

POWELLS CREEK

Description

The Powells Creek watershed drains an area of approximately 39.6 square miles in north central Dauphin County. The entire watershed lies within Dauphin County. Two streams, a north fork and a south fork, originate on the forested slopes between Peters Mountain and Broad Mountain. Both forks flow west and join about 2 miles west of Carsonville. Powells Creek continues west flowing into the Susquehanna River about four miles southwest of Halifax Borough. This watershed is long, about 20 miles and narrow, typically about two miles wide but with a broad valley floor. The main stem of the creek collects several small tributaries from the north and south.



Powells Creek before entering the Susquehanna River.

The watershed is mostly forested with a significant amount of agricultural land. Residential development is currently limited primarily in the form of frontage lots. Slightly more dense residential use is found in the western end of the basin in and near the village of Matamoras. Commercial and industrial uses are not significant in the watershed.

Topography throughout the basin is dominated by flat to moderately sloping land of the valley floor. Steeper slopes are found on the mountains and ridges that form the basin boundary.

DEP Classification

The North Fork and South Fork of Powells Creek are both classified as CWF. From the confluence of the North and South Forks to the mouth, Powells Creek is classified as trout stocking fishery (TSF). A very small section of the creek and a small tributary are listed as impaired by siltation caused by agricultural activity.

QUICK FACTS

Watershed Size: 39.6 mi² in
Dauphin County

Stream Miles: 78.9

Impaired Stream Miles: 3.0

Land Uses: Predominantly agriculture
and forest

DEP Stream Classification:

- North and South Forks – CWF
- Powell Creek – TSF

DEP Listed Impairments:

- Section of the main stem and an unnamed tributary –
Siltation from agriculture activities

Watershed Municipalities:

Reed Twp, Halifax Twp, Wayne Twp, Jefferson Twp



Powells Creek watershed