

= Ithan Creek =

Ithan Creek ( also known as Ithan Run ) is a tributary of Darby Creek in Delaware County , Pennsylvania , in the United States . It is approximately 4 @. @ 2 miles ( 6 @. @ 8 km ) long and flows through Radnor Township and Haverford Township . The creek 's watershed has an area of 7 @. @ 39 square miles ( 19 @. @ 1 km<sup>2</sup> ) and is highly developed . It has three named tributaries : Browns Run , Kirks Run , and Meadowbrook Run .

Ithan Creek is within the Piedmont Uplands physiographic province . The creek was historically the site of several mills and has been subjected to numerous floods over the years . In 1902 , a sewage company began dumping raw sewage into the creek , but this practice was stopped in 1905 . The creek is in approved trout waters . It is the site of Ithan Valley Park , a small park with hiking and fishing opportunities and the Radnor Valley Country Club .

= = Course = =

Ithan Creek rises in a small valley just south of U.S. Route 30 in the community of Wayne , Pennsylvania . It flows west for several tenths of a mile before receiving its first tributary , Browns Run , from the right and turning south . The creek passes under Pennsylvania Route 320 and receives two small unnamed tributaries from the left . It flows alongside Interstate 476 and crosses it once . After a short while , it receives Kirks Run from the right near the community of Rosemont , Pennsylvania . It flows alongside the interstate for several tenths of a mile before passing under it again . Shortly thereafter , Ithan Creek enters Haverford Township , Pennsylvania and receives its largest tributary , Meadowbrook Run . It passes under Darby Road and meets its confluence with Darby Creek .

Ithan Creek joins Darby Creek 17 @. @ 9 miles ( 28 @. @ 8 km ) upriver of its mouth .

= = Geography and geology = =

The elevation near the mouth of Ithan Creek is 184 feet ( 56 m ) above sea level . The elevation of the creek 's source is 399 feet ( 122 m ) above sea level .

Ithan Creek is within the Piedmont Uplands physiographic province . The Piedmont Uplands section has generally old , hard upland rocks that eroded from the Appalachian Mountains . The rocks in the watershed date to the Precambrian Era and Lower Paleozoic Era . The surficial geology mainly consist of felsic gneiss and mafic gneiss formations , with small amounts of serpentinite near the mouth of the creek . Silvery mica schist is exposed along the creek . According to a report by the Geological Society of Pennsylvania , the exposures are rare in the vicinity of Ithan Creek .

Two soil associations exist in the Ithan Creek watershed . The Neshaminy @-@ Lehigh @-@ Glenlg soil association is present in a small part of the watershed . It consists of silty , well drained , gravelly , and deep soil that rests on gabbro and granodiorite bedrock . The Chester @-@ Glenlg @-@ Manor soil association is prevalent through the middle of the watershed . It consists of silty , channery , and shallow to deep soil that rests on brown schist and gneiss bedrock . Most of the watershed is considered to have slightly erodible soil .

= = Watershed = =

The watershed of Ithan Creek has an area of 7 @. @ 39 square miles ( 19 @. @ 1 km<sup>2</sup> ) . Its source is in the United States Geological Survey quadrangle of Valley Forge , but its mouth is in the quadrangle of Lansdowne . Ithan Creek 's watershed has a diversity of land uses , including residential ( high density and low density ) , transportation facilities , offices , college campuses , and historic sites . Its culverts from Sproul Road to Iven Avenue are not sized correctly to manage moderate floods . There are brick structures located alongside the creek that are in poor condition . Major roads in the watershed include Interstate 476 , U.S. Route 30 , and Pennsylvania Route 320 . Ithan Creek is not considered to be impaired .

## = = History = =

Ithan Creek was entered into the Geographic Names Information System on August 2 , 1979 . Its identifier in the Geographic Names Information System is 1177888 .

The village of Ithan along the creek was the first European settlement in modern @-@ day Radnor Township in the seventeenth century . In 1826 , an official report stated the following about mills on the creek :

On Ithan creek in Radnor , a mill seat , on land of the heirs of Andrew Steel , deceased . On Ithan creek , in Radnor , a grist @-@ mill and saw @-@ mill , head and fall about twenty @-@ three feet , owned and occupied by John and David Evans . Near the head of Ithan creek , in Radnor , a grist mill and saw @-@ mill , head and fall about sixteen feet , grinds from eight to ten thousand bushels of grain per annum , and about fifty tons gypsum per annum , saw @-@ mill employed occasionally , owned and occupied by Jesse Brooke .

On August 5 , 1843 , heavy rains caused massive flooding on Ithan Creek . About a quarter million dollars of damage in property was assessed , and several lives were lost . Bridges on Ithan Creek sustained a damage of about \$ 475 .

The Wayne Sewerage Company was incorporated on December 1 , 1902 and constructed and maintained sewers in Radnor township . It purchased an eleven @-@ acre tract along the creek to build a sewer system and built an engine house with boilers to purify sewage . After it was purified , the water would be released into Ithan Creek where , the company claimed , it posed no threat to human health . Despite this , on December 4 , 1905 , the State Board of Health filed a lawsuit against the company alleging raw sewage was being illegally dumped into the creek . As a result , a judge sided with the Board of Health and a new plant was constructed .

Several bridges have been built across Ithan Creek . A concrete tee beam bridge with a length of 27 @.@ 9 feet ( 8 @.@ 5 m ) carries Sproul Road over the creek and was built in 1922 . A 25 @.@ 9 feet ( 7 @.@ 9 m ) bridge of the same type was built in 1930 and carries Conestoga Road over the creek . In 1932 , a 40 feet ( 12 m ) concrete arch bridge was constructed that carries Darby Road across Ithan Creek . A concrete slab bridge with a length of 27 @.@ 9 feet ( 8 @.@ 5 m ) carries Clyde Road across the creek and was built that same year . Built in 1964 , a 27 @.@ 9 feet ( 8 @.@ 5 m ) prestressed box beam carries Bryn Mawr Avenue over Ithan Creek . Three years later , two concrete slab bridges were constructed to allow the Mid @-@ County Expressway to cross the creek , both being 29 @.@ 9 feet ( 9 @.@ 1 m ) across .

The creek flooded substantially after Tropical Storm Nicole on September 30 , 2010 . A majority of households surveyed after the storm reported flooding in their basements . As a result , several watershed drainage recommendations were proposed .

## = = Biology = =

The creek is approved trout waters . Brown trout have been recorded to naturally reproduce in the creek . On the banks of the stream , populations of white @-@ tailed deer are overabundant .

The Ithan @-@ Darby Creek Wetlands is listed on the Delaware County Natural Areas Inventory . It is a " notable significance " site . At the floodplain at the confluence of Ithan Creek and Darby Creek , the main trees species include silver maple , black willow , boxelder , and red maple . In the wetlands at this site , the main tree species include scattered black willow and silver maple . There are also patches of silky dogwood and wild rose , which are surrounded by assorted wetland plants such as herbs , grasses , sedges , and rushes . Monkeyflower , ironweed , joe @-@ pye weed , and mountain mint can sometimes be seen in the wetland , and a variety of invasive species are a concern . Most of the original forest cover has been removed to allow for farming and residential development .

## = = Recreation = =

Ithan Valley Park is a 19 @-@ acre park that is adjacent to the creek . It contains a hiking trail and has fishing opportunities . Radnor Valley Country Club is a golf course that borders the creek . Formerly crossing the creek , it was redesigned in 1968 to run north @-@ south along the creek due to construction of Interstate 476 .