



Montgomery County Conservation District

Annual Report 2019

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.



Montgomery County Conservation District

143 Level Road

Collegeville, PA 19426

610-489-4506

www.MontgomeryConservation.org

2019 Montgomery County Commissioners

Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Chair

Kenneth E. Lawrence Jr., Vice Chair

Joseph C. Gale, Commissioner

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2019 Board Directors

Sara Erlbaum, Chair
Monica Burcik, Vice Chair
Eliza Walbridge, Secretary
Christopher Canavan, Treasurer
Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH
Andrew Frankenfield
Jim Myers
Diane Diffenderfer
Daniel Price
Timothy Woodrow PE

Staff Members

Jessica Buck	District Manager
Eric Konzelmann	Assistant District Manager
Karen Thompson	Administrative Assistant
Alyssa Linker	Administrative Assistant <i>Part-Time</i>
Cody Schmoyer	Resource Conservationist
Jeffrey McKenna	Resource Conservationist
Rachel Hendricks	Resource Conservationist
Shannon Healey	Resource Conservationist
Brian Vadino	Watershed Specialist
Abigail Reiter	Ag Conservation Specialist
Carl Hollenback	Engineering Technician
Gary Kulp P.E.	District Engineer

CHAPTER 102/NPDES

2019 Program Data	
Individual NPDES Permits Acknowledged	11
General NPDES Permits Acknowledged	105
Administrative Plan Reviews	540
Technical Plan Reviews	567
Site Inspections	683
Technical Assistance Efforts Provided	38,350
Total Project Acres	5,029
Disturbed Acres	2,505

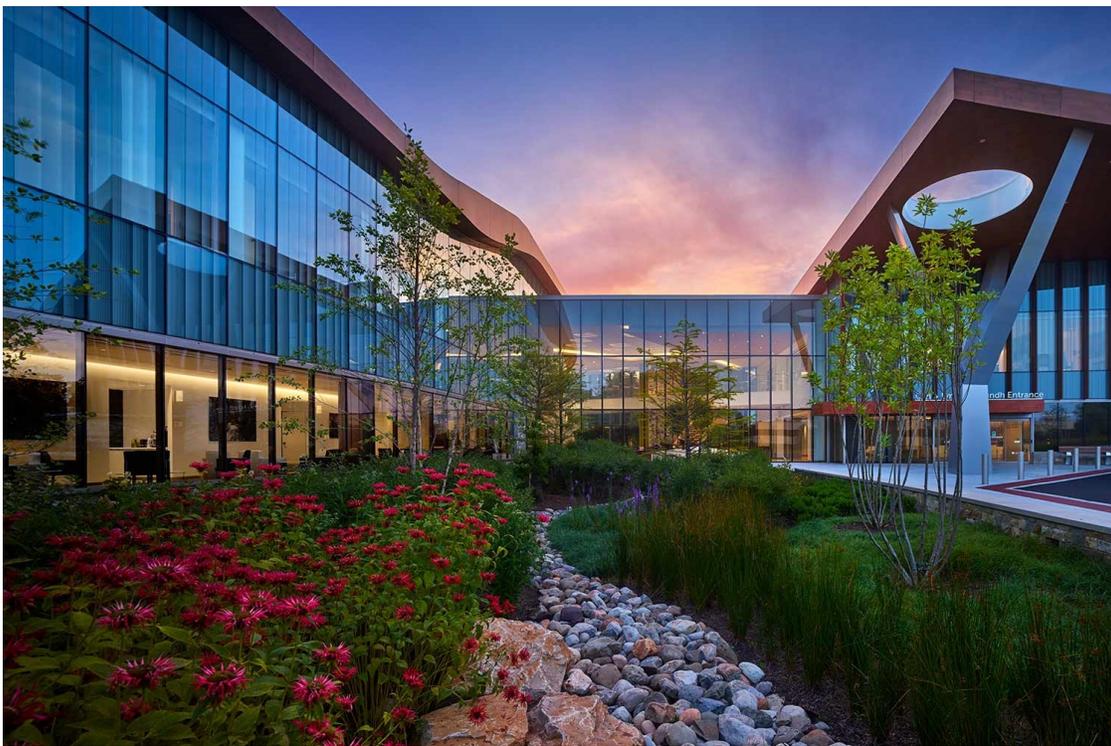
Two educational workshops were held by District staff in 2019 for the regulated public.

- ◆ A Developers Workshop was held in February for over 30 attendees
- ◆ An Engineers Workshop was held in March for over 200 attendees

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

This prestigious annual county awards program recognizes the best in planning, design, and advocacy in Montgomery County.

2019 Montgomery County Environmental Stewardship Award: The Asplundh Cancer Pavilion at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Abington - Jefferson Health



The Asplundh Cancer Pavilion at the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Abington - Jefferson Health received the 2019 Environmental Stewardship Award for excellence in environmental and sustainable design for the redevelopment of its property in the Schilling Campus at 3941 Commerce Avenue in Willow Grove. The pavilion is an exceptional example of how the natural environment can have a positive effect on healing. This project, which provides sustainable stormwater management elements, including an underground infiltration system and attractive rain gardens, protects the natural environment while providing appealing indoor and outdoor spaces and scenic views of nature creatively connected through innovative architectural design, enhancing the healing process for patients.

[Click here](#) for the full project profile.

Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Communities

MCCD Watershed Specialist, Brian Vadino, works to protect and improve the quality of our water resources through education & outreach to residents of the county, watershed assessments, planning, restoration projects and technical assistance. The Conservation District supports the work of nonprofit watershed organizations and provides technical assistance to public and private entities to improve our water resources.

Education and Outreach Events

Workshops/Presentations Delivered:

- ◆ NPS Pollution Prevention Presentation delivered to Schwenksville Women’s Civic Club – January 2019 (25 attendees)
- ◆ “Watershed Basics” training delivered to Penn State Master Watershed Stewards – April 2019 (15 attendees)
- ◆ Site visit to CVS Park (Lower Frederick Twp.) native garden planting project to deliver presentation and thank you to AmeriCorps volunteers – April 2019 (14 attendees)
- ◆ Presentation on grant programs available to help support municipal MS4 efforts at SAN MS4 Funding Workshop at Ursinus College – August 2019 (81 attendees)
- ◆ Hosted field tour of Perkiomen Township Stormwater Management and Perkiomen Creek Stream Improvement projects during SAN Bus Tour and Press Event – September 2019 (35 attendees)

Educational Outreach to Schools:

- ◆ Upper Perkiomen High School “Trout in the Classroom” —May 2019 (24 students)
- ◆ Envirothon Training Sessions for Souderton, Perkiomen Valley and North Penn High Schools – April 2019 (40 students)
- ◆ NPS Pollution Prevention presentation to 4th Grade students at Gotwals Elementary School in Norristown – May 2019 (100 students)

PPL Electric Utilities Community Roots Program:

- ◆ 250 Native tree and shrub seedlings provided to five partnering municipalities and local watershed organizations—April 2019

MCCD Staff Stream Cleanup:

- ◆ 500 lbs. of trash collected from Evansburg Point Park and Hoy Park—April 2019

Tabling/Display Events:

- ◆ 2019 Watershed Congress Along the Schuylkill River—March 2019 (175 attendees)
- ◆ Earth Fest Event at Temple University—April 2019 (over 500 adult attendees)
- ◆ Upper Merion Twp. Earth Day Festival – April 2019 (over 400 attendees)
- ◆ “Montco 2019 Planning Smarter” program at Cheltenham Elementary School – June 2019 (60 attendees)

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Projects:

Riparian Buffer Projects:

- ◆ TreeVitalize Watersheds Grant Program—assisted local project partnering organizations in completing twelve riparian buffer projects across Montgomery County (refer to attached 2019 TreeVitalize Watersheds Grant Program Summary for additional information).
- ◆ DCNR Multifunctional Riparian Buffer/PACD Sub-Grantee Program—Assisted Ursinus College and Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy in planting and establishing 260 native trees and shrubs to create 1.5 acres of multifunctional riparian buffer area in the Perkiomen Creek watershed.

Stream Improvement Projects:

- ◆ Provided permitting guidance to Upper Hanover Township and Upper Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited with respect to stream habitat improvement project on Hosensack Creek.
- ◆ Assisted with planting, mulching and fencing of 14 native trees at Skippack Township (municipal building) storm water management basin - September 2019.

Trainings:

- ◆ Participated in nine professional training events provided by Montgomery County, state agency partners, regional non-profit organizations and local academic institutions.



TreeVitalize Watersheds

The TreeVitalize Watersheds program focuses on tree planting along stream corridors, wetlands, adjacent upland areas, headwaters and naturalized stormwater basins. Through this program, dozens of such watershed restoration projects are conducted throughout the five-county Southeastern PA region every year.

The program receives funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and corporate sponsor Aqua PA. The program is also supported through in-kind contributions from various partners. Montgomery County Conservation District partners with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to administer the program in Montgomery County.

In 2019, Montgomery County Conservation District assisted local project partnering organizations in completing twelve projects, through which the following results were achieved:

2019 Totals:

- More than **\$72,500** of grant funding invested
- More than **\$71,600** match from local partners
- **3,173** native trees and shrubs planted
- **23** acres restored
- **2,743.5** volunteer hours reported

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

Nutrient Management/Manure Management

Montgomery County Conservation District is a delegated authority for agricultural-based programs. These programs are implemented through education and outreach, technical assistance and voluntary compliance efforts. The Conservation District is delegated the Nutrient Management/Manure Management Program through the State Conservation Commission and the PA DEP, under Ch. 91 of PA Code and Act 38.

Farmer Workshops

A manure management workshop was held in June, and a cover crop & soil health field day was held in November; both in conjunction with Penn State Extension.

MCCD continued to loan out a no-till drill to farmers, for conservation planting. A basin naturalization planting demonstration was conducted in May, a cover crops demonstration and a pollinator plot demonstration were held in November, and the drill was on display at the county fair in August. The drill was used through the farmer rental program for no-till planting, pasture renovation, seeding of cover crops, and planting a native pollinator plot.

The equipment - a 5.5' Esch no-till drill with attached sprayer - has the potential to improve conservation practices on farms, improve soil and water quality, and be of use to farmers and municipalities for establishment of no-mow and naturalized areas.



In part through a *Conservation Innovation Grant* from the NRCS, a no-till drill is made available to farmers in Montgomery county and surrounding areas for demonstration and educational purposes. No-till planting improves soil health while reducing soil erosion and benefiting water quality.

DIRT, GRAVEL & LOW VOLUME ROADS PROGRAM

Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Road Maintenance Program

PA's Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) Program provides local road-owning entities with grant funding for road and environmental improvements on unpaved and low volume (500 or fewer cars per day) paved roads . Project improve local roadways and waterbodies.

Municipalities involved in the grant program in 2019:

- Salford Township
- Borough of Pottstown

2019 Totals:

- Gravel road grant projects under construction: **1**
- Paved low volume road grant projects contracted: **1**
- Paved low volume road grant projects completed: **1**



A gravel alley in the Borough of Pottstown was awarded a grant for alley improvements, benefiting both the road's drivability, stormwater management and maintenance, as well as significant water quality improvements. A large water quality inlet device was implemented through this grant, to treat runoff from a sizable upslope urban watershed. Infiltration beds are also being installed to capture and infiltrate stormwater. This grant is slated for completion in summer of 2020.

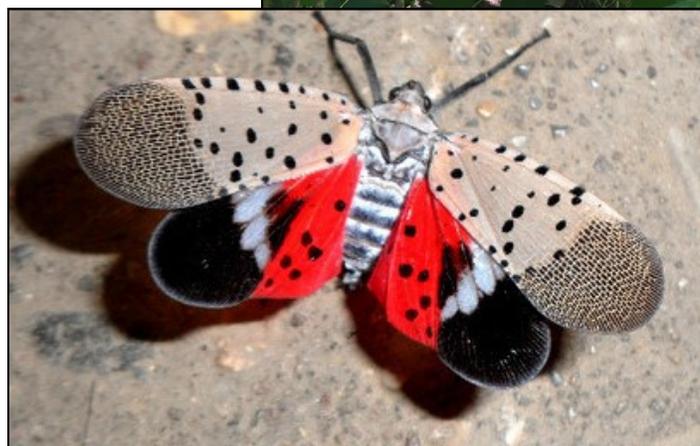
OTHER PROGRAMS

Biosolids

In 2008, MCCD signed a delegation agreement with PA DEP to provide local field support to the Biosolids program. The District is sent 24-hour notices of intent to spread biosolids for beneficial use on mainly agriculture operations. The utilization of these products has decreased somewhat, but the concern over the land application of biosolids remains, and education and outreach is provided as requested, and complaints are investigated and/or referred to DEP for handling.

Spotted Lanternfly Control Program

Montgomery county was hit hard by the spotted lanternfly invasive pest again in 2019. The lanternfly has continued to spread its geographic range throughout the county. The entire county is in the quarantine zone. MCCD received a grant from the State to implement a control and education program. Control work was conducted with cooperation from the PA Department of Agriculture and Penn State Extension at county parks and Ursinus College. The goal is to prevent continued spread of the pest outside of the quarantine area, while working towards eliminating the pest in Montgomery County. We look forward to continuing control efforts in 2020.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Envirothon

The current topic for 2019 Envirothon was Agriculture & the Environment: Knowledge to Feed the World. 195 students participated in the middle and high school events. Perkiomen Valley High School was the 2019 Champion, and went on to compete at the state-level competition. Partners included educators from Montgomery County Parks, Trails and Historic Sites, PA Game Commission, PA Fish and Boat Commission, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Penn State Extension, PA DEP, Montgomery County’s Health Department and Planning Commission, and local residents.

Envirothon teaches students the importance of protecting our natural resources, and instills values of environmental stewardship. The events, free of charge to schools, provide opportunity for students to get outside and learn from environmental experts on five topics: soils & land use, aquatic biology, forestry, wildlife, and a “current topic.”





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