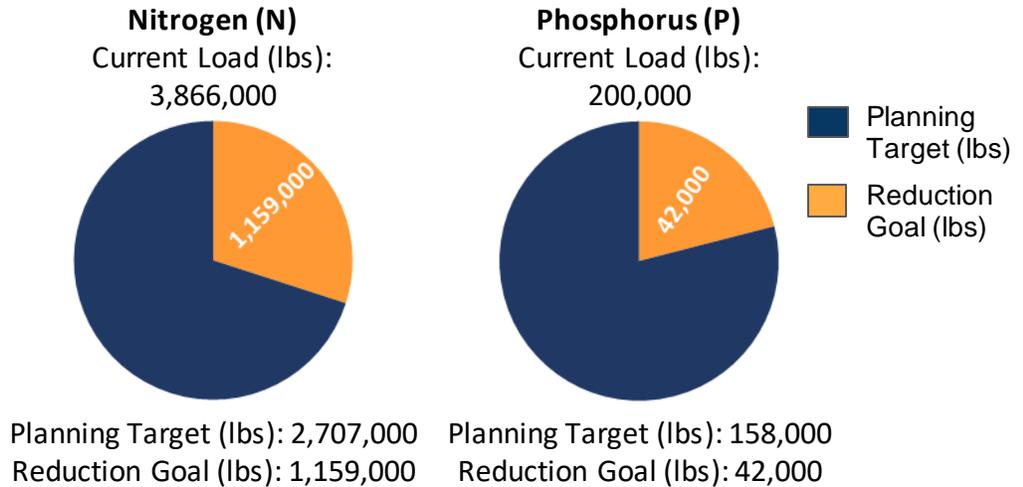


# Columbia County, Pennsylvania

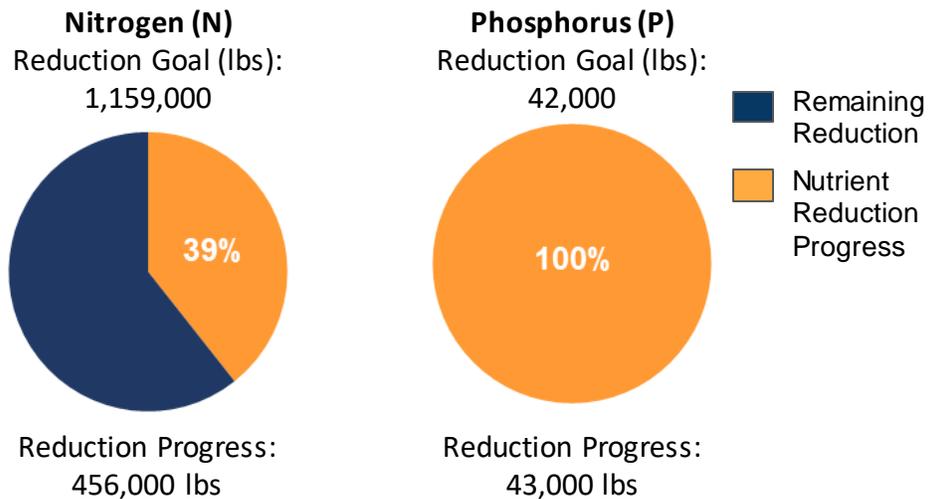
## Current Conditions

Columbia County is one of 34 counties in Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Watershed that have developed Countywide Action Plans. Current loading rates are 3.87M lbs of nitrogen and 200K lbs of phosphorus annually. By 2025 Columbia County needs to reduce 1.16M lbs of nitrogen and 42K lbs of phosphorus.



## Pollutant Reduction Progress

By 2025, Columbia County needs to reduce 1.16M lbs of nitrogen and 42K lbs of phosphorus. Columbia County has developed a plan to reduce 456K lbs of nitrogen, which is 39% of the goal and 43K lbs of phosphorus, which is over 100% of the goal.

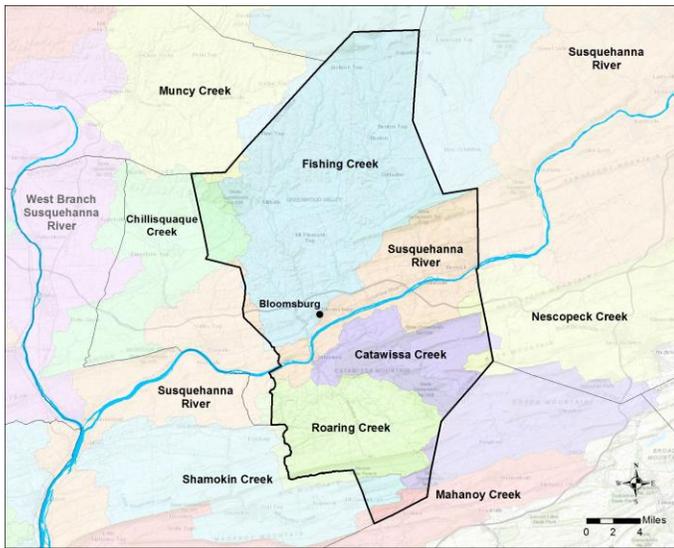


## Sector Reductions

Columbia County has identified reductions within four sectors within their planning template: agriculture, developed, septic, and natural. Projected land use changes and population changes results in increases within the wastewater sector. Columbia County has identified practices that result in total reductions of 456K lbs of nitrogen and 43K lbs of phosphorus.

Sector	Nitrogen (lbs.)	Phosphorus (lbs.)
Agriculture	-443,000	-35,000
Developed	-34,000	-2,000
Natural	-11,000	-9,000
Septic	-100	-
Wastewater	+32,000	+3,000
<b>Total Reductions</b>	<b>-456,000</b>	<b>-43,000</b>

# Columbia County Watershed Map



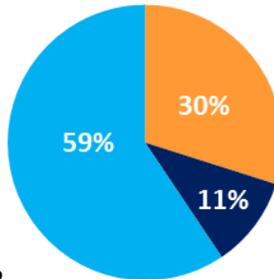
## Information About the Watersheds

Columbia County contains 4 major watersheds: Fishing Creek, Catawissa Creek, Roaring Creek, and the mainstem Susquehanna River. Watersheds in Columbia County have elevated levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. Of the 791 total stream miles in Columbia County, approximately 22% have degraded aquatic communities due to causes such as siltation (excessive sediment), metals, nutrient pollution and others.

## County Land Use:

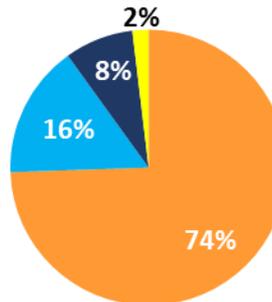
Columbia County has a total acreage of 313,698 acres in the Bay watershed. Agricultural land represents 30% of the total land with 93,726 total acres. Developed land represents another 11% of the total land in Columbia County. Natural land, which is made up of forests, stream, and wetlands, represents the remaining 59% of the land in Columbia County. Cropland makes up a majority of the Agriculture sector with 69,802 acres. The developed sector is mostly Non-Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) (75%) 25,149 acres and a smaller portion of MS4s (25%) 8,431 acres.

**Columbia County:**  
Total Acres: 313,698



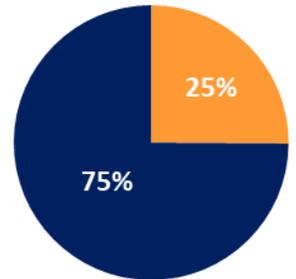
■ Agriculture  
■ Developed  
■ Natural

**Agriculture:**  
Total Acres: 93,726



■ Cropland  
■ Hay  
■ Pasture  
■ Other Ag

**Developed:**  
Total Acres: 33,580



■ MS4  
■ Non MS4

## 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.



Flooding affects safety, property, infrastructure, and economics.



Columbia County relies on local water sources to supply drinking water to its residents.



Just like humans, Columbia County's livestock depend on clean water.

## Learn more and Get Involved

To learn more about the Countywide Action Plans, visit DEPs Countywide Action Plans website: [www.dep.pa.gov/pacountywideactionplans.org](http://www.dep.pa.gov/pacountywideactionplans.org)

To learn more about how to get involved, go to the Join In website ([www.dep.pa.gov/joinpacap.org](http://www.dep.pa.gov/joinpacap.org)) to find a contact person for each county.

