



# Montgomery County Conservation District

## Annual Report 2021

*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)

## 2021 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

## 2021 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  
William Ross Snook, Associate Director

## Staff Members

Jessica Buck	District Manager
Karen Thompson	Administrative Assistant
Cody Schmoyer	Resource Conservationist
Eric Konzelmann	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
Elise Eggert-Crowe	District Engineer

## CHAPTER 102/NPDES

2021 Program Data	
Individual NPDES Permits Acknowledged	10
General NPDES Permits Acknowledged	91
Administrative Plan Reviews	436
Technical Plan Reviews	772
Site Inspections	556
Outreach Events	21
Complaint Inspections	70
Total Project Acres	2,322
Disturbed Acres	1,012

In 2021, MCCD added a second District Engineer to our staff, Elise Eggert-Crowe, to better serve the regulated community through PCSM reviews in the Ch. 102 NPDES permit program.

# ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

## 2021 Montgomery County Environmental Stewardship Award

### **Wissahickon Headwaters Stream & Riparian Restoration** *Upper Gwynedd Township*

[Wissahickon Headwaters Stream & Riparian Restoration](#), an outstanding environmental project in Upper Gwynedd Township, received a 2021 Environmental Stewardship Award in recognition of restoring and stabilizing the stream channel at the headwaters of the Wissahickon Creek, controlling streambank erosion and sedimentation, and conducting a collaborative process with many public and private partners. The project, which reconnected the stream channel with its floodplain along 1,775 linear feet of the Wissahickon Creek, has transformed a once eroded, channelized, and degraded headwater stream into a functional and attractive environmental amenity that provides terrestrial and aquatic habitats and enhances the user experience along the Green Ribbon Trail. [Project Video](#)



## 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.

### Featured Accomplishment

MCCD partnered with local watershed organizations, municipalities, academic institutions, and volunteers to complete 15 riparian buffer projects across 11.63 acres. Through these projects, MCCD and its community partners worked to plant and protect over 1,886 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 \$180,300 in local matching funds and in-kind contributions (which included over 2,053 volunteer hours).

### Other Accomplishments

- Hosted regional "Stormwater Maintenance for HOAs & Property Maintenance Companies" webinar.
- Partnered with Ursinus College, Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy and Upper Perkiomen Valley YMCA to complete two (2) PACD Multifunctional Riparian Forest Buffer Sub-Grant projects encompassing 2.75 acres in the Perkiomen Creek Watershed.
- Assisted Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited to secure a grant from the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund to implement a stream bank stabilization and fish habitat improvement project along Perkiomen Creek.
- Delivered a virtual County Envirothon event to 45 students from three local high schools.
- Partnered with Montgomery County Parks, AQUA PA, and other project partners to develop and install (4) Aquatic Invasive Species educational signs at Green Lane Reservoir.

# WATERSHED MANAGEMENT



Top: TreeVitalize Watersheds riparian buffer planting at Sebastian Riding Associates in Collegeville, PA  
Bottom: Aquatic invasive species educational signage installed at Green Lane Park

# WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

## TreeVitalize Watersheds Montgomery County

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 2021, Montgomery County Conservation District assisted local project partnering organizations in completing 15 riparian planting projects, through which the following results were achieved:

### 2021 Totals:

- **15** projects
- More than **\$86,000** grant funding invested
- More than **\$180,300** match from local partners
- **1,886** native trees and shrubs planted
- **11.6** acres restored
- **2,053** volunteer hours



Local volunteers assist MCCD at a buffer planting at Sebastian Riding Associates in Collegeville, PA

# 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. MCCD assists farmers with manure and nutrient management to protect water quality.

## Ag Education & Conservation Efforts

- ◆ MCCD continued to loan out their no-till drill to farmers, for conservation planting and as a demonstration tool. In 2021, the drill was used for no-till planting, pasture renovation, seeding of cover crops, basin naturalization, and planting a native pollinator plot. Approximately 100 acres were planted. 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 two-part ag conservation webinar series was hosted.
- ◆ MCCD assists the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation Program with annual preserved farm inspections to ensure compliance with conservation plans and assist farmers with conservation stewardship on their land.



A no-till drill is made available to farmers in Montgomery county and surrounding areas for no-till planting and demonstration 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 . The grant program is administered on the local level. MCCD partners with eligible applicants to fund and conduct environmentally beneficial road improvement projects.

One gravel road project was completed and one low volume road project was contracted in 2021.

Municipalities involved in the grant program in 2021 include:

- Salford Township
- Upper Frederick Township



**BEFORE & AFTER:** King Rd in Salford Township received grant funding to repair a gravel road along the Ridge Valley creek that suffered severe damage during a large storm. The project including base repair, installation of a new culvert, and stone aggregate to improve the roadway and drainage.



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