



Montgomery County Conservation District

Annual Report 2023

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

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CHAPTER 102/NPDES

2023 NPDES Program Data	
Individual NPDES Permit Records of Decision	8
General NPDES Permits Acknowledged	114
Site Inspections	372
Outreach Events	11
Total Project Acres	1,765
Disturbed Acres	968

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023 Board Members

Sara Erlbaum, Chair

Monica Burcik, Vice Chair

Eliza Walbridge, Secretary

Christopher Canavan, Treasurer

Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH/Kenneth Lawrence, Jr.

Andrew Frankenfield

Jim Myers

Ryan Beltz

Timothy Woodrow PE

William Ross Snook, Associate Director

Staff Members

Jessica Buck

District Manager

Karen Thompson

Administrative Assistant

Michael Bogan

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

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

2023 Montgomery County Environmental Stewardship Award

Jacob Reiff Park Stream & Floodplain Restoration

Lower Salford Township

The [Jacob Reiff Park Stream & Floodplain Restoration](#) project received the 2023 Environmental Stewardship Award for its stream and floodplain restoration efforts along the west branch of Skippack Creek. This project, involving strong interagency partnerships, volunteer efforts, and forward-thinking design elements, has resulted in a healthier ecosystem, improved flood attenuation and stormwater management in the floodplain corridor, and a unique natural destination for the community to enjoy.

[Video](#)



Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Communities

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, leveraging grant funds and other opportunities.

Featured Accomplishment

Montgomery County Conservation District partnered with local watershed organizations, municipalities, academic institutions, and volunteers to secure Landowner Agreements, develop Operation and Maintenance Plans for and complete 11 riparian buffer enhancement projects across 13.29 acres. Through these projects, MCCD and its community partners worked to plant and protect over 2,552 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 and local conservation districts, with funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener program, PECO and Aqua, an Essential Utilities company. These projects leveraged approximately \$57,400 in local matching funds and in-kind contributions (which included over 1,217.25 volunteer hours).

Other Accomplishments

Watershed Conservation / Riparian Buffers

- Assisted Penn State Master Watershed Stewards with ordering, securing, and distributing 1,825 native tree seedlings, tree tubes through the Keystone 10-Million Trees Partnership to support riparian buffer plantings in Ambler Borough, Upper Hanover Township (Camelot Park), Horsham Township (Jarrett Nature Center), Cheltenham Township (Curtis Arboretum) and Lower Providence Township (along Perkiomen Creek). These plantings (alone) leveraged over \$25,113.00 in local matching material and in-kind contributions (which included over 488 volunteer hours).
- Partnered with Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy to complete two PACD Multifunctional Riparian Forest Buffer Sub-Grant projects encompassing 0.65 acres at Pennypacker Mills and Jacob Reiff Park. These projects included the planting of 110 native trees and shrubs.
- Assisted Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited (PVTU) in maintaining riparian plantings projects completed through the TreeVitalize Watersheds grant program and the Keystone 10-Million Trees Partnership.
- Worked with PVTU and PSU Master Watershed Stewards to complete Stream Visual Assessments along West Branch Perkiomen Creek and Macoby Run.

Other Accomplishments

Environmental Education

- Partnered with Valley Forge National Historic Park to deliver a “Fall Homeschool Day” educational event to over 2,000 students and park visitors. Assisted Penn State Master Watershed Stewards with ordering, securing, and distributing 1,825 native tree seedlings, tree tubes through the Keystone 10-Million Trees Partnership to support riparian buffer plantings in Ambler Borough, Upper Hanover Township (Camelot Park), Horsham Township (Jarrett Nature Center), Cheltenham Township (Curtis Arboretum) and Lower Providence Township (along Perkiomen Creek). These plantings (alone) leveraged over \$25,113.00 in local matching material and in-kind contributions (which included over 488 volunteer hours).
- Partnered with volunteers from PVTU, staff from PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and staff from Montgomery County Parks, Trails, and Historic Sites to provide interactive environmental education programming to students from Boyertown Area High School, Christopher Dock High School, and Evergreen Elementary School. This programming included three “Trout in the Classroom” field trips on May 9th, May 18th, and May 25th. Approximately 80 students (total) attended the events.
- Worked with agency partners and other MCCD staff to deliver the Montgomery County High School Envirothon event to 60 students from 5 schools who attended the event. Participating schools included Perkiomen Valley High School (3 teams), Upper Perkiomen High School (3 teams), North Penn High School (3 teams), Pottsgrove High School (2 teams) and Norristown Area High School.
- PACD Non-Point Source (NPS) Education Mini-Grant Projects: Presented non-point source pollution prevention related information to Montgomery County “Pennsylvania Master Naturalists” in May 2023. The presentation was held at Norristown Farm Park and was attended by 15 individuals. Presented riparian buffer planning, design, installation, and maintenance related information during a riparian buffer and native meadow “showcase” site tour in September 2023. The tour was held at Variety Childrens Charity of the Delaware Valley and was attended by approximately 40 individuals representing local municipalities, academic institutions, watershed/conservation organizations, state agencies and the public.
- Coordinated reservation, delivery, pickup, return and reporting activities of trailer in support of riparian buffer planting projects conducted by 1) John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove (330 trees and 1,050 live stakes planted through 100 community volunteer hours) and 2) an Eagle Scout at Twining Valley Park in Upper Dublin Township (50 trees planted via 100 community volunteer hours)

Grant Dollars brought to the County through MCCD (CDWS Program) efforts: \$ 119,817.07

Estimated In-Kind (volunteer and other non-cash) Match through CDWS efforts: \$ 95,149.02

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT



AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

Nutrient Management/Manure Management

MCCD is a delegated authority for agricultural programs. These programs are implemented through education and outreach, technical assistance and voluntary compliance efforts. MCCD is delegated the Nutrient Management/Manure Management Program under Ch. 93 of PA Code, through the SCC and the PA DEP. MCCD assists farmers with manure and nutrient management to protect water and soil quality.

Abigail Reiter, Ag Conservation Specialist, leads the ag programs and administers grant programs as well as education and outreach and technical assistance to farmers across Montgomery County.

Ag Education & Conservation Efforts

- Hosted native meadow and riparian buffer showcase event for about 40 attendees
- Newly established Agricultural Plans in place in 2023 – 8 Manure Management Plans and 4 Ag E&S Plans written by CD staff, 2 590-Nutrient Management Plans and 3 Conservation Plans established through conservation district outreach and assistance .
- Provided ag conservation and manure management presentations at several events
- 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.

No Till Drill Rental Program: 22 rentals this year

Pasture or hayland planting: 112 acres

Cover Crops: 31 acres

Meadow/Basin planting: 0.4 acre



A 5.5' Esch 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 gravel roads, as well as “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. MCCD terminated its delegation with the state to administer the DGR program in 2023, however still administers the LVR grant program in Montgomery County.

One LVR project was completed in 2023 in Narberth Borough. The project included stormwater management and a water quality box to better handle and treat stormwater, while improving the road in a residential borough.



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