



# DCNR

---

The State of Pennsylvania's Department and Conservation and Natural Resources

## Nine Mile Run Watershed Conservation Plan

# DRAFT

City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning  
STUDIO for Creative Inquiry, Carnegie Mellon  
Carnegie Museum of Natural History

JUNE, 1998

# Nine Mile Run Watershed Conservation Plan

DRAFT - Preliminary Findings Report

“FOR PUBLIC COMMENT”

City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning

STUDIO for Creative Inquiry, Carnegie Mellon

Carnegie Museum of Natural History

JUNE 1998

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THIS  
PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPORT

SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

Joan Blaustein  
Pittsburgh City Planning  
200 Ross St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
412-255-2206

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

### I. Project Area Characteristics

#### I-a. Location

#### I-b. Size

#### I-c. Topography

#### I-d. Major Tributaries

#### I-e. Corridor

#### I-f. Social Economic Profile

##### I-f1. Population Centers

##### I-f2. Regional and Local Vehicular Access

##### I-f2a. Public Transit

##### I-f2b. Pedestrian Access and Trailheads

##### I-f2c. Bicycle Access

##### I-f2d. Boat Access

##### I-f3. Major Sources of Employment

### II. Issues, Concerns, and Constraints

#### II-a. Urban Ecosystems

#### II-b. Watershed Management

#### II-c. Water Quality

##### II-c1. Water Quality and Human Use

##### II-c2. Water Quality and Ecosystems

#### II-d. Slag and Toxicity

#### II-e. Public Access and Use

#### II-f. Historic and Future Development

### III. Land Resources

#### III-a. Soil Characteristics

##### III-a1. Geology of the Nine Mile Run Area

##### III-a2. Discussion of Slag as a Growing Medium

#### III-b. Ownership

#### III-c. Critical Areas

##### III-c1. Habitat Value

##### III-c2. Land with Infiltration or Surface Detention Potential

##### III-c3. Broad Flat Lands for Playing Fields

#### III-d. Landfills

#### III-e. Hazard Areas

##### III-e1. Waste Sites

##### III-e2. Abandoned Mines and Quarries

### IV. Water Resources

#### IV-a. Tributaries

##### IV-a1. Other Tributaries

#### IV-b. Wetlands

#### IV-c. Floodplain

#### IV-d. Lakes and Ponds

#### IV-e. Water Quality

##### IV-e1. Point Sources

##### IV-e1a. Water Quality and Flow in NMR

##### IV-e1b. Sewage Discharge Problems

##### IV-e2. Non-Point Sources

##### IV-e2a. Runoff and Water Quality Problems in NMR

##### IV-e2b. Sewage Infrastructure in the NMR Watershed

##### IV-e3. Monitoring

##### IV-e3a. Historical Data

##### IV-e3b. Recent Data

- .IV-f. Water Supply
  - IV-f1. Public/Private
  - IV-f2. Well Head Protection
  
- V. Biological Resources
  - V-a. Wildlife
    - V-a1. Terrestrial Wildlife
      - V-a1a. Terrestrial Wildlife: Vertebrates
      - V-a1b. Terrestrial Wildlife: Invertebrates
    - V-a2. Aquatic Wildlife
      - V-a2a. Aquatic Wildlife: Vertebrates
      - V-a2b. Aquatic Wildlife: Invertebrates
  - V-b. Vegetation
  - V-c. PNDI Species
  - V-d. Important Habitats
  
- VI. Cultural Resources
  - VI-a. Recreation Use
    - VI-a1. Recreation
    - VI-a2. Nature Programming and Nature Activities
  - VI-b. Recreation Facilities
  
- VII. Management Options
  - VII-a. Missions and Goals for Greenway Management
  - VII-b. Restoration, Healing, and Ecosystem Regeneration
  - VII-c. General Revegetation Principles
  - VII-d. Management Issues
    - VII-d1. Management of Rare and Endangered Species
    - VII-d2. Management of Wildlife and Feral Pets
    - VII-d3. Management of Human Predation and Destruction
    - VII-d4. Management of Invasive Plants
  - VII-e. Recovery of Riparian Plant Communities
    - VII-e1. Microtopography Duplication
    - VII-e2. Monitoring
  - VII-f. Regeneration on Slag Species
  - VII-g. Stream Restoration
    - VII-g1. Upstream Testing
    - VII-g2. Detailed Sewage Infrastructure Mapping and Assessment
    - VII-g3. Watershed Stormwater Management Program
    - VII-g4. Pittsburgh NPDES Permit Conditions
    - VII-g5. Modifications to CSO Discharges
    - VII-g6. Stream Odor Survey
    - VII-g7. Stream Erosion Survey
    - VII-g8. Use of Constructed Wetlands for Remediation at NMR
      - VII-g8a. Wetland at Low Flow
      - VII-g8b. Wetland in the Treatment of Storm Flows
  - VII-h. Site-based Infiltration in the Upper Watershed
  - VII-i. Watershed Management, Integrating Infrastructure with Ecology
  - VII-j. Enhancement
    - VII-j1. Watershed Familiarity and Urban Stream Appreciation
      - VII-j1a. Access
      - VII-j1b. Education
      - VII-j1c. Maps
    - VII-j2. Creativity
      - VII-j2a. Interpreting the nature/Culture Heritage
      - VII-j2b. Public Art

- VII-j3. Stewardship
  - VII-j3a. Keepers/Cottage/Ecosystem Monitoring Center
  - VII-j3b. Inter-species Nodes and Systems of Reintroduction
- VII-j4. Conclusion

## Appendices

### Maps

- 1-a USGS Pittsburgh Quadrant
- I-d Culverted Streams and Major Tributaries
- I-f1a Watershed Unemployment
- I-f1b Watershed Income
- I-f1c Watershed Population
- I-f2b Pedestrian Access
- II-d Watershed Priority Focus Areas
- III-c1 Area of Conflicting Value and Use
- III-d Eroded Soil, Deposited Slag
- III-e2 Abandoned Mines and Gas Wells
- IV-b1 Existing Wetlands and Potential Wetland Areas
- IV-b2 Areas of Potential Wetland Regeneration
- IV-e1a Water Quality Testing Points
- IV-c The Flood Plain
- IV-e1b Combined Sewer Outfalls
- V-2 Vegetation Communities
- V-1 Botany Study Areas
- V-d Interior and Upland Forest
- VII-h Stormwater Management: Potential Areas for Infiltration and Detention
- VII-j Sound/Silence
- VII-j2 Experiential Nature/Culture

### Appendix IV

- Water Quality Issues in the Nine Mile Run Watershed

### Appendix V

- V-1 Amphibians and Reptiles in the Nine Mile Run Watershed
- V-3 Birds Recorded for the Nine Mile Run Watershed
- V-4 Insects Documented in the Nine Mile Run Watershed
- V-6 Vascular Plants of the Nine Mile Run Watershed
- V-a1b Benthic Invertebrates and Water Quality

### Appendix VII

- VII-b An Ecosystems Perspective
- VII-c General Revegetation Principles
- VII-d Recreation of Native Tall-Grass Meadows
- VII-d4 Control Measures for Select Invasive Species
- VII-f Regeneration on Slag Slopes
- VII-i Case Studies in Multi-Municipal Watershed Approaches
- VII-j The Experience of NMR

### Appendix VIII

- Community Comment
- Peggy Charny
- Bruce Amshell

## References

## Photo Credits