

# Banta Property Floodplain Restoration

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## Problem:

The Lititz Run channel flowing through the Banta property in Warwick Township had been moved, straightened, and dammed for a historical mill operation. This artificial configuration created streambank erosion and stream channel instability. The overly wide and deep channel was migrating slowly into the side of a steep slope with a major road artery 75 feet above.

## Solution:

The stream channel was moved back to the lowest and most stable elevation in the valley. Cross vanes and rock vanes were installed to improve trout habitat. Sediment was removed from the floodplain, and native wetlands were restored. The stream now flows through the middle of the valley, and the site remains stable during major rain and flood events. The floodplain, stream, and wetlands interact with the groundwater and each other. Trout and macroinvertebrate communities have increased, and native plant communities are growing.

**Community engagement:** Local residents began to appreciate the benefits of a restored watershed. This spurred increased involvement of both residents and businesses in additional restoration efforts.



Straightened channel before restoration



Restored channel in its new location

Photo credit: LandStudies, Inc.

## Key Project Facts

**Project Location:** Warwick Township, PA

**Type of Project:** Stream and floodplain restoration

**Scale:** 2,250 linear feet of stream and floodplain restored

**Collaborators:** Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener, Warwick Township, LandStudies, Inc.

**Contact:** Kelly Gutshall, RLA  
LandStudies, Inc.  
kelly@landstudies.com

## What is Polluted Runoff?

The growth of our cities has resulted in too many paved surfaces, which prevent rain water from being absorbed by the ground. Instead, the water runs off streets and buildings, collecting trash and dangerous chemicals on its way. This contaminated water overflows into our streams and rivers, creating public health hazards and toxic waters.

Stormwater projects create safe paths for polluted runoff to be captured and filtered before it reaches our waterways. They keep communities healthy and the environment clean.

**When communities and their local governments work together to solve big problems like stormwater runoff, that's a story worth telling!**