

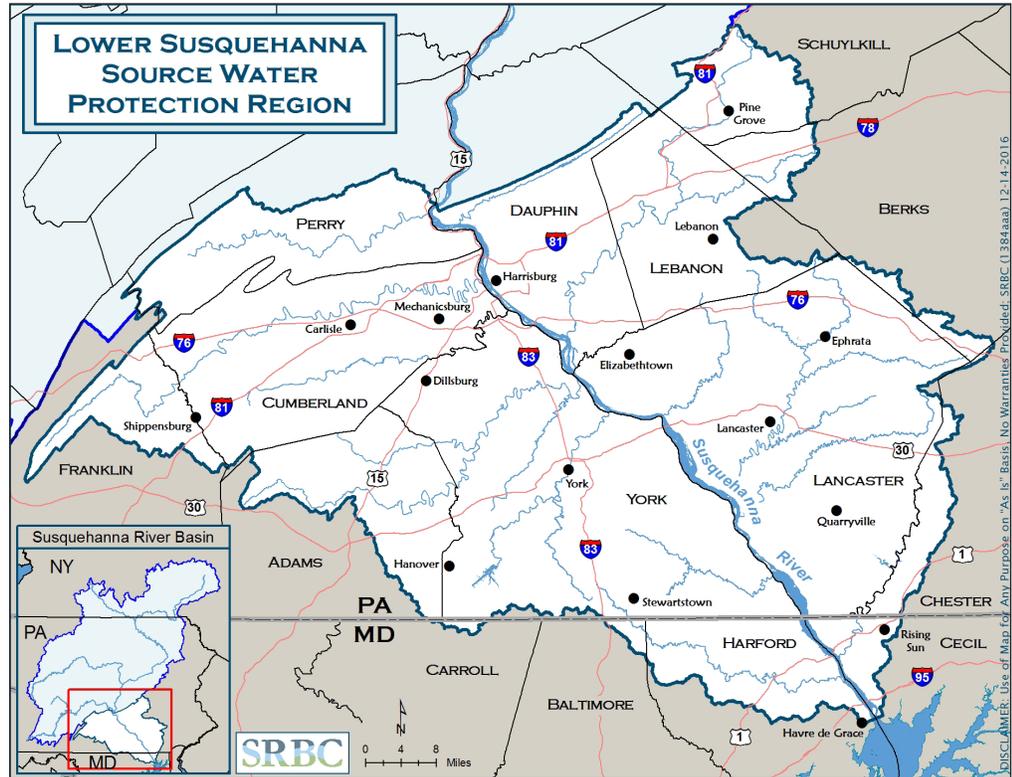
## INTRODUCTION

The Lower Susquehanna Region in Pennsylvania is very critical to drinking water supplies, with over 1.7 million residents dependent on both ground and surface water sources within the region — from streams and rivers, as well as groundwater wells. Additionally, another 2.2 million people living in the Philadelphia and Baltimore areas depend on the Susquehanna River as a source of drinking water. Since water sources can be highly sensitive to activities on the landscape, it is important to consider that over 40 percent of the land area in the region contributes to a stream, river, or groundwater well that is used to supply public drinking water — not to mention those residents dependent on private water supply sources.

Recently, water agencies, water suppliers, non-governmental organizations and others recognized the need for a regional approach to help protect sources of drinking water supplies from existing and potential pollutants. In 2012, the Lower Susquehanna Source Water Protection Partnership (Partnership) was formed to examine ways in which agencies and organizations can collaborate and learn from one another to address common issues and challenges. With over 40 organizations participating, the Partnership utilizes the shared knowledge and technical expertise of its members to improve source water protection efforts in the Lower Susquehanna Region.

Some of the objectives of the Partnership include:

- Provide a forum for government and non-government agencies, water suppliers, watershed organizations, regional



planners, and any other groups working towards source water protection in the Lower Susquehanna River Basin.

- Promote information sharing through establishing and maintaining a coordinated dialogue.
- Identify and address key regional priorities for source water protection in the Lower Susquehanna River Basin.
- Support existing watershed protection initiatives and develop new initiatives, as needed, to further source water protection.
- Facilitate cooperation and coordinate efforts between Partners and non-Partners alike to better organize source water protection in the Lower Susquehanna Region.

## LOWER SUSQUEHANNA REGION PROFILE

- ◀ Over 40 percent of the land area in the Lower Susquehanna Region contributes to a stream, river, or groundwater well that is used to supply public drinking water.
- ◀ The Region has over 500 community water systems.
- ◀ Roughly 44 percent of the Basin's population resides in the Lower Susquehanna Region (about 1.7 million in PA); another 2.2 million people living in Philadelphia's suburbs and Maryland depend on drinking water from the region.

