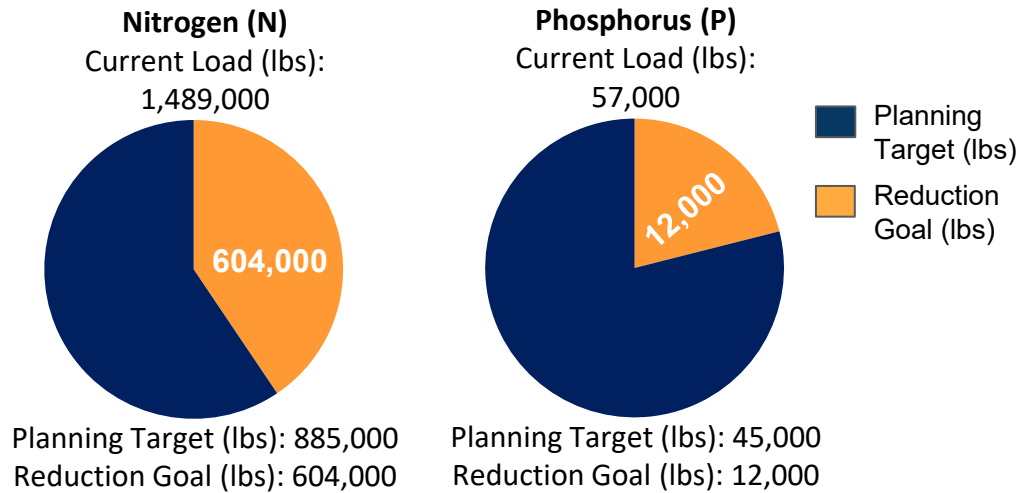


# Berks County, Pennsylvania

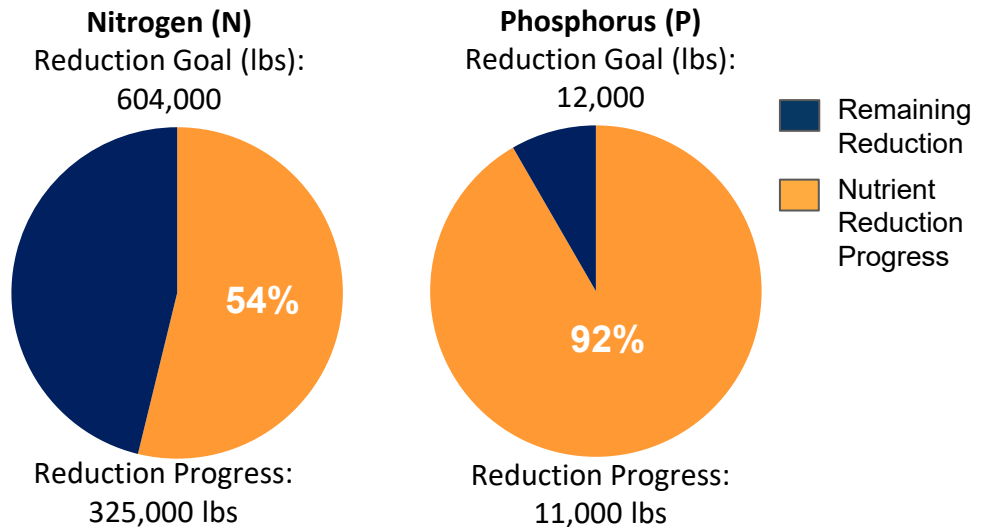
## Current Conditions

Berks County is one of 34 counties in Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Watershed that have developed Countywide Action Plans. Current loading rates are 1.49M lbs of nitrogen and 57K lbs of phosphorus annually. By 2025 Berks County needs to reduce 604K lbs of nitrogen and 12K lbs of phosphorus.



## Pollutant Reduction Progress

By 2025, Berks County needs to reduce 604K lbs of nitrogen and 12K lbs of phosphorus. Berks County has developed a plan to reduce 325K lbs of nitrogen, which is 54% of the goal and 11K lbs of phosphorus, which is 92% of the goal.

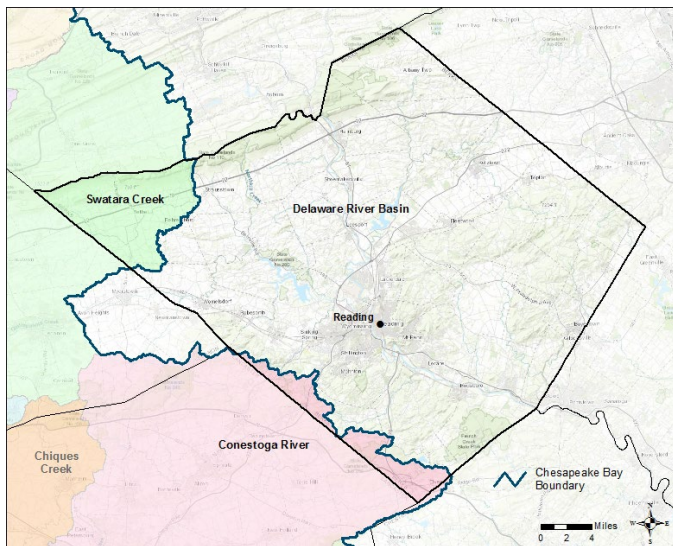


## Sector Reductions

Berks County has identified reductions within four sectors within their planning template: agriculture, developed, natural and septic. Projected land use changes and population changes results in increases within the wastewater sector. Berks County has identified practices that result in total reductions of 325K lbs of nitrogen and 11K lbs of phosphorus.

Sector	Nitrogen (lbs.)	Phosphorus (lbs.)
Agriculture	-307,000	-9,000
Developed	-12,000	-1,000
Natural	-7,000	-2,000
Septic	-1,000	0
Wastewater	+2,000	0
<b>Total Reductions</b>	<b>325,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>

# Berks County Watershed Map



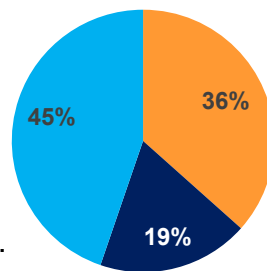
## Information About the Watersheds

Berks County contains 2 major watersheds that drain to the Chesapeake Bay: Swatara Creek and Conestoga River. Watersheds in Berks County have elevated levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. Of the 122 total stream miles in Berks County, approximately 41% have degraded aquatic communities due to causes such as disturbance, siltation (excessive sediment), and nutrient pollution.

## County Land Use:

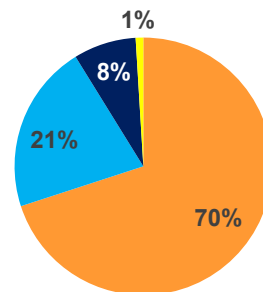
Berks County has a total acreage of 56,872 acres. Agricultural land represents 36% of the total land with 20,810 total acres. Developed land represents another 19% of the total land in Berks County. Natural land, which is made up of forests, stream, and wetlands, represents the remaining 45% of the land in Berks County. Cropland makes up a majority of the agriculture sector with 14,565 acres. The developed sector is mostly Non- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) (96%) 10,168 acres and a smaller portion of MS4 (4%) 451 acres.

**Berks County:**  
Total Acres: 56,872



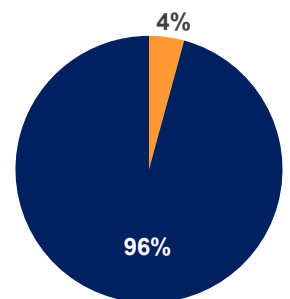
- Agriculture
- Developed
- Natural

**Agriculture:**  
Total Acres: 20,810



- Cropland
- Hay
- Pasture
- Other Ag

**Developed:**  
Total Acres: 10,619



- 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.



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



Just like humans, Berks 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: [dep.pa.gov/cap](http://dep.pa.gov/cap)

