Watershed-Friendly Property Application - Large-sized lot

"*" indicates required fields

1 2 3 4 5

certification to include the PA Fertilizer Law provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Property Owner Information

Property Owner's Name *

Applicant's Name (if different from Property Owner)

Property Address: *

Street Address

City

Pennsylvania

State

ZIP Code

Municipality *

County *

Adams

Type of Property

What type of property do you wish to certify? *

Residence

- ◯ Single-family
- ◯ Attached (i.e., apartment, twin, townhouse)

Size of your property *

15-25 acres

Does your property have a pond/lake or stream/creek/river on or adjacent to it?

◯ Yes ◯ No

Do you have livestock animals on your property (chickens, ducks, sheep, cattle/cows, horses, etc)?

◯ Yes ◯ No

Is your property currently assessed a stormwater fee from the local municipality?*

◯ Yes ◯ No

Watersheds

In what LARGE watershed is your property located? *

(e.g.,Perkiomen Creek)

Reducing Stormwater Runoff

2

Stormwater runoff is when precipitation from rain and snowmelt flows over land or impervious surfaces and does not percolate into the ground.

It is very important to reduce the amount of rainwater and snowmelt (i.e., stormwater) that runs off your property. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, roofs, and compacted so do not absorb water. Because impervious surfaces are usually large, a lot of water builds up and moves quickly over them. This water typically runs into the storm drains on or near your property and then into the nearest stream, causing the stream to become overwhelmed. When a stream receives too much water, flash floods in addition to streambank and streambed erosion takes place, changing the landscape of the waterway and its surrounding area. Fast moving water and changing habitat makes it very difficult for fish, plants, and other organisms living in and around the stream to survive. In this category, land owners commit to ensuring their property and behaviors are designed to slow the flow of water and maximize water absorption.

Applicants can make a positive contribution in this category by using best practices to maximize the amount of water absorption on their property and slowing the flow of stormwater leaving

RUN OFF REDUCTION MEASURES:

Impervious surfaces are minimized on the property (e.g., hardscaping, brick, tarmac, or concrete surfaces) excluding the house or main building and necessary outbuilding roofs.

○ All ○ Most ○ Some ○ None

Permeable sidewalks, gravel pathways, or hardy non-invasive vegetation are installed for pathways and gathering places (eg picnic areas or patios) instead of impervious surfaces.

○ Completely true ○ Somewhat true ○ Somewhat untrue ○ Not at all true ○ NA

Regularly remove debris from storm drain grates on or adjacent to property.

◯ Weekly and/or after large storm events ◯ Monthly ◯ Quarterly ◯ Once a year or less ◯ NA

The property has best management infiltration practices (eg rain gardens, bioswales, and/or other infiltration zones) measuring in total:

◯ ≤ 100 sq. ft. ◯ 100-500 sq. ft. ◯ 500-1000 sq. ft. ◯ ≥ 1,000 sq. ft

Best management infiltration practices (eg, stormwater retention basins, bioswales, or rain gardens) are maintained in accordance with research-based recommendations as listed in state and federal agency BMP manuals.

◯ All ◯ Most ◯ Some ◯ None

Stormwater retention basins have been naturalized to include native plants for water quality improvement.

◯ All ◯ Most ◯ Some ◯ None ◯ NA

Stormwater basins are regularly inspected.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never ◯ NA

This property has a green roof of 100 square feet or larger.

◯ Yes ◯ No

Downspouts/rain chains empty into permeable surfaces (e.g., rain garden, bioswale, lawn) or on-site stormwater collection device(s) (e.g., rain barrels, cisterns).

◯ All ◯ Most ◯ Some ◯ None

Water discharge from sump pumps and/or rain barrels is released into permeable surfaces such as beds, retention basins, or lawns (as opposed to driveway/storm drains.

◯ All ◯ Most ◯ Some ◯ None

Rain barrels or cisterns are drained between rain events.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never ◯ NA

r is adjacent to a body of water, Is the water edge covered by a no-mow and forested riparian buffer zone (also supports wildlife and pollinators).
body is present.

None ◯ NA

Continue Later

Reducing Water Pollution

Water that runs off your property is part of your watershed. What we do and add to our land can be carried to local streams with stormwater runoff. When fertilizers and pesticides are used outdoors (ie., applied to lawns and yard areas), it is important to remember that these chemicals have the potential to be mobilized by rainfall. Stormwater runoff can mobilize soil particles, debris, and chemicals (ie., fertilizers and residual pesticides) from the ground's surface to nearby streams. In some cases, excess nutrients such as nitrates from fertilizers can filter down through the soil to groundwater, thus potentially impacting the quality of the groundwater as well as nearby surface water. The addition of these chemicals to groundwater and surface water may be harmful to human health and the environment. Therefore, it is important to protect these water resources.

Applicants can make a positive contribution in this category by using best practices to ensure that water resources are not being potentially impacted. These may include:

- Minimizing the use of herbicides and pesticides; and if they are used, carefully reading the instructions on the label
- Properly disposing of unused chemicals and maintaining good housekeeping practices on your property.
- Managing lawn and turf grass areas responsibly to avoid excessive application of fertilizers and other lawn amendments. Did you know there is a Pennsylvania Fertilizer Law to help avoid over-application of nutrients?

Indicate to what extent you practice the following behaviors for reducing water pollution from your property.

Minimize or eliminate use of pesticides, especially near water outlet areas and storm drains, except when used in planned invasive management strategies designed using Integrated Pest Management or IPM.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never

Test soil to determine needs before applying any amendments (e.g. fertilizer, lime, etc.).

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never

Is fertilizer applied to parts or all of the property?

◯ Yes ◯ If no, please answer the following questions as "NA"

Fertilizer is applied using a properly calibrated device designed for fertilizer.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never ◯ NA

Fertilizer is only applied during the growing season, preferably in split season application.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never ◯ NA

Phosphorus-based fertilizer is only applied to the lawn when repairing or establishing a new lawn, or a phosphorus deficit is indicated by a soil test result within the past three years.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never ◯ NA

Fertilizer that lands on impervious surfaces is swept back to vegetated surfaces.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never ◯ NA

Fertilizer is stored in a closed, waterproof container that is not subject to leaching or runoff.

◯ Yes ◯ No ◯ NA

Check all that are true: Fertilizer with Nitrogen (N) is applied to your lawn based on…

☐ split applications during the growing season. ☐ soil test recommendations. ☐ Fertilizer Law application rates of ≤0.9 lbs of total N per 1000 square feet.

Sweep soil amendments (e.g., fertilizer, lime, etc.) and grass clippings off of impervious areas (i.e., sidewalks, driveways, street, etc.).

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never ◯ NA

Check all that are true.

☐ Minimize/eliminate use of salt/ice-melt products. ☐ Salt/ice-melt products are safely stored in waterproof locations.

☐ Fertilizer is not used as a snow or ice melt.

Maintain an outdoor property that is hazardous-waste free (e.g. no old cars, motors, batteries, chemicals, paint, etc.).

◯ Completely true ◯ Somewhat true ◯ Somewhat untrue ◯ Not at all true

Construction activities have proper erosion & sedimentation controls in place.

◯ True ◯ False ◯ NA

Dirt and gravel roads on the property are properly maintained.

◯ True ◯ False ◯ NA

Pick up and properly dispose/recycle any litter in yards, on sidewalks, and on streets.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never

Property has an adequate number of trash cans and/or trash bins with lids for on-site rubbish.

◯ Yes ◯ No

The property is accessible to the public or groups of people beyond your friends and family.

There is an existing plan for HOA, public park, or other designated open spaces.

◯ Yes ◯ No ◯ NA

Check all that are true.

☐ Trash cans are adequately spaced to meet the need. ☐ Trash cans are regularly emptied to prevent overflow. ☐ Trash cans are secure and lidded.

Mulch and/or compost plant material, except reproducing parts or spreadable invasive plants, which should be bagged and sent to a landfill unless following a prescribed management plan.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never

Native trees or meadow installation(s) are added to the property:

Estimated percentage of coverage of whole property (trees or meadow):

◯ 10% ◯ 25% ◯ 50% ◯ 75% ◯ 100%

Septic systems or Advanced on-site wastewater treatment systems on the property are regularly maintained.

◯ Yes ◯ No ◯ NA

You have livestock animals on your property:

Fertilizers are not applied within 15 feet of the banks of waterways (e.g. streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, etc.), riparian areas, storm drains, or drainage ditches.

◯ True ◯ False ◯ NA

There is stream restoration on the property (Cross vanes, flood plain reconnection, stream bank restoration).

◯ True ◯ False ◯ NA

There are pond/lake pollution reduction practices such as floating islands on the property.

◯ True ◯ False ◯ NA

Conserving Water

Water usage impacts the entire water system. Choosing property and location appropriate native vegetation means less water is needed for adequat vegetative growth, and then more water is available to slowly recharge groundwater systems and streams, which ultimately ensures an adequate su of water to support stream wildlife. Using less treated potable water for irrigation creates less demand on water supplies, allowing more water to remain in its original natural state. In this category, land owners commit to ensuring their property and behaviors are designed to conserve water.

Indicate to what extent you follow these best practices for conserving water on your property.

*Note: if a question is not applicable to your property or you do not have control over the property, simply answer "NA"

WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES:

Remove invasive plants (also supports wildlife and pollinators).

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never

If impervious surfaces (i.e., driveways, walkways, patio, deck, etc.) required cleaning, non-water options (e.g. sweeping) are used.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never

Utilize soaker hoses or drip irrigation systems in gardens.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never ◯ NA

Utilize captured rainwater to water plants and gardens.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never ◯ NA

Use an automatic shut off systems to prevent over-watering.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never ◯ NA

Supporting Wildlife and Pollinators

Insects, animals, plants, and trees are important components of the local ecosystem. One-third of the food we eat depends upon a pollinator. A
of all types eat insects, use vegetation to live in and avoid predators, and eat the bounty many plants and trees produce. As more land is develc
there is less habitat for insects, pollinators, wildlife, and native plants. Direct sunlight on waterways can raise the stream water temperature be
appropriate levels for optimal growth of aquatic life. In this category, land owners commit to ensuring their property and behaviors are designed to
support the local ecosystem including insects, pollinators, wildlife, in addition to native plants and trees.

Applicants can make a positive contribution in this category by providing/creating habitat on their property to support and benefit wildlife and pollinators.

Indicate to what extent your property is managed to support wildlife and pollinators

Monitor and attempt to control non-native invasive plants using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and research-based ecologically friendly methods.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never

Actively participate in the eradication of invasive insects (e.g., Spotted Laternfly).

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never

Check all that are true:

☐ Leaves remain undisturbed in at least one area of the property. ☐ Garden perennials and grasses remains uncut until late spring.

☐ Pollinator larval host plants are included in gardens and/or property.

☐ Native plants are blooming on the property or nearby from early spring to late fall.

Check all that are true: Property includes...

☐ Native trees ☐ Native shrubs ☐ Native flowering perennials ☐ Native grasses

Vegetation - including trees, shrubs, and lawn - at the property is native.

◯ 70-100% ◯ 50-69%, ◯ 25-49%, ◯ 0-24%

Maintain a brush pile or dead wood (provides shelter).

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never

Provide a water source such as a bird bath or small fountain if there is no water on or near your property.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never ◯ NA

Maintain and/or increase shaded areas by bodies of water.

◯ Always ◯ Most of the time ◯ Some of the time ◯ Never ◯ NA

How did you hear about the Watershed-Friendly Property program and application? *

Did you make any changes to your property and practices in order to qualify for this certification? *

◯ Yes ◯ No

Please attach 1 to 3 photos of the watershed-friendly features on your property. Please limit uploads to files no greater than 500kb. By submitting a photo(s), you grant Nurture Nature Center and the Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Program permission to use or reproduce the photographs in publications intended for educational use and outreach related to the Watershed-Friendly program and other general programming and outreach (including but not limited to printed publications, web pages and web-based publications, outreach materials and displays).