



Montgomery County Conservation District

Annual Report 2022

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

2022 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

2022 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

2022 NPDES Program Data	
Individual NPDES Records of Decision	5
General NPDES Permits Acknowledged	113
Site Inspections	501
Outreach Events	10
Total Project Acres	2,188
Disturbed Acres	933

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

2022 Montgomery County Environmental Stewardship Award

Perkiomen Creek Dam Removals and Stream Restoration Project *Upper Hanover Township*

[The Perkiomen Creek Dam Removals and Stream Restorations project](#), an outstanding effort that has successfully resulted in improved water quality, enhanced habitat biodiversity, and restored stream channels, received a 2022 Environmental Stewardship Award for the removal of obsolete dams, resulting stream restorations, and an extensive collaborative process with many community partners. At a total project cost of \$275,000 and with support from community partners, this project, which involved the removal of two dams and subsequent stream restorations, will improve water quality for the region, aquatic habitat for these two branches of the Perkiomen Creek, and for Green Lane Park, an important recreation area. [Project Video](#)



Live stake planting by volunteers and the dam removal projects restored the stream channels on two branches of the Perkiomen Creek in Upper Hanover Township.

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 14 riparian buffer projects across 12.25 acres. Through these projects, MCCD and its community partners worked to plant and protect over 1,914 native trees and shrubs along stream corridors 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 \$82,157 in local matching funds and in-kind contributions (which included over 2,142 volunteer hours).

Other Accomplishments

- Assisted 2 private landowners in the Wissahickon Creek and Perkiomen Creek watersheds to secure and plant 1,100 native tree seedlings through the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership.
- Partnered with Upper Dublin Township and Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy to complete two PACD Multifunctional Riparian Forest Buffer Sub-Grant projects encompassing 3.8 acres in the Wissahickon Creek and Perkiomen Creek watersheds.
- Assisted Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited in their efforts to secure a grant from PA DCNR to implement a stream bank stabilization and fish habitat improvement project along Perkiomen Creek.
- Partnered with Valley Forge National Historic Park and other partners in delivering a "Fall Homeschool Day" educational event to over 2,000 students and park visitors.
- Partnered with Upper Perkiomen Trout Unlimited in delivering two "Trout in the Classroom" educational programs to approximately 80 students from Christopher Dock High School and Upper Perkiomen Middle School.
- Worked with agency partners and other MCCD staff to deliver County Envirothon event to 55 students from five local high schools.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT



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. These projects restore tree canopy, establish and enhance riparian buffers, provide wildlife habitat, improve soil health and help to protect water quality.

2022 Totals:

- **14** projects
- **\$82,157** in matching funds from local partners
- **1,914** native trees and shrubs planted
- **12.25** acres restored
- **2,142** volunteer hours reported



AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION

Nutrient Management/Manure Management

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

Ag Education & Conservation Efforts

- ◆ Hosted “Equine Grazing Management” workshop
- ◆ Provided ag resource conservation presentations at 3 events: Farm Bureau Day, PSU Extension Pesticide Update Meeting, & PSU Pasture Walk (total of 75 farmers reached)
- ◆ Provided education on soils and agricultural topics at the Temple Ambler summer camp
- ◆ Hosted the NACD Environmental Poster Contest for Montgomery County schools
- ◆ MCCD continued to loan out the no-till drill to farmers, for conservation planting and as a demonstration tool. In 2022 the drill was used for no-till planting, pasture renovation, seeding of cover crops, and establishment of a native pollinator plot. Approximately 116 acres were planted. The equipment, a 5.5’ Esch no-till drill, 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 naturalized areas.
- ◆ 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 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.

One gravel road project was completed and two low volume road projects were completed in 2022. Funding remains available in 2023. Contact MCCD with interest.

Municipalities involved in the grant program in 2022 include:

- Salford Township
- Lower 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. This project was started in 2021 and completed in 2022.

The low volume road projects included drainage improvements and a culvert replacement.



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