

MAHANTANGO CREEK

Description

The Mahantango Creek watershed encompasses 164.6 square miles, 28.5 square miles of which are within northern Dauphin County. Originating in Schuylkill County, this large stream flows generally northeast to southwest to its junction with the Susquehanna River in Upper Paxton Township. Pine Creek, located in the northeast corner of Dauphin County, is a major tributary.

This watershed is very rural in character, with a low population density and the vast majority of land use in agriculture and forestland. Populated areas in Dauphin County include the boroughs of Pillow and Gratz. Topography is characteristic of the ridge and valley province, dominated by flat to moderately sloping land of the valley floor with steeper slopes found on the mountains and ridges that are composed mainly of red sandstone.

DEP Classification

The main stem of the stream is classified by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as a warm water fishery (WWF). Pine Creek is classified as a cold-water fishery (CWF). DEP lists a section of Pine Creek in Dauphin County as impaired by siltation and nutrients, both sources of pollution are attributed to agricultural activities.



Mahantango Creek before entering the Susquehanna River.

QUICK FACTS

Watershed Size:

- 164.6 mi²
- 28.5 mi² in Dauphin County

Stream Miles: 56.1

Impaired Stream Miles: 2.3

Land Uses: Predominantly forest and agriculture

DEP Stream Classification:

- Pine Creek – CWF
- Main Stem and Deep Creek – WWF

DEP Listed Impairments:

- Pine Creek - Siltation from agricultural activities
- Nutrients from agricultural activities

Watershed Municipalities:

Williams Twp, Lykens Twp, Gratz, Mifflin Twp, Pillow, Upper Paxton Twp, Wiconisco Twp



Mahantango Creek watershed