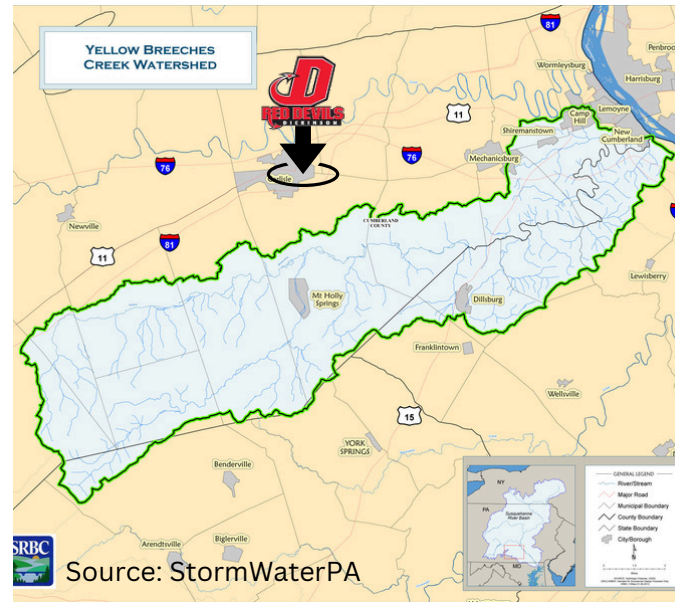


# WATER FACTS

## April 2025 – Get to Know the Yellow Breeches

### Where is the Yellow Breeches Creek?

The Yellow Breeches Creek and its tributaries consist of 368 river miles starting in the South Mountain area and flowing through Adams, York, and Cumberland Counties before draining into the Susquehanna River. It is home to many species of plants and animals and just so happens to run right through our backyard just 6.1 miles away in Boiling Springs, PA!



### What Calls the Yellow Breeches Home?

The Yellow Breeches Creek is well known as an outstanding home for trout but it also hosts many other animal, and plant species in our area such as white-tailed deer, gray squirrel, turkey, cottontail rabbit, ruffed grouse, various waterfowl, and many more (DER, 1992). The Yellow Breeches is also home to several threatened and endangered species in Pennsylvania such as the Bog Turtle and Eastern Mud Salamander. Forests surrounding the Yellow Breeches Creek are primarily composed of white oak, red oak, sugar maple, yellow-poplar, and other tree species. This is thanks to the well-drained soil that surrounds the creek. These forests provide recreational space, wildlife and aesthetic value, and also help reduce stream bank erosion (DER, 1992).

### State of the Yellow Breeches

Based on testing done by ALLARM's Stream Team volunteers across 7 sites along the Yellow Breeches, the waterway is in good shape! Nitrate levels (a nutrient that is dangerous in excess) are under 2.5 mg/L, pH levels are within the state's optimal range of 6.0-9.0, and conductivity (often used to indicate pollution events) is under 500  $\mu$ S/cm, which are all good indications of a healthy waterbody. One area of concern is water temperatures along the Yellow Breeches. In Pennsylvania, the threshold for waterbodies with cold water fishes such as trout is between 38°F and 66°F accounting for seasonal changes. Within the past five years of ALLARM's samples, water temperatures have been surpassing the optimal temperature range. Despite this, the Yellow Breeches is a healthy and thriving waterbody that supports many plant and animal species and an abundance of recreational uses.

### What Can you Do to Help Keep the Yellow Breeches Healthy?

Check out the Yellow Breeches Watershed Association (YBWA) at <https://www.ybwatershed.org/get-involved>. The YBWA provides great community opportunities for stream cleanups, recreation days, education, and more. They make it easy and accessible to get involved in keeping the Yellow Breeches healthy for all who call it home.

#### References:

*Yellow Breeches Creek Rivers Conservation Plan, April 2005*  
[https://www.cumberlandcountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2229/YB\\_Rivers\\_Conservation\\_Plan?bidId=Isabell Ruff and Jill Arriola. "State of the Yellow Breeches" ALLARM. November 7, 2024.](https://www.cumberlandcountypa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2229/YB_Rivers_Conservation_Plan?bidId=Isabell%20Ruff%20and%20Jill%20Arriola.%20%22State%20of%20the%20Yellow%20Breeches%22%20ALLARM.%20November%207,%202024.%20https://dickinson0.sharepoint.com/:p/s/ALLARM/EaINV8nGOYpJgryOdyJFm3EBcwjZY11gQs-WNqO599gpLg?e=xGUBJU)  
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*Yellow Breeches Watershed Association. Accessed November 14, 2024.*  
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