History of Our Wetland

The wetland you are about to explore is a vital link to the health and welfare of our community. Acre for acre, there is more life in a healthy wetland than there is in almost any other type of habitat. Muskrats, turtles, frogs, ducks, herons, fish, aquatic plants and insects abound at the wetland preserve. In addition, the wetland protects our community from flooding and traps sediments and nutrients, filtering our local waters. For years, this wetland has been under the threat of development. But, due to the foresight of community groups such as the Quittapahilla Watershed Association, the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center, our local school districts, and the Lebanon County Conservation District, this site is protected and will now be used as an educational facility.

Over the last few years, the QEWP Committee has enlarged the wetland, installed boardwalks and interpretive signs, built a pavilion with picnic tables, and purchased equipment for exploring this wetland. Through our efforts we have created the Educational Wetland Preserve, a place where people can learn about the importance of wetlands and observe the abundant wildlife found here. Explore wetland habitats and observe the plants and animals that live there. Use the interpretive signs to learn about the water cycle, our local watershed, and our impact upon it. Maybe conduct water quality tests and soil tests. We invite you to discover the many treasures within the wetland. We invite you to explore and enjoy one of Lebanon County’s natural wonders!

Plan Your Visit Today!!

The Quittapahilla Educational Wetland Preserve, a haven for waterfowl and wetland plants and animals, is ready to be discovered and explored. Gain knowledge about watersheds and wetlands at this convenient local natural resource. Make your visit today to the Quittapahilla Educational Wetland Preserve and call (717) 277-5275 to inquire about pavilion and equipment reservations.

This was all made possible by grant monies & funding from The Chesapeake Bay Commission, the Small Watershed Grants Program, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Education Grants.
Benefits of Wetlands

Although wetlands are best known for the abundant wildlife they support, they also provide an important function for people, too.

**WETLANDS....**
- Clean the nation’s water
- Trap sediment and capture nutrients from waters that flow through them
- Reduce soil erosion
- Prevent flooding by absorbing and storing storm water
- Provide food such as cranberries, blueberries and wild rice
- Offer areas for fishing, hunting or trapping
- Provide energy sources
- Grow trees for lumber
- Support commercial fisheries

**Site includes:**
- Outdoor classroom in pavilion
- Educational materials/equipment to explore the wetland
- Interpretive Signs
- Boardwalks/access ponds for water studies

**Opportunities include...**
- Comparative studies
- Hands-on exploration
- Soil analysis
- Water analysis
- Wildlife exploration
- Class Field Trips
- Teacher Workshops
- Scout and Civic Projects
- Senior Projects
- Passive recreation and more!

**Who Lives Here?**
...What You May Find When You Explore The Wetland

- Blue Heron
- Muskrat
- Dragonfly
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Sunfish
- Giant Water Bug
- Arroweed
- Sedges
- Cattail
- Duckweed
- Frog

**Need assistance with planning/implementing your field study?**
Professional assistance is available through the Lebanon County Conservation District
(717) 277-5275