



Park Ranger Robert Petruney is pictured here Tionesta Lake Outflow Area, Pittsburgh District at a fishing line-recycling station.

In an effort to save wildlife, while at the same time protecting the environment, Tionesta Lake has introduced a fishing-line recycling program

There are two ways discarded fishing line affects wildlife, ingestion and entanglement. Many times birds get discarded fishing line entangled in their feet and wings and cannot fly. Birds may also eat fish with line attached causing an obstruction of their gut leading to starvation.

The fishing line recycling program at Tionesta Lake was implemented in mid- July 2002 and is working out great. The recycling bins are made out of hollow 4-inch PVC pipe placed strategically around the facility where fishing is popular. Anglers are encouraged to place their unwanted line in the bin. Also incorporated into the design is a self-closing door to keep out bees and wasps, along with small holes drilled in the bottom for water drainage. What happens to the used line? It is mailed back to the manufacturer and recycled back into tackle boxes, fish habitat structures, toys and spools for fishing line spools.