



Montgomery County Conservation District

Annual Report 2024

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
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www.MontgomeryConservation.org

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2024 Board Members

Sara Erlbaum, Chair

Monica Burcik, Vice Chair

Christopher Canavan, Treasurer

Andrew Frankenfield, Secretary

Commissioner Neil Makhija

Jim Myers

Ryan Beltz

Timothy Woodrow PE

Michael Conner

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
Heather Irwin	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

Number of NPDES General Permits: 248

Number of Individual NPDES permit Records of Decision: 8

In 2024, MCCD processed the 2024 PAG02 NPDES permit renewals in the 5 year cycle, with the December 7, 2024 permit expiration.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

2024 Montgomery County Environmental Stewardship Award

Jenkintown Creek Restoration: Stormwater Retrofit at Alverthorpe Park

Abington Township

Environmental Stewardship Award

[The Jenkintown Creek Restoration: Stormwater Retrofit at Alverthorpe Park](#) received the 2024 Environmental Stewardship Award for its unique approach to retrofitting stormwater infrastructure into an existing township park with minimal site disturbance. This excellent project, which resulted in water quality improvements, habitat creation, and environmental education opportunities, exemplifies the benefits of interagency cooperation and site-sensitive stormwater design. [Video](#)



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

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 **15 riparian buffer projects funded across 13.5 acres through the Trees for Watersheds grant program**. Through these projects, MCCD and its community partners worked to plant and protect over **2,597 native trees, 138 native shrubs and 1,300 live stakes** 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.

Other Accomplishments

Watershed Conservation / Riparian Buffers

- Partnered with PSU Extension Master Watershed Stewards to secure 1,200 native trees and shrubs through the Keystone 10-Million Trees program for volunteer planting projects
- PACD Riparian Forest Buffer Sub-Grant Program: Partnered with Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy to secure grant funding to establish a 1.5-acre riparian buffer (250 trees) at Reiff Park (Lower Salford Twp.) as part of a larger stream restoration project at that location
- Facilitated rental of conservation planting tool trailer for restoration and riparian buffer planting projects across the county
- Planned and held educational tour of Food Forest at Martha's Community Farm through NPS Mini Grant
- Provided technical support toward Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited and Upper Hanover Township efforts associated with assessment, design, permitting and construction of a streambank stabilization and fish habitat improvement project along Perkiomen Creek at Camelot Park in Upper Hanover Township

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Other Accomplishments

- Provided PA Wildlife Display at Valley Forge National Historic Park “Homeschool Day” for over 2,000 students (October 2024)
- “Trout in the Classroom” in partnership with Perkiomen Valley TU, PFBC, and Montgomery Co. Parks, Trails & Historic Sites (2024)
 - Watersheds, Land Use & Riparian Buffers stations at (3) “Trout in the Classroom” trout release events (May 2024)
 - Participating schools included Upper Perkiomen Middle School, Perkiomen Valley Middle School East, Christopher Dock High School and Evergreen Elementary School.
 - Over 250 students attended across all events
- Worked with agency partners and other MCCD staff to deliver the Montgomery County High School Envirothon event to 40 students from 4 schools
 - The 2024 current topic was “Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future.”
 - The program emphasizes the importance of environmental sensitivity while stressing the need to achieve a social, ecologic, and economic balance.
 - The learning objectives emphasize awareness, knowledge and attitudes through outdoor hands-on applications while addressing the complex natural resource concerns facing today’s world, as well as the challenges of tomorrow.
 - A total of 40 students from 4 schools attended the event. Participating schools included Perkiomen Valley High School (2 teams), Upper Perkiomen High School (1 team), North Penn High School (3 teams) and Pottsgrove High School (1 team).
 - A team from North Penn High School won and advanced to represent Montgomery County at the Pennsylvania Envirothon state competition, which was held in May 2024.
- Secured additional \$5,000 NPS Mini-Grant funding through CDWS Grant Agreement
 - Soil Health & NPS Pollution Prevention Field Day @ Sarahsway Farm, Montgomery County
 - Keystone 10-Million Trees: MCCD Outreach and Support for PSU Master Watershed Steward Riparian Planting efforts in Montgomery County
 - Montgomery County EAC Partnership Resources Workshop (Virtual) (Spring 2025)
- Presentations/Public Speaking Engagements:
 - Keynote Address at Watershed Congress along the Schuylkill River (MCCC, Pottstown Campus) (March 2024)
 - Montgomery County EAC Workshop with Montgomery Co. Planning Commission and “We Conserve PA” (March 2024)

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

- Soil Health Field Day Event held October 3rd – about 35 people in attendance
 - Speakers from NRCS, MCCD, Penn State Extension and Stroud Water Research Center
- 8 Manure Management Plans written in 2024 by CD staff
- 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.
- Secured \$100,000 Schuylkill River Restoration Fund grant for a dairy farm ag BMP project in Douglass Township
- Ag Plan Reimbursement Funding granted to Montgomery County farmers: \$3396
- Practices Installed through a joint ACAP and NRCS-EQIP Project:
 - Heavy Use Area Protection (561) – 18,200 square feet
 - Waste Storage Facility (313) – 2688 square feet
 - Grassed Waterway (412) – 7250 square feet
 - Fence (382) – 1330 linear feet
 - One finalized ACAP contract, 6 more projects in process – several large livestock projects planned for the next two years through the ACAP program



AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION—pg. 2

No Till Drill Rental Program: Acres planted with district no till drill:

Pasture/hayland: 87

Cover Crop: 30

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.

In 2024, Ag Conservation Specialist, Abby Reiter created a user-guide video for the Esch no-till drill, to benefit drill users

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOokWjRB0_s

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 does not administer the DGR (dirt & gravel) portion of the grant program, however we still administers the LVR grant program in Montgomery County.

One LVR project was completed in 2024 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. Significant education & outreach was conducted to solicit interest in the grant program, and one "Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance" (ESM) training was held in the fall of 2024 to certify and recertify municipalities to be eligible to apply.



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