



DELAWARE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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A Note from the District Manager

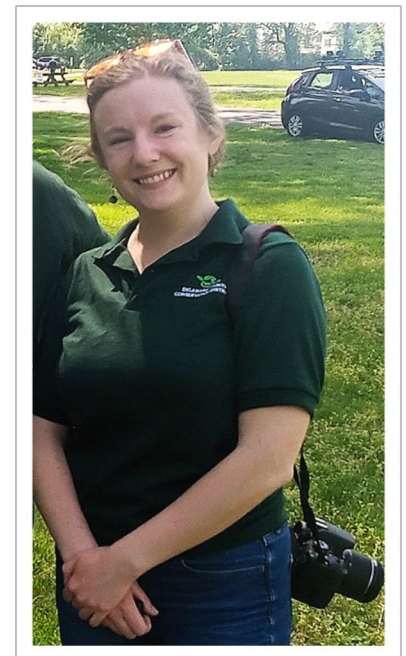
Welcome to the Delaware County Conservation District's 2025 Annual Report, compiled as a collaborative effort that allowed our team the opportunity to reflect on the past year. Throughout the report, you will read about the changes and expansions of our programs, new and strengthened partnerships, and responsible fiscal management.

With a leadership transition in 2024 that brought a year of growth, adjustment, and learning, 2025 was a year of settling into a routine and new spaces. The Delaware County Conservation District retained all eight of our staff, including seven full-time employees and one part-time position. As highlighted later in this report, we upgraded our aging office spaces to create a more effective and comfortable work environment. Our operations have continued smoothly with the experience and attentiveness of our Administrative Specialist, Gina Ferzetti, and the extensive institutional knowledge passed along by the former District Manager, Ed Magargee.

From the perspective of the former Watershed Specialist, I've had the opportunity to observe the expansion and stewardship of the District's various partnerships, watershed initiatives, and grant programs by our current Watershed Specialist, Chris Cook. Our reach in the County is wider than ever thanks to all the Watershed Specialists who have built upon those efforts and initiated their own over the years. The work of a Watershed Specialist is not possible without our community partners throughout Delaware County, many of whom are mentioned later in this report.

Thanks in large part to the support of our Conservation Technicians, I've been able to dive into the (new-to-me) world of the Chapter 102 NPDES Permit Program and E&S Pollution Control, particularly while studying our fee schedule and learning about the complexities of permitting during the rollout of the PAG-02 permit at the end of 2024. Our team of District Technicians – Carmen Swygart, Stuart O'Riordan, and Jordan Lambe, led by Michelle Wheeler – have demonstrated professionalism and acuity both in the field and in the office.

We continue to grow and learn in each of our respective roles at the Conservation District, and I look forward to seeing what 2026 brings. I want to acknowledge our incredible Board and Delaware County Council for their immense support of our efforts to carry out our mission of ensuring the wise use of the County's natural resources.





2026 Delaware County Council

Richard R. Womack, Chair
Christine A. Reuther, Vice Chair
Dr. Monica Taylor
Elaine Paul Schaefer
Joanne Phillips



Barbara O'Malley
Delaware County
Executive Director

Delaware County Conservation District Board of Directors

2026 Directors

Raymond Iacobucci, Chair

Steve Linvill, Vice Chair

Randy Bates, Secretary
/Treasurer

Elaine Schaefer Council

Wayne Megill, Jr.

Vincent Pennoni

Michael Leventry

Mary Batt

Vacant



Congrats, Vince Pennoni!

During the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts' (PACD) Executive Council Meeting at the 2025 Joint Annual Conference held in July at Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Vincent Pennoni was elected to serve as the Treasurer for PACD.

We are thrilled to see Delaware County represented on a Statewide Council and wish him all the best in this role.



From left to right:

Secretary, Sonia Wasco, Lancaster County Conservation District
1st Vice President, Barb Peace, Indiana County Conservation District
2nd Vice President, Thomas F. Herbert, Luzerne Conservation District
President, Emil A. Bove, Westmoreland Conservation District
Treasurer, Vince Pennoni, Delaware County Conservation District

Remembering Cheryl Graff Tumola

The Delaware County Conservation District's Board Chair, Cheryl Graff Tumola, sadly passed away in December of 2025. Cheryl served on the District's Board of Directors for 25 years and as our Chair for 18 years.

Cheryl was a bright light for the District, bringing her kindness, wit, and passion for environmental conservation in Delaware County to our Board meetings and to every interaction with our team.



District Staff

Karen Lochman, District Manager
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Chris Cook, Watershed Specialist
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Gina Ferzetti, Administrative Specialist
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Ed Magargee, Plan Reviewer
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Michelle Wheeler, Permitting Manager
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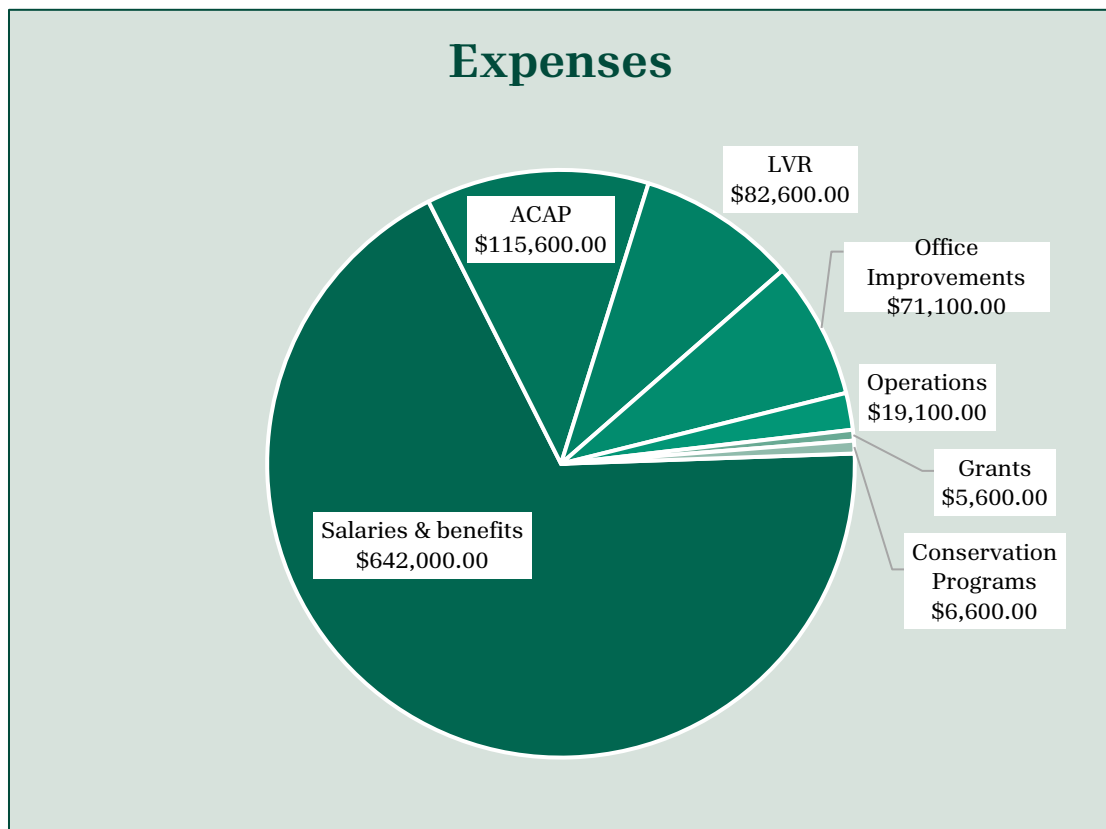
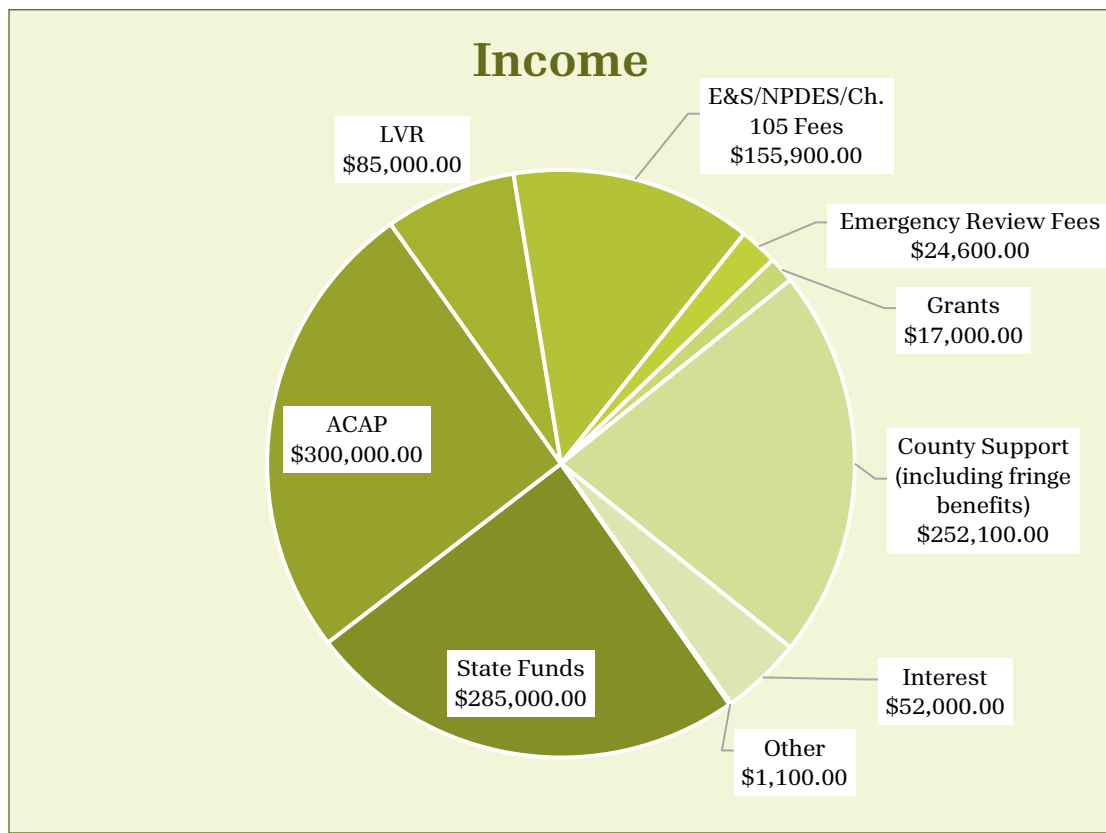
Carmen Swygart, District Technician
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Jordan Lambe, District Technician
LambeJ@co.delaware.pa.us

Stuart O'Riordan, District Technician
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Financial Snapshot



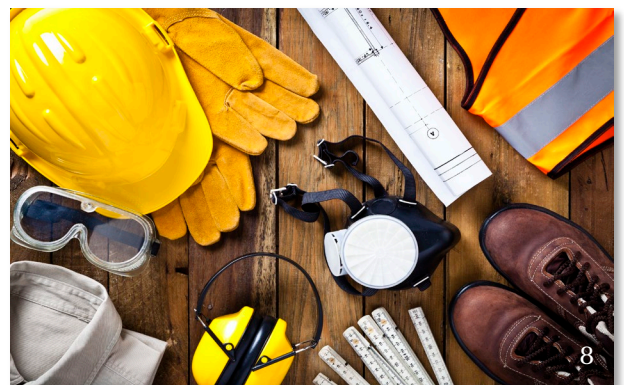
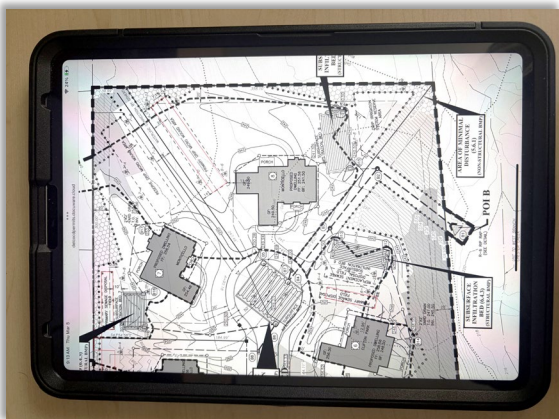
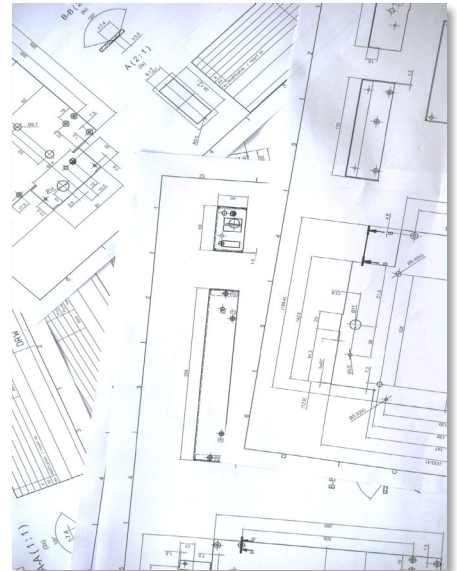
Plans and Permits by the Numbers

Chapter 102 / NPDES Program and Chapter 105 2025 Activities

Number of Erosion and Sediment Plan Reviews	203
Fees Collected from Plan Reviews	\$97,300.00
Number of Disturbed Acres (Proposed)	703
Number of NPDES Permits Acknowledged	78
Revenue from NPDES Permit Filing Fees	\$48,000.00
Number of Chapter 105 Permits Acknowledged	26
Revenue from Chapter 105 Permit Filing Fees	\$10,625.00

In 2025, the District was continuing to authorize the PAG-02 renewal applications that were received by the December 7, 2024 due date. 27 of the 78 reported NPDES Permits Acknowledged were PAG-02 renewals. In January, compliance notices were sent to 15 permittees who either did not submit a renewal NOI or had an amendment NOI submitted by December 7th.

- District staff conducted **198 site inspections** across **111 different project sites**.
- In addition to routine and follow-up site inspections, **24 sites were inspected as a result of a complaint**. This included sites that held permits with our office as well as non-permitted sites.
- **33 Pre-Construction Meetings** were attended. These meetings were held both on site and via teleconference
- Field staff began **utilizing iPads** a lot more for taking photographs and viewing plan drawings with the increase in digital plan submissions.



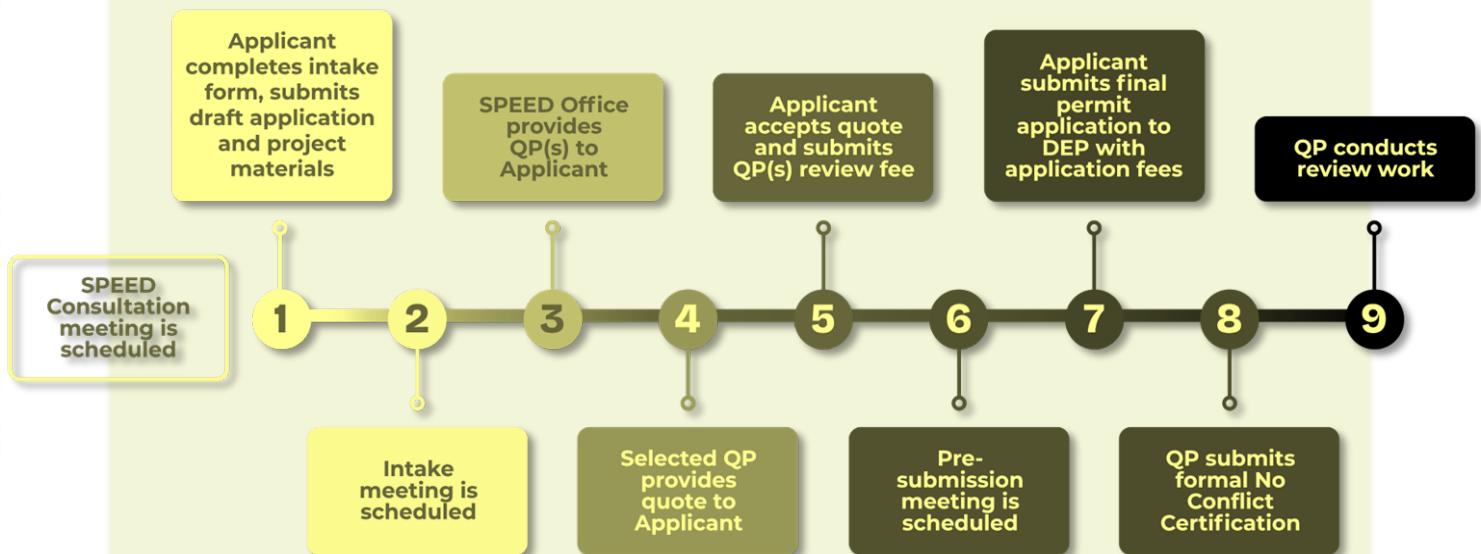
What Was New for Permitting in 2025?

2025 brought new methods of how the District can accept permit applications. After a few test trials in 2024, the District offered applicants the option to submit permit applications and plans electronically through the **Docuware** program. While learning this program was an adjustment, it allowed the office to cut down on filing spaces and allows staff easier access to files.

DEP allowed new Chapter 102 (PAG-02 and Individual) PennDOT applications to be submitted and reviewed in the **Keystone Environmental E-Permitting System (KEES) Platform**. Training modules on how to complete the reviews in this system were provided on the Clean Water Academy.

The **Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Development (SPEED) Program** was implemented to allow Chapter 102 Permits to be submitted in 2025. While the district did not receive any applications through this program, staff participated in the teleconference updates that were presented by DEP throughout the year in preparation for any projects that may come to the District through the SPEED Program.

SPEED Program Flow Chart



New Requirements under the 2024 PAG-02 NPDES Permit

2025 was a year of change for not only the regulated community, but also the District technicians. Most of the forms within the NPDES permit application were revised this year. Included with the revisions came several new requirements for additional information to be provided and reviewed.

New Forms and Requirements:

- EP Analysis and POAs (Points of Analysis)
- Qualified Site Inspector Certificate (VSIR Training; monthly colored photos)
- Stormwater Control Measure Construction Certification Form
- Confirmation Testing for Infiltration Capabilities
- Documentation for Private Business owners
- Fill/Balance Worksheet
- Pre-Development Site Characteristic Spreadsheet
- New PNDI requirements with iPac
- Annual Reports
- Plan Recordings, O&M Agreements and Instrument Filings required prior to pre-construction meeting
- Additional Requirements to control measures on site

Additional New Items for Technicians

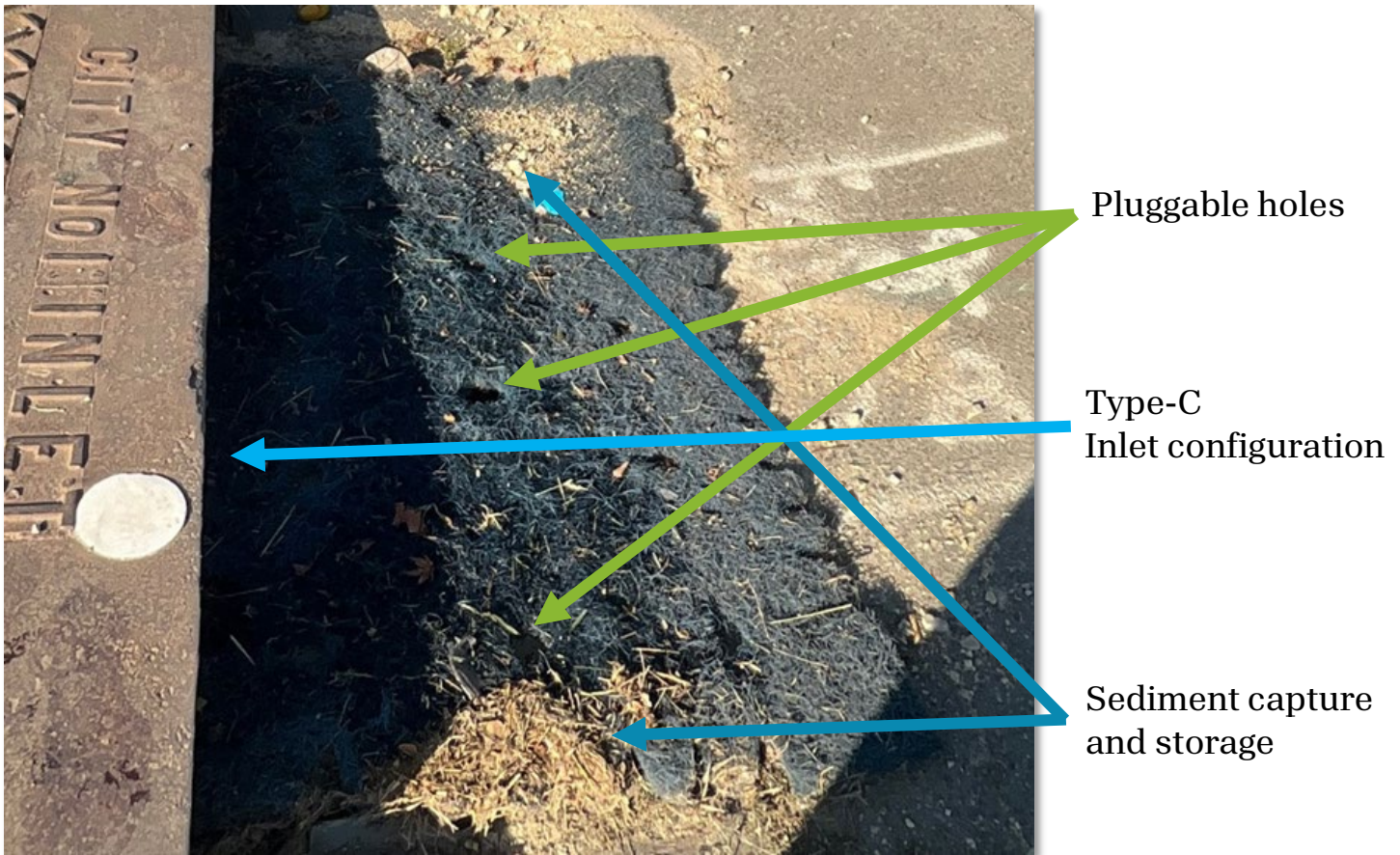
- Fact Sheets – Administrative, Technical, Notice of Termination
- Inspection Reports
- MRC (Managed-Release Concept)
- Pre-construction Meeting Checklist
- Letters

This form is titled "Chapter 102 SCM Construction Certification Form" and is part of the "GENERAL PROJECT AND SCM INFORMATION" section. It includes fields for Project Site Name, Permit No., SCM Name, Expiration Date, Designer Name, SCM ID No., Recording Date, Municipality, Drainage Area, County, Impervious Area, and SCM Latitude/Longitude. It also has a section for "Report on completion of the SCM and provide the information requested in the table below or as an addendum" with columns for Inspector Name and Inspector Firm. There is a "Construction Information" section with checkboxes for "Photographs of each critical stage with date/time stamps and appropriate location are attached (required)" and "Describe measurements taken by the inspector to evaluate conformance of the SCM and its components with approved plans." It also includes a section for "Describe corrective measures as a result of conformance testing, if any."

This form is titled "CHAPTER 102 PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING CHECKLIST" and is part of the "COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT" section. It includes a "GENERAL INFORMATION" section with fields for Meeting Date, Meeting Location, Permit No., Permit Effective Date, Permit Expiration Date, Project Site Name, Municipality, County, and Project Contact Information. It also has a "MEETING ATTENDEES" section with columns for Name, Company, Title, Phone, and Email. There is a "PERMIT TRANSFERS AND NAME CHANGES" section with checkboxes for "Selling a property does not transfer the permit nor does it relieve the permittee of compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit." It also includes a "PPC PLAN" section with checkboxes for "PPC Plan - The permittee must prepare and implement a PPC Plan when storing, using or transporting materials including fuels, chemicals, solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, lime, petrochemicals, wastewater, wash water, core drilling wastewater, cement, sanitary wastes, solid wastes or hazardous materials onto, on or from the project site during earth disturbance activities." It also includes a "Concrete Washout Areas" section with checkboxes for "Concrete Washout Areas - Concrete washout areas should be lined and may not discharge to surface waters. Such discharges are not authorized under the permit." It also includes a "Material Storage Areas" section with checkboxes for "Material Storage Areas - If materials such as fuel, used oil, herbicides, etc. will be stored on-site, there may be Waste Management regulations that require containment. The permittee should be familiar with other program requirements applicable to their site. In general, for all liquid materials, it is recommended that a double-walled tank be used and/or secondary containment be implemented for all material storage areas to prevent pollution."

This form is titled "Pre-Construction Meeting Checklist" and includes a section for "Monthly Color Photographs - Date and time-stamped color photographs are required. See VSIR for more information." It also includes a section for "SCM CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATION FORM" with checkboxes for "The permittee must submit this form for each structural PCSM SCM within 30 days of its completion. A licensed professional must sign it. The permittee should ensure that they have contacted with a licensed professional to provide oversight of PCSM SCM critical stages and completion of this form." It also includes a section for "NEW PROPERTY OWNER NOTIFICATION FORM" with checkboxes for "The permittee must submit this form to DEP/CDD within 30 days of any transfer of property containing or planning to contain PCSM SCM(s) and with a permit transfer application." It also includes a section for "ANNUAL REPORTS" with checkboxes for "The first annual report is due on the first instance of December 31st following one full year of permit coverage, and the reporting period is the permit effective date to September 30th of the year the first annual report is due. Subsequent reports are due December 31st each year until the NOT is approved and the reporting period is October 1 - September 30. Depending on how long after permit issuance the pre-construction meeting is held, it is possible that one or more annual reports may have already been due." It also includes a section for "PERMIT TRANSFERS AND NAME CHANGES" with checkboxes for "Selling a property does not transfer the permit nor does it relieve the permittee of compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit. If a permittee no longer wishes to be responsible for the permit, then the permit must be transferred or terminated (if applicable). If the Employee Identification Number (EN) remains the same but the permittee's name is changing, a Name Change Form can be submitted in lieu of a formal transfer." It also includes a section for "PPC PLAN" with checkboxes for "PPC Plan - The permittee must prepare and implement a PPC Plan when storing, using or transporting materials including fuels, chemicals, solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, lime, petrochemicals, wastewater, wash water, core drilling wastewater, cement, sanitary wastes, solid wastes or hazardous materials onto, on or from the project site during earth disturbance activities. Most projects require a PPC Plan. A copy of the permittee's PPC Plan was provided to DEP/CDD during the meeting. PPC Plan Date." It also includes a section for "Concrete Washout Areas" with checkboxes for "Concrete Washout Areas - Concrete washout areas should be lined and may not discharge to surface waters. Such discharges are not authorized under the permit." It also includes a section for "Material Storage Areas" with checkboxes for "Material Storage Areas - If materials such as fuel, used oil, herbicides, etc. will be stored on-site, there may be Waste Management regulations that require containment. The permittee should be familiar with other program requirements applicable to their site. In general, for all liquid materials, it is recommended that a double-walled tank be used and/or secondary containment be implemented for all material storage areas to prevent pollution."

Alternative BMPs Encountered in the Field: Blackhawk Inlet Filter Mat



For a variety of reasons, some permittees opt to use approved Alternative BMPs not listed in DEP's E&S Manual. The Blackhawk Inlet Filter mat, such as the one pictured above, is one of these approved Alternative BMPs. It is a coir mat with pluggable holes that can be configured to both Type-M and Type-C Inlets. One benefit of the Blackhawk Inlet Filter mat is that it is magnetized, so it can be placed on top of an inlet without lifting the grate. It also has emergency holes that can be unplugged to increase dewatering in the event that ponding becomes a concern. This makes it a great option for projects on busy roads subject to flooding, such as the one above in Upper Darby Township. The Blackhawk Inlet Filter mat was approved by DEP in 2016 and is ABACT in High Quality watersheds.

To propose a new BMP to DEP's Alternative BMP List, applicants should submit the "Alternative BMP Submission Form" to RA-EPALTERNATIVEBMP@pa.gov at least 90 days prior to proposing use of the BMP in a project application.

Common Failures of E&S BMPs Observed in the Field

COMPOST FILTER SOCK



OVERTOPPING

A section of compost filter sock being overtopped by a nearby soil stockpile, resulting in sediment outside the LOD.



UNDERMINING

A section of compost filter sock that was severely undermined, allowing sediment laden water to bypass the sock and accumulate in the below PCSM SCM Basin.

INLET PROTECTION



TEARS AND RIPS

Instead of an inlet filter bag, geotextile fabric was used. This material then ripped, allowing sediment laden water to bypass the protection



IMPROPER INSTALLATION

This inlet protection for a Type C inlet was installed without protection across the curb throat of the inlet, allowing sediment laden water to bypass the inlet filter bag

ROCK CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE (RCE)



COMPACTION

This RCE was severely compacted with sediment, which meant all vehicles that exited the site tracked out sediment onto the roadways.



SHORTING WHEN EXITING

Evidence that vehicles were not using the full length of this RCE was observed on the right side of this entrance, and the result is sediment being tracked onto the roadways

SEDIMENT BASIN / TRAPS



IMPROPERLY INSTALLED OUTLET STRUCTURE

This skimmer was installed without drilling the orifice in the front plate, making it unfunctional. In addition, the skimmer head was upside-down.



UNMAINTAINED

This basin was observed to have not been maintained and kept free of excessive vegetation, which in turn trapped the skimmer rendering it unfunctional

Exemplary E&S BMPs Observed in the Field

COMPOST FILTER SOCK



DISTANCE FROM STOCKPILES

This sock was observed to be an adequate distance from the stockpile, allowing room for the sediment to accumulate before overtopping the sock.



PROPER INSTALLATION

This compost filter sock was observed to have been properly installed and staked, including the installation of a compost toe berm to help limit the potential of undermining

INLET PROTECTION



PROPER MATERIAL

This inlet was observed to have been protected with an appropriate inlet filter bag, which is resistant to being torn or ripped in order to keep sediment out of the inlet while the area stabilizes



PROPER INSTALLATION

This Type C inlet was observed to be adequately protected with an inlet protection filter bag and compost sock across the curb throat to prevent any sediment laden water bypassing the bag.

ROCK CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE (RCE)



PROPER MAINTENANCE

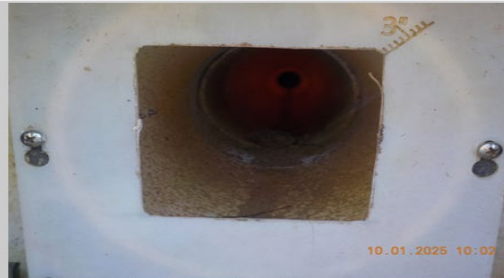
This RCE was observed to have been maintained and the stone refreshed when needed, allowing it to continue to function and prevent sediment from getting tracked onto the roadways



USING THE FULL ENTRANCE

Fencing was installed at this site to ensure that vehicles would use the entire length of the RCE when exiting, preventing sediment from getting tracked onto roadways.

SEDIMENT BASIN / TRAPS



PROPERLY INSTALLED OUTLET STRUCTURE

This skimmer was installed with the correct orifice sized cut into the face plate and in the correct orientation, allowing the outlet structure to function as designed.



PROPER MAINTENANCE

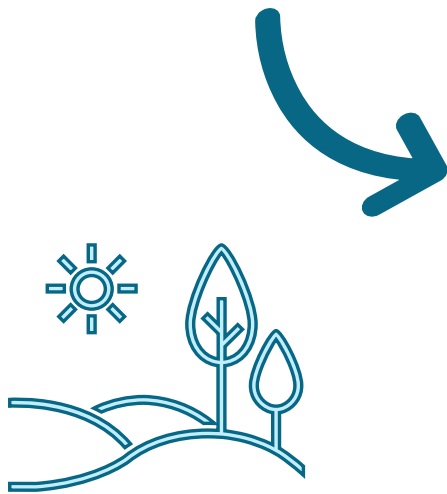
This basin was routinely cleaned out and maintained, ensuring that the basin was free of debris and vegetation so it can operate as designed

Stormwater Control Measure (SCM) Maintenance

Before...



...and after:



Working with the HOA of a recently finished development on SCM maintenance. Due to the surrounding trees, the endwall was difficult to locate and had therefore not been maintained by the neighborhood's contracted landscaping company for a long period of time. During the NOT inspection, the location of the endwall was reintroduced to an HOA member who voluntarily joined the inspection to learn more about maintaining the SCMs in their neighborhood. Vegetative overgrowth was cleared and additional riprap was added to maximize energy dissipation at the endwall. The HOA will continue using what they learned from attending the NOT inspection to ensure proper maintenance in years to come!

Problems Encountered in the Field: Mystery Pipes?



During an NOT inspection, a technician encountered a mysterious pipe not shown on the As-Built Plans that were submitted for the project. When it was documented in the Inspection Report, neither the designer nor the permittee recalled any reason for installing the pipe. Additionally, it was not located near any existing stormwater or sewer structures. After some research and a visit to the site, the designer discovered the culprit: It was the remains of an old goalpost!

The site, which is now a baseball field, had previously been used as a multi-purpose sports field. Due to the site layout, when it was converted to a baseball field, the hole for the goal post pictured above was hidden by a row of trees and therefore was never removed. Mysteries such as this one, which are often encountered by our technicians in the field, can teach valuable lessons about the rich history of our sites!

Lessons Learned: Technical Reviews

DCCD's technicians and permitting staff have been working hard learning how to conduct E&S technical reviews. These reviews consist of assessing the effectiveness of erosion and sediment stormwater control measures during construction, such as, but not limited to:

- Sediment barriers, such as compost filter socks
- Inlet protection, such as inlet filter bags
- Rock construction entrances
- Sediment traps and basins, along with associated structures such as baffles, skimmers, and risers
- Swales

Ed Magargee, former District Manager, has graciously offered his time and expertise to teach the team about these reviews. Staff also attended trainings hosted by DEP staff in Harrisburg and Elverson, and they will continue to attend similar trainings in the future.



Delaware County's MS4 Permit

2025 MS4 Routine Inspection with PA Department of Environmental Protection

On October 29, 2025, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection conducted a routine inspection of the County's MS4 Permit. This inspection involved a meeting between DEP and the Conservation District, Parks & Recreation, and County Planning.

We are in **good standing with each of our six Minimum Control Measures and annual reporting requirements**. Some highlights of the inspection include:

- We have a robust Public Education and Outreach Program (PEOP) since we reach beyond our target audience. The Conservation District administers several grant programs that allow us to connect with community members, watershed organizations, and municipalities. We are pleased that our efforts were recognized by DEP during this inspection.
- The Parks maintenance garage and stormwater basins at Rose Tree Park and Smedley Park were inspected. No violations were noted.
- The recent Smedley Park basin construction was commended for its combination of funding sources and collaboration with several partners to rehabilitate and enhance through naturalization.

2025 Activities in Support of MS4

Here's a snapshot of the activities conducted by the District in support of the County's MS4 Permit:

- Storm Drain Labeling Workshops
- Act 167 Planning led by Delaware County Planning Department
- Official Park opening event and PA Invasive-Replace-ive led by PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources at former Little Flower property
- Native Species Day planting at Kent Park with Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards
- Removal of burning bushes and porcelain berry at Kent Park in Upper Darby in preparation for the section to be regraded and planted with native shrubs to increase infiltration
- Planting of 500 native plugs at Rose Tree Park Meadow with Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards and Delco Parks
- ...and more!

Countywide Act 167 Plan Update



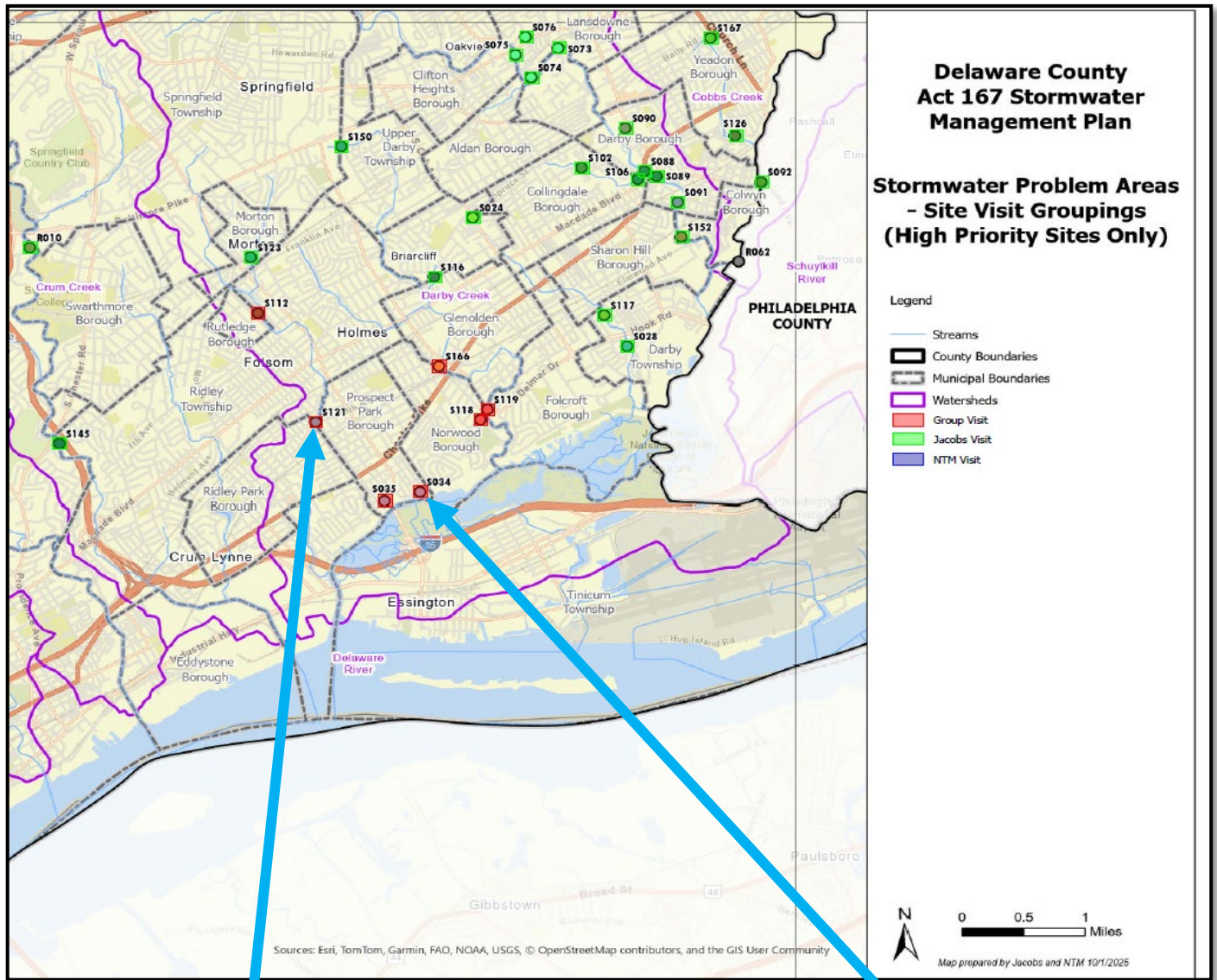
The County is in Phase II (began in June 2025) of preparing a Countywide Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan. Act 167 plans examine runoff and associated stream flow in a watershed to develop guidance for the management of stormwater. These standards and criteria defined in the plan must be implemented as part of new development and redevelopment.

Per PA Act 167 regulations, the County's Planning Department established a Watershed Plan Advisory Committee (WPAC) to engage representatives of the County's 49 municipalities and other stakeholders, including the Delaware County Conservation District, universities, and watershed organizations, in development of the Stormwater Management Plan and updated Stormwater Model Ordinance.

WPAC engagement in Phase II consists of six meetings to present the Act 167 planning process, compile data on municipal stormwater problem areas and control facilities, answer questions, and solicit feedback on standards and criteria for controlling stormwater runoff that will be incorporated into the updated stormwater model ordinance. Four meetings have taken place to date, and a fifth is planned for April 2026. In addition to the meetings, the County is in regular email and phone contact with WPAC members to share information and answer questions.

Pictured here is the County team from both the Conservation District and the Planning Department inspecting problem areas with consulting engineers, Jacobs Engineering Group and NTM Engineering.

Act 167 Early Successes



During the development of the **Countywide Act 167 Plan**, some of the highlighted problem areas displayed on the County consultant's draft problem area map were already slated for the recommended riparian buffer installations. Site S121 (left) and S034 (right), are two flood-prone areas in Prospect Park Borough in the Darby Creek Watershed, now planted with native trees and shrubs. Darby Creek Valley Association, the Borough's Highways Department, and 60+ volunteers worked with the District to get almost **400 plants from the Keystone 10 Million Trees Program** installed across the two sites with support and tools from the Southeast PA Conservation Planting Trailer.

Watershed Programs

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Trees for Watersheds Program

Acting as a grant advisor, DCCD helped to secure over **\$18,000** in funds for three separate riparian buffer projects. In total, the projects planted **442 trees**, **66 shrubs**, and **845 herbaceous plants** across **0.98 acres**.

DCCD Mini Grant Program

To promote conservation work in Delaware County, DCCD has established a Mini-Grant program. The Board of Directors allocates \$3,000.00 annually to the program through the District Emergency Review program fees and has an award limit of \$500 per project. In 2025, **eight projects** were awarded to grantees that included municipal committees, nonprofits, and school groups.

Conservation District Watershed Specialist Mini Grant '24-'25

Through the Watershed Specialist Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, a new budget category has been established as of 2024-25 by PA DEP. It allows Watershed Specialists to apply for **up to \$5,000 to implement watershed improvement efforts** through education and outreach or project installations. Using this opportunity for the first time, DCCD applied for and was granted over **\$3,000 to host three non-point source pollution mitigation workshops** in the spring. The workshops were held in Upper Chichester Township, Bethel Township, and Trainer Borough. By completing these workshops, DCCD worked closely with NMS Watershed Alliance, Pennsylvania Clean Air Council, Pennsylvania Sea Grant, and the local municipal staff to educate **31 attendees**, **distributed 466 storm drain badges** and **installed around 60 more**, and **distributed around 600 copies over PA DEP approved educational materials** in support of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) stewardship.



Workshop in Upper Chichester Township



Workshop in Bethel Township.

Watershed Programs

Keystone 10 Million Trees

Closing out the program's final season, DCCD led two capitalizing tree planting project efforts this fall. Across the sites, **over 700 trees and shrubs** were planted throughout **more than 2 acres of streamside public land** in Prospect Park Borough and Ridley Township, for **little to no cost!** The projects showcased the importance of strong grassroots relationships, and the power of local volunteers, who contributed **210 hours** of installation efforts. In addition to these projects, DCCD also acted as a distribution site for many partners throughout the County, bringing **1,475 native trees and shrubs** into our watershed this year. Over the life of this program, around **14,000 trees and shrubs have been planted and tracked in Delaware County**. We hope to see more programs like this in the future!



Ridley Township, along the impaired Stoney Creek, after highways department removed invasive plants.



Ridley Township along Stoney Creek, after 60+ resident volunteers and multiple partners planted 530 trees and shrubs, to re-establish a riparian buffer!

PACD Lawn to Meadow Conversion

In the County-owned Rose Tree Park, **one acre of maintained lawn was converted into a native meadow** using a mini-grant provided by PACD's Lawn Conversion Program for Conservation Districts. The project used **\$2,653.00 in grant funds**, with a generous **match provided from DCCD and Delaware County Parks Department and Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards in the amount of \$5,665.**



Fall 2024, Truax Seeder in proposed meadow footprint, as District Manager overlooks.



Spring 2025, first growing season of the lawn to meadow conversion!

Partnerships

Key Collaborations in the Watersheds

In Delaware County, our key watershed protection groups include **Darby Creek Valley Association**, **Naamans Marcus Hook Stoney (NMS) Watershed Alliance**, **Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association**, and **Brandywine Red Clay Alliance**. Through a multitude of support letters, technical assistance, project partnerships, grant advising, and direct donations, DCCD strives to enhance the work of all watershed protection groups every year. DCCD also continues to work closely with **Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards**, across County departments, longstanding municipal partners, and various agencies.



DCCD leads Pollinator Garden installation with Borough of Prospect Park and local volunteers after being awarded Bowman's Hill Native Plant Grant!



DCCD, Marple Shade Tree Commission, and Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards guide County Parks Volunteers in watershed enhancement project at Delco Woods County Park.

New and Strengthened Connections

As DCCD works to expand on new and diverse partnerships that support conservation, stronger partnerships have been sought with the **Department of Conservation and Natural Resources** through the Urban & Community Forestry program and locally at the Ridley Creek State Park. Other new or strengthened relationships include Southeastern PA Stormwater Authority, Pennsylvania Sea Grant, Chester Shade Tree Commission, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, and USFWS John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge.

Education and Outreach

Pennsylvania Envirothon

On April 29th, 2025, teams from Penncrest and Strath Haven High Schools participated in the Delaware County Conservation District led Envirothon competition, taking place at Ridley Creek State Park. **Penncrest took the win in the Delaware County** (continuing their successful streak) and moved on to states, where they won and went on to nationals. **At the national competition in Canada, they placed 7th!**

DCCD is proud of the continued efforts of our participating schools and hope to see more school participation from other schools in the future.



2025 County and State Champions and finishing 7th in the NCF Envirothon Competition, Penncrest Highschool

Science Fair

Each year, DCCD sends staff to serve as judges for the Delaware County Science & Engineering Fair. In 2025, students in grades 6-12 gathered at the Aston Community Center to share their research and qualify for the Delaware Valley Science Fair. DCCD staff judged the Environmental Science category, selecting winners in each grade level based on the students' projects and their responses during interviews. Each year, these incredibly bright students continue to amaze us with their curiosity, work ethic, and impressive projects!

Sustainability Conference

The Annual Delaware County Sustainability Conference, hosted by the County's Office of Sustainability, serves as a way for environmental practitioners, agencies, and government officials to learn about sustainable initiatives, find supportive resources, and build their network of partners. DCCD helped to offset the event's necessary expenses by applying for funding through [PA DEPs Environmental Education Grants Program](#). Roughly **300 individuals** attend each year!

2025

Team	Wildlife	Soils	Current Events	Aquatics	Forestry	Total
Gold Team	88.5	96	89	94	92	459.5
Penncrest Red	89.5	86	91	100	73	439.5
The Fragrances	65.5	80	94	76	74	389.5
The Goldfish	61	46	67	56	46	276
Junior Sunrise	35	68	76	59	40	278

DELAWARE COUNTY ENVIROTHON RESULTS 2025

County Envirothon Competition Station leaders, including District staff, PA DEP, NRCS, DCNR, PA Fish & Boat Commission, and PA Game Commission.

Other Annual Outreach Events:

- Newlin Grist Mill, Race for the Watershed
- City of Chester and Partnership for Delaware Estuary, Chester River Fest
- Transition Town Greater Media, Eco Fest

Low Volume Road Grant Program

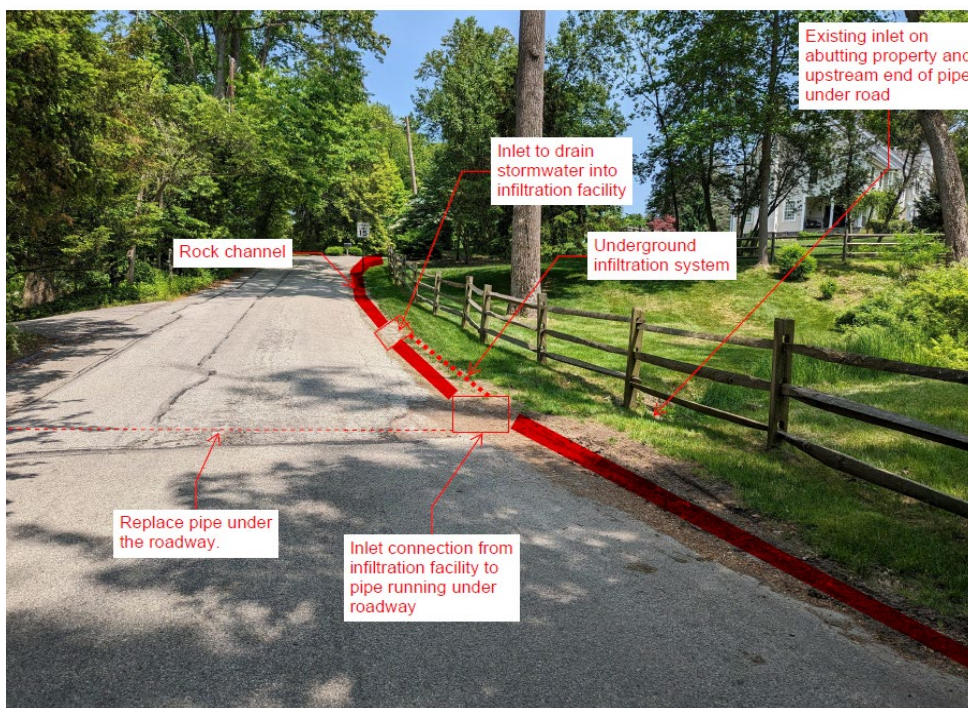
Encouraging improvements to road safety and the environment while reducing maintenance costs for public entities. DCCD receives an annual allocation of around \$80,000.00 to spend on eligible low volume road projects each year. As this program continues to grow in Delaware County, DCCD looks forward to working with new and diverse applicants.

In 2025, 2 projects were completed and 1 new project contract was executed.

Glendale Road in Newtown Township (\$38,755) in the Darby Creek Watershed: Installed 225 LF of river stone roadside swale, to improve stormwater collection and reduce erosion of road edge. 30 LF of 18" perforated pipe set in 8 inches of stone and wrapped with geotextile was also integrated into the swale for improved stormwater infiltration. To connect the new improvements to existing features, and to better manage localized flooding, 2 new inlet boxes were installed.

Elstone Drive in Thornbury Township (\$97,514) in the Chester Creek Watershed: Installed 214 LF of perforated piping with infiltration trenches to promote 72 sy of improved stormwater infiltration. In addition, 300 sy of street paving was installed to improve drainage of surrounding areas into new 32 sy rain garden. 711 sy of vegetative restoration was also installed as part of his project.

New contract was executed for **Charter Oak Drive in Edgmont Township (\$22,065) in the Crum Creek Watershed**, to install underdrains, infiltration trenches, and inlet boxes with sumps, to better capture and infiltrate stormwater runoff and spring seeps that are degrading the road.



Glendale Road, Newtown Township shown here with existing conditions overlayed with proposed improvement (left) and completed site conditions after construction (above).

Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)

Delaware County Conservation District, in close partnership with Chester County Conservation District's Ag Team, has continued to implement PA's Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) throughout 2025 to improve soil and water resource concerns on agricultural operations. The district received an allocation of \$300,000 in 2023 and a second allocation of \$300,000 in 2025. **Four projects have been contracted with local producers that total \$426,321.55.** One project is fully complete, one has been partially completed, and two projects are scheduled to begin construction in 2026. So far, **a total of \$124,515.13 has been paid out for the construction of BMPs.**

Edgmont Township: A small equine farm has installed streambank fencing and a riparian buffer to reduce streambank erosion and protect water quality.



Before streambank fencing (Edgmont Township)



After streambank fencing (Edgmont Township)

Chadds Ford Township: A floriculture operation constructed a high tunnel to extend their growing season and keep living roots in the soil. The project will be completed with the installation of an irrigation system.



Before high tunnel (Chadds Ford Township)



After high tunnel (Chadds Ford Township)

Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)

Newtown Township:

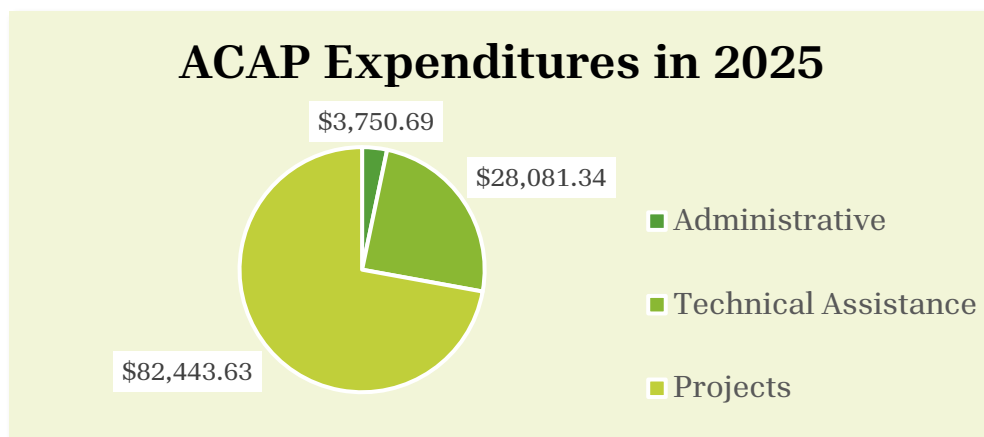
Planned improvements on this operation include a grassed and rock-lined waterway, a roof over an existing compost pad, and an access lane. These practices will reduce soil erosion and protect clean water.



Gully in pasture (Newtown Township)

COMING SOON! Middletown Township:

A small equine farm plans to install streambank fencing, a rotational grazing system, heavy use area protection (HUAP), animal trail/walkway, and a frost-free waterer to eliminate direct stream access, improve forage utilization, and reduce erosion.



One of our largest state allocations in 2025 was funding for the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP). Being such a densely populated County with heavily developed areas, we are incredibly pleased to report that all of our funds from our first allocation have been committed to agricultural improvement projects, and we are on track to complete several more projects getting us closer to meeting our spending requirements for the program.

The Chester County Conservation District Ag Team administers ACAP on behalf of Delaware County Conservation District through a clear Memorandum of Understanding. These ACAP accomplishments would not be possible without their team's extensive outreach, creativity, and professionalism in working with producers in Delaware County.

Office Updates

In 2024, we added one Conservation Technician, transitioned from a Team Lead to a Permitting Manager position, and created a part-time Plan Reviewer position. We also incorporated a hybrid work policy, allowing staff to work remotely periodically.

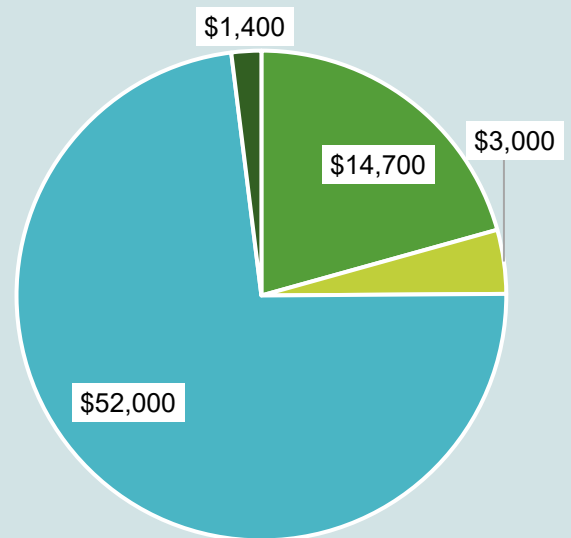
Additionally, after scanning a large amount of hardcopy files to a digital system, Docuware, we were able to remove large, empty filing cabinets, creating more space in our office.

With these changes, our existing office format at the Hunt Club in Rose Tree Park was not quite serving our needs. On the main floor of the building, we took down the large District Manager's office partitions to create multiple workspaces; moved the Administrative Specialist's workspace to be more visible to office visitors; and moved the District Manager's office to the old Technician's office with a more functional layout.

The new layout has a more open feel and still allows for the review of hardcopy plans as needed. The Technicians have larger workspaces, and the transition to digital files allows staff the flexibility to work remotely.

The next page shows the office layout before and after the upgrades.

Office Upgrade / Digital File Transition Expense Breakdown



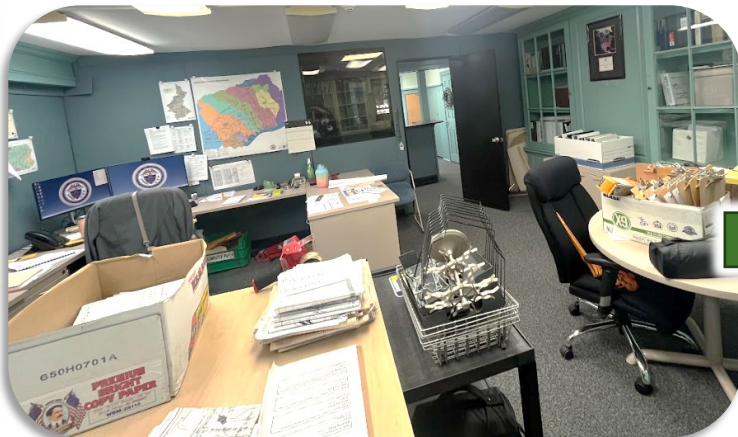
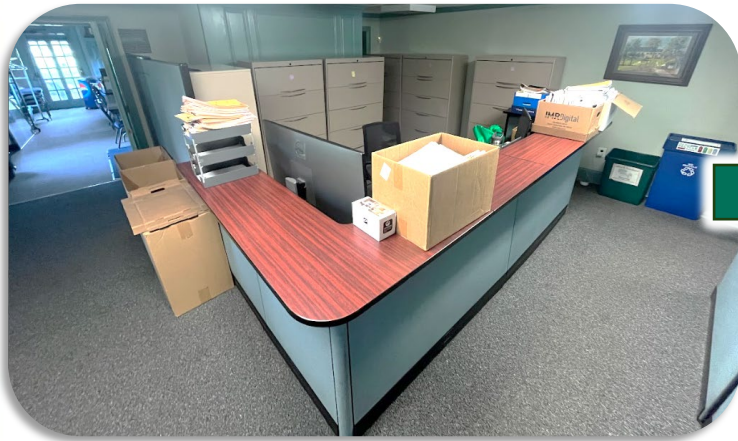
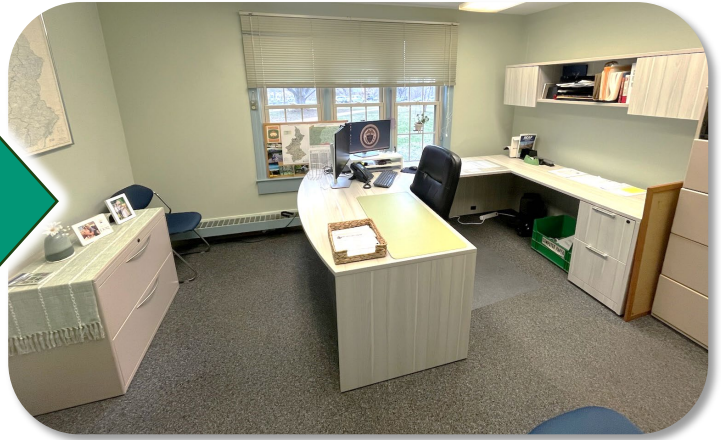
- Office furniture removal & installation
- Painting and patching
- KDI Scanning & Licensing
- Supplies



BEFORE



AFTER



The mission of the Conservation District is to ensure the wise use of Delaware County's natural resources and to protect and restore the natural environment through the conservation of its soil, water, and related resources.

The Conservation District, with the direction and participation of the District Board will support, promote, and execute programs, regulations, and individual efforts, which are consistent with this goal. We will work with individuals, governmental units, and the regulated sector of society to prevent environmental degradation and advocate remediation of past environmental damage. Services will be provided in an expeditious, thorough, and considerate manner. Voluntary compliance will be the preferred method of administering all regulatory programs assigned to us, but we will follow through with the most appropriate enforcement action when violations cannot be resolved cooperatively.



**DELAWARE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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