

Paradise Creek Watershed gets \$166,000 grant from Pa.

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March 03, 2009 12:00 AM

A new state grant will help protect a vital Monroe treasure.

The Brodhead Watershed Association was awarded a \$166,008 grant under the Growing Greener program to protect the Paradise Creek Watershed.

"The Poconos are known for their natural beauty, streams and creeks, and many natural vistas," State Rep. Mario Scavello, R-176, said in announcing the grant.

A watershed is an area of land where rain and snow collect and drain into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. Some are small, covering only a few acres. But others can span millions of square miles.

The Paradise Creek Watershed covers 44.5 square miles in Paradise, Tobyhanna, Coolbaugh Barrett and Pocono townships and the Borough of Mount Pocono.

"Our open spaces are why so many people choose to live here and visit. Growing Greener grants help us maintain the quality of our waterways so residents and tourists alike can enjoy every day in our communities," Scavello said.

There are other benefits as well. The area's water supply is considered high quality — a plus for manufacturing facilities the area has tried to attract and retain.

The project will help to restore stream channels on Paradise Creek near Red Rock Road in Paradise Township and permit the creek to return to its natural beauty. The grant was among \$21.5 million in grants that will fund 144 projects across the state to clean up rivers, streams and watersheds, according to Scavello's office.

The Growing Green program was created in 1999 to improve the state's economy and environment. And the program is helping to protect watersheds, cleanup acid mine drainage, improve state parks and forests and enhance the quality of life in the state.

The Brodhead Watershed Association is a non-profit volunteer group devoted to protecting and improving water resources and the environment in the Brodhead and Cherry Creek Watershed.