

# 2022 SEPA Surface Water Survey Overview

November 18, 2022



# Methodology

Sample Size: 451 Adult Residents of Suburban Philadelphia

Margin of Error: +5.5% at 95% Level of Confidence

Fielding Dates: June 20 to July 18, 2022

Format: Telephone (351 Cell and 100 Landline)

Results Weighted to 2022 Census Population Parameters for:  
Educational Attainment, Racial Identity, Gender, Income and Age

Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

**NOTE:** County names were adjusted during interviews to correspond with residency of respondents in Montgomery, Delaware, Bucks and Chester counties.



# Familiarity with Waterways

Q1: \_\_\_\_\_ County is the home to several rivers, streams, and creeks. In general, would you say that you are very familiar, somewhat familiar, not too familiar, or not familiar at all with the rivers, streams, and creeks in Montgomery County?

1. Very Familiar.....20%
2. Somewhat Familiar.....38%
3. Not Too Familiar.....22%
4. Not Familiar at All.....20%



# Familiarity with Waterways by Partisanship and Region

	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not Too Familiar	Not Familiar at All
Democrat	16%	37%	25%	22%
Republican	29%	41%	15%	15%
Independent	15%	36%	24%	26%

	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not Too Familiar	Not Familiar at All
REGION	20%	38%	22%	20%
Bucks	27%	39%	20%	14%
Delaware	14%	39%	20%	27%
Chester	12%	36%	26%	26%
Montgomery	23%	39%	23%	15%



# Resource Salience

Q2: How important do you think \_\_\_\_\_ County's rivers, streams and creeks are to the overall quality of life in \_\_\_\_\_ County?

- 1. Very Important.....70%
- 2. Somewhat Important.....26%
- 3. Not Too Important..... 2%
- 4. Not Important at All..... 1%
- 98. Not Sure..... 1%



# Most Important Benefits of Waterways

Q3: Which of the following would you say is the **MOST** important benefit that \_\_\_\_\_ County's rivers, streams and creeks bring to quality of life in \_\_\_\_\_ County? (READ LIST)

1. A habitat for fish and wildlife.....35%
2. A source of drinking water for residents.....20%
3. A source of open space for residents.....14%
4. All of the above (Volunteered).....31%
5. Not Sure..... 1%



# Engagement with Waterways

	Yes	No	Not Sure
Q4: Went fishing on a waterway in Montgomery County.	24%	76%	0%
Q5: Canoeed, kayaked, <u>tubed</u> or boated on a waterway in Montgomery County.	36%	64%	0%
Q6: Swam or waded in a Montgomery County waterway.	35%	65%	<1%
Q7: Hiked, walked, or picnicked along a Montgomery County waterway.	75%	25%	0%



# Hiked, Walked or Picnicked Along a Waterway – By Age

	Yes	No
18-29	84.5%	15.5%
30-49	83.2%	16.8%
50-65	75.2%	24.8%
Over 65	55.7%	44.3%





# Canoed, kayaked, tubed or boated on a waterway in your county

	Yes	No
REGION	36%	64%
Bucks	50%	50%
Delaware	22%	78%
Chester	39%	61%
Montgomery	34%	66%



# Perceptions of Waterway Conditions

Q8: Overall, how would you rate the health of \_\_\_\_\_ County's rivers, streams, and creeks?  
Would you say the health is excellent, good, fair or poor?

- 1. Excellent..... 5%
- 2. Good..... 42%
- 3. Fair..... 41%
- 4. Poor..... 8%
- 98. Not sure..... 4%



# Perceptions of Waterway Health by County

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not Sure
REGION	5%	42%	41%	8%	4%
Bucks	9%	47%	36%	5%	3%
Delaware	2%	29%	51%	15%	3%
Chester	7%	55%	28%	5%	6%
Montgomery	4%	39%	44%	7%	7%



# Concern with Waterway Conditions

Q9: In general, would you say that you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned at all about the condition of Montgomery County's rivers, streams and creeks?

- 1. Very Concerned.....24%
- 2. Somewhat Concerned.....50%
- 3. Not Too Concerned.....20%
- 4. Not concerned at All..... 7%

	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Too Concerned	Not Concerned at All
Democrat	23%	53%	18%	6%
Republican	19%	52%	20%	9%
Independent	29%	44%	20%	7%



# Waterway Threat Perceptions

	Major Threat	Minor Threat	Not a Threat	Not Sure
Q10: Pesticides that run off from farms and lawns after storms.	68%	28%	3%	1%
Q11: Untreated sewage that is released into waterways.	83%	14%	3%	1%
Q12: Chemicals released from industries directly into waterways.	83%	14%	2%	<1%
Q13: Oil and gas from roads, driveways and parking lots that is washed into waterways by storms.	63%	35%	2%	<1%
Q14: Litter washed into the waterways by storms.	61%	36%	3%	0%
Q11: Salt spread on roads during winter washing into waterways.	44%	51%	5%	1%
Q15: Soil washed into waterways from construction sites.	37%	55%	8%	<1%
Q16: Increased flooding caused by climate change and unmanaged land development.	58%	30%	10%	2%



# Climate Change as a Threat

	Major	Minor	Not a Threat	Not sure
Male	49%	36%	14%	1%
Female	67%	25%	6%	2%

	Major	Minor	Not a Threat	Not sure
Democrat	70%	21%	7%	2%
Republican	43%	43%	13%	1%
Independent	58%	29%	10%	3%



# Agreement with Policy Statements

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
Q17: Protecting the rivers, streams and creeks in Montgomery County requires citizens to provide increased financial support.	19%	41%	30%	9%	1%
Q18: Climate change is making flooding in Montgomery County more common.	36%	31%	19%	10%	4%
Q19: Rivers, streams and creeks in Montgomery County are already receiving adequate protection, so no new laws or fees are needed to preserve local waterways.	6%	24%	39%	27%	4%

Q20: I am not familiar enough with the current situation to answer this question.



Agreement with statement, “Rivers, streams and creeks in your County are already receiving adequate protection, so no new laws or fees are needed to preserve local waterways.”

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
REGION	6%	24%	39%	27%	4%
Bucks	8%	21%	38%	27%	5%
Delaware	7%	24%	41%	27%	1%
Chester	9%	22%	41%	26%	2%
Montgomery	4%	27%	38%	27%	4%





# Familiarity with stormwater management

	Very Familiar	Somewhat Familiar	Not Too Familiar	Not Familiar at All	Not Sure
REGION	14%	37%	25%	24%	1%
Bucks	18%	33%	30%	17%	3%
Delaware	5%	39%	29%	27%	0%
Chester	15%	43%	18%	24%	0%
Montgomery	15%	34%	21%	28%	2%



# Conclusion

- Residents of suburban Philadelphia have interacted with their local waterways, recognize the importance of these environmental assets, and have significant concern about the future of the rivers, streams and creeks in their counties. Messaging about the ongoing risks to these valued community resources is likely to reinforce and expand public support for protective measures.

