

Upper Wissahickon Special Area Management Plan (SAMP)

Project Background

PADEP has initiated a program with the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Montgomery County Planning Commission to work with various groups to develop a Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) for the Upper Wissahickon Creek in Montgomery County, PA. The Federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 authorizes the SAMP process and allows for Pennsylvania to integrate the procedures for Critical Area Resources Plans (CARPs) and Critical Water Planning Areas. Funding is provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and PADEP under the Coastal Resources Management Program. The Upper Wissahickon grant project is testing the SAMP process and piloting the CARP Draft Guidance Document, in order to help determine the level of effort and cost needed to prepare a SAMP. The Upper Wissahickon SAMP will help provide a template for preparation of future SAMPs and CARPs, and results of the SAMP may also be used to improve or protect water resources in the Upper Wissahickon.

To ensure stakeholder input was included in the development of the SAMP, an advisory committee named the Upper Wissahickon Advisory Committee (UWAC) was established early in the process. Pennsylvania Environmental Council was the lead in organizing input from the UWAC, which consists of representatives from municipalities, water purveyors, municipal utility authorities, environmental organizations, educational institutions, golf courses, and industry.

Draft SAMP Report

A Draft SAMP Report was developed in December 2007. The Draft Report includes:

- An introduction and background about the Upper Wissahickon Creek Study Area, including a Project Goal Statements Matrix which describes the key issues that surfaced as the predominant concerns in the study area;
- A characterization of the physical features, water management areas, political and institutional features, and growth potential;
- A Water Resource Integration section which examines the water supply, water quality, and storm water and floodplain management in the study area
- A Water Resource Management Strategies section which includes a summary and matrix of the water resource issues in the study area and an Alternatives Matrix that lists management practices recommended by other relevant water resource planning initiatives.

For more information about the Upper Wissahickon SAMP or to view the Draft SAMP, visit: www.planning.montcopa.org/Wissahickon