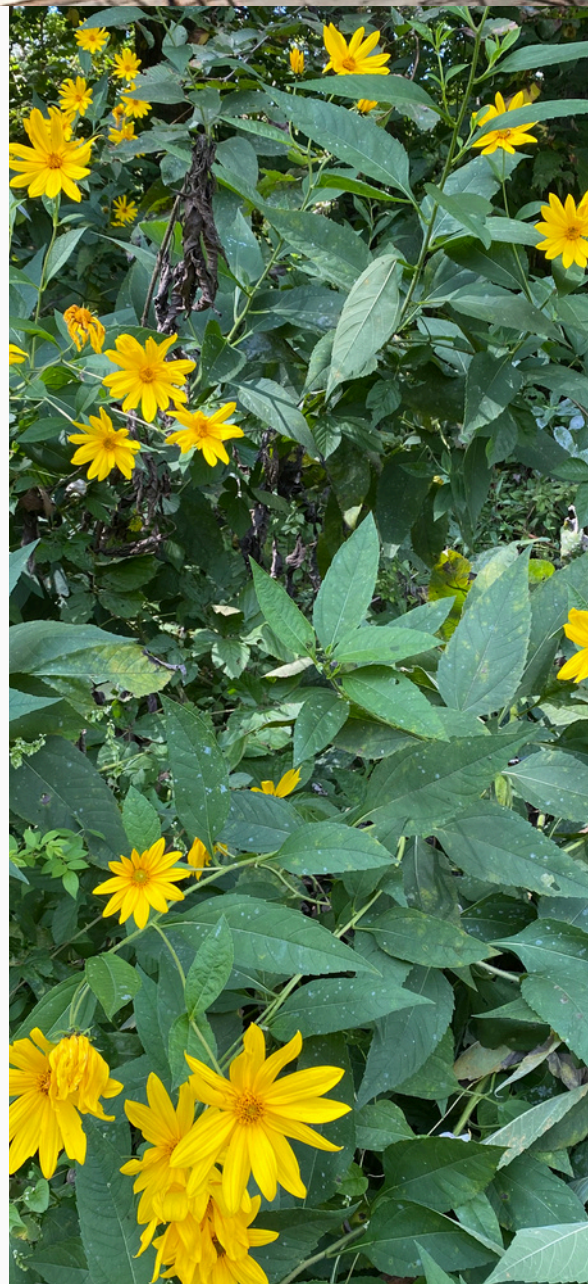


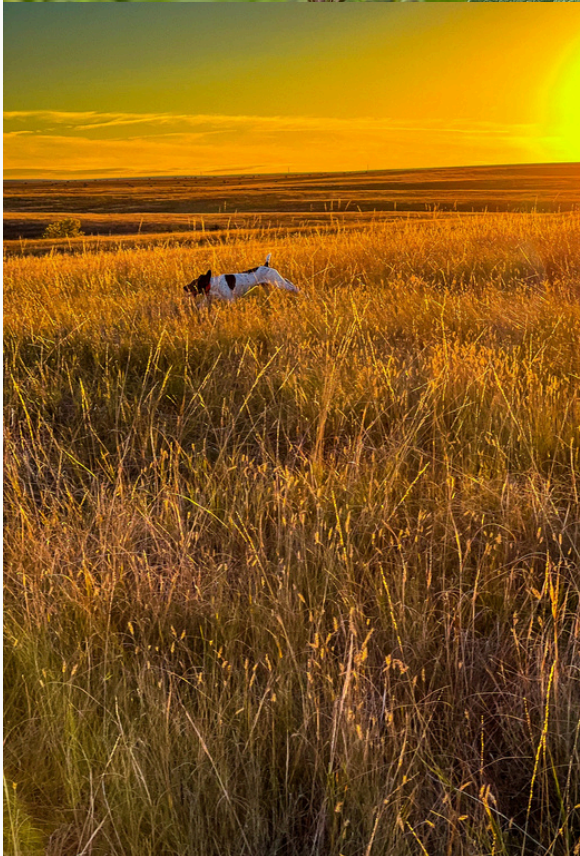
FALL 2024

Beaver Tales





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*Beaver County Conservation District
Board of Directors*

- Mike Price, Chairman
- Wayne (Chip) McCoy, Vice Chairman
- Jack Manning, County Commissioner, Director
- Alex Schreiber, Secretary/Treasurer
- Robert Guidice, Director
- Dominic D'Egidio, Director
- Richard (Rick) Smith, Director
- Sam Kuhlber, Associate Director



MISSION STATEMENT: THE BEAVER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROVIDES LEADERSHIP IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT THROUGH OUTREACH, EDUCATION, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

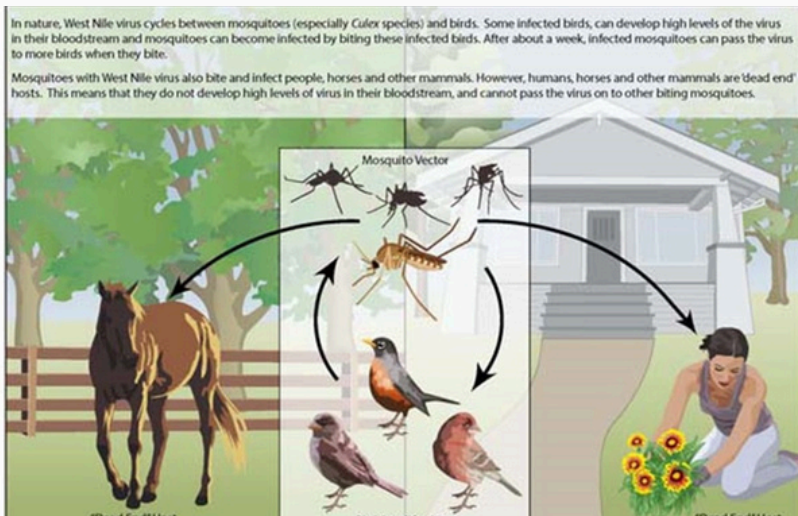


WEST NILE VIRUS

2024 has been an extremely viral year for West Nile Virus across the United States and locally in Beaver County.

As of August, there have been 289 human cases of West Nile Virus in the United States with 33 states reporting the presence of West Nile Virus. 12 human cases have been reported in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the former director of The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases was even diagnosed with West Nile Virus this year!



Here in Beaver County, as of the end of August, 18 mosquito samples have been identified positive for West Nile Virus. The Beaver County Vector-borne Management Program has been staying diligent with mosquito larvae control and adult mosquito control by various methods.

West Nile Virus is a flavivirus which is a virus that is transmitted from infected birds to mosquitoes when a mosquito bites the infected bird. It is then transmitted to humans when the infected female mosquito bites the human and takes a bloodmeal. Female mosquitoes must take a bloodmeal to lay their eggs. Humans are considered an incidental infection or dead-end host, which means we cannot pass the virus on to other biting mosquitoes to continue the transmission cycle.

As of the end of August, 18 mosquito samples have been identified positive for West Nile Virus.



Most people infected from West Nile Virus will either have no symptoms or mild flu-like symptoms with fever, aches, headache, and fatigue with recovery in a few days. A small percentage, 1 in 150 people, can develop more serious conditions that can lead to encephalitis with symptoms of tremors, convulsions, paralysis and in rare cases death.

There is no treatment or vaccine for humans.

Dr. Fauci commented on his symptoms in an interview with the health news site STAT, "I've never been as sick in my life. Ever...by far, this is the worst I've ever been with an illness."

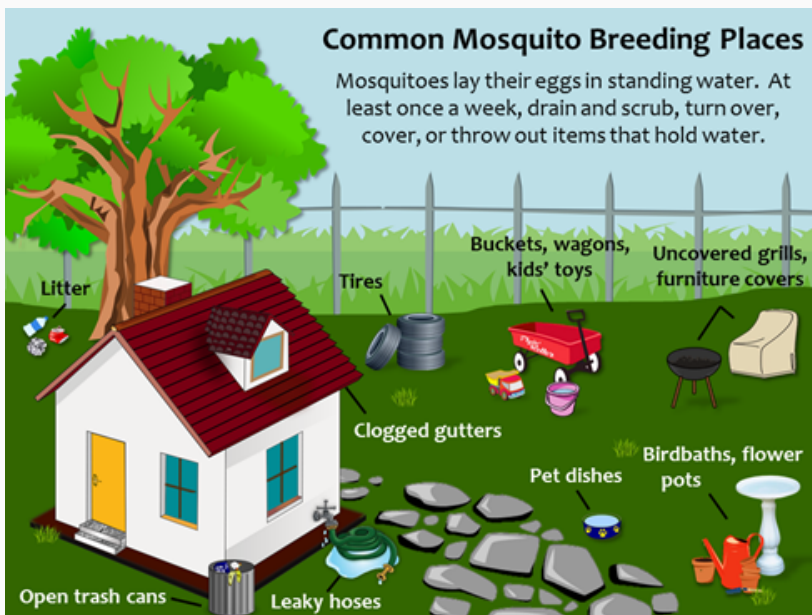
The incubation period for West Nile Virus is typically 2-14 days and most people that have had no, or mild symptoms are believed to have lifelong immunity. Persons that are immunocompromised tend to have a longer incubation period and people with non-neuroinvasive West Nile Virus (not affecting the nervous system) can have lingering effects such as fatigue, weakness, and general feelings of discomfort for weeks or even months.

Since West Nile Virus can manifest as flu-like symptoms, it is important to refer medical questions or concerns about symptoms or medical conditions to a health care provider or health care professional.

The best way to avoid contracting West Nile Virus is to use personal protection and reduce mosquito breeding habitat around personal property. Female mosquitoes need stagnant water to lay their eggs and can lay eggs in containers as small as a bottle cap!

Removing or dumping any mosquito breeding habitat, such as, tarps, tires, buckets, wheelbarrows, and outdoor kids' toys limits the areas that mosquitoes can breed

Female mosquitoes can lay eggs in containers of water as small as a bottle cap!!





Also, inspecting screens on doors and windows for gaps or tears and repairing and filling the gaps deters mosquitoes from entering homes.

Even after removing mosquito habitat from in and around the home, it is important to remember personal protection while outdoors and during outdoor activities. A few helpful ways are...

- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing with long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Avoid outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active during dusk and dawn.
- Wear EPA registered insect repellent.

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) website offers a search tool to help find the right repellent.

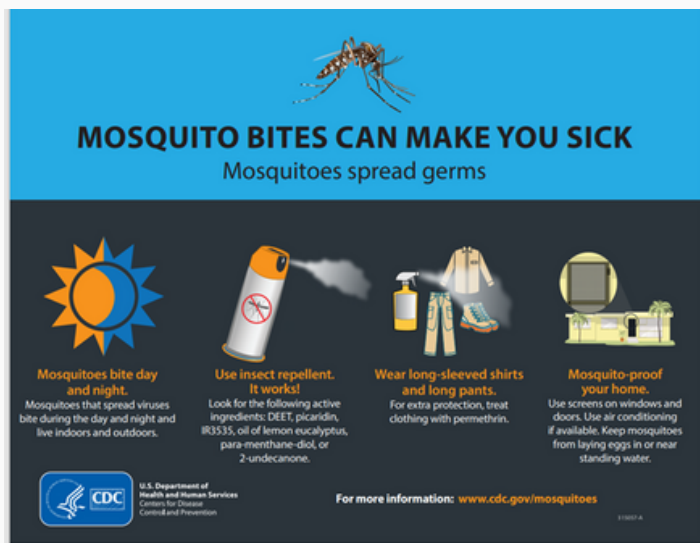
For more information, visit

www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you

It is not recommended to use certain insect repellents on children under 3 years of age, always follow the product label for proper usage. Adults should apply repellent to children and avoid the child's hands, eyes, or mouth. Adults should apply repellent to their hands first then apply it to a child's face, not spray directly on the child.

When applying sunscreen and repellent, apply sunscreen first, then repellent.

When applying sunscreen and repellent, apply sunscreen first, then repellent.



Although we cannot eliminate mosquitoes or the diseases they can carry, we can still use techniques to keep us safe while enjoying the outdoors. For more information on mosquitoes and West Nile Virus, please visit our website or the PA DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) Vector Management website.



www.beavercountyconservationdistrict.org

VECTOR MANAGEMENT



Pennsylvania
Department of
Environmental Protection



[www.dep.pa.gov/Business/ProgramIntegration/
Vector-Management](http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/ProgramIntegration/Vector-Management)

*We cannot
eliminate
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the outdoors!*





ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

A highlight for the Beaver County Conservation District education program every year is being able to host the Beaver County Sportsmen's Conservation Camp for 2 days on District grounds. The Beaver County Sportsmen's Conservation Camp is a weeklong camp for kids ages 12-15 to learn about nature, conservation, hunting, trapping, boating, fishing, water rescue, compass navigation, dog training, and so much more.

The goal of camp is to expose kids to as many opportunities in nature as possible throughout the week in order to keep kids outside and involved with future conservation efforts. This year there were 42 kids that attended the camp. They stayed at Group Camp 2 at Raccoon Creek State Park and had a variety of guest speakers come each day to educate and interact with the kids.

The Beaver County Sportsmen's Conservation Camp is a week long camp for kids ages 12-15 to learn about nature, conservation, hunting, trapping, boating, fishing, water rescue, compass navigation, dog training, and so much more!





Two big days for the campers are the days they get to come to the Beaver County Conservation District grounds. Day one is Wednesday. On this day the District's front lawn is transformed into gundog training grounds. Duck blinds are set up, goose decoys are set out, the pavilion picnic tables are lined up to seat children and hold dog training gear and equipment. Bird launchers are loaded with training birds, upland bird dogs and waterfowl dogs are scattered about with their handlers close in tow as they prepare to give the campers a full-on bird dog experience. Rich Kerlin of Kerlin Kanine in Aliquippa prepares his lesson for the morning. Everything is quiet as they await the arrival of the campers. People are socializing and mingling, talking about all things dogs and hunting. It is an experience like no other. You can feel the energy of people who are so excited to share their sport, passion, and piece of conservation with the next generation. At about 9:00 the bus rolls down the driveway. Campers unload and fill the pavilion; the air is humming with excitement and anticipation. Mr. Kerlin does a fantastic job of introducing the kids to the world of dog training. He goes over the tools and equipment used and the different breeds of dogs in attendance. He introduces each dog and their handler, he then goes on to do in depth demos from recall work and sit/stay work to duck hunting simulations, retrieves, and upland bird hunting demonstrations. The campers get to see all the different dog breeds work. This year there were Labrador Retrievers, a Chesapeake Bay Retriever, German Shorthair Pointers, a Wirehaired Vizsla, and a Brittany Spaniel. Each dog put on a performance showing the kids how genetics plays a role in how each breed works, and how individual personalities differ among the dogs. Mr. Kerlin teaches the kids how to properly interact with dogs, what to do if they think a dog is going to bite them, and basic obedience training. The amount of wonderful knowledge and information that is shared with the youth is what makes this day such an awesome event. After a morning of dog immersion, the campers each lunch at the District and go on to their next event at a different location.

Throughout the week campers got to meet and interact with Labrador Retrievers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, German Shorthair Pointers, Wirehaired Vizslas, Brittney Spaniels, Treeing Walker Coonhounds, and Bluetick Coonhounds.





Thursday is day two. This is the day for the Conservation District to shine! The environmental educator puts together a group of programming games, crafts, and education for campers. During a 3 hour time frame the campers interact with District staff and volunteers to learn about nature and wildlife conservation. This year's stations were a stream study in Raccoon Creek, Pollinators, and Habitat. The group of campers were split into three groups to rotate through the stations. After a quick introduction, the campers had 45 minutes at each station.



For the stream study, each group of campers was guided to Raccoon Creek on the district grounds. They were provided nets, buckets and identification cards. They were able to get into Raccoon Creek and their guide taught them how to use their nets to catch different species of macroinvertebrates, fish, and crayfish. One camper even caught a frog! They were able to use the identification key to help identify any macro invertebrates they don't know. They put their catches in their containers and got their pictures taken with them. The kids were taught about the importance of keeping streams clean, and how different species' presence indicates stream health.





For the pollinator station campers played a game called the “Pollinator Pizza” game. This game got campers to build a pizza using pictures of ingredients commonly found on pizzas. Once they had built their pizza the station leader went through each ingredient with them and removed the ingredients that they could not have on their pizzas without pollinators. Many expect things like sauce to not be on pizza because we often associate pollinators with vegetables, but many are surprised at ingredients like cheese because they don’t consider that the food fed to many dairy cattle comes from sources that require pollinators as well!

After playing the game campers got to put together a craft butterfly to take home that had Pennsylvania native wildflowers in it to plant their own pollinator habitat.

Campers get to play games, do crafts, and get hands on experience with all things wildlife and conservation!



The habitat station involved a fast-paced predator-prey game where students used simulated feed sources and habitat areas to recreate the relationship between predators and prey and the role habitat plays in allowing those species to thrive. The focus was on how habitat provides the necessary food and shelter to allow prey species like upland birds to thrive and escape from predators, but campers were able to make an association of the importance of habitat to maintaining healthy population of predator species as well. After the game staff talked with campers about what they had learned and what their thoughts were on habitat and how it has impacted species specific to our area of Pennsylvania.





Overall, the 2 days of Conservation camp were a huge success. Despite the record heat all week, everyone had a great time and came away with a little more knowledge than they started with. The events that took place were just the tip of the iceberg of events the kids got to participate in throughout the week. It is an awesome experience for all involved. As always, the Beaver County Conservation District environmental educator thanks board member and volunteer Dominic D'Egidio and resources conservationist Morgan Lee for their time in helping run stations for camp! The impact camp had on these kids was huge, and they will be able to take this knowledge and experience home and institute conservation practices in their families and communities.

Despite record heat all week, 2024 Conservation Camp was a huge success!



IF YOU ARE INTERSTED IN VOLUNTEERING TO HELP WITH NEXT YEAR'S CONSERVATION CAMP EVENTS, CONTACT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR LINDSEY SHEPLER AT 724-378-1701 OR VIA EMAIL LINDSEY.SHEPLER@BCCDPA.US



Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road Program

Pennsylvania's Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road Program (DGLVR) provides grant funding to local municipalities for road and environmental improvements on unpaved and low volume roads. Beaver County municipalities who are certified in Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) are eligible for funding. So far in 2024 BCCD has completed one dirt and gravel project and one low volume road project.

*Better
Roads,
Cleaner
Streams*



Completed Projects 2024:

Ben Venue Road, Marion Township

Installed 4 new crosspipes and replaced 2 crosspipes with headwalls and endwalls. Improved ditch lines. 924 tons of road fill added. Grant Awarded: \$95,000.00

McKinley Road, Big Beaver Borough

Installed 13 new crosspipes and replaced 5 crosspipes with headwalls and endwalls. Installed underdrain. Shallow road grind and reshaping. Grant Awarded: \$66,406.00



Barlington, Penn
August 2024

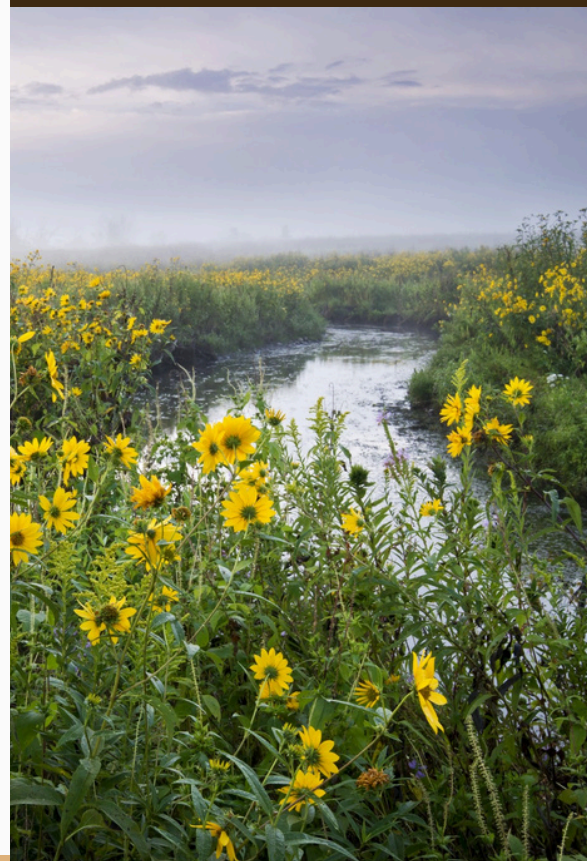
WATERSHED PROGRAM

With a major Growing Greener streambank stabilization project underway along Raccoon Creek in Independence Township, it is an ideal time to talk about one of the key components in streambank stabilization, buffers. The formal definition of a buffer is “a person or thing that prevents incompatible or antagonistic people or things from coming into contact with or harming each other.” We often think of buffers as a protective layer, something that protects something else, that is nothing unheard of to us. It may come to mind when thinking of padding a precious item when shipping it. A buffer could also be a glass case in a museum or wall of sandbags to protect a city from storm surges. Buffers can be any number of things, but in the watershed conservation world there are two types of buffers that a lot of people don't think about. Those are Riparian Buffers and Conservation Buffers. Riparian buffers are forest buffers along streams, lakes, and wetlands that include trees, shrubs, and grasses. Conservation buffers are narrow strips of perennial plants such as grasses and wildflowers that are planted around the edges of fields to reduce water runoff and soil erosion.



Though termed with different names, these two buffers offer the same kinds of waterway protection. The separation between the two has to do with the region in which the buffer is being established. Conservation buffers are most often seen and used in the Midwest and Western regions of the United States where the prairie grasslands are the dominant ecosystem. Conservation buffers are designed with native grasses and wildflowers from these regions. Trees and shrubs and other vegetative plants that are found in areas along the east coast are not found in abundance in the prairie grassland region, so installing such buffers would not be logical or ideal. Instead, they use the native grasses to promote habitat and food sources for wildlife and pollinators native to that region. Conservation buffers also provide filtration for water runoff from agricultural sources, helping to remove agricultural chemicals and reduce sediment pollution to waterways by reducing erosion runoff.

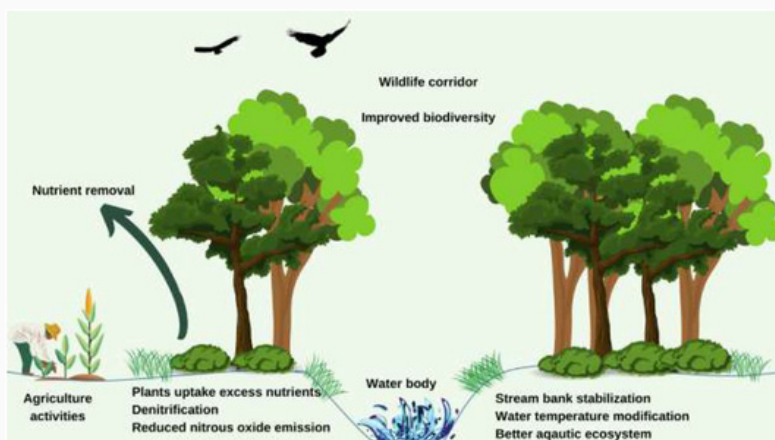
Riparian buffers include trees, shrubs, and grasses. Conservation buffers are narrow strips of perennial plants such as grasses and wildflowers.





On the east coast, however, trees and shrubs dominate the ecosystem. Deciduous forests and evergreen patches make up our skylines. Unlike the unobstructed views the prairie grasslands offer, Pennsylvania trees and mountains provide a completely different look and feel, and we must design our buffers to match. That is where Riparian buffers come into play. Known formally as riparian forest buffers, they serve as transitions from land to water and act as filters for sediment and pollutants from farm fields, residential lawns, and roadways. Riparian buffers (as well as conservation buffers) also aid in streambank stabilization. The bare soil that occurs when vegetation is removed from around streambank edges, or mowed extremely short, causes instability in the soil surrounding the streambank. It makes the banks soft and susceptible to erosion from runoff and stream meandering. The deep healthy root system from plants, trees, and shrubs are what gives streambank edges their support.

Riparian buffers and conservation buffers aid in stream bank stabilization.



Beaver County Conservation District's watershed program seeks to not only provide streambank stabilization projects through bank repair and improvement and growing greener projects, but also to provide education to landowners with streambank issues of all sizes. One of the main ways to reduce streambank erosion on your property is to incorporate riparian buffer zones along the bank. Though formal buffers have to be 35 feet wide, incorporating a buffer into your own property can be as simple as leaving a couple feet of space between mowed yards or farmed fields and streambanks. That is the option that requires the least amount of work. This option can however be unsightly or lead to an increased population of invasive species. Another method is to selectively plant trees, shrubs, and flower/grasses that suit your needs and desires. This allows you, the landowner, to control the plants that are growing along your streambank while still providing you with the benefits of reduced bank erosion. To top it all off, you are providing sediment and pollution runoff filtration and providing natural shade to the waterways which makes for healthier streams. Healthier streams mean healthier, happier people and wildlife! Everyone can be involved in conservation; you don't have to be doing BIG things to make BIG impacts on the health of our waterways in Beaver County.





Options to Plant in Your Riparian Buffer

Species to plant at the stream edge (wetter soils)

- Sycamore Tree
- Willow Tree or bush
- Swamp White Oak
- Black Willow
- Red Chokecherry
- Winterberry Holly
- Elderberry
- Buttonbush

Species to plant 15' to 50' from a stream

- Red Maple
- Redbud
- Shagbark Hickory
- Spice Bush
- Shadblow Serviceberry
- Maple-leaf Viburnum

Species to plant about 75' from a stream (dry soils)

- White Pine
- Sassafras
- Red Oak
- Witch Hazel
- Nannyberry Viburnum

Pollinator Plants

- Coneflower
- Lobelia spp.
- Allium spp.

Large-Growing Trees

- Bald Cypress
- Basswood
- Shagbark Hickory

Medium-sized Trees

- Hornbeam
- Pawpaw
- Witch Hazel

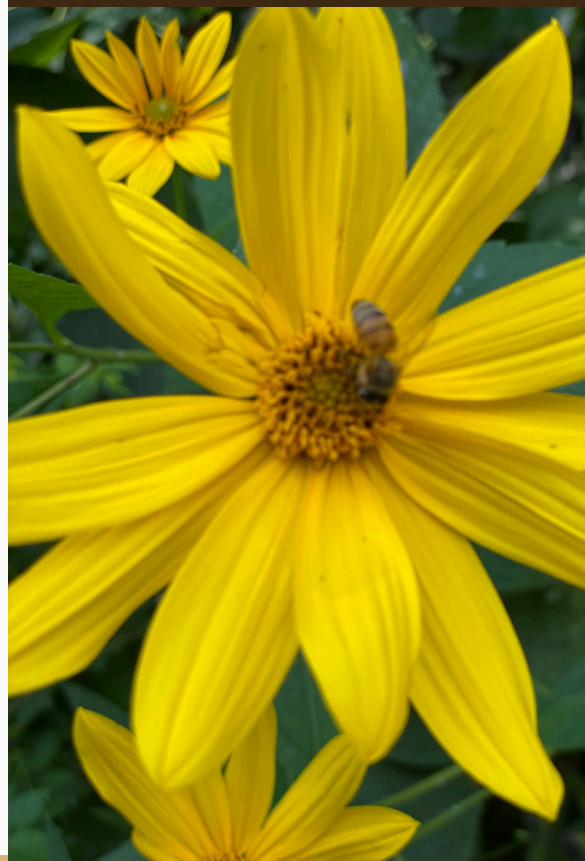
Small-sized Trees

- Service Berry
- Hawthorn
- Redbud

Grasses

- Pennisetum spp.
- Panicum spp.

You can customize your buffer to suit the needs of your property, and plant a variety of trees, shrubs, and grasses.





BCCD Completes Large Streambank Stabilization Project along Raccoon Creek

After the completion of a large streambank stabilization project along Raccoon Creek in Independence TWP, the landowner sent an email thanking the District staff for their hardwork and dedication to the project. Below is an excerpt from his email telling the backstory of the project. If you kayak or canoe along Raccoon Creek be sure to be on the lookout for this project!

"I figured I would share the journey of how the completion of today's project has come so far.

I was relocated to Pittsburgh, PA from Somerset County PA for work in 2010. The need to find a new home and relocate my wife Kori, 9-year-old daughter Madison, and 5-year-old son Ean, was not a small task. In January 2011, I noticed the property on 386 Cowpath Road on Howard Hanna's website and immediately sent an email to the realtor to schedule a house tour. When we first opened the front door and could see the "S" curve creek perfectly framed in the window, we fell in love with the house, property, and creek instantaneously.

We admired the creek and the beauty and wildlife that came with it. We have seen Bald Eagles, Red Tail Feathered Hawk, Raccoons, Deer, Blue Herring, Geese, Beaver, and yes the awesome view of Kayakers navigating their way down Raccoon Creek and sometimes stopping for a much-needed break on the beach area. I still can hear the kids yelling with excitement to let everyone know Kayakers were coming down the creek. My wife and I would take evening walks in the backfield and just admire the creek and its beauty, while the kids ran through the field with dogs. It was magical. It didn't take long until we noticed the erosion to the bank's edge and by 2013 we were starting to lose the fence line with the first fence post falling victim to the creek erosion. At this point, I started my quest to find a way to stabilize the bank and stop the erosion. Meeting anyone that could help educate me better understand the proper channels and permitting to take on this challenging project. In 2015 something had changed and the speed of erosion intensified and we started to lose the bank at an alarming rate. It came to a point where we didn't walk the field anymore due to the depressing view of losing our land. So the beautiful view of the creek that once was so beloved was now a constant reminder of the land we were losing. It was so bad that we didn't even like looking out the window at the creek anymore.

I first made contact with Dan Distler at BCCD in September of 2015 but it wasn't until I met Hannah and Dave in February 2021. With Hannah's youth and energetic attitude alongside Dave with his vast knowledge of numerous stream restoration projects, I knew we had the right TEAM to get this project started and on the right path. After many emails, site trips, and permit applications, Hannah finally called to say we got the project approved.

So the journey that started that January 2011 day has come full circle and we can start looking and admiring the creek again. We await the first kayakers to come floating by as the Bold Eagle flies overhead.

Thank you again for everything, stop by anytime to see the final results.

Sincerely,
Mark, Kori, Maddi, Ean, and Lilly"



BCCD AT THE COUNTY FAIRS

Fair season in Beaver County is a special time for all involved. Whether you are attending Hookstown Fair in the southern part of the county, or Big Knob Fair in the northern part there is just something about the atmosphere that makes the heart sing. The air feels alive with the excitement and anticipation of the week's events. Young livestock handlers are busy prepping their animals for show, stalls are being decorated to showcase generations of hard work and tradition, rides are being set up, fried fair food smell drifts across the grounds, workers are trying to get the perfect footing on the track/arena for the night's main event, crowds of people are piling in after a long day at work or school to unwind for a bit and enjoy the evening. Others, those who have brought displays and goods to sell and educate, are gearing up for a week of one of their busiest times. Beaver County Conservation District falls into that last category, bringing education and information to share with everyone.

The Conservation District has previously attended the fairs with their mobile education trailer, but this year we decided to change things up. We were inside the commercial buildings this year with our display, and we had a fantastic time interacting with everyone who came by our booth to talk and make pollinator butterflies! We estimate that we had over 2,000 people visit our booth between both Hookstown and Big Knob fairs, and we made 325 pollinator butterflies with the kids to provide habitat and food for pollinators.

Beaver County Conservation District is extremely pleased with the 2024 fair season! A huge thanks goes out to all those involved with planning and running both Hookstown and Big Knob fairs, we appreciate the effort you put forth to bring everyone a great fair event. We would also like to thank each and every one of our generous volunteers who donated their time throughout both weeks to help keep our booth running and make it a success; Dominic D'Egidio, Susie Moffett, Sheila McBride, Greta Heid, Alex Schreiber, Jesse Shepler, Wayne (Chip) McCoy, Meghan Norean, Terri Roper, and Christin Barron.



AG CORNER



GREAT PLAINS 706NT NO-TILL DRILL

7FT PLANTING WIDTH, 10 FT OVERALL. TWO SEED BOXES, LARGE CAPACITY, 4-SPEED GEAR BOX. ADJUSTABLE DEPTH CONTROL. 1-10 ACRES: \$12.00/ACRE. 10+ ACRES: \$10.00/ACRE. MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$50.00. NO-TILL DRILL IS RENTED IN 3 DAY BLOCKS

STOLTZFUS REDHAWK 40 SPREADER

THIS IS 4 TON SPREADER (5 TON WITH INSTALLED EXTENSIONS). \$75.00 FOR FIRST 100 TONS AND \$50.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL 100 TONS. THE SPREADER IS RENTED IN 3-DAY BLOCKS.



TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE RENTAL OF EITHER PIECE OF EQUIPMENT CONTACT JEFF PFLUG, DISTRICT MANAGER, AT 724-378-1701 EXT. 210

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FARMING

Agriculture has long been a cornerstone of Beaver County's economy and way of life. Recognizing the importance of maintaining healthy farms and sustainable land practices, the Beaver County Conservation District (BCCD) offers a comprehensive Agricultural Program aimed at helping local farmers protect natural resources while enhancing productivity. Through technical assistance, cost-sharing opportunities, and education, BCCD works hand in hand with the agricultural community to ensure a future where farming and conservation go hand in hand.



CONSERVATION PLANNING FOR FARMS

One of the key services offered through the Agricultural Program is helping farmers develop Conservation Plans. These plans, customized for each farm, identify practices that reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and maintain productive soil health. Whether a farm is large or small, each plan ensures that operations run efficiently while safeguarding the environment.

The conservation district provides guidance on best management practices (BMPs) that address everything from nutrient management to controlling runoff from animal operations.

Farmers who participate in the program can implement strategies such as:

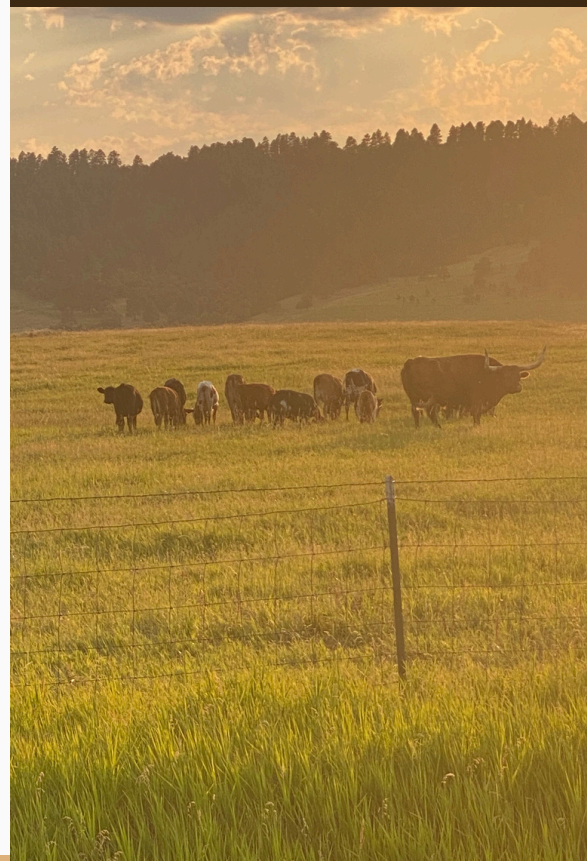
Cover Cropping: Planting cover crops to reduce soil erosion and improve soil health during non-growing seasons.

Stream Buffers: Establishing vegetation along waterways to filter out pollutants and prevent erosion.

Nutrient Management: Optimizing the use of fertilizers and manure to prevent over-application and runoff into nearby streams.

These conservation measures not only protect the environment but also improve farm efficiency, ultimately saving costs and enhancing long-term productivity.

Agriculture has long been a cornerstone of Beaver County's economy and way of life.





FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Many farmers are concerned about the cost of implementing new conservation practices. Whether it's installing new fencing to prevent livestock from entering streams, upgrading manure storage facilities, or planting riparian buffers, the following financial assistance programs can help reduce the financial burden:

Resource Enhancement Protection Program (REAP) - Farmers, landowner, and businesses earn tax credits for implementing "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) that will enhance farm production and protect natural resources.
Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) - Created through the Clean Streams Fund to provide financial and technical assistance for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural operations within the Commonwealth.

Natural Resource Conservation Service - Offers financial assistance as part of programs like Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and others.

MANURE AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Properly managing nutrients on the farm is essential for both crop production and water quality. Excessive nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, can lead to water pollution when they enter rivers and streams. BCCD provides assistance to farmers with developing Manure Management Plans and Nutrient Management Plans, which are required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for many farms. These plans outline how to store, apply, and manage manure and fertilizers in a way that maximizes crop yield without harming the environment.

For farms that require a Nutrient Management Plan, the BCCD offers training sessions and one-on-one guidance to ensure compliance with state regulations and best practices. Farmers benefit by having a structured approach to managing their soil nutrients, improving both their crop output and reducing their environmental footprint.

SOIL HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Healthy soil is the foundation of successful farming. BCCD provides resources and education on soil health to local farmers, including soil testing services to assess soil fertility and structure. By understanding the health of their soil, farmers can make informed decisions about crop rotation, fertilizer use, and planting methods that reduce soil degradation and promote long-term sustainability.

Additionally, the Conservation District regularly holds workshops and field days to educate the farming community on new conservation techniques, emerging trends in agriculture, and regulatory updates. These events offer farmers the opportunity to learn from experts, share experiences, and collaborate with their peers on sustainable practices.

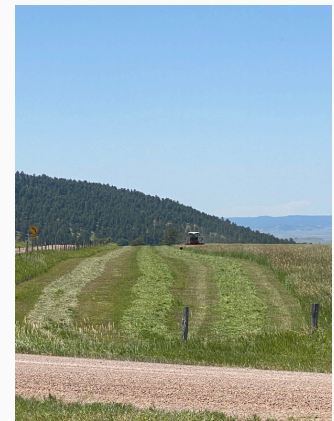
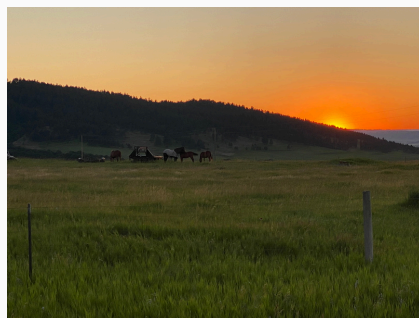
PRESERVING FARMLAND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

BCCD is also committed to protecting agricultural land from urban sprawl and development pressures. Through the Farmland Preservation Program, the Conservation District assists landowners in permanently preserving their farmland, ensuring that future generations can continue farming the land. Preserved farms are protected from being sold for non-agricultural development, maintaining the rural character of Beaver County and keeping farmland in production.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the agricultural community faces new challenges like climate change, increasing regulations, and market fluctuations, the Beaver County Conservation District is committed to providing the resources and support needed to thrive. The Agricultural Program is a crucial part of this mission, helping local farmers not only meet their conservation goals but also ensure the long-term viability of their operations.

If you're a farmer or landowner in Beaver County and would like to learn more about our Agricultural Program, please contact the Beaver County Conservation District or visit our website for details on how we can help you implement sustainable practices on your farm.





ACAP PROJECT COMPLETION

May 2024 saw the completion of an ACAP funded project through the Beaver County Conservation District with the installation of new fencing, pumping plant, watering facility, and livestock pipeline on the Bonzo Farm in New Sewickley Township.



AG-LAND PRESERVATION

Exciting Changes are Proposed for Beaver County's Agricultural Land Preservation Program! Our Board has put forward recommendations to the State Board aimed at streamlining our ranking process and clarifying the County's Program Guidelines. For further details, please reach out to our Administrator.

In 2024, the Beaver County Agricultural Land Preservation Board has initiated the Preservation Process for two additional farms. We anticipate closing on a total of three farms for the 2024 program year. With these new additions, our Preservation Family will grow to 41 farms, resulting in over 4,000 acres of valuable agricultural land preserved in Beaver County.

We extend our gratitude to our Preserved Farms and the agricultural community for their dedication to farming. This collaborative effort ensures that future generations will continue to benefit from the rich agricultural heritage of our region. The preservation of these farms not only protects valuable farmland from development but also supports local food production, enhances biodiversity, and maintains the scenic beauty of our countryside.

Together, we can safeguard the future of Beaver County's agricultural lands and ensure that they remain a vital part of our community for generations to come. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to preserving the heart of our county.

***BIG CHANGES ARE
COMING TO OUR
PROGRAM!
CONTACT OUR
ADMINISTRATOR
FOR MORE
INFORMATION.***

724-378-1701 Ext. 224



102/105- WHAT IS E&S AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Our 102/105 inspection team frequently encounters questions such as, "What's the big deal if a little mud enters the stream?" or "Erosion is a natural process; why should I invest so much to prevent it?" Erosion, the gradual wearing away of the land's surface by wind, water, ice, or gravity, has always been a natural phenomenon that shapes our mountains, valleys, and coastal plains over thousands of years.

Our program specifically addresses water erosion on unprotected surfaces. Without vegetation to slow water flow, the natural erosion process accelerates. Factors such as soil texture, organic matter content, soil structure, and water permeability influence how soils erode. Soils with higher silt and sand content erode the fastest. The most effective way to prevent accelerated erosion is by establishing vegetation, which anchors the soil, enhances water absorption, and protects against runoff from sources like gutters. Areas with steeper slopes are more prone to accelerated erosion when lacking vegetation.

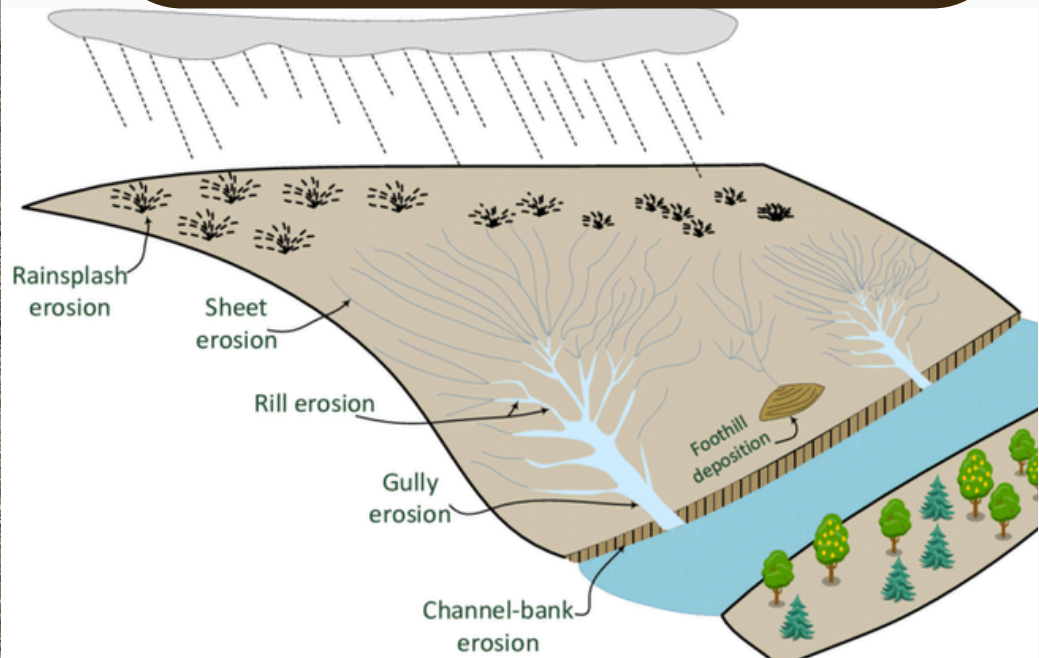
When soil erodes, it can be transported into storm sewers or directly into streams, leading to sedimentation. This process disrupts the natural sediment balance in ecosystems, negatively impacting stream health and human safety. Increased sedimentation can alter the size and shape of streams, leading to issues such as property loss, impaired water usage, flooding, hazards for boaters, and fish kills.

What can be done to address erosion and sedimentation? By implementing Erosion and Sedimentation Control Best Management Practices (E&S BMPs), we can reduce the likelihood of accelerated erosion and its associated problems. Chapter 102 of the Clean Streams Law requires a written E&S Plan for earth disturbances exceeding 5,000 square feet, as well as NPDES permits for disturbances of one acre or more. Regardless of the disturbance size, Chapter 102 requires the installation and maintenance of E&S BMPs.

Our office, delegated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, assists Beaver County landowners in adhering to the Clean Streams Law and safeguarding their properties. Through permitting and inspections of earthwork in Beaver County, we aim to mitigate erosion and sedimentation and their consequences. By collaborating to prevent sediment pollution, we enhance the safety of Beaver County's streams and rivers for both the environment and the community. For inquiries about our program and the services offered by the District, please contact us at 724-378-1701.



EROSION AFFECTS US ALL!



2024 PAG-02 GENERAL PERMIT

The final 2024 PAG-02 Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities Documents have been posted to eLibrary. The reissued permit will become effective on December 8, 2024 and cover the following 5 year term.

Current permit holders are not automatically covered under the 2024 PAG-02 General Permit. All PAG-02 permits covered until the 2019 permit are set to expire on December 7, 2024.

If you currently have coverage under the 2019 PAG-02 Permit and plan to continue work after December 7, 2024 – you must submit a renewal NOI prior to December 7, 2024.

If a permittee does not plan to continue construction after December 7, 2024 and the site is stabilized, please submit a

Notice of Termination (NOT) to the Beaver County Conservation District in order to close out the project.

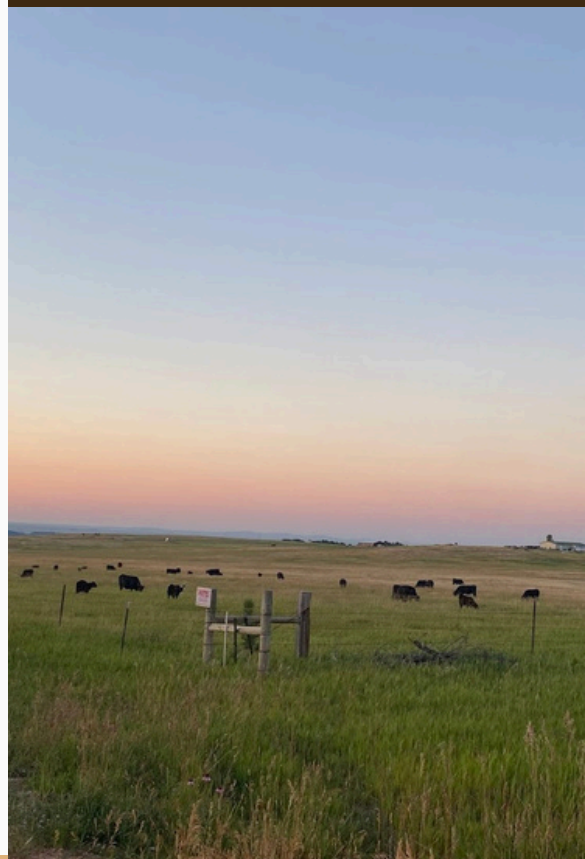
Current permit holders are not automatically covered under the 2024 PAG-02 General Permit.





The reissued PAG-02 Permit includes new permit conditions that permittees must comply with. Some notable changes and new permit conditions include:

- Updated Inspection Report - Visual Site Inspection Report (VSIR) (ID No. 3800-FM-BCW0271d) has been updated and published with the new PAG-02.
- Monthly Color Photographs should be taken with date and time stamps. These photos are to be included with the VSIR.
- Qualified Inspectors - Inspectors conducting routine site inspections and completing the VSIRs must be qualified. Site inspectors may be qualified in one of three ways 1) Complete the Qualified Site Inspector Training Program in DEP's Clean Water Academy every two years 2) Hold an active certification as certification as a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) or as a Certified Erosion, Sediment, and Stormwater Inspector (CESSWI) from a recognized organization or 3) Submit proof of experience and documentation to DEP or CCD for written approval. This must be received and completed prior to conducting site inspections. This change will be effective December 8, 2025.
- Removal of Co-Permittee Acknowledgement and Co-Permittee Liability Release Form – applicants no longer have to submit the Co-Permittee Acknowledgement and Co-Permittee Liability Release Form for the PAG-02. The permitting authority (DEP/CCD) will verify co-permittees
- Annual Report – permittees will be required to submit an annual report to DEP or CCD to report the status of the permitted earth disturbance activities.



CHAPTER 105: WHAT IS AN SLLA?

A Submerged Lands License Agreement, also known as an SLLA, is a permit that covers facilities that are proposed on, over, under or in Navigable Waters of the Commonwealth under the Chapter 105 program. Facilities incorporated with Navigable Waters of the Commonwealth that may require an SLLA include but are not limited to inlets, outfalls, bridges, docks, aerial wires, and pipelines.

Lakes, streams, and creeks are considered Navigable Waters of the Commonwealth when legally determined within a court case. There are two lists that comprise of the Navigable Waters of the Commonwealth due to court cases: Public Highway Declaration Act and Stream Beds owned by the Commonwealth. A third list, Appendix II Streams Declared Navigable by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, consists of river portions that have waterway within Pennsylvania but cross state lines.

To get an SLLA, a Chapter 105 Dam Permit or Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit application must be submitted. Once the Chapter 105 Dam Permit or Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit application is received by the County Conservation District or DEP's

Regional Office the reviewer will determine if the application qualifies for an SLLA. When an application is deemed qualified for an SLLA, DEP's Central Office will be notified. Upon receipt of the notification the processing timeline for an SLLA will begin. Once the SLLA process is completed then the corresponding Chapter 105 Dam Permit or Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit can be issued.



A Submerged Lands License Agreement, also known as an SLLA, is a permit that covers facilities that are proposed on, over, under, or in Navigable Waters of the Commonwealth under the Chapter 105 program.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Beaver County Conservation District has a team of dedicated staff that keep the day to day grind of programs working, they are the faces that the public sees on a regular basis, they promote their programs, go on field visits, coordinate education events, and so much more. Behind the scenes is a whole other team of people that make the Conservation District go round. We at the Conservation District would like to extend a special thanks to the volunteers through our partnership with Gateway Rehab Center. These dedicated and hardworking team members come every Friday afternoon through the spring, summer, fall, and weather permitting winter days. They do most of the grounds maintenance on the District grounds; weed-whacking, trail clearing, folding brochures, driveway maintenance, and every other miscellaneous task that needs done. Without the work and time put in by these individuals, we would not be able to do the outreach events and programs that we do, it has been our honor to partner with them for many years, and we hope to continue that partnership for many more! Thank you again, Gateway Rehab Center, for all your dedicated work to BCCD!!

Without the dedicated work of our volunteer base, we would not be able to host the events we do! They keep our grounds and facilities looking wonderful, and help with any other projects we need them to!



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Beaver County Conservation District has had several scout troop projects installed on our grounds this year. These projects have added to the beautification of our grounds as well as expanding our education opportunities. Our first big project this season was completed by Girl Scout Troop 28823. The troop worked together to install a Purple Martin birdhouse on our main office lawn. Surrounding the birdhouse itself they put in a pollinator garden and educational signs. A second part of their project included a website about pollinators and purple martins. The website talks about the importance of pollinator gardens and the role those pollinators have in keeping the Purple Martin population around. To view the Troop's Purple Martin house and pollinator garden in person, stop out to our grounds! To view their website, visit this link

<https://sites.google.com/view/pollinatorparadise/homepage>



A second project completed this year was an Eagle Scout Project that was done by Thomas Short of Troop 414. Thomas replaced 12 bluebird houses around the District grounds with fresh brand new ones. The previous houses were old and in need of repair. Thomas's project included new posts, boxes, and pole protectors to keep snakes from being able to climb the posts into the houses, therefore preventing them from stealing the eggs from the nests. These new houses added a fresh look to the landscape, and the bluebirds sure loved them this year! Come out and walk our grounds to see the new houses in person.



SOLVING MYSTERIES AND STRENGTHENING BONDS: BCCD STAFF ATTENDS A MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

At the Beaver County Conservation District (BCCD), our team is dedicated to tackling environmental challenges—but recently, we had the chance to take on a different type of challenge: solving a Murder Mystery! The BCCD staff gathered for a fun-filled evening at Omni William Penn Hotel to enjoy a Murder Mystery Dinner hosted by The Dinner Detective, where we tested our sleuthing skills and enjoyed some much-needed team bonding outside of the office.

The night kicked off with an elaborate plot involving a curious cast of characters, including suspicious guests, secret motives, and plenty of unexpected twists. Each table at the event was tasked with unraveling the clues to figure out “whodunit,” and the BCCD staff wasted no time diving into the mystery! Between laughs, theories, and some friendly competition, we worked together to gather evidence, interrogate suspects, and piece together the puzzling crime scene.

Throughout the evening, our team discovered hidden talents for detective work—some even speculated that we may have future careers as amateur sleuths! As the mystery unfolded, it became clear that solving environmental issues wasn’t the only thing we’re good at; problem-solving and teamwork come naturally to the BCCD crew, whether we’re protecting watersheds or figuring out alibis.

The evening was a perfect opportunity for our staff to step out of the daily routine, get to know one another better, and enjoy a shared experience in a relaxed setting. The laughter, camaraderie, and teamwork that emerged during the event reminded us of the importance of building strong connections outside of the workplace.

By the end of the night, only one table could claim the title of “Top Detectives,” but everyone left with a sense of accomplishment—and full stomachs from the delicious dinner served throughout the event.

It was a memorable night filled with mystery, fun, and a little bit of friendly competition, and it’s safe to say that our next staff outing has a high bar to meet! Events like this remind us that building a strong team isn’t just about working together, but also about having fun, strengthening relationships, and creating lasting memories.

We’re already looking forward to our next adventure as a team—and who knows? Maybe we’ll solve even bigger mysteries in the future!



The evening was a perfect opportunity for our staff to step out of the daily routine, get to know one another better, and enjoy a shared experience in a relaxed setting.



JOIN OUR TEAM!

THE BEAVER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS SEEKING TO HIRE AN AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST. IF YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION, CONSIDER JOINING OUR TEAM! IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE PLEASE VISIT

[HTTPS://WWW.ZIPRECRUITER.COM/JOBS/BEAVER-COUNTY-CONSERVATION-DISTRICT-260364AF/AGRICULTURAL-RESOURCE-CONSERVATIONIST-20ADC940?TSID=110000056&UTM_MEDIUM=DEFAULT-VIEW_JOB&FBCLID=IWY2XJAWFRDFLEHRUA2FLBQIXMQABHRELESB29QFTY-2DH2C97HGL5BKGDJTW835A4PLRDWORKWMYSAMRLRSADW_AEM_WX3KAOIBUOUJ3XNDYHXNJA](https://www.ziprecruiter.com/jobs/beaver-county-conservation-district-260364af/agricultural-resource-conservationist-20adc940?TSID=110000056&utm_medium=default-view_job&fbclid=IwY2XjAwFRDFLEHRUA2FLBQIXMQABHRELESB29QFTY-2DH2C97HGL5BKGDJTW835A4PLRDWORKWMYSAMRLRSADW_AEM_WX3KAOIBUOUJ3XNDYHXNJA)

Become part of the team, and help make a difference for farmers in Beaver County!

