



# York County Conservation District

“Conservation • Stewardship • Education”

[www.yorkccd.org](http://www.yorkccd.org)

## Headwaters Environmental Legacy Program

(HELP-Streams)

*Rehabilitating & Protecting Small 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Order Streams*

### What's the Problem?

Over the years, human activities have contributed to changes in the dynamic equilibrium of stream systems across the county. These activities center on manipulating stream corridor systems for a wide variety of purposes, including domestic and industrial water supplies, irrigation, transportation, waste disposal, mining, flood control, timber management, recreation, aesthetics, and more recently, fish and wildlife habitat. Increases in human population and industrial, commercial, and residential development place heavy demands on this county's stream corridors.



*HELP-Streams Project (before)*

The cumulative effects of these activities result in significant changes, not only to stream corridors, but also to the ecosystems of which they are a part. These changes include degradation of water quality, decreased water storage and conveyance capacity, loss of habitat for fish and wildlife, and decreased recreational and aesthetic values.

Riparian landowners in York County are responsible for watershed protection and encouraged to practice good environmental stewardship at home.

### About HELP-Streams

The York County Conservation District is committed to being an innovative leader assisting and educating the public to make the best choice for conserving and preserving our natural resources.

The Headwaters Environmental Legacy Program for Small Streams (HELP-Streams) was initiated in 2003 by the District to educate landowners about making the best choices for managing their small streams and providing financial and technical resources for rehabilitating and protecting headwater streams. Financial assistance is available to eligible landowners on a cost-share basis, as resources allow. Technical assistance is provided at no cost to landowners who wish to do the work themselves. Landowners must obtain a General Permit (GP-3) required by the Department of Environmental Protection.

### Who is eligible?

All landowners in York County are eligible to receive some assistance, but must meet the following requirements.

- Must be landowner of headwater stream(s) i.e., small 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> order.
- Must be willing to sign District's Cooperator Agreement form
- Must be willing to cost-share the total project cost with the District.
- Must be willing to sign a Landowner-Contractor Agreement between the landowner(s), contractor, and District.

### What can I do to help my stream?

Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, under its Chapter 105 Dam Safety and Waterway Encroachment Program, issues General Permits (GP-3) to landowners for Bank Rehabilitation, Bank Protection & Gravel Bar Removal. The Conservation District provides landowners with technical assistance

preparing the grant application package, free of charge. The General Permit prescribes 13 Best Management Practices for bank rehabilitation, bank protection and gravel bar removal. They include:

1. Slope Protection
2. Slope & Rock Protection
3. Gabion Slope Protection
4. Sloped Walls
5. Vertical Retaining Walls
6. Cribbing
7. Gabion Channel Deflector
8. Rock Channel Deflector
9. Log Frame Channel Deflector
10. Live Crib Wall
11. Vegetative Stabilization (Fascines)
12. Vegetative Stabilization (Branch Packing)
13. Gravel Bar Removal

*Note: General Permit does not authorize any fluvial geomorphic stream restoration techniques.*

Most GP-3 techniques can be done by landowners either by hand or with minimal equipment. Typically, the cost of these techniques ranges from \$5 per square foot up to \$50 per square foot.



*HELP-Stream Project (after)*

### When can I do the work?

Generally, the best time to do small stream rehabilitation and protection is during periods of low-flow conditions (e.g., mid-summer). With regards to fish spawning and trout stocking constraints, no work should be done in wild trout streams between 10/1 and 12/31 and stocked trout streams between 3/1 and 6/15. Consult with the PA Fish & Boat Commission for specific restrictions.

### Where can I get assistance?

Assistance is available to landowners in two forms: 1) financial (cost-share) and 2) technical.

Landowner financial assistance in the form of cost-sharing is determined based on the following criteria:

- 100% cost-share if landowner does work (i.e., financial assistance covers cost of materials)
- 75% cost-share if landowner/subcontractor does work and District prepares General permit application package
- 50% cost-share if landowner does finished vegetative stabilization and District does work (i.e., subcontractor) and prepares General permit application package

Technical assistance is available to eligible landowners for technique selection, preparing permit forms and documents, and over-seeing construction.

### How does the program work?

You can rehabilitate and protect your small headwater stream by following these simple steps.

1. Contact the Conservation District and request a preapplication meet at your home. The Watershed Specialist will assess your stream's conditions and make recommendations for rehabilitation and protection. This is the time to request assistance and sign Landowner Cooperator Agreement. Also, this is the time to determine your cost-share with the District.
2. Conservation District Board approves Landowner Cooperator Agreement
3. Prepare and submit a single and complete General permit application package to DEP for approval. Sign any contracts required.
4. Allow 4-6 weeks for DEP to review and issue General Permit. Once you have your General Permit approval in-hand, you may begin work.

### For More Information...

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