

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

The District provides educational and technical assistance to farmers to improve their conservation practices and reduce erosion to protect our water resources. We offer workshops, administer grants, provide outreach, and coordinate with partner agencies on conservation efforts.



MANURE & NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Ch. 91 of PA Code and Act 38: Every farm that produces or utilizes manure must develop and follow a written manure or nutrient management plan to protect soil and water resources through balancing manure and crop nutrient needs.

AG EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL

Ch. 102.4a: All farms are required to develop and implement a written Ag Erosion and Sediment Control plan to reduce erosion when plowing and tilling more than 5,000 square feet and/or managing animal heavy use areas.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

The District partners with the Montgomery County Agricultural Land Preservation Easement Purchase Program. Together, more than 150 farms totaling over 9,000 acres have been preserved in the County and will remain in agricultural production.



CHAPTER 102/NPDES

The Conservation District works under a delegation agreement with PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to administer the Chapter 102 program by reviewing and issuing NPDES permits in Montgomery County. The purpose of the program is to minimize the potential for soil erosion and sediment pollution during land development and to manage post-construction stormwater.

By volume, sediment is the largest pollutant entering PA waters, and it can have detrimental effects on aquatic ecosystems, as well as our ability to use waterways for drinking or recreation. In addition, inadequate stormwater management leads to flooding, streambank erosion and more pollution entering our water.

The District's Resource Conservationists review land development plans for adequacy of post-construction stormwater management, as well as erosion and sediment controls to be installed and maintained during earthmoving and construction. The PA DEP establishes the standards upon which the district evaluates the plans proposed by permit applicants.



Resource Conservationists inspect active earthmoving sites to determine compliance with the plans and investigate complaints of sediment pollution reported by the public. They also conduct educational outreach and technical assistance in relation to erosion issues.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

We work to educate all residents on the wise use of our natural resources and are available for technical assistance, events and presentations.

ENVIROTHON

Since 1989, the District has hosted the Montgomery County Envirothon, an annual, hands-on competition for students in grades 6-12, and an environmental field day for grades 4-5.



These free environmental educational events focus on aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife, and a current topic. The winning high school team represents the county at PA Envirothon.

MASTER WATERSHED STEWARDS

In 2014, the District began partnering with Penn State Extension and others to coordinate the Master Watershed Stewards volunteer program, with the goal of building capacity for watershed protection and restoration.

Penn State Extension

Master Watershed Stewards receive extensive training on water resource stewardship and then work on projects to impact local watershed issues.

OTHER DISTRICT PARTNERS



Protecting Natural Resources
For Our Future

Program Guide

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www.montgomeryconservation.org

Our mission is to protect and improve
the quality of life of the residents of
Montgomery County and surrounding communities
by providing, in cooperation with others,
timely and efficient service, education and
technical guidance for the wise use of our
soil, water and related resources.

BACKGROUND

Conservation districts were started to improve water and soil conservation, in response to the ecological disaster of the Dust Bowl in the 1930s. Now, every county in Pennsylvania has a conservation district or agency performing similar functions. Montgomery County Conservation District was formed in October 16, 1956, at the request of local farmers and community members.

Conservation districts work in partnership with federal and state agencies, and cooperate with local organizations, to implement resource protection programs.

Each district is led by an unpaid board of directors consisting of farmer members, public members and a member of county government. Public board meetings are held monthly.

Conservation districts administer various resource protection and education programs under delegation agreements through the State Conservation Commission. We encourage voluntary compliance with regulations and refer any enforcement actions to the PA Department of Environmental Protection.



WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP

The Watershed Specialist works to improve the quality and quantity of the Commonwealth's surface and groundwater resources through restoration projects, outreach, planning, watershed monitoring, and technical assistance to public and private entities.

The District works to improve riparian and wetland areas through streambank stabilization, floodplain restoration, and planting projects. We also work to improve stormwater management in the county through practices like rain gardens, naturalized stormwater basins, cisterns, and native wildflower meadows.



We promote the use of native plants and the removal of exotic, invasive species to improve biodiversity and habitat for native wildlife.

While stormwater complaints should be directed to your municipality, we are available as a technical resource if you are looking to improve your property to protect our waterways.



TREEVITALIZE WATERSHEDS GRANT PROGRAM

Since 2005, the District has partnered with local organizations to complete reforestation projects through TreeVitalize Watersheds, a volunteer-based grant program to restore tree cover and enhance water quality in the five-county region of southeastern Pennsylvania.

The program is administered by the District and managed by the PA Horticultural Society, with funding from PA DEP's Growing Greener program and Aqua PA. Projects on preserved sites near streams or in stormwater management areas are eligible for funding.



RC&D TOOL TRAILER

The Conservation Planting Trailer was created by the Southeastern PA Resource, Conservation and Development Council to assist conservation groups with their planting projects. The trailer is fully stocked with all the tools needed for a successful planting event, and any member of the SEPA RC&D Council can sign up to borrow the trailer.

To become a member and request to borrow the trailer, please contact the Watershed Specialist.



DIRT AND GRAVEL/LOW-VOLUME ROAD PROGRAM

The District administers a state-funded program to provide local road-owning entities with educational tools and grant funding for road and environmental improvement projects on unpaved or low-volume (less than 500 vehicles per day) paved roads.

Benefits of the program include reduced road maintenance costs, improved drainage and stormwater management, safer roads, and reduced stream pollution from road runoff and sediment, which affects aquatic life and drinking water resources. The program is supported by the State Conservation Commission in cooperation with Penn State University.



GYPSY MOTH

State and federal agencies conduct an aerial spray program, as necessary, for the suppression of gypsy moth and other forest insect pests. The program goal is to protect certain residential, recreational, and other high-use or high-value forested areas from serious damage by limiting tree defoliation. The District annually monitors for infestations of gypsy moth and responds to complaints from County residents.

