

Key Concerns for the members of the Christina Basin Tributary Action Team and other stakeholders within the Christina Basin

Pollution is coming from:

- Agricultural lands (nutrients, chemicals, fertilizers)
- Leaking septic systems (bacteria)
- Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) (bacteria)
- Wildlife and pet waste (bacteria)
- Residential development (sediment, chemicals, fertilizers)

Pollution impacts:

- Our surface waters and groundwater
- The quality of our drinking water supplies
- Stream biology
- Recreational activities such as fishing, boating, swimming

We can reduce pollution by:

- Preserving and increasing open space
- Protecting riparian buffers
- Incorporating environmentally-friendly development practices, including cluster, smart growth, and neo-traditional models
- Identifying specific sources and types of pollutants
- Reducing stormwater runoff by implementing natural and technological BMPs

We can be successful by:

- Educating stakeholders, including homeowners and businesses
- Collaborating with upstream users and governments in Pennsylvania, equalizing standards
- Monitoring water quality before and after development and the installation of BMPs
- Securing funding for implementing solutions
- Promoting the economic advantages (tourism, recreation) gained by cleaning up the river

Christina Basin Tributary Action Team Steering Committee Approaches

APPROACH 1 – WE CAN ALL PITCH IN TO HELP THE CHRISTINA WATERSHED!

The way to clean up and protect the Christina watershed is through the people that live in the communities in the watershed. The tributaries in the watershed drain some of Delaware's finest ecosystems. Well educated users of the watershed become stewards of the environment. Stakeholders need to be aware that the Basin provides recreational and agricultural opportunities as well as drinking water and other natural resources. There is a clear connection between people and the land. Stewardship is a key component to protection efforts in the Christina Basin.

What can be done?

- Expand public education and outreach programs (for example: water bill and brochure inserts, press releases, watershed education module)
- Coordinate with nonprofit organizations to continue to purchase easements
- Enable individuals to help through programs such as Smartyards, soil testing, and lawn care homeowner education programs

APPROACH 2 – WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING NOW (IT'S TIME TO FISH OR CUT BAIT)!

The health risks associated with the waters in the Christina Basin are real. We need to ensure that all who live and recreate in the watershed are safe. If we can land a vehicle on Mars, we can clean up the watershed. We need a strong coordinated regulatory approach guided by science.

What can be done?

- Strengthen and enforce septic regulations, including inspection and maintenance
- Coordinate regulation and scientific data/research
- Study issues such as Crypto/Giardia sources
- Address bacteria sources
- Baseline studies
- Abate CSOs
- Clean up superfund sites
- Restore stream corridors
- Reforestation

APPROACH 3 – EQUITY FOR ALL!

The Christina Basin is a diverse watershed with a variety of people using the rivers and tributaries in a variety of ways. We need to ensure all voices are heard. It is only through sustained dialogue we can ensure all parties are heard and share in the obligation of cleaning up the watershed. The priorities of the people in the Basin should be reflected in regulations, implementation in the urban and rural areas, and the allocation of and collection of resources.

What can be done?

- Coordinate the resources/efforts for a synergistic effect
- Respect rural traditions
- Explore similarities and differences between New Castle and Chester Counties and find common ground
- Amend stormwater ordinances
- Ensure that there is equity among different socio-economic groups
- Ensure that ALL groups are represented