



# Montgomery County Conservation District

## Annual Report 2020

*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](http://www.MontgomeryConservation.org)

*While our office has remained closed to the public for the past year due to COVID-19, MCCD continues to provide our services remotely and we thank the public for their cooperation and understanding during a challenging year.*

## 2020 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

## 2020 Board Members

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

## Staff Members

Jessica Buck	District Manager
Karen Thompson	Administrative Assistant
Eric Konzelmann	Resource Conservationist
Cody Schmoyer	Resource Conservationist
Jeffrey McKenna	Resource Conservationist
Andrew Fenstermacher	Resource Conservationist
Janel Fishpaw	Resource Conservationist
Brian Vadino	Watershed Specialist
Abigail Reiter	Ag Conservation Specialist
Carl Hollenback	Engineering Technician
Gary Kulp P.E.	District Engineer

## CHAPTER 102/NPDES PROGRAM

2020 Program Data	
Individual NPDES Permits Acknowledged	23
General NPDES Permits Acknowledged	91
Administrative Plan Reviews	332
Technical Plan Reviews	542
Site Inspections	177
Technical Assistance <i>(including electronic and phone correspondences)</i>	41,449
Complaints Received/Responses	38
Total Project Acres	2,856
Disturbed Acres	1,489

## 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

- Utilized 2019-2020 PACD NPS Pollution Prevention Mini-Grant Program funding to secure educational materials for environmental education and outreach events by MCCD and partnering organizations (February 2020)
- Shared PA Envirothon's "Online Natural Resources Challenge" (a Covid-19 safe alternative to "in-person" County Envirothon) information with Montgomery Co. Intermediate Unit for dissemination to high schools across Montgomery Co. (April 2020)
- Provided input and guidance to PSU Master Watershed Steward Program re: streambank erosion monitoring efforts in Montgomery County (May 2020)
- Partnered with Penn State Extension (Master Watershed Steward and Master Gardener programs) and Ambler Borough EAC to secure funding for and deliver a free, virtual "Conservation and Water Pollution Prevention Workshop for Homeowners." Financial and other support for the workshop was provided by the PA DEP's 2020 Environmental Education Grants Program. The workshop was attended by a record 227 participants over two evenings and included distribution of 66 free native trees (and associated fencing and stakes for protection from deer). (September 2020)
- Continued to provide watershed conservation related technical assistance, grant program information, and support to hundreds of individuals/entities through site visits, email, telephone, newsletter and other (social media) communications (January -December 2020)

# WATERSHED MANAGEMENT, OUTREACH & EDUCATION



Top: MCCD staff participating in annual stream cleanup event

Bottom: PV Trout Unlimited tree planting project along the East Branch Perkiomen Creek

## WATERSHED MANAGEMENT, OUTREACH & EDUCATION

### Projects:

- TreeVitalize Watersheds 2020: Partnered with local watershed organizations, municipalities, academic institutions, and volunteers to secure Landowner Agreements, develop Operation and Maintenance Plans for and complete 13 riparian buffer enhancement projects across approx. 11.5 acres. Through these projects, MCCD and its community partners worked to plant and protect 1,335 native trees and shrubs along priority stream corridors and stormwater management facilities to capture runoff, reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, enhance habitat conditions, and provide educational opportunities. Funding for these projects was made possible by the Tree Vitalize Watersheds Grant program, managed by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, with funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener program, PECO and Aqua PA for projects located within its source water protection zones. These projects alone leveraged over \$37,000 in local matching funds and in-kind contributions (which included over 680 volunteer hours). (Spring 2020 – Fall 2020)
- TreeVitalize Watersheds 2021: Reviewed and provided technical assistance toward the development of 15 riparian buffer enhancement grant applications for projects across approx. 17 acres. Through these grant applications, MCCD and its community partners propose to plant and protect 2,019 native trees and shrubs along priority stream corridors to capture runoff, reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, enhance habitat conditions. If approved, these projects alone are expected to leverage over \$166,000 in local matching funds and in-kind contributions. (December 2020)
- Continued to conduct on-site monitoring of riparian forest buffer plantings at Upper Perkiomen Valley YMCA as part of PACD's Multifunctional Riparian Buffer Sub-Grant Program for Conservation Districts. (Spring – Fall 2020)
- Continued to provide permitting guidance to Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited and Upper Hanover Township re: stream habitat improvement project on Hosensack Creek at Mill Hill Preserve. (Spring – Fall 2020)
- Collected 400 lbs. of trash from Evansburg Point Park in support of Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy's annual, watershed-wide cleanup. (April 2020)
- Delivered tools/equipment to and provided on-site assistance to Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited and AQUA PA and in their efforts to plant and tube 100 native trees to establish a riparian forest buffer along West Branch of the Perkiomen Creek at Heffner Road, Upper Hanover Township. Additional support for this project was provided by the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership. (October 2020)

# AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

## Nutrient Management/Manure Management

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

## Farmer Workshops

MCCD partnered with Penn State Cooperative Extension to host two ag education workshops. Due to the pandemic, these workshops were hosted virtually. In-person events were not possible this year due to pandemic-related restrictions.

- ♦ Hay and Pasture Nutrition and Management Webinar—April
- ♦ Greener Pastures start with Fall Pasture Management—December

MCCD continued to loan out their no-till drill to farmers, for conservation planting and interseeding, as a demonstration tool. The drill was used 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.



A no-till drill is 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 .

MCCD administers the program in Montgomery County and provides education and outreach to qualified applicant entities.

Municipalities involved in the grant program in 2020 include:

- Salford Township
- Lower Frederick Township
- Borough of Pottstown
- Marlborough Township

**2020 Totals:**

- Gravel road grant projects completed: **1**
- Gravel road grant projects contracted: **1**
- Low volume road grant projects completed: **1**
- Low volume road grant projects contracted: **1**



Klingerman Rd, Lower Salford Township completes a large culvert replacement project in the Indian Creek Watershed with funding through the Low Volume Road program.

## OTHER PROGRAMS

### Biosolids

MCCD assists PA DEP through local field support in 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 2020. The lanternfly has continued to spread its geographic range throughout the county. The entire county is covered under the quarantine zone. MCCD received a grant from the State Conservation Commission to implement control activities. Control and eradication work was done in cooperation with the PA Department of Agriculture and a local contractor at county park sites. The goal is to prevent the pest from spreading outside of the quarantine area, while working towards eliminating the pest in Montgomery county.





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