



Montgomery County Conservation District

Annual Report 2025

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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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2025 Board Members

Sara Erlbaum, Chair
Monica Burcik, Vice Chair
Christopher Canavan, Treasurer
Andrew Frankenfield, Secretary
Dan Lurie
Commissioner Neil Makhija
Jim Myers
Ryan Beltz
Timothy Woodrow PE
Michael Conner, Associate Director
William Ross Snook, Associate Director

Staff

Jessica Buck	District Manager
Rebecca Whitten	Administrative Assistant
Michael Bogan	Resource Conservationist
Eric Konzelmann	Resource Conservationist
Jeffrey McKenna	Resource Conservationist
Andrew Fenstermacher	Resource Conservationist
Heather Irwin	Resource Conservationist
Carl Hollenback	Resource Conservationist
Brian Vadino	Watershed Specialist
Abigail Reiter	Ag Conservation Specialist
Ryan Devine	Ag Conservation Specialist
Gary Kulp P.E.	District Engineer
Elise Eggert-Crowe	District Engineer
Ashley Claycomb	Assistant District Engineer

CHAPTER 102/NPDES

Number of NPDES General Permits: 170

Number of Individual NPDES permit Records of Decision: 5

Number of Notice of Terminations approved: 79

Total MCCD staff working in the Ch. 102 NPDES program:

- ◆ 6 Resource Conservationists
 - ◆ 2 District Engineers and 1 Assistant Engineer
 - ◆ 1 Permit Administrator
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- *In 2025, MCCD transitioned to fully electronic application submissions, and instituted electronic payments through MunicIPAY*
 - *MCCD hired a third Engineer in 2025 to accommodate workload*
 - *MCCD, in cooperation with the other SE PA Conservation Districts, hosted an Ch. 102 Engineers workshop for over 200 engineers in December 2025 at Penn State Brandywine campus (photo below)*



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

2025 Montgomery County Environmental Stewardship Award

Ursinus College Food Forest

The [Ursinus College Food Forest](#), the first of its kind in Montgomery County, received the 2025 Environmental Stewardship Award. This exceptional and innovative project serves as a pioneering model of environmental restoration that combines hands-on education and community engagement. Nestled on a preserved agricultural easement in Trappe Borough, the forest spans 1.75 acres and stretches 640 feet along a tributary of the Perkiomen Creek. The project expanded an existing narrow riparian corridor onto previously farmed lands, creating a multifunctional edible landscape that nourishes both people and ecosystems. Through continued student involvement, cultural connections, and ecological stewardship, the food forest stands as a beacon of hope, resilience, and collaboration for Montgomery County and beyond.



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 projects funded across 8 acres through the Trees for Watersheds grant program**. Through these projects, MCCD and its community partners worked to plant and protect over 1,250 native trees, 150 native shrubs and 154 herbaceous plants 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. Partners for these projects included: Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, Riverbend Environmental Education Center, Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, and Douglass Township.

Other Accomplishments

Watershed Conservation / Riparian Buffers

- Facilitated rental of conservation planting tool trailer through SEPA RC&D Council for restoration and riparian buffer planting projects across the county
- Through Educational Mini Grant, provided 1 virtual presentation to 35 PSU Extension Master Watershed Stewards (Feb 2025); assisted Trout Unlimited in conducting one educational tour and livestaking event at a habitat improvement site along the West Branch of the Perkiomen (March, 2025)
- Participated in Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy's annual Stream Cleanup event, gathering approximately 300lb of trash in Evansburg state park
- Secured PACD grant funding to establish a 0.33-acre riparian buffer (55 native trees and shrubs) and a 0.16-acre native pollinator meadow along a tributary to Swamp Creek at Tomorrow's Homestead (New Hanover Twp.). Riparian buffer plantings were installed in October 2025 in partnership with Tomorrow's Homestead and Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, while meadow plantings are being planned for Fall 2026.

Other Accomplishments

- Provided PA Wildlife Display at Valley Forge National Historic Park “Homeschool Day” for over 2,000 students (October 2025)
- In Spring and Fall 2025, provided on-site assistance to Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited and AQUA PA and in their efforts to maintain 100 native trees to establish a riparian forest buffer along West Branch of the Perkiomen Creek at Heffner Road, Upper Hanover Township through the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership.
- “Trout in the Classroom” in partnership with Perkiomen Valley TU, PFBC, and Montgomery Co. Parks, Trails & Historic Sites
 - Watersheds, Land Use & Riparian Buffers stations at “Trout in the Classroom” trout release events for Boyertown Middle School East
 - Over 250 students attended across all events
- Envirothon: Worked with agency partners and other MCCD staff to deliver the Montgomery County High School Envirothon event to 40 students from 4 schools
 - The 2025 current topic was “Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change.”
 - 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 5 schools attended the event. Participating schools included Perkiomen Valley High School, Upper Perkiomen High School, North Penn High School (4 teams), Pottsgrove High School, and Norristown Area High School.
 - A team from North Penn High School won and advanced to represent Montgomery County at the Pennsylvania Envirothon state competition.

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

- ◆ Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program: 9 ACAP grant applications received, 7 approved
 - ◆ Completed ACAP grant projects: 512.96 acres of cover crops planted; 3,833 linear feet of streambank fencing installed
- ◆ Technical Assistance provided through over 40 on-farm visits
- ◆ Plans written: 4 Manure Management plans written by district staff, 3 NMP/MMPs reviewed
- ◆ Spring cover crop field day in Gilbertsville, with approximately 35 attendees
- ◆ Pesticide meeting “BMP, Conservation Funding and Ag Compliance” presentation with about 40 attendees
- ◆ County farmland preservation “Farmers Gathering” annual meeting with around 100 people in attendance
- ◆ In 2025, MCCD hired a second Ag Conservation Specialist, Ryan Devine! Ryan serves as a NRCS Partner Affiliate



No Till Drill Rental Program:

Acres planted using district no till drill: 100 total acres

11 acres cover crops, 89 acres pasture/hayland reseeding



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.

2025 LVR Grant Programmatic Activity (5 projects total):

- ◆ 1 LVR project was contracted & completed in Upper Hanover Township
- ◆ 4 LVR projects were contracted, in Upper Hanover, Narberth, Marlborough and Salford Townships.

Education & outreach was conducted to solicit interest in the grant program.



Grayling Ave, Narberth—rain garden bumpouts, stormwater management project funded through a 2025 LVR grant



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