



## **Press Release**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Applications now being accepted for 2021 Master Watershed Steward Program**

The Penn State Extension Luzerne & Lackawanna offices are now accepting applications for the 2021 Master Watershed Steward Program. The program is designed to provide people who are enthusiastic about the environment with the information and skills necessary to share their experience and knowledge with others.

Master Watershed Stewards receive 40 hours of training on topics including: water quality, stream health, native plants, recreational resources, and groundwater. After completing the training session, students do 50 hours of volunteer service. In subsequent years, Master Watershed Stewards can maintain their status through 20 hours of volunteer time to watershed projects or programs and attending a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education training. Examples of projects and programs include: designing and installing demonstration rain gardens or streamside plantings; teaching children about stream ecology; and organizing educational workshops that address such topics as backyard conservation or homeowner storm water management.

This Spring's training will be held virtually via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. starting March 3 and running through June 2. Optional in-person field experiences will be scheduled with COVID-19 safety measures in place.

The Lackawanna and Luzerne Master Watershed Steward Program is a collaborative effort between Penn State Extension, Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming Conservation Districts, Lackawanna River Conservation Association, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania American Water, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority, and several other partners.

An information session will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, January 6, at 6:30 p.m.

For more information and to register, visit [extension.psu.edu/programs/watershed-stewards/counties/northeastern-pa](https://extension.psu.edu/programs/watershed-stewards/counties/northeastern-pa)