

Little Bushkill Creek

Little Bushkill Creek is a tributary to Bushkill Creek and is located in Plainfield Township, Northampton County. The Little Bushkill Creek Watershed has a drainage area of 17.5 miles and the land use in the Watershed is 22% forest, 21% developed, and 53% agriculture. The Little Bushkill Creek Watershed is currently designated as a High Quality, Cold Water Fishery (HQ-CWF). The watershed was listed as impaired for Recreational Use in 2012 due to elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria that were found at monitoring points throughout the Watershed in 2011 and 2012.

In 2013, Plainfield Township implemented a monitoring program by contracting with URS Corporation to target sampling on reaches in the Watershed that were candidates for delisting. Due to low fecal coliform results in certain reaches, approximately half of the Little Bushkill Creek Watershed was delisted in 2014. Plainfield Township implemented a Watershed Management Plan in 2014 to collect data addressing the remaining Recreational Use impairments in the Little Bushkill Creek Watershed and identify possible restoration measures for reaches not attaining Recreational Use. The plan included additional monitoring of fecal coliform bacteria at impaired locations, monitoring to identify potential source locations, and field investigation of riparian areas associated with impaired reaches to develop restoration recommendations. Little Bushkill Creek is a good candidate for a TMDL alternative due to the efforts that have been made to date by Plainfield Township to address the recreational use impairments in the Watershed.