



WATER RINGS

Community Partnerships: Revitalizing the Delaware Canal

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On May 9, 2000, a group of approximately 50 people stood along the banks of the Delaware Canal and cheered as the water began to flow into the canal, which has been empty for more than eighteen years.

The North Wales and North Penn Water Authorities were contacted by the Friends of the Delaware Canal and asked if they would be willing to lend a helping hand and fill a portion of the Delaware Canal. The Authorities own the Point Pleasant Pumping Station, located on the banks of the Delaware River.

The water is being pumped through the pumping station and diverted into the canal at a rate of approximately 1 million gallons of water per day for 25 days. The project will fill the portion of the canal south of Point Pleasant to north of Centre Bridge. This section of the canal recently underwent months of major reconstruction.

Through this community partnership, the Authorities were able to reinvigorate the canal while creating an aesthetic value that is pleasing to the community.



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YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Question: *What is a riparian buffer?*

Answer: Many property owners have small creeks or streams flowing through their property. Flooding and erosion are concerns for everyone who lives near a waterway. Riparian buffer zones provide a natural response to these concerns and contribute some surprising additional benefits.

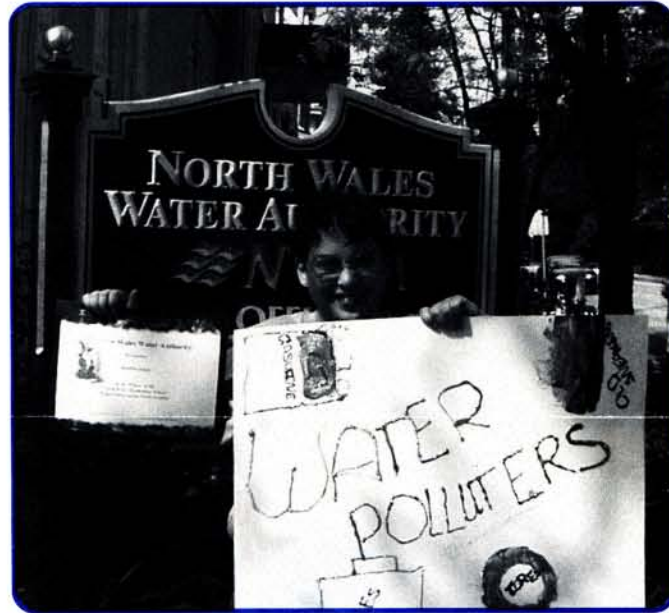
A riparian buffer zone is the area of trees and other herbaceous vegetation that grows along the course of a river, creek or stream. This vegetative strip reduces the velocity of run-off water as it flows into the receiving stream. As these plants and shrubs slow the run-off, they also remove some of the sediment and contaminants from the water before it enters the stream.

A well-developed streamside buffer will provide some protection from flooding. The buffer reduces the amount of run-off that reaches the channel of the waterway during a storm event. The buffer zone will also hold water that has overflowed the banks of the stream, acting as storage space for floodwater. A healthy streamside buffer will reduce the severity of downstream flooding.

A vegetated riparian zone will reduce streambank erosion by preventing excess solids and soil from entering the stream. The roots of trees, shrubs and grasses form a network that holds soil and prevents it from being washed away during heavy rains.

Water quality can be enhanced by a healthy riparian zone. Shade from trees reduces water temperature of the stream, making it more hospitable for fish and aquatic organisms. The vegetation also absorbs contaminants and toxins from the run-off before it enters the stream.

Conservation Poster Contest Winner



Heather Jones, Poster Contest Winner

In celebration of National Drinking Water Week, the North Wales Water Authority held a poster contest for North Penn School Districts' 5th grade students in schools located in the Authority's service area.

Heather Jones, a fifth grader at North Wales Elementary, created a poster on water pollution. Her efforts earned her a gift certificate to The World of Science store and a certificate honoring her for her creative efforts.

Attention: Customers with Medical Requirements

We are asking all of our customers whose health would be affected by a water emergency to please contact our office so that we may update our database.

In case of a main break, flushing or some other reason, if you cannot be

without water, it is very important that we have information from your doctor on file so that we may notify you in the event of an emergency.

Please call our customer service department at 215-699-4836. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

WATER RINGS IS PUBLISHED
QUARTERLY TO SERVE OUR
CUSTOMERS IN:

NORTH WALES BOROUGH AND LOWER GWYNEDD, MONTGOMERY, NEW BRITAIN, UPPER DUBLIN,
UPPER GWYNEDD, AND WHITPAIN TOWNSHIPS.