

I. TEACHER BACKGROUND

A. COBBS CREEK AND CCCEEC

Cobbs Creek is in western Philadelphia and borders Montgomery County in the north and Delaware County in the west (see figure 1). Cobbs Creek watershed is a sub-watershed of the Darby Creek watershed; Cobbs Creek is Darby Creek's largest tributary (see figure 1). Darby Creek terminates at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, home of the largest remaining area of tidal freshwater marshes in Philadelphia. Cobbs Creek watershed is 22 square miles. The main stem of Cobbs Creek is about 8 miles long; the creek also has an additional 5 miles of tributaries.¹ Cobbs Creek Park is mostly confined to a small buffer around the streams (see figure 2). This small forested area only accounts for 6 percent of the watershed.² Figure 2 shows the land use in Cobbs Creek watershed. As a result of urbanization and misuse, Cobbs Creek is a very impaired waterway. Restoration efforts have been underway for a number of years, supported by the Philadelphia Water Department, The Academy of Natural Sciences, the Fairmount Park Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and a number of regional and local watershed organizations.

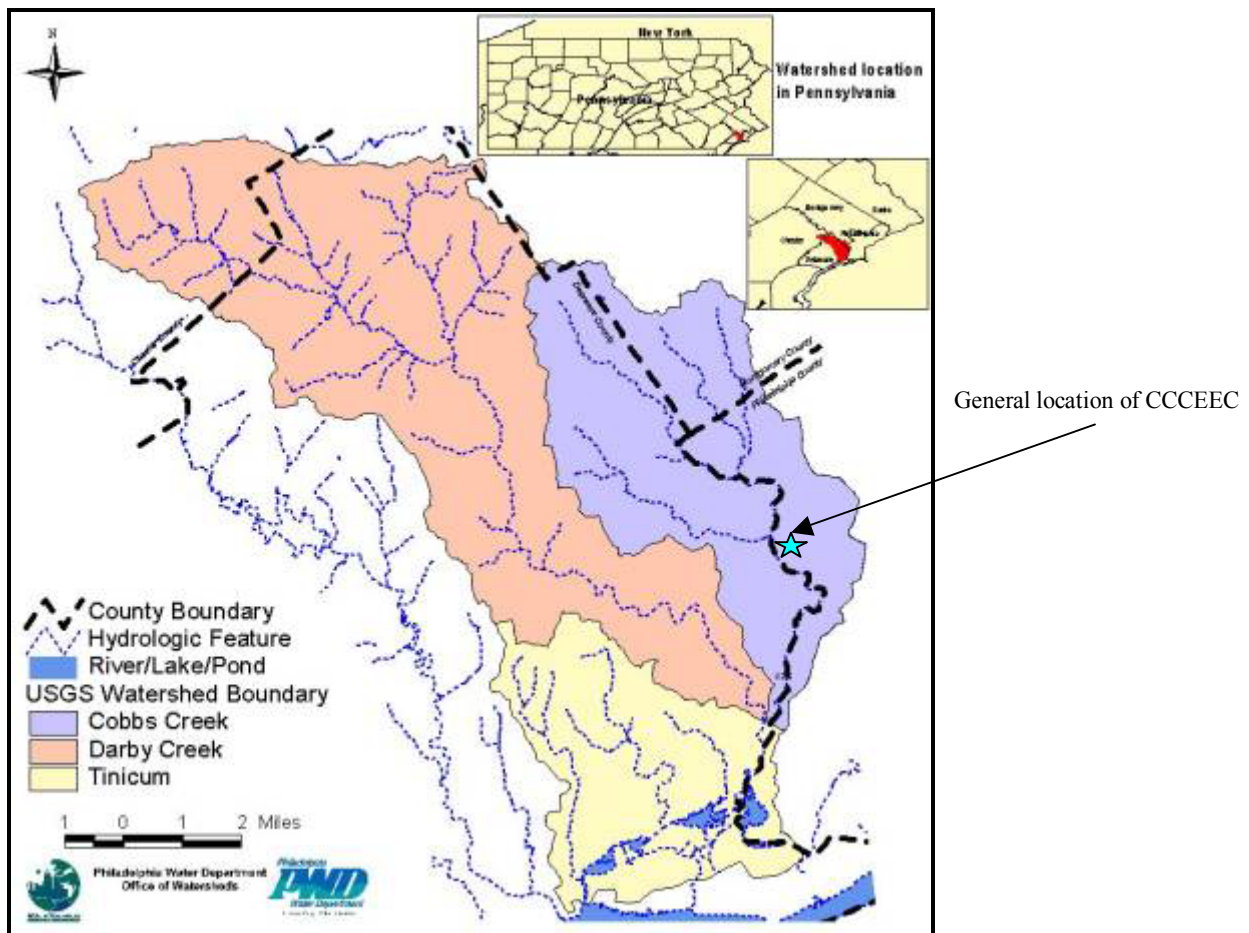


Figure 1 Reprinted from Darby-Cobbs Watershed Partnership <http://www.phillywater.org/Darby-Cobbs/Tech%20Center/MapGallery.htm>

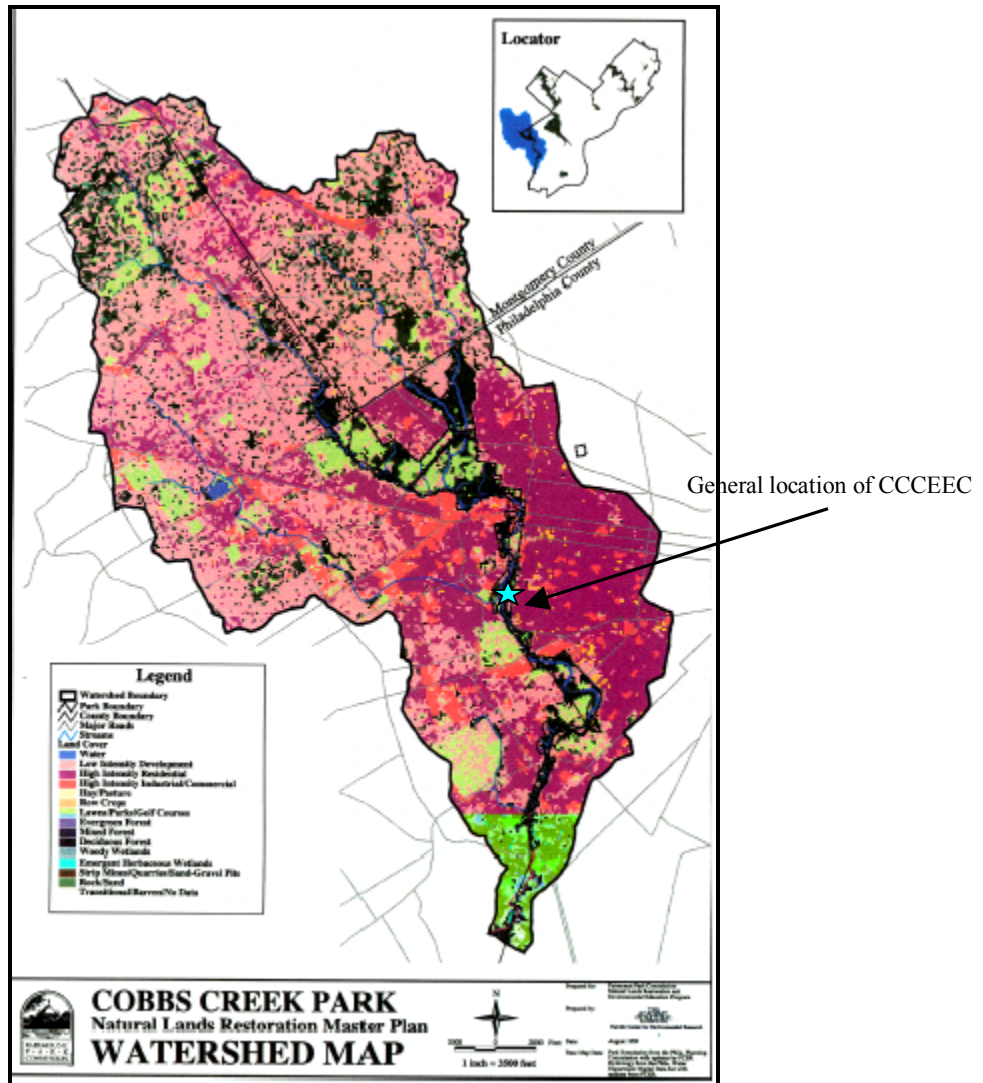


Figure 2 Reprinted from Cobbs Creek Restoration Project pdf 60

The Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center (CCCEEC) opened in 1991. It is currently located in the renovated horse stables in Cobbs Creek Park at 63rd Street and Catherine. The center’s mission is “to preserve the quality of life for residents living in the Cobbs Creek area of Philadelphia through the establishment of a center for educating and informing people about issues affecting their environment.” The center has outlined 3 goals to meet their mission: 1) To maintain and enhance the historic building in Cobbs Creek Park for use by students, teachers and the community, 2) Continuation of their programs for the schools, teacher training, summer employment, and the community, and 3) Expansion of the organization's funding levels, partnerships, and teaching/learning opportunities to benefit children, families, educators and others. The center currently runs many programs with high school students from Philadelphia, including an AP High School Program, an urban watershed program and the Environmental Scholars Program, which gives students an opportunity to study the Cobbs Creek watershed alongside environmental professionals.

C. NAYLOR'S RUN WETLAND

Naylor's Run Wetland was built by The Fairmount Park Commission in 2001 as part of their restoration efforts. Located on the west bank of Cobbs Creek, Naylor's Run Wetland is located wholly within Delaware County, however, since it is within Cobbs Creek Park, it is in the Fairmount Park Commission's jurisdiction. It is named Naylor's Run Wetland because it is adjacent to Naylor's Run, a large tributary of Cobbs Creek. However, it does not receive water from Naylor's Run.

The wetland is located on Cobbs Creek floodplain. It is fed by stormwater runoff, as it was built to improve the water quality of Cobbs Creek and to restore wetland habitat. The wetland is a 2.5 acre freshwater marsh. On the following pages are pictures of the design plans for Naylor's Run Wetland as well as lists of what was planted when the wetland was created. These lists include notes on which plants have been observed and which have not.



Naylor's Run Wetland