

# Is Our Stream in Balance?

## What's the pH?



### A pH below 7 is acidic.

If the pH of the water of a stream is less than 4.5 just about everything dies.

### A pH of 7 is neutral.

It is best for life in the water if the pH is greater than 6.5 and less than 8.0.

### A pH above 7 is basic.

If the pH of the water of a stream is greater than 9.0, just about everything dies.

### What are some human sources of *ACIDS* in streams?

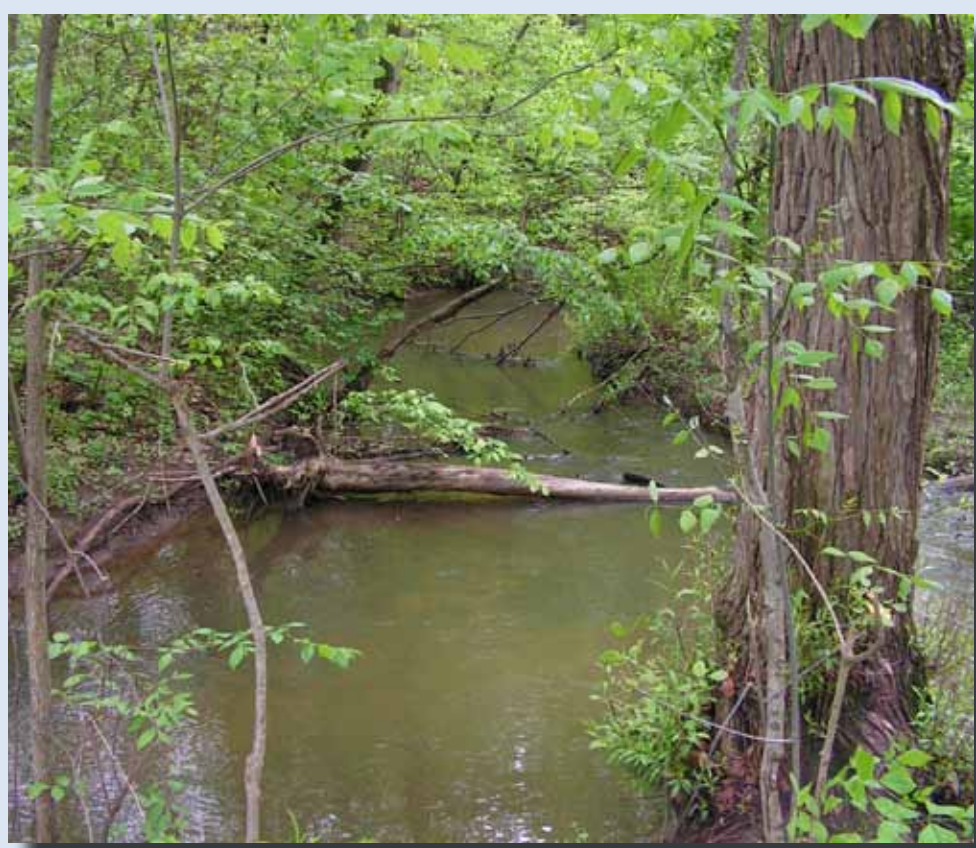
Chemical waste  
Coal mining waste

Burning coal to make electricity causes acid rain

### What are some human sources of *BASES* in streams?

Chemical waste  
Ammonia

Household chemicals such as drain cleaners



## What Can We Do?

- Don't pour chemicals into the storm sewers.
- Minimize your use of strongly acidic or alkaline cleaning agents.
- Use less electricity, so that your local power plant will burn less coal.



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