



YORK COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

www.yorkccd.org

CONTENTS

- Seedling Sale & 75th
- Agriculture
- Erosion & Sediment
- Watersheds
- Education
- Our Partners

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
 - James Elliott
 - Doug Goodlander
- Associate Directors:
 - Leroy Bupp
 - Randy Craley
 - Harry Bickel
 - Grant Deller
 - Glenn Smith
 - Butch Jackson
 - Keith Eisenhart, Director Emeritus



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR & MANAGER

As we have documented over the past year, the Conservation District celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2023. Milestones like this don't come around much in the world of conservation and it was fitting to celebrate in style. Throughout the year, glimpses into our history were showcased and discussed. Advancements in technology and the changing landscape of York County were always sure-fire ways to engage the public.

Our anniversary celebration was capped off by a dinner in mid-September, that showcased some of the most beautiful weather York has to offer, in a building that contained as much history as the district itself. Attended by district staff, past and present directors, district partners and many supporters, the evening showcased not only York County products and businesses, but a program that connected the conservation dots from the past to the present and onto the future.

Conservation started as individuals doing the right thing one by one, but that is no longer the case. After 75 years, conservation is a collective venture that takes every one of us working together. We look forward to what the future holds.

Travis Sherman, District Chairman

-

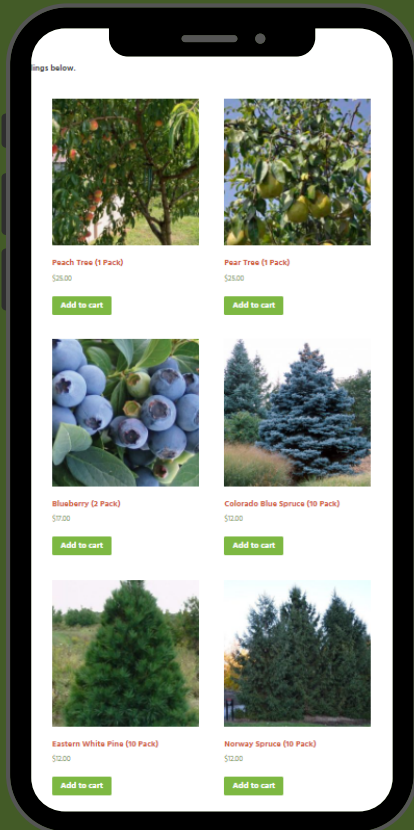
Jeff Hill, District Manager

SEEDLING SALE

2023 was another successful year for the Seedling Sale.

We had over 300 orders for a total of nearly \$18,000 in sales.

We hope to continue to grow the Seedling Sale in future years!



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

75TH

CELEBRATING CONSERVATION

The culmination of 75 years in the making occurred in September as the Conservation District celebrated its Diamond Jubilee with a dinner and program at York's Ag & Industrial Museum. This was a trip down memory lane for a few, and a history lesson for many more.



Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate this joyous milestone!



75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

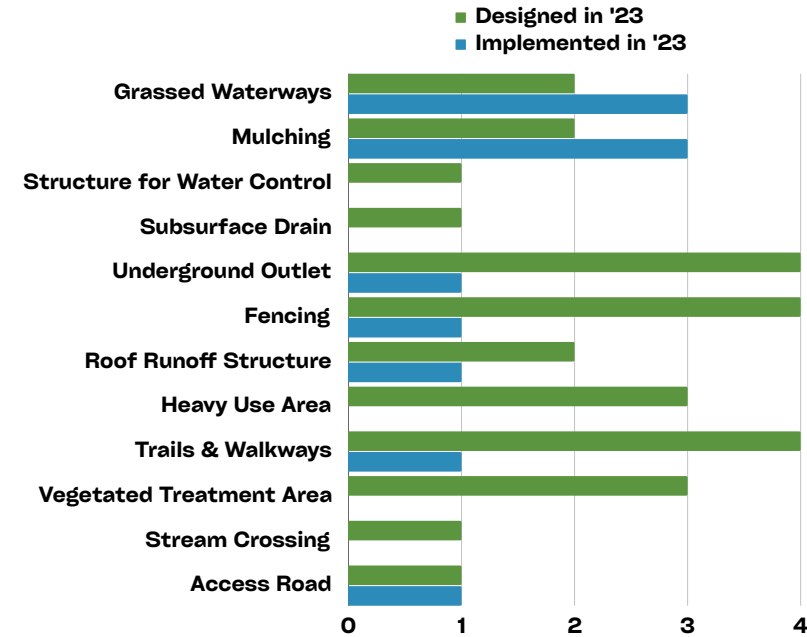
AGRICULTURE

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed 81 Ag E&S Plans on 6,261 acres
- Wrote 23 Manure Management Plans on 3,071 acres
- Processed 51 Nutrient Balance Sheets (NBS) on 8,413 acres
- Reviewed 7 NBS
- 30 active Act 38 Nutrient Management Operations
- Reviewed 11 Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) with 8 approvals by the District Board
- Presented at York County Crops Day
- Presented at Ag Preserve's Soil Health Luncheon
- Attended a Penn State Extension pasture walk
- Presented as a career speaker at York County 4-H Challenge Camp
- Hosted a Manure Management Plan Writing Workshop



TECHNICAL DESIGN & ENGINEERING



FUNDING

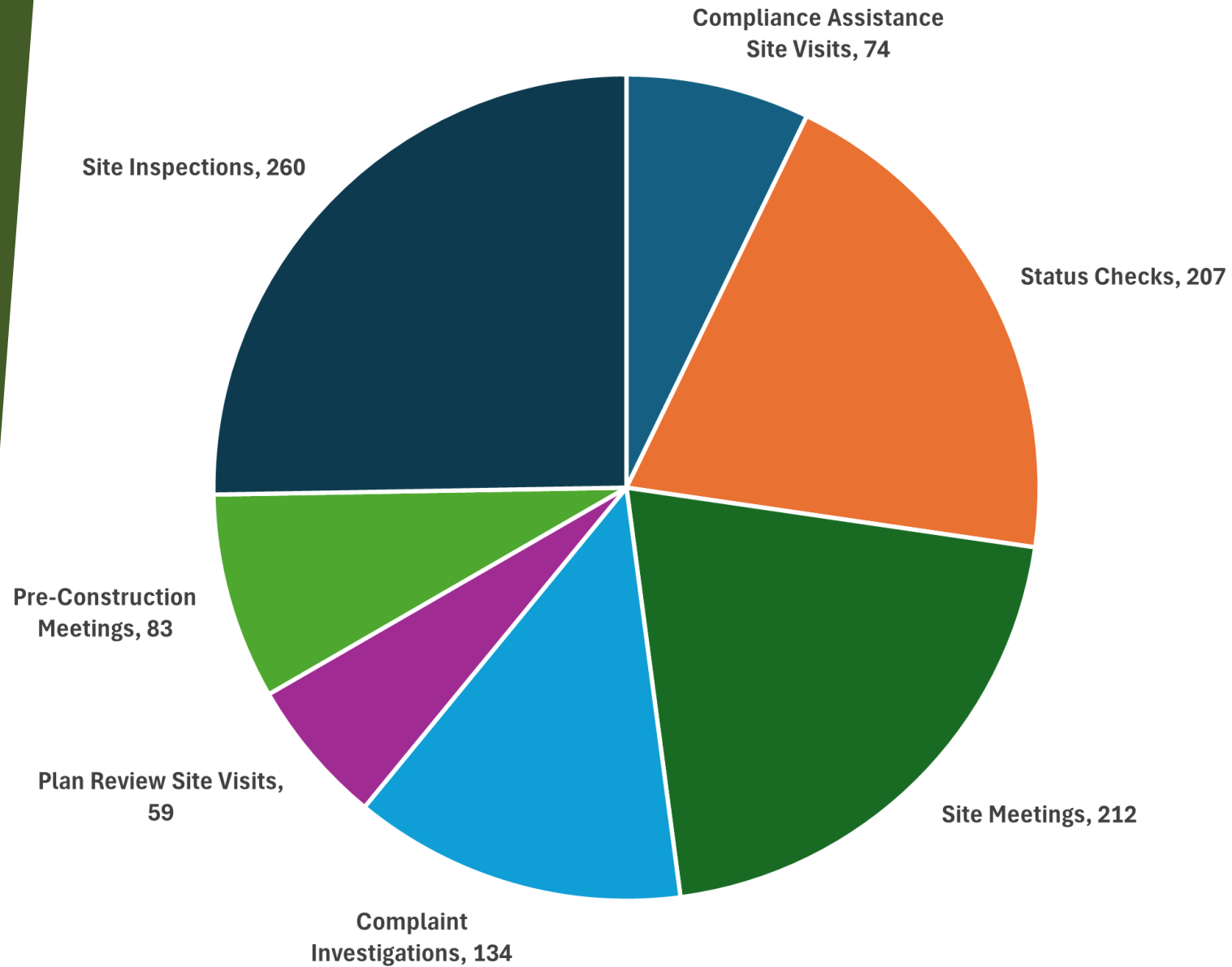
- In 2023, YCCD accepted the delegation for the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)
- YCCD was pledged \$4.34 million in ACAP funds
- So far, YCCD has received \$1,448,000 from ACAP
- YCCD has allocated \$928,000 in cover crop funding and BMP implementation through ACAP
- Using ACAP funds, YCCD started a new cover crop program with 29 applicants covering 12,474 acres
- Staff verified 3 Resource Enhancement And Protection (REAP) applications
- YCCD was allocated an additional \$600,000 from the Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) program
- YCCD awarded \$798,482 for BMP implementation through the CEG program

EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL

- Tom Smith received his CPESC certification and was promoted to Engineering Technician II
- Continued the Post-Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) Delegation Agreement with DEP
- Continued the new Voluntary Streamlined Plan Review Process to expedite the permit review process for quality plan submittals

SITE VISITS

TOTAL = 1029



EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL

STAFF

- Participated in 143 pre-application and plan resubmission meetings
- Processed 183 NPDES permit applications
- Reviewed plan submittals involving 2,598 disturbed acres
- Received 134 complaints
- Conducted 1,029 site visits seeking voluntary compliance
- Initiated enforcement actions for 2 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

2023 Highlights

- Participated in mussel survey with YCAP & WPC
- Created and filled a Watershed Restoration Specialist position



2023 FEATURED ACCOMPLISHMENT: Bennett Run Stream Restoration Project

- Resource Challenge – Bennett Run was incised and exhibiting severe bank erosion. The sheer banks, which had little surface protection, were continuously eroding with each rain event, subsequently causing increased levels of sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus to enter the system.
- Project Summary and Results – This project included approximately 1,815 linear feet of stream restoration, 1.6 acres of wetland creation, 1.7 acres of wetland enhancement, and 4.2 acres of riparian reforestation.
- Total Project Value: \$971,591
- Key Project Partners – Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, Ecotone, Inc., Private Landowner



Before

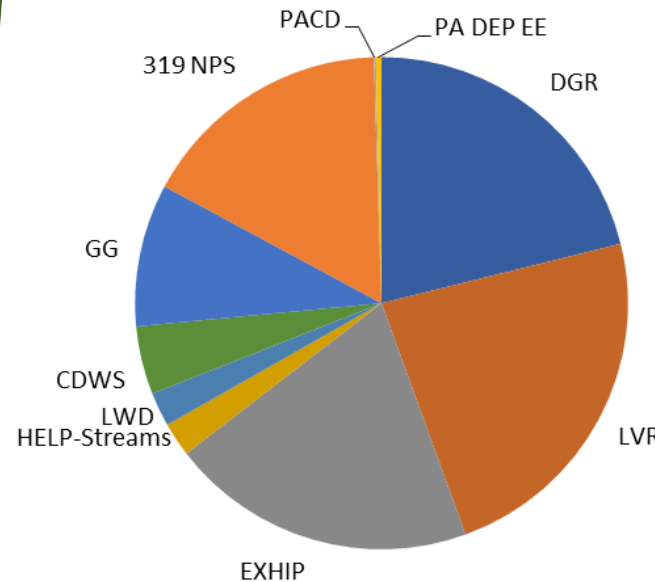
After



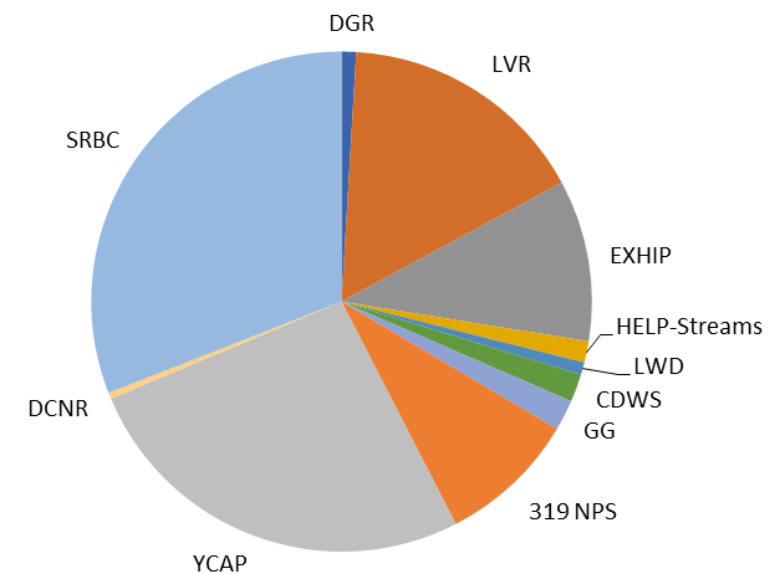
Before

After

2023 Grant Money Received



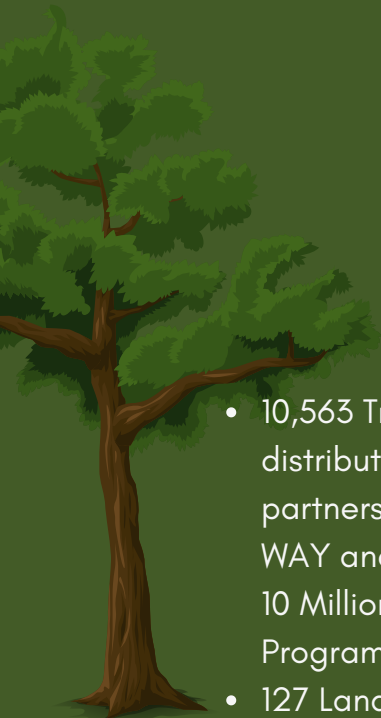
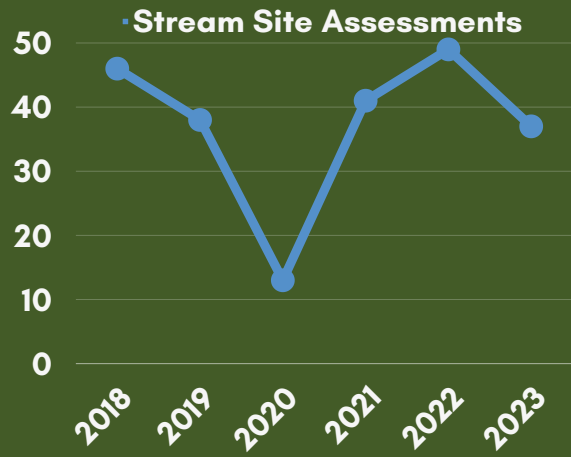
2023 Grant Money Spent



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; YCAP - York Countywide Action Plan; PADEP EE - PA Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education; PACD - PA Association of Conservation Districts

WATERSHEDS



- 10,563 Trees distributed in partnership with WAY and Keystone 10 Million Tree Program
- 127 Landowners Engaged

BMPs Installed through the DGLVR Program

- 1.29 miles of low volume road environmentally sensitive maintenance
- 600 tons of fill added
- 221 feet of underdrain installed
- 6 new cross pipes installed
- 2 cross pipes replaced
- 2 access drainage improvements
- 6 sealed surface
- 10 square yards of stormwater detention
- 10 feet of select thinning/pruning
- 350 square yards of seeding and mulching



Water Street, Loganville Borough - Before



Water Street, Loganville Borough - After



EXHIP Project Before - Leibs Creek Watershed



EXHIP Project After - Leibs Creek Watershed

BMPs Installed through the EXHIP Program

- 8,000 sqft of bioengineered streambank
- 510 10ft boulder toe revetment
- 1 failed stream crossing removed
- 500 sqft of failed retaining wall removed
- 0.5 acres of brush management
- 1 acre of seeding
- 30 log vanes
- 19 10ft sections of cribbing mudsill
- 3 root wad deflectors
- 2 step pool conveyances
- 1.75 acres of 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

This year we hosted and attended several community events to speak to the public about the Conservation District's mission and program offerings.



Conservation Horizons
Spring 2023

75 YEARS

Trash Challenge 4
Soil Experts Use Dynamite
Archives Revisited 7
Animal Concentration 8
Envirothon 9
Wildlife Facts 10

Around the District
Above: Dr. Frank Dunner, Director and chairman of the group formed in 1938 that would become the York County Conservation District

Approaching 75 Years
This newsletter may lack different than most Spring newsletters. Significant changes occurred to our Seedling Sale this year. As many readers may already know, YCCD is not offering bare root hardwood seedlings for purchase as in years past. The Keystone 10-Million Trees Program, sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, is offering many hardwood seedling species for free. Instead of being a competing interest, YCCD decided to temporarily discontinue the sale of bare root hardwoods.

We will offer a wide variety of conifers, fruit trees, and berries. Here in four-teen for the future, as YCCD is working to develop the next generation of Seedling Sales that consider technological advancements, local partnerships, and the specific needs for York County residents. One advancement already being utilized is the online ordering system. 2022 was the pilot year for utilizing this new system, which was so successful that we have expanded its capabilities for 2023.

—Continued pg. 2—
Conservation Horizons Spring 2023



Conservation Horizons
Summer 2023

75 YEARS

Rocky Substrate 4
Whistle Plover 6
Cover Crops 8
Envirothon Results 9
Wildlife Facts 10

Around the District
Above: York County Conservation District Board 2023

Reflecting on a Dry May
Although the scope and scale of our May drought is not comparable to the Dust Bowl, it did give us a glimpse of how fast our landscape can change without the presence of rain. It's also important to remember that while Best Management Practices (BMPs) implemented in the county are mostly geared towards minimizing erosion due to rain events, they may also offer protection from wind erosion when this weather is in season. A slight breeze of why can't it stay this way all year?" to "It's starting to get a bit dry, don't you think?" then finally "We really need some rain, it looks like late August out here."

—Continued pg. 2—
Conservation Horizons Summer 2023



Conservation Horizons
Fall-Winter 2023

75 YEARS

Sporting Clays Recipe 3
Fairwell, Bob Easter 4
Riparian Buffers 6
2024 Fundraising 9
Wildlife Facts 10

Around the District
Above: Steve Pines 75th Anniversary Celebration of the York County Conservation District

75th Anniversary
The culmination of 75 years in the making occurred in September as the Conservation District celebrated its 75th anniversary with a dinner and program at York's Ag & Industrial Museum. This was a trip down memory lane for a few, and a history lesson for many more. We all hope and believe there will be improvements in the future across all sectors of our lives, but we often wonder, will those improvements really be that great?

Through the planning process, and the event itself, many of the questions as to why districts do things in a particular way were answered. It also became clear that we are currently at a time when, in the not too distant future, our actions and work will be looked over with the same questionable gaze that we currently have of the work completed in years past. "Can you believe they did that?" What is concerning when looking back is that every Conservation District celebrated its generation put the best available on the information and technology they had available at that time.

—Continued pg. 2—
Conservation Horizons Fall-Winter 2023

Join the 9,000 people reading Conservation Horizons for FREE



SUBSCRIBE

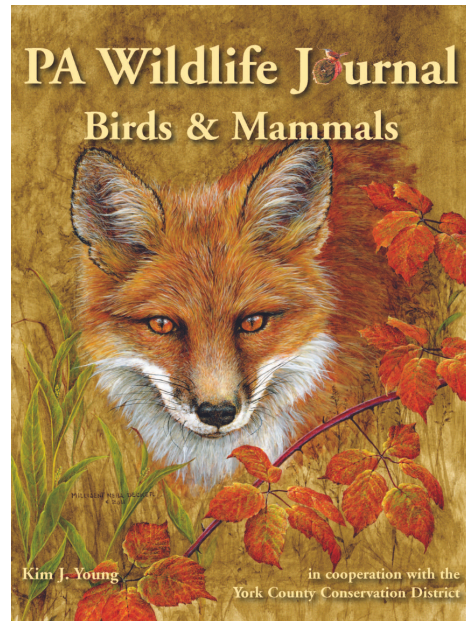
SCHOLARSHIPS
ASSISTING FUTURE CONSERVATIONISTS
\$1000

College Scholarship

- Recipient: Garrett Zeigler
- Recipient: Gillian Cunningham

\$250
Paul Wilson Conservation Award

- Recipient: Ann Sargen
- Recipient: Lily Slagel



BOOK SALES
PA WILDLIFE JOURNAL

2023 was our second 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

Each year Envirothon students put their environmental knowledge to the test at the York County Envirothon competitions. Conservation District staff and volunteers helped ensure the Envirothon competition events ran smoothly.



York County ENVIROTHON



RESULTS

FOR THE RECORD BOOKS

2023 Results

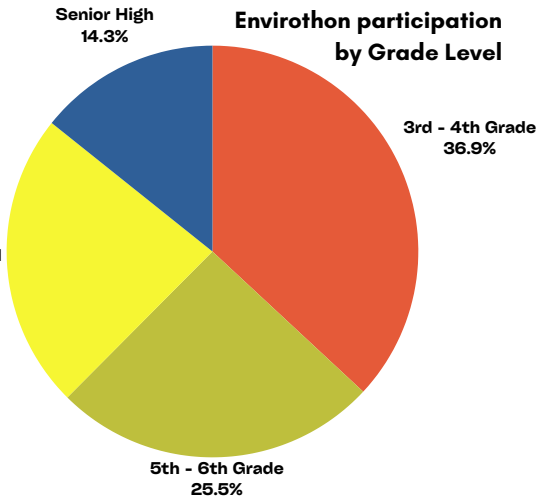
- Senior High**
- 1st: YHSA Glacial Guardians
 - 2nd: York Suburban Lasagna Lizards
 - 3rd: Dallastown Hellbenders
 - 4th: Dallastown Wrenegades
 - 5th: Northeastern Radical Rat Snakes
 - 6th: West York Wildfire
 - 7th: Mean Green Northeastern Team
 - 8th: Northern Nighthawks
 - 9th: Central York Fanatic Fungi
 - 10th: Dover Demulcent Deer Ticks

Middle School

- 1st: York Home School Hangry Hawks
- 2nd: York Suburban Millenium Falcons
- 3rd: York Home School Raiding Raptors
- 4th: Dover Leaf Buds
- 5th: Red Lion Lizard Wizards
- 6th: York Suburban Clever Raccoons
- 7th: Hanover Middle Trampling Trout
- 8th: Southern Sesquipedalianism Storks
- 9th: Northern Noble Nighthawks
- 10th: SEMS Spectacular Salamanders

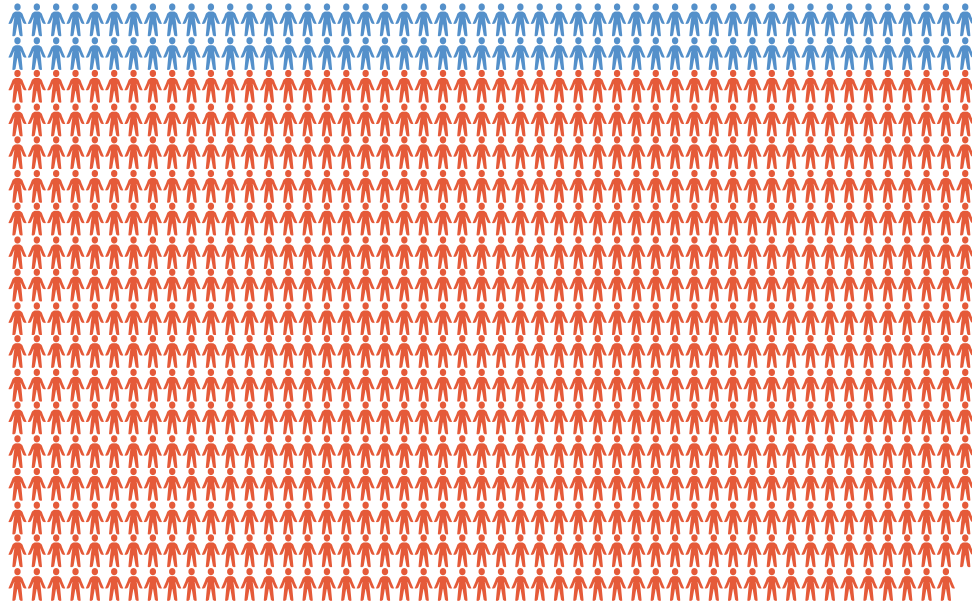
5th-6th Grade

- 1st: Dallastown's Cattail Catastrophe
- 2nd: York Home School Hardy Hawks
- 3rd: South Mountain Wild Things
- 4th: Dallastown Wetland Wildcats
- 5th: Dallastown Sassy Sassafrases
- 6th: York Home School Singing Squirrels
- 7th: Indian Rock Boxing Box Turtles
- 8th: Northern Lights
- 9th: Sinking Springs Sensational Sandpipers
- 10th: North Hills Ravine Queens



2023 Participation:
100 Coaches
799 Students

899 Total Participants

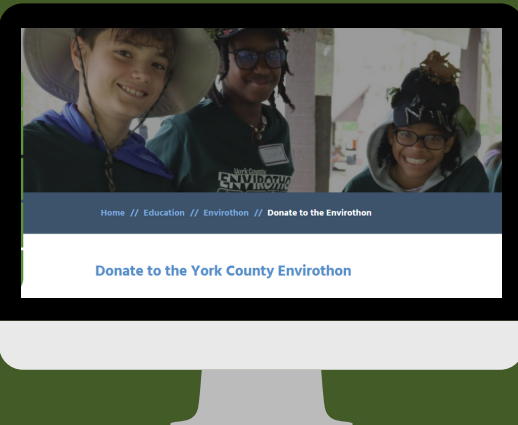


3rd & 4th Grade

- Gold Level:**
- Spring Grove Smarty Panthers
 - Stewartstown Wonderful Woodpeckers
 - Dallastown Intermediate Terrifying Turtles
 - Leib Elementary Magical Maples
 - Indian Rock Evergreen Team
 - Leaders Heights Nerdy Birdies
 - Dallastown Intermediate Insane Iguanas
 - Shrewsbury Majestic Memorizing Maples
 - New Salem Mischievous Mourning Doves
 - Kreutz Creek Creatures
 - Saint John's Fantastic Floppas
 - Delta's Outstanding Offensive Orioles
 - York Home School Electric Eagles
 - Indian Rock Wacky Woodpeckers
 - Sinking Springs Silly Sassafras
 - Dallastown Intermediate Savage Squirrels
 - New Salem Hardworking Housewrens

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

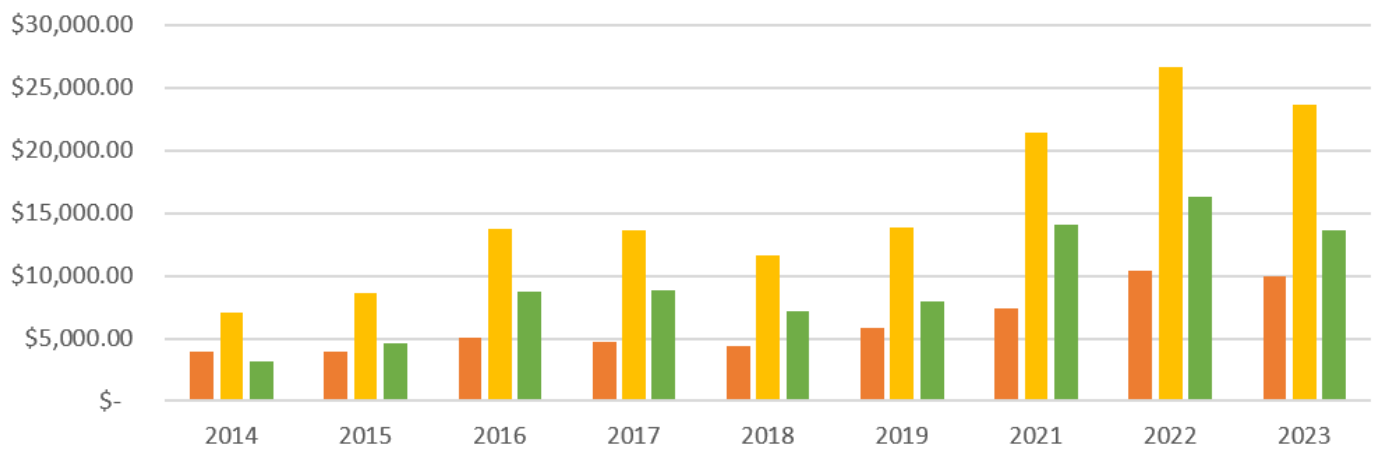


SPORTING CLAYS FUNDRAISER

FOR THE YORK COUNTY ENVIROTHON

The 16th Annual Sporting Clays Fundraiser for the York County Envirothon saw sustained participation and profits in 2023.

Sporting Clays Fundraiser Budget Trends



The Sporting Clays Fundraiser continues to grow.

Expense Income Profit

Almost \$14,000 raised

OUR PARTNERS

- Obligated \$747,000 in 11 contracts through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) covering approximately 734 acres



USDA NRCS
ERIC SAMUS,
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

News and Accomplishments:

- Certified 109 contracted items accounting for 27 different practices in 2023 through RCPP and EQIP programs. Total incentive money paid to the Farm Bill Program participants totaled over \$448,000. Improved Soil and Water Resources on over 1750 acres of land in York County.
- Certified and processed over \$162,000 in payments under the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) with enhancements and practices on over 6800 acres.
- Wrote 5 Conservation Plans for new Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contracts establishing new habitat. Wrote an additional 7 Conservation Plans for 11 Reenrollment contracts for the CREP program.

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:

- Congress passed a farm bill extension, extending the 2018 Farm Bill through September 2024. This allows FSA to continue to administer our programs this year, much the same as we have for the last couple of years. Here are some examples of what is available:
 - Over 2100 farms enroll in the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) programs each year. These programs help protect producers when there are either price or revenue losses. We are currently accepting enrollment for the 2024 crop year so contact us now for an appointment.
 - 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 in the county totaling approximately \$533,000.
 - Nearly \$3,000,000 in 2023 Marketing Assistance Loans (MAL) were made to allow producers more flexibility on when to market their crops.
 - Unfortunately, producers are sometimes affected by natural disasters and FSA has programs designed to help offset some losses. These include 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). FSA is currently implementing the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) for producers who were impacted by eligible disaster in 2022.
 - Following damage from tornados in 2023, York FSA implemented the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) to help owners of non-industrial private forests restore forest health.
 - Our Farm Loan staff provides Direct and Guaranteed Farm Ownership loans and Operating loans and assisted producers this year in York County who may have had difficulty receiving credit through traditional lenders.