

Venango PaSEC

Stream Monitoring Project

Fact Sheet:

Who we are:

Venango PA Senior Environmental Corp (VPaSEC) is part of the PA Senior Environmental Corp (PaSEC) and Venango County Agency on Aging Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). We are a group of dedicated volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds all interested in the common goal of protecting and preserving our watershed.

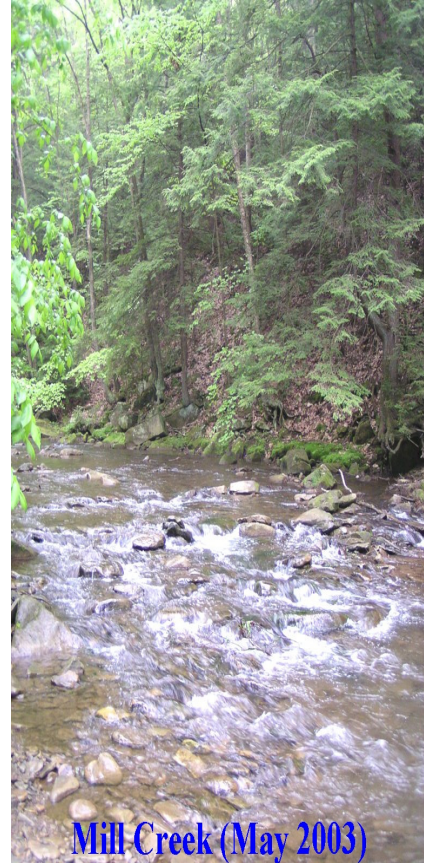
Mission

Our mission is to promote active and visible environmental stewardship.

What we do:

Volunteers collect physical and chemical data monthly and biological and habitat data semi-annually on selected streams in Venango County. Data collected is made available to governmental agencies and the general public.

All data is collected using DEP approved protocols and Hach testing equipment. We provide watershed education to our members and the general public at monthly meetings and through presentations to local community and school groups. We actively partner with local watershed groups, government agencies and educational institutions on environmental restoration, cleanup and education projects. We are also involved in a projects to locate abandoned oil and gas wells on public land Venango County.



Mill Creek (May 2003)

in

Where we work:

Watershed	Streams	Location
French Creek	Sugar Creek (Ongoing) Prather Run (Study completed) Little Sugar Creek (Study completed)	Cooperstown Twin bridges on PA 428 Twin bridges on PA 428
Oil Creek	Cherry Run (Study completed) Oil Creek (Ongoing)	On PA 227, .5 miles from Rouseville White Bridge in Oil City
Middle Allegheny	Upper Two Mile Run (Study on hold) Lower Two Mile Run (Study completed) Scrubgrass Creek (Ongoing) Mill Creek (Study complete) Shull Run (Study completed) East Sandy Creek (Study completed)	.2 miles above Justice Lake At bike trail bridge At mouth .25 miles from mouth At Rockland tunnel
South Sandy Creek	South Sandy Creek (Study completed)	Along Slatertown Road
Sandy Creek	Sandy Creek (Ongoing)	.2 miles blow Lake Wilhelm Dam

What and When:

Monthly volunteers use Hach chemical test kits to obtain data about the chemical characteristics of stream water. We use test procedures developed by Hach and PaSEC. Each month we also monitor physical characteristics of the streams.

Chemical Characteristics	Physical Characteristics
Dissolved oxygen (DO)	Air and water temperature
pH	Stream bottom
Alkalinity	Surrounding land use
Conductance	Stream shape
Total phosphate (PO ₄)	Weather conditions
Nitrate (NO ₃)	Water appearance
Sulfate (SO ₄)	Water odor
	Soil odor
	Sediment deposition

Twice annually additional testing is conducted. A Habitat Assessment survey is used to compare the stream channel and riparian zone to standards to obtain a habitat index. The stream bottom is sampled using fine nets, and macro-invertebrates are collected, counted and grouped based on their tolerance to pollution. From this data a stream quality index is determined. After completion of the macro-invertebrate study the organisms are returned to the stream. During semi-annual studies stream water is also tested for aluminum, iron and manganese (common pollutants from mine drainage and abandoned oil wells).

Why we test:

Our monthly stream studies allow us to observe changes in water quality and to inform DEP, PA Fish and Boat Commission and the Venango Conservation District when pollution or other unusual events occur. Our semi-annual stream studies provide an index of the overall stream health. Watershed groups interested in making improvements to area streams can access many years worth of baseline data. Local planning agencies can use the data to determine the environmental impact of planned development.

Visit our website at: www.orgsites.com/pa/venangopasec

Come join us and become a Stream Monitor.

Individual volunteers and groups are welcome.

It takes about four hours per month

Training and equipment are provided.

For information about the Stream Monitoring Project contact:



RSVP Senior Corps Office
814-432-9723 or email
kcramer@co.venango.pa.us,

Venango Conservation District
1793 Cherrytree Road
Franklin PA 16323
814-676-2832

Venango PaSEC
John Kolojejchick, Chairman
814-676-6435
jkoloj@comcast.net