

STONY CREEK

Description

Located between Second and Third Mountains in central Dauphin County, Stony Creek watershed drains an area of 24.0 square miles, with 11.6 mi² extending outside of the county. This mid-reach watershed is a long narrow basin about 21 miles long and 1.5 miles wide. Originating in northern Lebanon County, the Creek flows west to the Susquehanna River at Dauphin Borough. Two significant tributaries, Rausch Creek and Rattling Run, drain small valleys located near the top of Third Mountain and paralleling the main basin.

The vast majority of the watershed is forested with over 80% of its land area in Pennsylvania Game Lands. The small portion of the watershed that is not forested is located at its western end. Population density for the majority of the watershed is very low. Dauphin Borough is the only population center in the watershed. Topography is typical of the Ridge and Valley physiographic province in Pennsylvania.

DEP Classification

Stony Creek is classified as a Cold Water Fishery (CWF) throughout its extent. From its headwaters to Ellendale Dam, the creek is considered High Quality (HQ). Rattling Run, a tributary running down from Stony Mountain, is impaired by low pH from Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD).



Stony Creek before entering the Susquehanna River.

QUICK FACTS

Watershed Size: 24.0 mi²
11.6 mi² in
Dauphin County

Land Uses: Predominantly forest

Stream Miles: 34.4

Impaired Stream Miles: 5.3

DEP Stream Classification:

- CWF
- HQ-CWF, Special Protection waters – Source to Ellendale Dam

DEP Listed Impairments:

- Rattling Run – AMD (low pH)

Watershed Municipalities:

Dauphin Borough, East Hanover Twp,
Middle Paxton Twp



Stony Creek watershed