



YORK COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

www.yorkccd.org

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Travis Sherman, Chairman
- Jim Rexroth, Vice Chairman
- Michael Flinchbaugh, Treasurer
- Rochelle Black, Asst. Treasurer
- Directors:
 - Commissioner Julie Wheeler
 - Dan Innerst
 - Jackie Kramer
 - Mike Smith
 - James Elliott
- Associate Directors:
 - Leroy Bupp
 - Randy Craley
 - Harry Bickel
 - Doug Goodlander
 - Leah Taylor
 - Grant Deller
 - Keith Eisenhart, Director Emeritus



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR & MANAGER

There is no doubt that 2022 was a successful year for the York County Conservation District. Each department faced unique challenges. The introduction of new programs, additional financial assistance available to the ag community, exponential increases in watershed protection work and the development of inhouse processes kept staff engaged. Staff and Board members worked hand-in-hand to ensure all possible outcomes were researched and addressed.

In 2022, the District not only completed required tasks, but also upgraded its framework for the future. It's no secret that districts have relied on extensive histories within their respective counties to guide programs, staff, and overall direction. However, it's also clear that districts must continue to evolve and adapt. York County is fully committed to integrating our storied past with a desire to lead conservation into the future.

Combine the District's work with York County's new strategic plan, unveiled in 2022, and the platform for success was formed. As you read our Annual Report, look for ways the District "strengthened residents' Quality of Life", was "Innovative," "Engaged," "Resilient," and instrumental in "Helping to Build a Better York County." (All key components of the County's Strategic Plan)

We wouldn't be a conservation district if we didn't acknowledge staff turnover. Districts weren't immune in 2022, much like the rest of the workforce. However, staff that left us maintain their conservation ethic in their new endeavors.

We also acknowledge the recent passing of one of our Board members, Mike Smith. Mike had deep roots in York County in both the excavation and farming sectors. His addition to the Board brought a balanced voice that could engage in dialogue from both sides of the table. Mike will be missed by all those who knew him.

Travis Sherman, District Chairman

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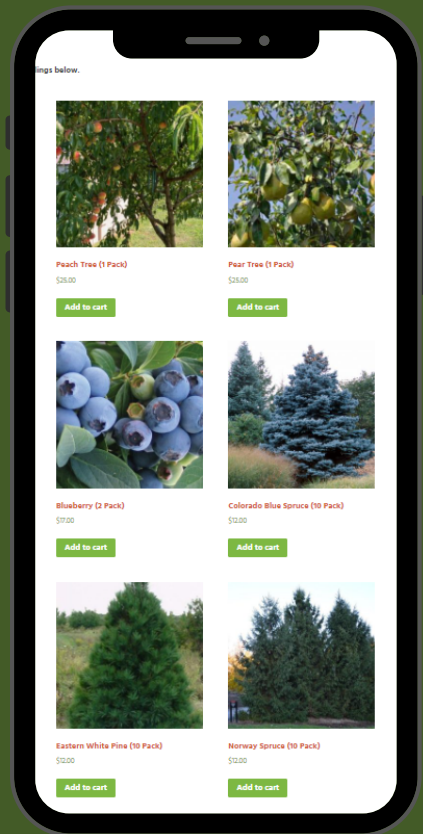
Jeff Hill, District Manager

SEEDLING SALE

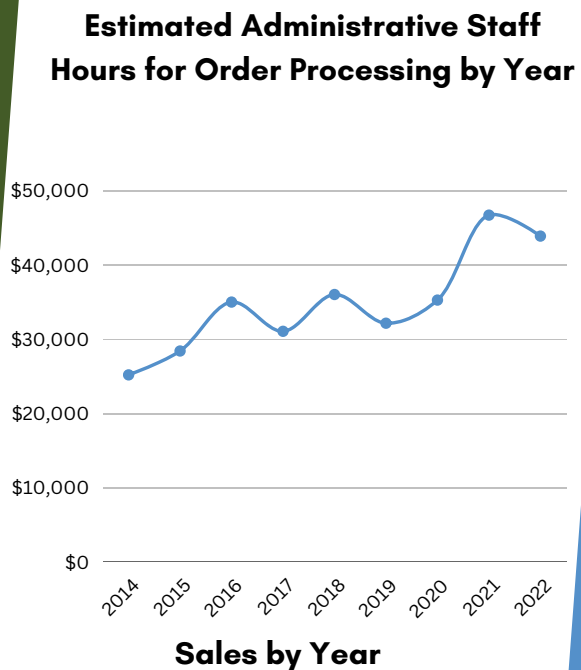
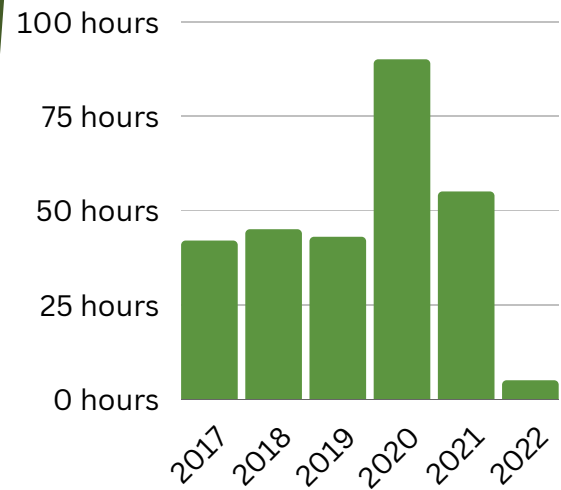
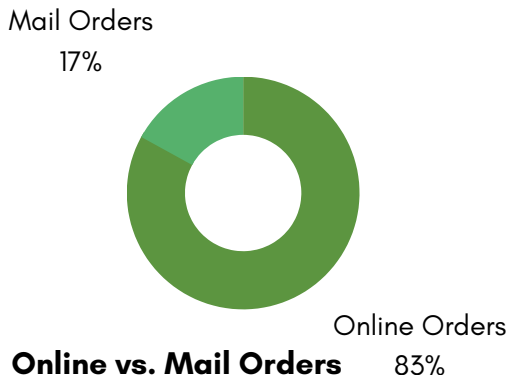
The 2022 Seedling Sale was a huge success!

We developed and launched an online ordering system, which was a welcomed change for both customers and staff.

We hope to share the lessons we learned with other conservation districts to help improve their sales.



You can now order seedlings from your computer or mobile device.



AWARDS CELEBRATING CONSERVATION

Outstanding Partnering Organization
Codorus Chapter Trout Unlimited (CCTU)

Outstanding Conservation Volunteer
Karen Ward

Outstanding Partnering Organization
Muddy Creek Trout Unlimited (MCTU)

Outstanding Municipality
Fairview Township

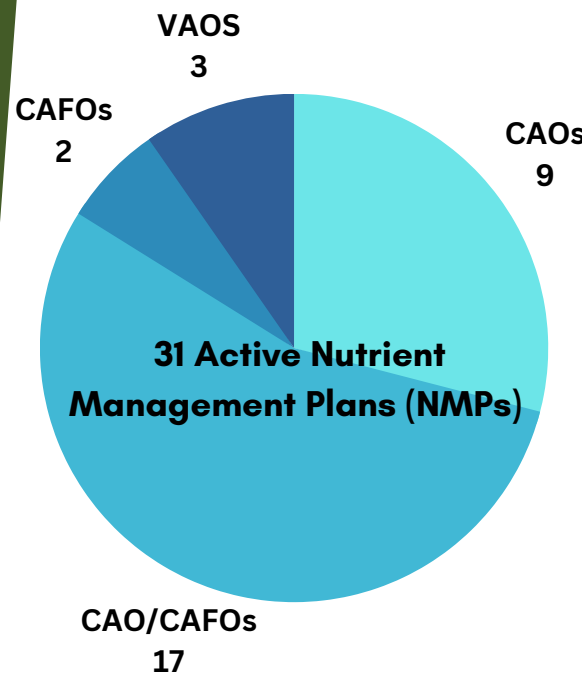
2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS



AGRICULTURE

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

- Troy Zirkle & Melodie Tuckey both received their Nutrient Management certification
- Brita Runkle completed her NRCS Planner certification
- Staff participated in several events, including...
 - York County Crops Day
 - Ag Preserve Soil Health Events
 - York County Ag Recognition Banquet
 - PA No-Till Alliance Field Day
 - Better Farms Cleaner Water Field Day
 - Mark Flaharty celebrated 35 years with YCCD!



- Staff assisted 9 farmers with their Manure Management Plans and wrote 5 complete Manure Management Plans
- Staff completed 116 Ag E&S Plans on 5,498 acres
- 11 NMPs were reviewed by staff and approved by the Board
- 57 Nutrient Balance Sheets (NBS) were received and recorded on 7500 acres
- 13 NBS were reviewed by staff
- Ag staff administered the Conservation Excellence Program (CEG). We received \$428,531 in new allocations and spent \$141,148 in 2022
- Assisted CEG applicants to install the following practices: grassed waterways, fencing, watering systems and pipelines, diversions, and cover crops



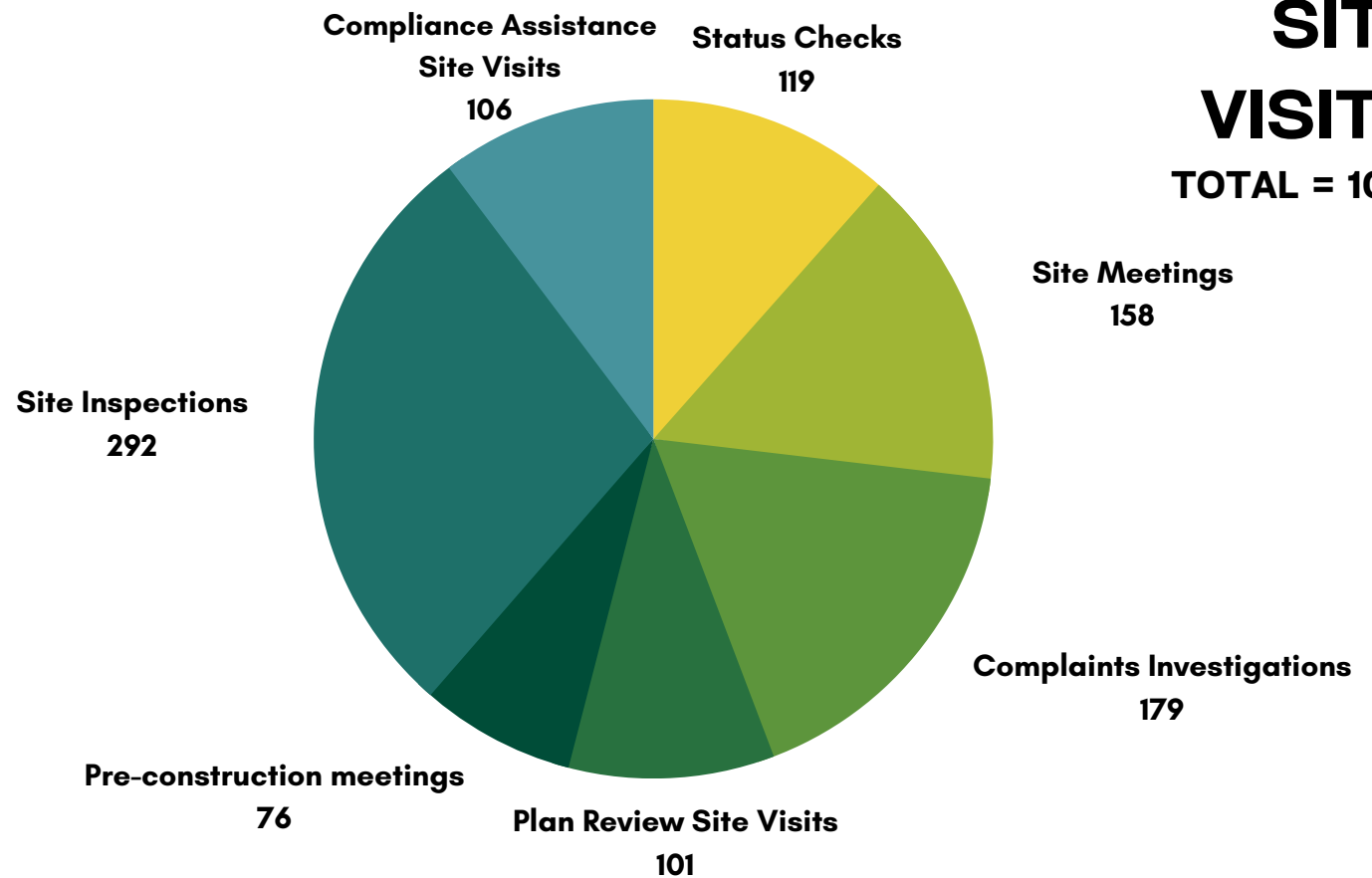
EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL

- Nicholas Hoffman received his CPESC certification and was promoted to Engineering Technician II
- YCCD passed DEP's Chapter 102 Program Evaluation
- Executed the Post-Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) Delegation Agreement with DEP
- Kicked off a new Voluntary Streamlined Plan Review Process to expedite the permit review process for quality plan submittals



SITE VISITS

TOTAL = 1031



STAFF

PARTICIPATED IN...

- Numerous PA Clean Water Academy trainings
- 2-day long PACD Hybrid Staff Conference
- 2-day long Chapter 102/105 Virtual Topic-based Training
- Hosted 2 construction site visits for 65 District and DEP trainees attending the week-long PACD & DEP Spring Chapter 102/105 Basic E&S Training
- The E&S Manual Update, Compliance & Enforcement Manual, Chapter 102 Training, and Notice of Termination (NOT) DEP Workgroups

EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL

- Staff presented 4 two-hour long E&S BMP PowerPoint presentations to:
 - 12 employees of Landmark Homes
 - 24 employees of York Excavating, Inc.
 - 14 employees of Gemcraft Homes and Exceptional Homes, Inc.
 - 23 employees of JVH Excavating, Yingst Homes, & Garman Builders

STAFF

- Participated in 142 pre-application and plan resubmission meetings
- Processed 177 NPDES permit applications
- Reviewed 278 new and 352 revised plan submittals involving 2,691 disturbed acres
- Received 187 complaints
- Conducted 1,031 site visits seeking voluntary compliance
- Initiated enforcement actions for 3 project sites under our Level III Delegation with DEP.



WATERSHEDS

Helping improve watershed
organization development and
PA water quality.

- Watershed Assessment
- Funding Procurement
- Technical Assistance
- Education & Outreach
- Strategic Development

2022 FEATURED ACCOMPLISHMENT: Trout Run Exelon Habitat Improvement Program Project

- Resource Challenge – Trout Run was experiencing bank instability, loss of habitat, and lacked a significant riparian buffer.
- Project Summary and Results – The project consisted of approximately 400 linear feet of stream work including the installation of muddsills and root wads to provide habitat, a riparian buffer planting, and a stabilized stream crossing.
- Total Project Value: \$74,500.00
- Key Project Partners – Department of Environmental Protection, Exelon Corporation, ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC, RiverLogic Solutions, LLC, Keystone 10 Million Tree Partnership, Private Landowner



Before

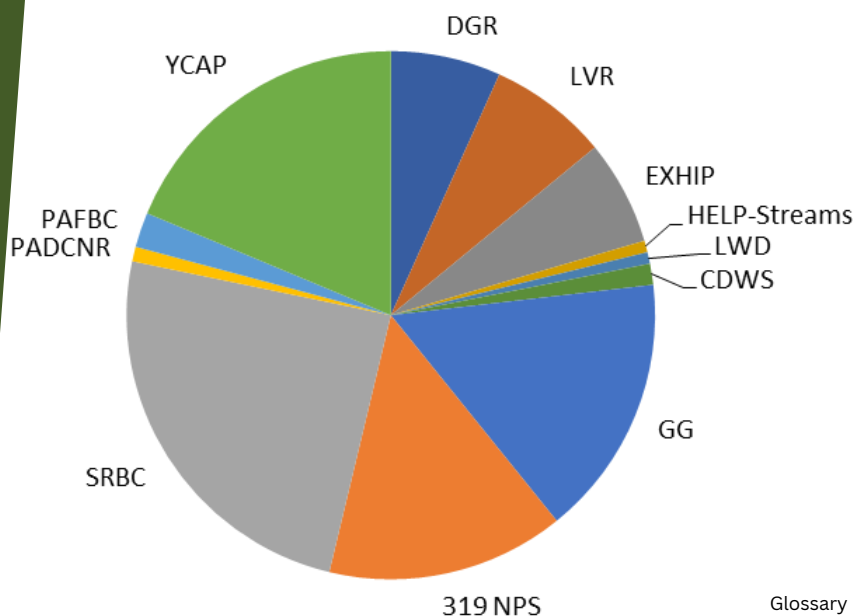
After



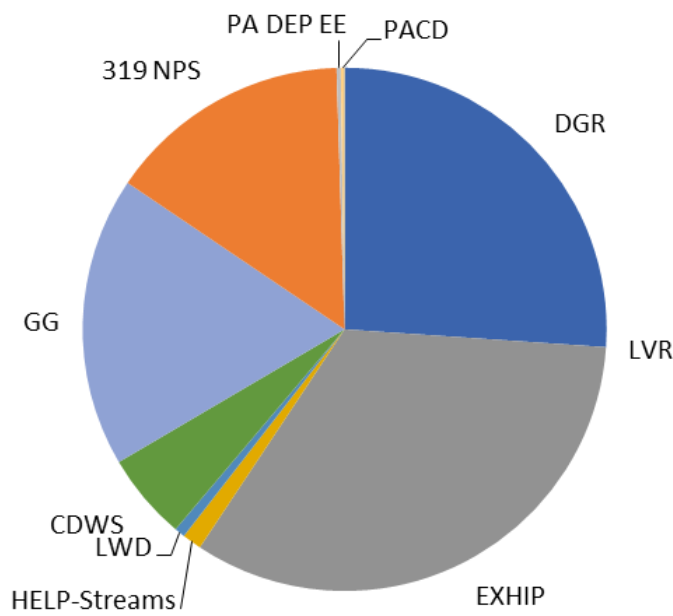
Before

After

2022 Grant Money Received



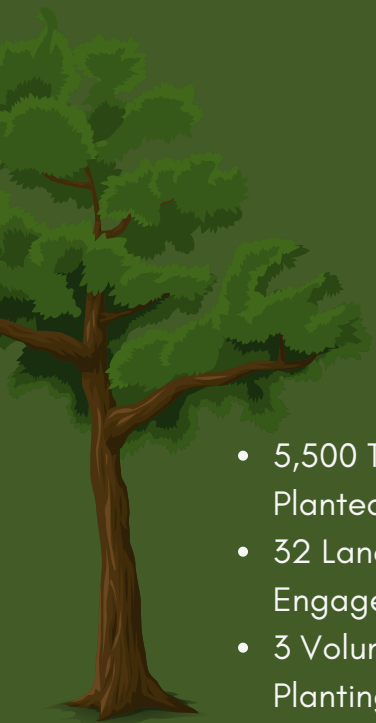
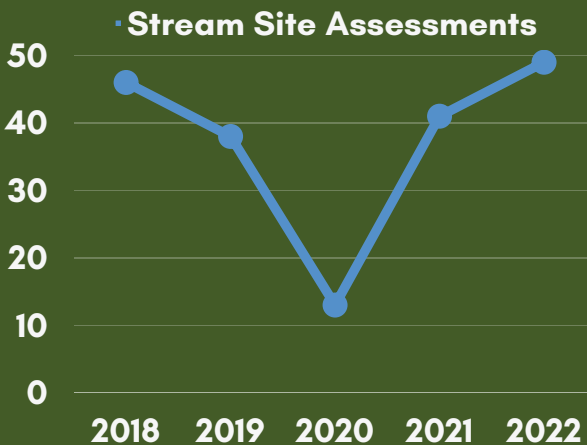
2022 Grant Money Spent



Glossary
DGR - Dirt & Gravel Roads; LVR - Low Volume Roads; EXHIP - Exelon Habitat Improvement Program; LWD - Large Woody Debris; CDWS - Conservation District Watershed Specialist; GG - Growing Greener Grant; 319 NPS - 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant; SRBC - Susquehanna River Basin Commission; DCNR - PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; PAFBC - PA Fish & Boat Commission; YCAP - York Countywide Action Plan; PADEP EE - PA Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education; PACD - PA Association of Conservation Districts

WATERSHEDS

PAGE 2



- 5,500 Trees Planted
- 32 Landowners Engaged
- 3 Volunteer Planting Events Held

BMPs Installed through the DGR Program

- 1.08 miles of dirt and gravel road environmentally sensitive maintenance
- 1,270.6 tons Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) applied
- 149 tons of fill added
- 1,786.79 tons 2A added
- 5 new cross pipes installed
- 8 cross pipes replaced
- 3 turn outs installed
- 9 grade breaks installed
- 3 stream crossing replacements



Hefner Road, PA Game Commission - Before Drainage Work



Hefner Road, PA Game Commission - After Drainage Work



EXHIP Project Before – Deer Creek Watershed



EXHIP Project After – Deer Creek Watershed

BMPs Installed through the EXHIP Program

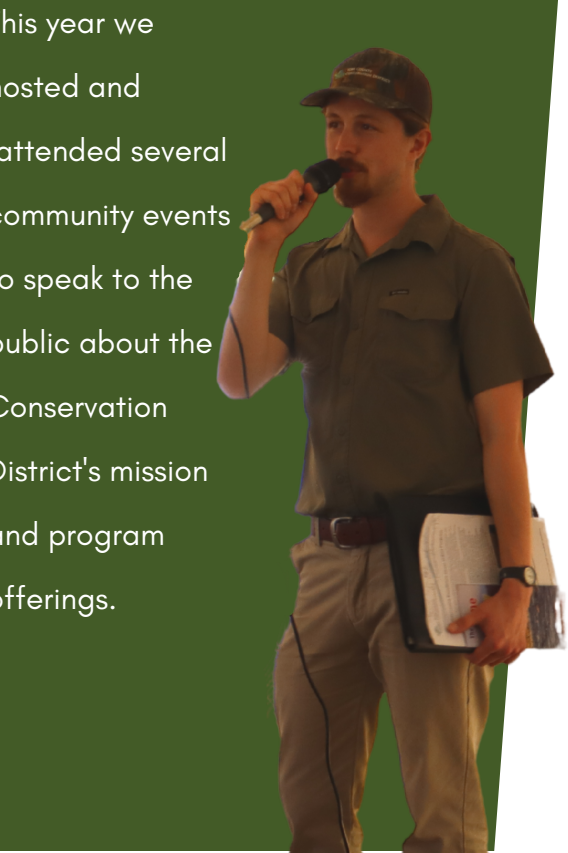
- 3,400 sqft of bioengineered streambank
- 225 lft boulder toe revetment
- 350 cu yd of structural streambank and shoreline protection
- 2 cattle crossings
- 15 log vanes
- 18 10ft sections of cribbing mudsill
- removal of 2 CMP pipes
- 3 root wad deflectors
- 1 acre wetland restoration
- 1 acre wetland enhancement
- 0.75 acre riparian buffer

EDUCATION

Providing quality environmental education to help York County residents conserve their natural resources.

- York County Envirothon
- Conservation Horizons
- Scholarships

OUTREACH



NEWSLETTER

CONSERVATION HORIZONS



Conservation Horizons

Spring 2022



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Around the District

As the District rolls on into 2022, you may see some new faces at our District Board Meetings. Jack Dehoff retired after serving 36 years with the District as a former director. His wealth of knowledge and years of experience helped to not only guide the District, but also shape the state's conservation vision by serving on numerous committees and state level boards. Kenyon Miller also stepped down as a District Director. Kenyon spent 8 years on the board as a public director. With his background in agriculture, Kenyon brought a voice to the Board that was balanced and focused on the cost/

Photo credit: Kenyon Miller

benefits for today's farming operations. With the vacancies comes the ability to welcome two new District Directors. Mike Smith and Jim Elliot, both of whom served as Associate Directors before being nominated and appointed, were sworn in at the January meeting by Commissioner Wheeler. Mike Smith will serve as a former director, but also brings extensive knowledge from years in the conservation business. Jim Elliot, a public director, brings a vast knowledge base on environmental law as well as his past involvement in conservation measures throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Photo credit: Kenyon Miller

Conservation Horizons Spring 2022



Conservation Horizons

Summer 2022



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Wildlife Facts 10



Around the District

Education is the bedrock of every aspect of our lives. In some way, shape, or form, education has led each of us to where we are today. It will also help lead us to where we go in the future. Education is a crucial piece of the foundation for the Conservation District.

There was no better feeling than seeing over 600 residents navigate our Seedling Sale, knowing that in their own way, whether they know it or not, they were doing their part to help improve the soil, air, and water of York County. The students that participated in the Envirothon Seedling Sale, the York County Envirothon competitions and 14 wagers that Envirothon competitions (students from 2nd-12th grades), the numerous of discussions about how much fun tree plantings/watershed activities, those students had and how all that and outreach activities conducted by hard work paid off.

Ag departments are all events that

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Conservation Horizons Summer 2022



Conservation Horizons

Fall/Winter 2022



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Around the District

Approaching 75 Years

The York County Conservation District is fast approaching a major milestone: Celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2022. York wasn't the first district "officially" established that honor belongs to Potomac County in 1946 but York has its "unofficial" conservation roots dating back to 1927-28, and the impacts associated with the Dust Bowl. With the help of our former and the additional 654 petition-signing farmers, they laid the groundwork for what we have become today.

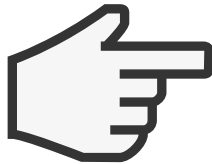
The County of York and the Conserva-

tion District have both changed a lot since then. With increases in population, economic growth, and technology, both groups have maintained the importance of conserving the county's natural resources while balancing growth. In the 1940s, residents waited for the morning/evening papers to get their information. Now, that information is widely available via social media where you can find an almost real-time listing of conservation efforts occurring within the county. The new ease of conservation has never been easier to disseminate to the masses.

— Continued pg. 2—

Conservation Horizons Fall/Winter 2022

Join the 9,000 people reading
Conservation Horizons for FREE



SUBSCRIBE

SCHOLARSHIPS

ASSISTING FUTURE CONSERVATIONISTS

\$1000

College Scholarship

- Recipient: Emma Smith

\$500

Paul Wilson Conservation Award

- Recipient: Heather Hoheneder



BOOK SALES

PA WILDLIFE JOURNAL

2022 was our first full year of sales for the Conservation District's book **PA Wildlife Journal: Birds & Mammals** since its original publication a decade ago.

Available for purchase on
amazon

ENVIROTHON

The Envirothon is the nation's largest Environmental Education Competition.

This year Envirothon students made a triumphant return to an in-person competition.

Conservation District staff and volunteers helped ensure the Envirothon competition events ran smoothly.

The YHSA Tsugoose Canadensis placed 1st in the Senior High York County Envirothon and continued on to place 6th in the PA Envirothon.

York County ENVIROTHON

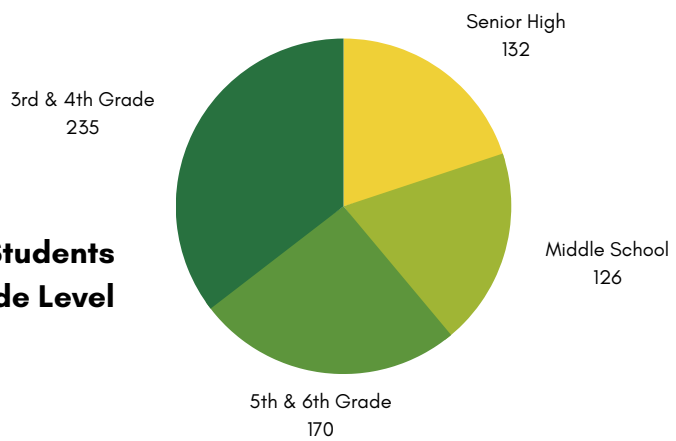


RESULTS FOR THE RECORD BOOKS

- Senior High**
- 1st— YHSA Tsugoose Canadensis
 - 2nd— Northern Nighthawks
 - 3rd— York Catholic Duck Deck
 - 4th— York Suburban Serendipitous Soils
 - 5th— Susquehannock Sweetbay Magnolias
 - 6th— York Suburban Crappy Crappies
 - 7th— Spring Grove Wetland Warriors
 - 8th— Northeastern Official Opossums
 - 9th— Central York Current Issues
 - 10th— West York Wildfire
- Middle School**
- 1st— SEMS Sleepy Bears
 - 2nd— York Homeschool Squishy Mambas
 - 3rd— York Suburban Bunny Bandits 2.0
 - 4th— Central York Bossy Bullfrogs
 - 5th— Dover Leaflets
 - 6th— Central York Sitting Ducks
 - 7th— York Suburban Sophisticated Squirrels
 - 8th— Dover Tree Huggers
 - 9th— Hanover Naturalists
 - 10th— Northern Nuclear Newts
- 5th & 6th Grade**
- 1st— Dallastown White Oak Wildcats
 - 2nd— York Homeschool Competitive Copperheads
 - 3rd— Spring Grove Nuisance Species
 - 4th— South Mountain Red Pandas
 - 5th— Dallastown Awesome Opossums
 - 6th— Dover Elementary Creekside Critters
 - 7th— Leib Elementary Rebel Raccoons
 - 8th— Indian Rock Awesome Amphibians
 - 9th— North Hills Squirrel Squad
 - 10th— Spring Grove Delirious Deer
- 3rd & 4th Grade**
- Gold Level:**
- Dallastown Inter. Crazy Coyotes
 - York Homeschool Frenzied Foxes
 - South Mountain Phat Fish
 - South Mountain Black Bears
 - Dallastown Inter. Brilliant Bears
 - Stewartstown Elem. Scary Squirrels
 - Dallastown Inter. Super Squirrels
 - Paradise Apex Predators
 - Leib Elementary Perfect Fishers
 - Legendary Loganville Wilderness Wildcats

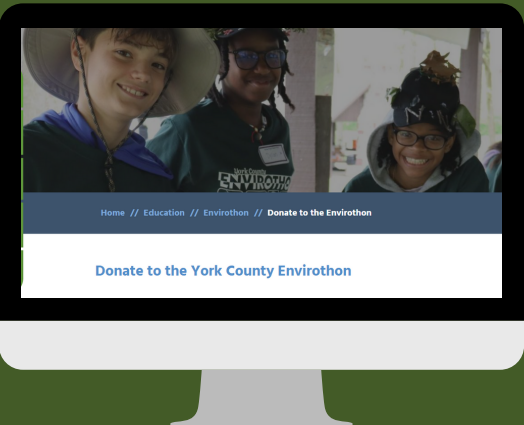


**Envirothon Students
by Grade Level**



FUNDRAISING

Each year the Conservation District raises funds to support the York County Envirothon program. Generous support from our sponsors and partners allows us to offer the Envirothon at no-cost to nearly 1,000 students each year.



You can now donate to the Envirothon from your computer or mobile device.

DONATE



SUPPORT

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

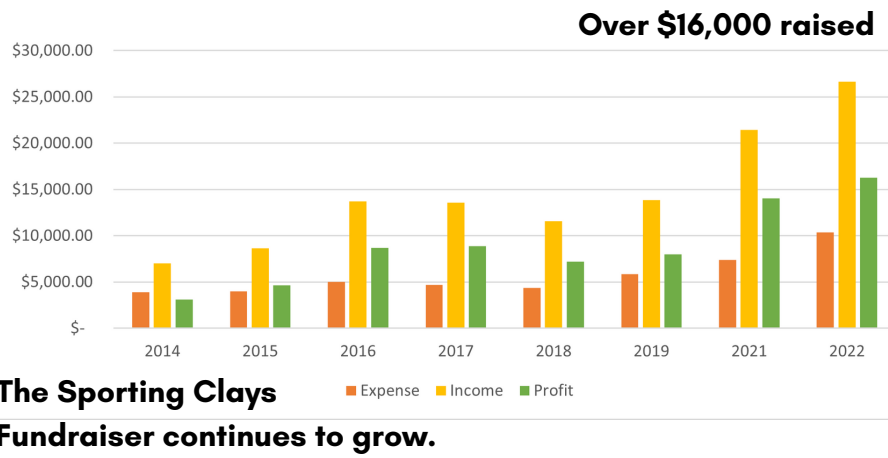
York County ENVIROTHON



SPORTING CLAYS FUNDRAISER

FOR THE YORK COUNTY ENVIROTHON

The 15th Annual Sporting Clays Fundraiser for the York County Envirothon saw record participation and profits.



New Record:
170 Participants

OUR PARTNERS

- **Board Members**
- Kristina Wilt, Chairwoman
- Mack Smith, Vice-Chairman
- Andrew Baumgardner, Secretary
- Daniel Innerst, Representing Farmers
- Eric Bacon, Representing Elected Officials
- Dolores Krick, Representing Citizens
- April Cooper, Representing Citizens

Program Staff

- Marty Druck, Farmland Preservation Monitor
- David Boose, Farmland Preservation Specialist
- Eric Naylor, Director

"It shall be the mission of the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board to protect York County's agricultural resources through the preservation of economically viable farms and the creation and maintenance of stable agricultural communities."

AG LAND PRESERVATION

ERIC NAYLOR, DIRECTOR



The past year has been both eventful and successful for the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and Staff.

The York County Board of Commissioners allocated \$2,007,222 for 2022 easement purchases and the State Department of Agriculture allocated \$2,814,812, bringing York's 2022 total easement purchase funds to \$4,822,034. In February, we received 56 easement applications for the 2022 - 2023 application round. Of those 56 applications, 40 were found to meet the qualification requirements and were ranked. The YCALPB selected the highest ranking 14 applications for preservation and staff continues to work toward easement settlements for those applications. Our office now utilizes a 24-month application window. In Spring of 2023, the board will select the highest-ranking farms from the 26 applications that were not selected in 2022.

In 2022, our office hosted two Soil Health Luncheons as part of a \$10,000 AFT Soil Health grant. The main objective of this grant was to educate and spread the word of the importance of soil health. Utilizing these grant funds, we hosted one soil health luncheon in Airville, one soil health luncheon at the 4H Center in Stoverstown, and plan to host a luncheon this Spring in northern York County.

This past year, Staff inspected 154 easements to ensure that easement provisions are being observed. We are required to inspect most easements every other year and we inspect Federally Funded easements and donated easements each year.

Farms with conservation concerns or other issues can be inspected more often, as needed, to ensure compliance with program requirements. Our office was also able to preserve 13 farms totaling 1,212.77 acres in ten different municipalities in York County in 2022.

On November 15th, 2022, the YCALPB said goodbye and wished a happy retirement to longtime director, Patty McCandless. Patty was instrumental in the success of the YCALP Program over the past 32 years, as she was involved in the preservation of all 321 farms preserved through our program. Formally a Farmland Preservation Technician and, more recently, Assistant Director, Eric Naylor has been promoted as Director following Patty's retirement.

Since program establishment in 1989, the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board has preserved 321 easements covering 46,442.68 acres of productive farmland through easement purchase and donation. York County continues to rank 3rd in Pennsylvania for farmland acres preserved through Pennsylvania's Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program.

OUR PARTNERS

NRCS Worked to secure Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) sponsorship with the Watershed Alliance of York (WAY) and secured Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) funding for two properties in danger due to the September 2021 flooding event. The total funding for the project was \$181,000. One of the projects was completed in 2022 and the other will be completed in early 2023.

USDA NRCS

**ERIC SAMUS,
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST**

- NRCS and Conservation District employees wrote 76 Conservation Plans in York County in Fiscal Year 2022
- Obligated \$880,000 in 11 contracts through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) covering approximately 1328 acres
- Certified 147 contracted items accounting for 31 different practices in 2022 through RCPP and EQIP programs. Total incentive money paid to the Farm Bill Program participants totaled over \$652,000. Improved Soil and Water Resources on over 2400 acres of land in York County.
- Certified and processed over \$306,000 in payments under the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) with enhancements and practices on over 6399 acres



OUR PARTNERS

Staff

- Richard Csutoras, CED
- Tina Gross, PT
- Wendy Kindig, PT
- Michele Grove, PT
- Tara Lauer, PT
- Chrisna Sinn, PT

County Committee

- Paul McPherson
- Rodney Smyser
- Nancy Mummert

"USDA's York Farm Service Agency (FSA) works to equitably serve all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans. Some of the agency's efforts include facilitating income support, disaster assistance and conservation programs, providing operating loans for the procurement of farm equipment, seed and fertilizer, as well as offering ownership loans to help new and veteran producers purchase a farm."

USDA FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA)



**RICHARD CSUTORAS,
COUNTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

News and Accomplishments:

- FSA implemented the Emergency Relief Program for producers who were impacted by eligible disasters in 2020 and 2021. \$685,789 has been issued to York producers so far and stay tuned for another phase of the program coming later this year.
- York Producers benefited from additional disaster programs including the Spot Market Hog Pandemic Program (SMHPP), the Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP) are also available.
- 2153 farms enrolled the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) programs. These help protect producers when there are either price or revenue losses. We are currently accepting enrollment for the 2023 crop year.
- The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) continues to be important to protecting our environmentally sensitive land and we have roughly 200 contracts for CRP and CREP, consisting of over 2,100 acres generating annual rental payments totaling approximately \$533,000.
- Nearly \$3,000,000 in 2022 Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) were made to allow producers more flexibility on when to market their crops.
- Acreage reporting is always busy and in 2022 we accepted acreage reports on approximately 175,000 acres consisting of over 21,000 individual fields. We always encourage producers to avoid the rush by reporting early!
- Our Farm Loan staff provides Direct and Guaranteed Farm Ownership loans and Operating loans and assisted over 50 producers this year in York County who may have had difficulty receiving credit through traditional lenders. York County producers who participated in our 2022 Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) have received over 3.3 million dollars to allow for more flexibility on when to market their crops.
- Producers also took advantage of our many other programs, including the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC), Organic Certification Cost Share (OCCSP), and Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP).
- All of us here in the York County FSA office look forward to continuing to provide exceptional service to the farmers and ranchers of York County. Visit our website www.fsa.usda.gov or sign up for our newsletters at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFSA/subscriber/new> for updates as they are available. Producers can also sign up for text messaging by texting "PAYork" to FSANOW (372669).