



# Crooked Creek

## Environmental Learning Center

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### **Habitat Resources: Lawn Reduction**



Save Water -- Drip, Soak, and Mulch.

Water is a precious commodity. Humans extract it from the ground and as a result, the water table may drop, damaging habitats miles away. We divert water from rivers and lakes which reduces flow rate, possibly impacting fish, herons, otters, mussels, and thousands of other kinds of wildlife.

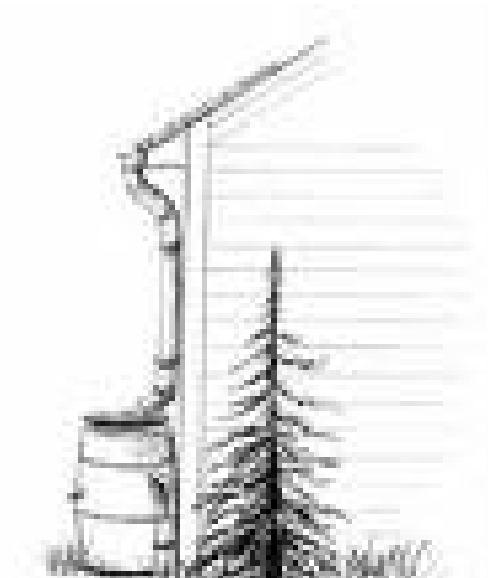
What you can do:

Mulch planting beds with newspaper, leaves, bark, or wood chips. Mulches retain soil moisture and improve soil quality. Water your plantings with a soaker hose or a drip irrigation system. Less water evaporates this way than with a sprinkler, and you target your watering.

Use a timing device with any watering system.

Use "wasted" water for your plants. A rain barrel or cistern that captures rainfall from your roof is a great garden reservoir. In some areas, gray water --water from bathing washing clothes -- can legally be diverted to garden use.

(e-Nature)



or

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**Teacher Workshop June 19 and 20**  
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\*\*\* The ELC hosted an ACT 48 teacher workshop on June 19  
\*\*\* and 20. The workshop was conducted by DCNR and the  
\*\*\* facilitators were Mike Shaffer from Yellow Creek State Park  
\*\*\* and Frances Stein, Western PA Environmental Coordinator.  
\*\*\* There were eleven attendees and we all learned a lot about  
\*\*\* our watershed and river basin. We spent time in the  
\*\*\* classroom as well as in the creek, and I mean "IN" the creek.  
\*\*\* Don't miss next year's workshops. There is so much to  
\*\*\* learn and they are so much fun!  
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**Summer Camp**  
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\*\*\* Don't miss this year's summer camp. If you have or know  
\*\*\* someone between the ages of 8 and 12, get this information  
\*\*\* to them!  
\*\*\* Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center, IUP, and the  
\*\*\* Armstrong Conservation District are offering a *Young*  
\*\*\* *Naturalist Outdoor Adventure Camp* for children ages 8 -12.  
\*\*\* This camp will be held July 16-20, 2007 from 8 a.m. to 4:30  
\*\*\* p.m. There will be orienteering, geocaching, rappelling and  
\*\*\* traversing, water safety/ canoeing, fishing, environmental  
\*\*\* awareness and much, much more. The cost is \$200 and will  
\*\*\* be held at the Crooked Creek Environmental Learning  
\*\*\* Center. To receive more information or a complete flyer,  
\*\*\* contact Dennis Hawley at 724-763-6316 or e-mail him at  
\*\*\* elcaet@alltel.net

\*\*\*  Registration required by July 6  \*\*\*  
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## Meeting Space Available

The Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center is a great place to hold business meetings or classes. We have tables and chairs, a kitchen, bathrooms, and media equipment all located in secluded, beautiful surroundings. Why not have your next meeting at the ELC? Contact Dennis for more information.



## Facility Usage

Organized groups and businesses can rent the ELC for programs, workshops, meetings, and retreats. For more information on facility rental, call 724-763-6316 or email [elcaet@alltel.net](mailto:elcaet@alltel.net). Information is also available online at [www.crookedcreekelc.org](http://www.crookedcreekelc.org)

Environmental and resource conservation programming is available for an additional fee.

Armstrong County has no county or state parks. Therefore, the Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center is uniquely suited to fulfill the need for a facility and organization to provide environmental and resource conservation education.

Unlike state and county parks, the ELC is not supported by tax dollars and must rely on grants, user fees, donations, and sponsors to sustain operation.

## You can help the ELC continue its mission by becoming a sponsor.

Sponsor benefits include a monthly e-newsletter, an ELC t-shirt, and most importantly, the pride and satisfaction that comes from helping to improve environmental and resource conservation education and the quality of life in our community.

To become a sponsor, call or write for details.  
All donations are tax deductible.

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