

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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GREENE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT NOMINATING ORGANIZATIONS

The Greene County Conservation District Nominating Organizations are the backbone to a diverse conservation district board. These organizations provide the County Commissioners with potential district directors. All nominating organizations are approved by the State Conservation Commission at the district's request. Diverse nominating organizations provide directors with different points of view on a board that makes critical decisions about how to manage natural resources in Greene County.

Our current Nominating Organization members are Penn State Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, Greene County (GC) Association of Township Officials, GC Bar Association, Greene County Fair Board, Pomona Grange #63, GC Farm Bureau, GC Farmland Preservation, GC Fireman's Association, GC Tourist Promotion Agency, GC Historical Society, GC Planning Commission, GC Izaak Walton League, Richhill Agricultural Society and Southwestern PA Woodland Owners. Contact the District for information about how County organizations can be considered for approval as a Nominating Organizations.

If the conservation district seems like an organization that you would like to be involved with, you can request a nominating organization to submit your name as a board member. Each September the county commissioners send out the nomination forms to each of the nominating organizations requesting nominations for board members. These nominated names are then selected by the county commissioners to serve a 4-year term as directors. Those not chosen as directors can then be selected each year to serve as associate board members by the district board.

2025 CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEMBERS

2025 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- Jared Edgreen, Chairman
- Betsy McClure, Vice Chairman
- Blair Zimmerman, Secretary

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- James Cowell, Jr., Chairman
- Greg Hopkins, Vice Chairman
- Dan Bazzoli, Treasurer
- Glodenna Halstead, Secretary
- Commissioner Jared Edgreen
- Dave Shipman, Director
- Rebecca Trigger, Director

2025 ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

- Jerry Day
- Jim Willis
- Dominick Barbetta
- Rebecca Salosky
- Carol Adamson
- George Scull
- Keith Golden
- Sean Hilverding
- Lewis Crouse
- Doug Willis
- Kevin White
- Ryan Wise
- Matt Robison

DISTRICT STAFF

- Lisa Snider, District Director
- Lindsay Kozlowski, District Office Manager
- Zachary Basinger, Environmental Permitting Manager
- Tiffany Stewart, Watershed Specialist
- Heather Yorke, Fiscal Officer
- Daniel Phillips, Agricultural Resource Conservationist

COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Greene County Department of Economic Development
Kyle Lamb, Planning and Business Development Manager
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jack Lee, District Conservationist
- PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry
Russell Gibbs, Service Forester
- PA Fish and Boat Commission
Dorian Siebel, SW Region Waterways Conservation Officer
- Penn State Cooperative Extension
Justin Brackenrich, Agronomy Educator
- Washington/Greene County Farm Service Agency
Michal Roup, CED

DISTRICT LOCATION

Our office is located on the 2nd Floor
Ben Franklin Building
22 West High Street, Suite 204
Waynesburg, PA 15370
Phone: 724-852-5278
gccd@greencountypa.gov
Hours: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday

The GCCD Board meets the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am at the Greene County Fairgrounds 4-H Building, located at 107 Fairgrounds Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January through December 2024

Donation Income.....	2,020.00
Envirothon	13,170.00
Grant Income.....	211,475.43
Interest Income.....	71,024.60
Total Program Income	1,270,581.13
PUC Funding	73,159.19
Rental Income.....	660.00
Soil Test Kits	820.00
Topo Maps.....	6.00

Total Income\$1,642,916.35

Advertising/Marketing/Events.....	23,492.56
Audit.....	6,500.00
Bank Service Charge	0.00
Total Contracted Work	1,210,785.97
Total Donations	4,250.00
Dues	3,580.00
Total Employment Expenses	375,644.63
Farmland Easement Purchase	0.00
Farmland Preservation Board	0.00
Information Technology.....	2,800.52
Office Equipment and Supplies	11,897.69
Payroll Expenses.....	1,752.61
PNDI Search	519.95
Total Postage Machine/Copier.....	5,260.65
Scholarship	5,000.00
Surety Bonds	2,435.00
Total Telephone.....	864.26
Training.....	120.00
Total Travel	4,504.95

Total Expense\$1,674,794.58



2024 CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOARDS ANNUAL BANQUET

On December 11, 2024, the Conservation District Board and Farmland Preservation Board gathered to celebrate another year of conservation success. The event was held at the Valley View Farm venue just south of Waynesburg, PA. Approximately 100 gathered to celebrate both the Conservation District and Farmland Preservation Boards' year of accomplishments. Justin Brackenrich, Penn State Extension Agronomy Educator for Field and Forage Crops along with Russell Gibbs, PA DCNR Service Forester were the guest speakers at the event. Their topics included how the Penn State Agronomy Educator is beneficial to farmers in the county and could be utilized and how the GRACE program has impacted the forest owners in the county over the past few years. The district would like to thank both Justin and Russ for their time and expertise at the event.

Recognized were the following this year...



Dave Shipman, James Willis and Jerry Day, 10-year Conservation District Service Awards-Not pictured are Rebecca Salosky and Carol Adamson-5-year service awards





Lisa Snider, District Director; Zachary Basinger, Environmental Permitting Manager; Lindsay Kozlowski, District Office Manager; Heather Yorko, District Fiscal Officer; Tiffany Stewart, Watershed Specialist. Staff was recognized for their yearly commitment to conservation by implementing programs for both the Conservation District and Farmland Preservation Board.



Washington Township Supervisors, Troy Smith, Walt Stout, and Charlie Hickman 2024 Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program Municipality of the Year Award



Lisa Snider, Conservation District Director, Marissa Tharp, 2024 Outstanding Conservation FFA Speaker, Karlie Wright, West Greene FFA Advisor

CONSERVATION DISTRICT WEEK

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

The annual poster contest is open to all Greene County students in kindergarten through the eighth grade. The contest highlighted the National Association of Conservation District's 2024 theme, "May the Forest Be With You Always". Twenty-one students from across the county participated in the contest. Contests like this promote interest in the environment, sciences, arts, and other disciplines. Each first-place poster was automatically entered into the statewide contest held by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts. Winning posters were awarded cash prizes for participation in the amount of \$100 first place, \$75 second place and \$50 for third place.

This year's first place winner in the K-1st grade category, Kaelyn Duncan, went on to win first place in the statewide competition. Kaelyn's poster was then entered into the National Association of Conservation District's contest. The winners will be announced in early 2025.



Congratulations to all the winners!

COLORING CONTEST WINNERS

In honor of Conservation District week, April 29th - May 3rd, the Greene County Conservation District announced the winners of their annual coloring contest that was open to pre-k students within Greene County. The contest is promoted as an introduction to introduce children to soil and water conservation and the importance of healthy soils and clean water. This year a total 74 entries were received by the district. Each of the three winners received a new bicycle and helmet courtesy of the Conservation District.

In the 7th – 8th grade category, the winners were:



- 1st Place – Ava Dialesandro,**
CGSD Junior High School
- 2nd Place – Brielle Whipkey,**
CGSD Junior High School
- 3rd Place – Layla Crouse,**
CGSD Junior High School

In the 4th – 6th grade category, the winners were:

- 1st Place – Payton Duncan,**
PA Distance Learning
Charter School
- 2nd Place – Julianna Kirsch,**
Waynesburg Central
Elementary School
- 3rd Place – Chloe Shaffer,**
Waynesburg Central
Elementary School



In the 2nd – 3rd grade category, the winner was:



- 1st Place – Landon Simpson,**
Waynesburg Central
Elementary School
- 2nd Place – Grant Patton,**
West Greene
Elementary School
- 3rd Place – Elodie McGowan,**
Waynesburg Central
Elementary School

In the K – 1st grade category, the winner was:

- 1st Place – Kaelyn Duncan,**
PA Distance Learning
Charter School
- 2nd Place – Ella Patton,**
West Greene
Elementary School
- 3rd Place – August McGowan,**
Waynesburg Central
Elementary School



Left to right

Madisyn Shay, Jackson Argyle, and Addison Wilson

- Madisyn Shay,** age 5, parents Matthew and Lindsay Shay
- Jackson Argyle,** age 5, parents Ryan and Nicole Argyle
- Addison Wilson,** age 4, parents Gary and Courtney Wilson

2024 ENVIROTHON



1st

2024 First Place Team: Commissioner Jared Edgreen, Kevin Willis, Advisor; Hayden Yeager; Alex Lawrence; Faith Willis; Allie Miller and Emma Bates; Mike Davis, EQT; Commissioner Betsy McClure



2nd

2024 Second Place Team: Commissioner Jared Edgreen; Amber Burkett, Advisor; Nicole Barrera; MaKenna Lotspeich; Hannah Knutsen; Alexis Perry and Erin Richmond; Mike Davis, EQT; Commissioner Betsy McClure



3rd

2024 Third Place Team: Commissioner Jared Edgreen; Kevin Willis, Advisor; Isiah Curry; Stephen Lewis; Rhythm Caffrey-Bauman; Daniel Hetrick; Katelynn Schoenfeldt; Mike Davis, EQT; Commissioner Betsy McClure

2024 PENNSYLVANIA ENVIROTHON STATE COMPETITION RESULTS

The 40th Pennsylvania Envirothon State Competition was held on May 21 and 22nd, 2024 at Camp Mount Luther in Mifflinburg, PA. High school students from 63 Pennsylvania counties participated in this year's event.

At the Envirothon, five-member teams participated in a series of field station tests that focused on five topic areas – soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and environmental issues. The 2024 current environmental issues focused on "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future."

Teams participating represent the best and the brightest of the thousands of high school teens who have competed in county Envirothon competitions sponsored by conservation districts from across the state. At the state level, the

Envirothon is sponsored by Pennsylvania's sixty-six county conservation districts, the State Conservation Commission, and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

Carmichaels Area High School placed sixth overall, in the 2024 State Envirothon competition. The team had the highest score of all teams in the state in the Soils station with a 94; fourth highest Aquatics score of 83; sixth highest Forestry score of 83; 8th highest Current Issue score with a 65; and 12th highest score of 84 in Wildlife for a total score of 489.7 points for the competition. For sixth place, each team member received a \$200 scholarship. For the Soils high station score each team member received USDA backpack and Soils resources.

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



RALPH K. BELL BIRD CLUB OF GREENE COUNTY 2024 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

In honor of Ralph K. Bell, former director of the Greene County Conservation District, an annual district contribution is made in his name to the Ralph K. Bell Bird Club for their Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Bell was a member of the district from 1976-2006 where he was treasured as a great bird enthusiast and conservationist.

This year the club honored Abbigail Rigen as their 2024 Ralph K. Bell Bird Club Memorial Scholarship winner with a check for \$500.

Abbigail is a 2024 graduate of Waynesburg Central High School and is currently enrolled at the CCAC to study digital communication art. She is the daughter of James and Tracy Rigen of Waynesburg, PA.



Dave Bell, grandson of Ralph Bell, is presenting the check to Abbigail Rigen

2024 GRASSLANDS EVALUATION COMPETITION RESULTS CARMICHAELS AREA HIGH SCHOOL PLACED THIRD PLACE

The Grassland Evaluation contest is hosted by Southwest Project Grass. Since 2003, Southwest Project Grass has been sponsoring this education contest for high school students to learn practical and profitable ways to graze livestock. Over \$41,000 in scholarships have been awarded to date. Participating team members individually complete exams in four areas, including: Grassland Condition, Wildlife Habitat, Soil Evaluation, and Plant Identification.

Congratulations to the team from Carmichaels Area High School for placing third in the state at the 2024 Grasslands Evaluation Contest. This year team members from Carmichaels High School included: Allie Miller, Emma Bates, Hayden Yeager and Isiah Currey.

The team would like to especially thank the Greene County Conservation District for their help in funding the transportation to this event held at Penn State's Ag Progress Days site.

The team would also like to thank Jim, Doug and Bob Willis for allowing the team and fellow students to tour their Beef Farm, along with Penn State Extension Agronomist, Justin Brackenrich and Greene County Conservation District Agriculture Technician, Tess Prochaska.



*2024 PA Grasslands Evaluation Contest--Carmichaels 3rd place
Left to Right: Blake Conard (Team Assistant Coach)--Isiah Currey
Hayden Yeager--Allie Miller--Emma Bates--Kevin Willis (Team Head Coach)*



GRACE 2024-2025 ROUND APPROVED

The Greene County Reinvestment in Agriculture: Cost-share Enhancement (GRACE) Program is a conservation-based program directly funded by the Greene County Conservation District (GCCD) that was designed to enhance soil health and water quality within the agriculture community. This year, the program approved contracts with the largest funding amount in a single year since the establishment of the program in 2017. The GCCD Board of Directors approved \$224,912.04 in contracts for the 2024-2025 program year at their September 17, 2024 Board meeting.

The 56 contracts approved at the September Board meeting include 1,304 tons of lime for 657 acres of pasture and hay fields, 562 acres of fertilizer, 9 fencing projects consisting of 17,845 feet of interior pasture division or streambank fencing, 1 stabilized stream crossing, 30 full water development systems, 5 pipeline projects, 2 watering trough replacements, 5 forest management planning projects and 18 forest management projects. These Best Management Practices promote soil and water conservation practices that improve soil health in pastures and woodlands. These practices can lead to improvements in animal production as well as, healthier soils and forest stands. When these practices are implemented correctly, value and profit can be added to the land.

The district has had great success and participation in the GRACE Program. This program would not be possible

without the financial assistance received by PA Act 13 Unconventional Gas Impact Fee Funds that are allocated through the Public Utility Commission, State Conservation and the Conservation District General Fund. 2024 marks the districts 8th year for funding GRACE projects. Since 2017, a total of 201 farms have entered the program, and contracted \$1.25 million in projects. To date, the district has reimbursed many farmers that completed their GRACE projects utilizing over \$585,000 in project funds.

The district would like to recognize the Greene County Government and their support of our organization which covers many of the district's overhead costs and administrative assistance. The support of the county government allows the district to utilize "Impact Fee Funds" on the ground within the community that has been impacted by gas development over the past years. The money and support received from all of these funding sources could need to be utilized to cover other District expenses; however, the support provided by county government frees up these funds allocated to the district to be spent on projects that enrich Greene County. Through this cost-share assistance program for landowners, the implementation of BMPs within their agricultural operations will enhance soil health, water quality and create more productive farms within the County.

ACAP: AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was created through the Clean Streams Fund established by the FY2022-2023 Pennsylvania Budget and is administered by the State Conservation Commission. Governor Shapiro authorized an annual transfer of \$50 million to the Clean Streams Fund as a part of the 2024 state budget. The funding distribution resulted in an annual \$30 million allocation to the SCC for the ACAP program. From this transfer of funds, Greene County has been awarded approximately \$325,485.00 for FY 24-25 to reduce non-point source pollution in local streams and rivers by implementing BMPs that reduce nutrient and sediment pollution on local farms.

This program is a water quality program that allows the district to directly contract with farms to install the best management practices to control sediment and pollution to local waterways. During the 2024 construction season 2 projects were completed totaling \$207,877.77.

Interested applicants must have either a written agricultural erosion and sediment control plan or conservation plan; as well as either a manure management plan or nutrient management plan. Both plans must include the BMPs required to control nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. Applications must also address and abate other Agriculture Concentration Areas (ACA) on the farm. All projects are required to meet design and construction standards set by the SCC.

GCCD decided to embrace this program in an effort to protect and preserve local soil and water which will ensure future generations of farming in Greene County and is hopeful that this program will improve the overall health of soil and water. ACAP is a reimbursement grant that lowers the financial burden on landowners and farmers. Anyone interested in this program should contact the district at 724-852-5278. Complete applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

Those projects installed the following:

Heavy Use Area Protection	sf.	10,675
Riparian Forest Buffer	ac.	3.05
Roof Runoff Structure	no.	1
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	ft.	1,900
Structure for Water Control	no.	2
Trails and Walkways	ft.	800
Underground Outlet	ft.	200

COOPERATOR PROGRAM

The Greene County Conservation District is proud to offer assistance to all Greene County landowners. The District's Technical Assistance Program aids landowners not only in planning and executing projects, but also in obtaining financial assistance when funds are available. The District can provide technical assistance to landowners with their croplands, woodlands, agricultural waste issues, wildlife habitat, grassland management, streambank protection, erosion and sedimentation control practices, surface water control, livestock watering systems and planned grazing systems as well as many other practices. This program is purely voluntary and encouraged by staff and board members. The District's GRACE program has drawn in many new applicants. In 2024, fourteen landowners, farming 1,475.80 acres enrolled as new cooperators making our current active cooperator list 275 farms.



NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT AND MANURE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Greene County Conservation District administers the nutrient and manure management programs for Greene County. These programs regulate Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs), Act 38 volunteer animal operations (VAO's) and any landowner utilizing manure in Pennsylvania.

Last year the district worked with the Greene County Fairgrounds to update their current Nutrient Management plan. The plan has been developed for the boarded horses at the fairgrounds. To date, this is the only active Nutrient Management plan within the county.

It is hoped that in 2025 a Nutrient Management Specialist is hired to complete the duties of the program. To date the district staff are implementing the program for the county residents.

District staff have completed 59 manure management educational and informational visits within the county to discuss the need of updating their plans. In 2024, PADEP updated the Manure Management Program Planning Manual. The updated manual can be found at: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/programs-and-services/water/bwrnsm/nonpoint-source/agriculture-compliance/manure-management.html> (along with information on the update and all forms necessary to fill out the manual). Every farm in Pennsylvania that applies manure to the land is required to have a written manure management plan according to Title 25 Chapter 91 25 PA Code §91.36. This includes manure application by various types of equipment and/or direct application by animals on pastures and in animal concentration areas. By following the application requirements, the farmer will optimize yields and protect streams, rivers, ponds and groundwater.

GREENE COUNTY FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Agriculture is the leading economic enterprise in Pennsylvania with a \$75 billion total economic impact. Preserving prime farmland for the future is crucial. Farmers face a tough challenge when it comes to keeping their land profitable through Agriculture. Pennsylvania has developed some 1.14 million acres, or 1,800 square miles, of fields, open space, and natural land between 1982 and 1997-the sixth largest such conversion after Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and California. This equates to 209 acres per day, or 9 acres per hour, every hour (The Brookings Institution.)

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture created the Farmland Preservation Easement Purchase Program and began its efforts to preserve prime farmland from being lost to non-agricultural uses. This program strengthens the Commonwealth's agricultural economy and protects prime farmland, while ensuring the availability of those farms for future generations. Pennsylvania's program has protected more farms and acres than any other state program in the nation. This program enables state and county governments to purchase conservation easements from farmers. The program was approved in 1988 and the first easement was purchased in December of 1989. To date, 6,400+ farms have been approved for easement purchases totaling more than 645,000 acres.

Greene County joined the movement in 2007 by preserving its first farm in the county. Since 2007, a total of eight farms consisting of ten farm parcels with over 1,015 acres have been preserved and over \$1.48 million dollars of state and county funds have been invested into purchasing these easement rights.

In 2024, the Greene County Farmland Preservation (GCFLP) Board encumbered funds for a farm located in Cumberland Township owned by Greg and Cheryl Andrews. The farm consists of 99 acres of crop and pasture ground. It will take the board approximately 2-3 years to collect funds to purchase the easement and until the funds are obtained the application period has been suspended.

GROWING GREENER – CREE DAIRY FARM BMP IMPLEMENTATION

In 2023, the Greene County Conservation District was awarded \$454,400.00 to implement agricultural best management practices (BMP) to address resource concerns on the Cree Dairy Farm, located in the Upper Muddy Creek watershed, Greene County, Pennsylvania. This project addresses resource concerns related to nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment-laden runoff from the farm's dairy operations as well as unmanaged grazing and unrestricted stream access for the farm's beef operations.

To date this project has constructed a 727,100-gallon liquid manure storage tank and receiving pit; installed agricultural stormwater controls; added heavy use protections to barnyards and travel areas along with stormwater diversions and an access road; constructed 6 stabilized stream crossings; developed 3 off-stream watering facilities; added animal trails and walkways; and roof runoff structures along with underground outlets. In 2025, the final installation and implementation of the grazing plan will be completed by adding streambank, pasture division and woodlot exclusionary fencing. These practices support nutrient management planning and a rotational grazing system on the farm.

Implementing these BMP addresses resource concerns on the farm, improves water quality and protects the stream's designated use of supporting aquatic life. Modeling suggests total annual load reductions of 16,000 lbs. of sediment, 800 lb. of Nitrogen and 254 lbs. of Phosphorous. Additionally, this project will establish a more natural riparian corridor that will provide thermal protection and runoff buffering for the stream and habitat for wildlife.

The Conservation District along with USDA-NRCS utilized funding from various sources to assist the landowner with such a large undertaking. In all funds were utilized from USDA-NRCS EQIP program, PA DEP Growing Greener Program, GCCD GRACE program and ACAP to implement the massive plan outlined in the CNMP and grazing plan. Work has been ongoing since August of 2023 and is nearing completion.

These photographs show the pre-construction conditions of the barnyards behind the dairy barn and the heifer barn. Both barnyards receive clean water from upslope areas. Both barnyards used to be a source of runoff pollution to the stream immediately downslope of the barnyards.



The Growing Greener project funded the installation of a diversion above the milkhouse and implemented roof gutters on both the milkhouse and the dairy barn. These two BMPs will keep the clean water from entering the barnyards. Additionally, the barnyards were converted to concrete Heavy Use Areas, which will prevent manure runoff from reaching the stream. Underground outlets were installed to collect the polluted runoff water from gutters.



This photograph shows the pre-existing manure pushoff located on the lane between the barns. This pushoff was not adequately designed to control runoff. Runoff from the barns and upslope areas freely moved through this area, collecting manure as shown in the lower right of this photograph.

This project eliminated the existed push off, and constructed two new pushoffs adjacent to the new improved barnyards. The implemented pushoffs removed the source of pollution runoff and created safer conditions for the livestock and the farm workers.

EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

YEAR IN REVIEW: 2024

Erosion is a natural process and sediment is the number one pollutant to our waterways in Pennsylvania. When human activity causes erosion, you get what is called accelerated erosion. The Erosion and Sediment Pollution Program (E&S) was created to protect soil and local water resources. The E&S program was established in 1972 under the Clean Streams Law. Though the program has undergone many changes in the last 53 years, the main goal has remained the same; to protect the soil and water.



A good example of stabilizing earth disturbance to help stop accelerated erosion.



Demolition and scraping of Hatfield Ferry Power Station.

Hatfield Ferry Power Station from a distance after demolition

The PA Code, Title 25 has chapters of regulations that are used to protect our streams and wetlands from accelerated erosion. Our district is delegated by the Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) to administer the Chapter 102 and Chapter 105 programs. Chapter 102 deals with earth disturbance activities and Chapter 105 deals with water obstruction and encroachments. With this agreement, our office also has been tasked with performing inspections of these permits to ensure they are meeting PA DEP & Clean Streams Law standards. Best Management Practices or BMP's, are things like filter sock and silt fence that help minimize the effects of accelerated erosion which is the leading cause of sediment reaching our waterways. If a violation is discovered during an inspection, at the district level, our office tries to obtain voluntary compliance with the responsible party. If compliance cannot be achieved, PA DEP is contacted for mandatory compliance.

THE TABLES BELOW REPRESENT WHAT OUR OFFICE HAS DONE WITH THESE PROGRAMS IN 2024.

2024 CHAPTER 102/105 & NPDES PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Plans Received.....	59	NPDES Permits Issued	8
Inspections & Sites Visited	97	E&S Plans Issued	11
Complaints Investigated	12		

Chapter 105 Permits Issued	
GP-1 – Fish Habitat Enhancement Structures	2
GP-2—Small docks and boat launching ramps	0
GP-3—Bank rehab/protection & gravel bar removal	9
GP-4—Intake/outfall structure	1
GP-5—Utility line stream crossing	8
GP-6—Agricultural crossing and ramp	3
GP-7—Minor road crossings	5
GP-8—Temporary road crossings	6
GP-9—Agricultural activities	2
Chapter 102 Fees	\$29,600.00
Chapter 105 Fees	\$11,925.00
Total 102/105 Fees Received:	\$41,525.00
Funds Collected for PADEP Disturbed Acreage Fee ** These Fees go directly to the PADEP and are not kept by the GCCD. **	\$4,070.00



District Rented the No-Till Drill to 6 farmers in 2024
(Planted approximately 90 acres)



District Rented the two available lime spreaders to over 20 farmers in 2024

SOME OF THE LARGER PROJECTS THAT WERE APPROVED IN 2024 INCLUDE:

Wisecarver Park Phase 2 & Phase 3 – The addition of a boat launch, and 2 kayak launches, as well as additional parking and facilities at Wisecarver Park in Franklin Township.

Bonar Avenue Land Development – A planned subdivision off of Bonar Avenue in Franklin Township.

S.R. 2003, Section U20 (Sugar Run Road) Project – The replacement of a large culvert and a roundabout intersection in Franklin Township.

Greene County Monument & College Parks – The installation of new sidewalks, a stormwater basin, and other facilities at Waynesburg University.



Universal Belting Resource Building Expansion in Paisley Park, Carmichaels



Whiteley Creek Stream Restoration Project being completed by Iron Cumberland, LLC

2024 DIRT, GRAVEL, AND LOW VOLUME ROAD PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Roads program is funded by two statewide programs, Section 9106 of the PA Vehicle Code and PA Act 89 of 2013, the PA Transportation Funding Bill. Both programs permit local county conservation districts the necessary funds to address environmental issues and provide maintenance practices that can be implemented on local dirt and gravel roads and low volume roads to correct those problems. Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance practices encouraged by the program allow the limited man-hour resources of townships to be focused on other issues in the municipality.

Since 1997, the district has participated in the Dirt and Gravel Road Program and has managed to complete 130 projects totaling \$5.271 million. In 2024, the district had 27 projects to manage. The district is grateful for all the interest and is proud to announce that the spending requirements have been met and exceeded. The program is turning out to be a great asset to the municipalities and we hope to ensure that it is utilized to its fullest extent. This program not only assists municipalities with their budgets; but it keeps our local streams free of sediment.

In 2024, the district awarded grants to six municipalities for 13 different projects to implement quality Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance practices.

Site Type	Contract Amount	Project Participant	Road Name
DGR	\$190,190.00	Cumberland Township	Groves Road
LVR	\$210,000.00	Greene Township	Creek Road Ph 2
LVR	\$19,140.00	Greene Township	Creek Road
DGR	\$22,062.84	Jackson Township	Hampton Road
DGR	\$12,231.19	Jackson Township	Moniger Road
LVR	\$12,426.70	Jackson Township	Grinnage Run
LVR	\$28,323.65	Jefferson Township	Sugarcamp Road
LVR	\$26,385.90	Richhill Township	Walker Road
DGR	\$88,457.05	Richhill Township	Bevans Road
LVR	\$62,351.10	Richhill Township	Crow Road
DGR	\$74,503.30	Richhill Township	Durbin Road
LVR	\$6,996.24	Washington Township	Pettit Road
LVR	\$18,490.11	Washington Township	Pisgah Ridge
Total Award	\$771,558.08		

The year was very busy with 15 projects being completed. Several of the projects completed were slide repairs due to the April storms. The other projects consisted of streambank stabilization and drainage and fill projects.

THE FOLLOWING ROADS WERE COMPLETED DURING 2024:

- Hampton Road, Jackson Township
- Pettit Road, Washington Township
- Pisgah Ridge, Washington Township
- Bevans Road, Richhill Township
- Crow Road, Richhill Township
- Moniger Road, Jackson Township
- Grinnage Run Road, Jackson Township
- Bill Eddy Hill Road, Wayne Township
- Walnut Street, Waynesburg Borough
- Long Hill Road, Cumberland Township
- Smokey Row Slip, Richhill Township
- Presocks Road, Cumberland Township
- Robena Road, Monongahela Township
- Moore Road, Jackson Township
- Sugarcamp Road, Jefferson Township

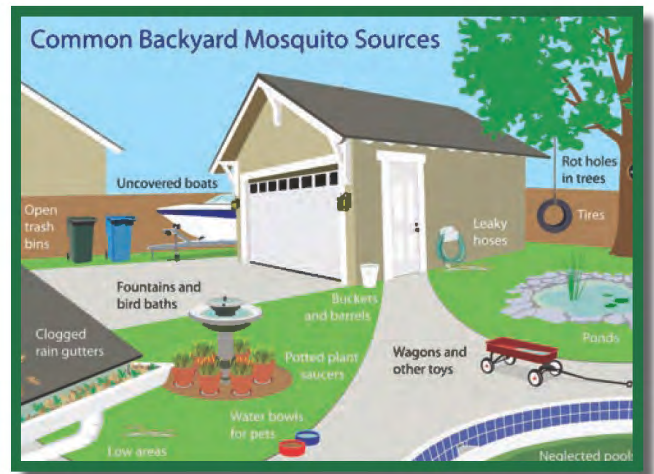
2024 WEST NILE VIRUS REPORT

The conservation district began its yearly mosquito trapping season on May 14th and trapped through October 3rd. Mosquito traps were set in 12 locations throughout the county and various other areas were canvassed for standing water and other breeding habitats. Overall, 292 samples were collected, containing 10,383 mosquitoes. Of those 292 samples, 6 tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). Greene County usually averages around 3-5 WNV positive samples per year, so this year was slightly above average.

Interns and staff trapped these 12 locations weekly and sent all collected adult and larval samples to the Department of Environmental Protection Lab in Harrisburg, PA. The lab tested adult mosquitoes for 3 different viruses: West Nile Virus, St. Louis encephalitis, and Jamestown Canyon Virus. As stated above, only WNV was confirmed in Greene. These three viruses mainly mimic the same headache and flu-like symptoms if contracted, but vary in degrees of severity.

Of these viruses, WNV is by far the most prevalent; but even WNV is typically only found in less than 1% of mosquitoes. Also, 80% of human cases show no symptoms, so there's no need to get overwhelmed with the numbers in our area. WNV positive rates were slightly higher than average across the entire state in 2024. The areas that tested positive in 2024 were: Carmichaels (2), Rice's Landing (2), Crucible (1), and Mt. Morris (1).

As for 2025, we will continue the program in mid-May through October. Please remember that the mosquitoes that carry WNV are most active at dawn and dusk. Prevention is the #1 protector against WNV and mosquito bites in general. Wear protective clothing (long sleeves) and wear bug spray when outside. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office and ask for Zack Basinger.



2024 TIRE CLEAN-UP EVENT

In 2024, our office collected 1,169 tires during one event that was held on May 15th at the Greene County Fairgrounds. This was the most tires collected at one time since the event's inception in 2021. Unfortunately, grant funding was cut for the clean up by the PA Department of Environmental Protection, but our Conservation District Board voted to match our grant funding, which only allowed our office to hold the event.

Since we started this program in 2021, our office has collected approximately 8,363 tires, with our largest year coming in 2022 with 3,478. Greene County led the state in tires collected in 2022 and 2023.

Advertisements will be out on social media and our newsletters for when we officially schedule the 2025 tire clean up. Please do not hesitate to contact our office to sign up!



2024 TICK COLLECTION RESULTS

Background:

Our office began tick surveillance on April 19th and ended on August 28th. The goal of the program is to collect Black-Legged (Deer) ticks and send them to the lab in Harrisburg to be tested for 4 separate tick-borne illnesses: *Lyme disease*, *Anaplasmosis*, *Babesiosis*, and *Deer Tick Virus*.

Lyme Disease: Is spread by the blacklegged (deer) tick, and is caused by the bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi s.l.* Early signs (3-30 days) are flu like with possible target rash, with long term, untreated symptoms leading to paralysis, heart problems, arthritis and can affect nerve and brain function.

Anaplasmosis: Is spread by the blacklegged (deer) tick, and is caused by the bacteria *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*. Early symptoms are flu like (1-5 days) and untreated long term symptoms can lead to respiratory illness, organ failure, or even death.

Babesiosis: Is a parasite that is spread by the blacklegged (deer) tick that infects red blood cells. Early signs are flu like, and can lead to hemolytic anemia; which occurs when red blood cells are destroyed faster than can be replaced. Babesiosis is especially serious for people who: do not have a spleen or are immunocompromised.

Deer Tick Virus: Also known as the Powassan Virus. The virus is carried by blacklegged ticks that feed on rodents. Deer Tick Virus / Powassan Virus can be transmitted to humans in as early as 15 minutes, though this virus is rare but increasing. Symptoms include flu like symptoms, though many patients remain asymptomatic.

(ticklab.org/deer-tick-virus) ([cdc.powassan/cause-and-spread/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/powassan/cause-and-spread/index.html))

The black-legged tick has 4 stages to its lifecycle: egg, larvae, nymph, and adult. Our main target stage is the nymph tick, as these tiny nuisances actually spread more illness than the adults. The nymph stage of the tick is easier to go unnoticed when attached to a host, and most of these illnesses need the tick to be attached 24-36 hours to transmit an illness.

How Tick-Borne Illnesses are spread:

Ticks find their hosts in a variety of ways; mainly by detecting animals' breath and body odors, sensing body heat, moisture, and vibrations. Ticks cannot fly or jump so they perform a tactic known as "questing," which is where the tick holds onto leaves and grasses with its third and fourth pair of legs, and holds its front legs in the air in well-traveled areas and awaits for hosts to travel through and climb on quickly. Depending on the tick species and its life stage, preparing to feed can take anywhere from 10 minutes to 2 hours. The tick then inserts a "feeding tube" into the skin of the host. Secreting small amounts of saliva, which have antiseptic and pain killing properties to ensure the tick goes unnoticed, the tick takes a blood meal which can last anywhere from minutes to days. The ticks usually have reverse barbs in the feeding tube to stay attached to the host. After feeding, most ticks drop off and prepare for the next life stage. If the host had a blood borne infection, the tick will ingest this pathogen with the blood and transmit it to its next host. ([cdc.gov/ticks/about/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/about/index.html))



2024 Results:

Throughout the year, staff collected: 76 adult black legged ticks, 23 nymph ticks, and 737 larval ticks. The larval stage of the tick has yet to have taken a blood meal, so they do not carry any tick-borne illnesses to spread, yet. Of the 76 adult, and 23 nymph ticks, 30.4% tested positive for Lyme disease while 17.4% tested positive for Anaplasmosis.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM CARMICHAELS SCHOOL DISTRICT VISIT A LOCAL FARM

Mr. Kevin Willis, and 35 of his students from grades 9-12, toured Jim Willis's farm on September 16th as part of their Conservation Biology Class. Kevin Willis is a high school science teacher from Carmichaels School District. The Conservation Biology course is offered to students who are interested in a career in environmental science.



Jim Willis's farm is on Pumpkin Run, in Jefferson, PA. At the end of 2023, Jim Willis implemented a streambank restoration project, which included three spring developments, a stream crossing, 1,200 ft of streambank fencing, and a riparian buffer.

The Greene County Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Greene County Penn State Extension office partnered with Kevin Willis, to teach the students the importance of stream restoration and conservation practices on a farm.

Justin Brackenrich, Agronomists from Penn State Extension, taught the students how to identify common plants in Pennsylvania. District Conservationist Jack Lee from NRCS demonstrated how to generate soil reports and grazing calculations. Lastly, Jim Willis's son Doug and Agricultural Technician Tess Prochaska from the Greene County Conservation District led a farm tour. The best management practices that were highlighted on the tour included streambank stabilization, streambank fencing, spring developments, stream crossings, cover crops, and rotation grazing.

CARMICHAELS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPLORE THE MICROBIOLOGY OF LOCAL STREAMS

Seventh through Twelve graders from Mr. Willis's Real World Science class at Carmichaels High School had the opportunity to participate in a Leaf Pack project. The students collected leaves from trees on the nature trail on school property. Then, the students separated the leaves by species and added 10 grams of each variety of tree species to the Leaf Pack. In November of 2024, the students placed their Leaf Packs in the portion of Muddy Creek that flows through the school's property. To determine the health of this segment of Muddy Creek, students will return to the stream in the spring of 2025 to investigate the aquatic insects inside the Leaf Packs.

While there, Mr. Willis's Real World Science class sampled Largemouth Bass, White Suckers, Pumpkinseed, Catfish, and other species found in this segment of Muddy Creek. The samples of the fish were collected using electroshocking. Lastly, using kick-nets and D-nets, students analyzed macroinvertebrates from the stream.

This Leaf Pack project was made possible by a DEP Environmental Education grant, which was supported by the Greene County Conservation District which purchased the Leaf Pack kits. The Leaf Pack Network is an international network of people who investigate their local stream ecosystems. Leaf Pack Network is part of WikiWatershed (<https://wikiwatershed.org/>), an initiative of Stroud Water Research Center (<https://stroudcenter.org/>) to help people advance knowledge and stewardship of fresh water.



GREENE AND WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER 102 & 105 WORKSHOP

On November 6 our office partnered with the Washington County Conservation District to host an engineering workshop for consultants that work on permitting in Pennsylvania. Representatives from PA DEP Bureau of Waste Management and Bureau of Waterways, Engineering and Wetlands presented on topics and scenarios that are common in permit reviews. Employees from both conservation districts also presented on various topics including the new PAG-02 permit updates.

Zack Basinger, GCCD Environmental Permitting Manager, presenting at the joint 102 & 105 workshop.



STREAM TABLE LESSON AT CARMICHAELS MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Greene County Conservation District taught a non-point pollution lab to 76 eighth graders from Carmichael's Middle School. Four different classes participated in the streambank erosion lab. The lab was held on April 4th during Mr. Justin Allen's eighth grade General Science classes. The Greene County Conservation District's Watershed Specialist, Tiffany Stewart, used a mobile stream table to demonstrate best management practices that prevent streambank erosion.



A stream table provides an opportunity for students to learn first-hand how streams are formed in a watershed. The stream table also demonstrates the effects that different weather events have on a stream. For example, students scattered glitter, which represented different types of pollutants found in the environment. Common types of pollutants that are found in our environment are exhaust from car, salt and oil from roadway, and nutrients and phosphate runoff from agricultural operations. Then, the students observed as rain water and flooding water collected and transported the different pollutants into the stream. Afterwards, students were given the opportunity to brainstorm and test their best management practice plans to restore and prevent further erosion of the streambanks.

HAY PRODUCTION MEETING

The Conservation District has a goal of creating a better relationship with the county agriculture producers and community. With that goal in mind the board held their first annual producers meeting. In March of 2024 the board hosted a meeting to highlight hay production. Approximately 50 local farmers attended the meeting to learn about hay production from Penn State Extension staff and district staff.

Penn State Educators Leanna Dupstadt and Justin Brackenrich discussed forage quality and how we as

farmers effect it and tips for making better hay. These topics were chosen because for most operations, dry hay is the most important sources of winter feed for livestock. During the meeting it was discussed how forage varieties and practices used can have a positive impact on the quality and yield of stored forages. Leanna and Justin presented information for managing forages based on maturity stage, not calendar frequency; selecting forages that best suit your soils/land class; wrapping hay for fermentation and scouting fields for quality and weeds.

The board used this meeting to gauge farmers interest in additional topics and highlight programs available for the local farming community. The district would like to work with the farming community by offering useful topics of discussion; engage with local producers to get a better understanding of their needs; and try to offer assistance through both financial and educational opportunities to meet those needs. The district understands that our agriculture production in the county is unique in its own way. All operations have needs, no matter how large or small and we encourage participation in these events so that additional resources can be found to assist landowners.



INVASIVE WORKSHOP IN GREENSBORO, PA



The Greene County Conservation District held an Invasive Species workshop at Jason Ellis's farm located near Headlee Heights in the summer of 2024. Despite August 29th being a rainy summer night, 25 Farmers and landowners attended the event. A DEP Watershed Specialist's Mini-grant funded the workshop. The workshop consisted of two presentations, one from Russ Gibbs, DNCR regional forester, and Justin Brackenrich, Penn State Extension Agronomy Educator.

Russ spoke on the different techniques used to remove invasive species specific to forestry woodland areas. Russ's presentation included a demonstration of the squirt and hack method and what herbicides to use along with the proper concentrations.

Justin taught about the most common types of invasive species that are found along field fence lines. Additionally, Justin discussed the proper removal techniques for invasive species from pastures. The presentation consisted of walking along Jason's property line and identifying invasive species in the pasture fields. His presentation concluded with an overview of the pesticide spraying licenses that are offered by Penn State Extension.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT ROAD CLEAN-UP



The employees of Greene County Conservation District and one board member participated in the yearly road cleanup along Garards Fort Road in Greene County. On May 1st, 2024, 63 bags were collected along the two-mile stretch of road. This year marked the 20th anniversary of Greene County Conservation District's yearly road clean-up along the two-mile stretch of Garards Fort Road in Greene County. The two-mile stretch of Garards Fort Road was adopted by the Greene County Conservation District in 2004 as part of PennDot's Adopt a Highway program.

Front Row-Theresa Prochaska, Tiffany Stewart and Heather Yorke

Back Row-Lisa Snider and Lindsay Kozlowski

2025 ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRACE Applications being accepted until August 31, 2025

Manure Management Workshop

Greene County Fairgrounds 4-H Building #10

March 20th starting at 6 PM

Bring your old manure management workbook for reference. All manure management plans written prior to April 2024 require updates.

Conservation District Week

April 20-26th—Keep your eye out on Facebook for more information

Poster Contest

Entries due to the district office by April 9th

The Greene County Conservation District is holding a poster contest for Greene County students in kindergarten through the eighth grade. Posters may be completed in school or at home. Winning students earn cash prizes of \$100, \$75 or \$50. First place posters also go on to a statewide competition.

The Theme for this year's contest is, "Home Is Where The Habitat Is." Taking part in the poster contest increases environmental literacy and fosters interest in science, art and other disciplines.

Interested parents, teachers and students can find more information, including complete rules and entry forms on the conservation district website or Facebook.

Coloring Contest

Entries due to the district office by April 9th

Coloring contest is open to all Greene County Pre-K children. The top three entrants will receive new bicycles and helmets as prizes. Please visit our website or Facebook for further information and coloring page.

Tire Clean Up

Greene County Fairgrounds

June 11th, 2-6pm—follow us on Facebook for more details.

All tires will be required to be passenger tires only and each tire is \$1, max 20 tires per registrant, limited to Greene County residents only.

Chapter 102 & 105 Engineers Workshop

Chartiers Township Community Center

November 5th

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More Information!**

facebook 

 **Instagram**



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Suite 204
Waynesburg, PA 15370

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PAID
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MISSION OF THE DISTRICT

It is the mission of the District to commit to the protection, stewardship, and conservation of the County's natural resources that ensure a wise balance between the protection of the environment and the benefit of the landowners of the County.

It is the District's belief that conservation works best when people living and working in the local area work together to manage their natural resources collectively. Valuable partnerships are formed when diversity is brought into the conversation and decision-making process. Our office is a conservation-oriented organization that offers a wide variety of expertise and knowledge. The District staff can assist with questions related to permitting, offer guidance on planning for farming, and assist landowners with various natural resource related topics.