

1976 ANNUAL REPORT



**WESTMORELAND
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Its Leaders and Responsibilities

We are a subdivision of the State government and responsible under law for conservation work within the county. The District is governed by a seven-man Board of Directors who are appointed by the County Commissioners. The Directors serve without pay to insure the protection of our environment. Three basic purposes of the District's priorities are to assure Westmoreland County of adequate water supplies, land capability to produce supplies of food and fiber, and the continuing protection of our rivers and streams against siltation. The Conservation District is aware of the incredibly fast upset in traditional patterns of life and the resulting modification in the very quality of our existence. We realize there must be some compromise between our ecology and our economy. With this in mind we will continue in a positive manner toward the future.

CELEBRATING THE 200th BIRTHDAY OF OUR NATION'S INDEPENDENCE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS — Left to right: Commissioner Ted Simon, Boyd Wolff, Bill Buttermore, Gilbert Hutter, Frank Skacel, Chairman Roy Houston, and Alex Smith preparing for a hay ride.

COVER PICTURE — County Nature Center, home of the E.I.C.

EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL REGULATIONS

Pennsylvania's Clean Streams Law prohibits the discharge to the waters of the Commonwealth of any polluttional materials whether from industrial or domestic sources. The law provides for the DER to regulate any activity which creates a danger of pollution or has a potential for pollution.

Erosion Control Rules and Regulations were adopted by the Environmental Quality Board on September 21, 1972, under the authority of Section 402 of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law (P.L. 1987, June 22, 1937). The purpose of these rules and regulations is to control accelerated erosion and the resulting sedimentation of waters thereby preventing pollution from sediment, fertilizers, and pesticides.

These regulations require that every earthmoving activity develop, implement, and maintain a plan for the control of accelerated erosion resulting from the activity. The plan should consider the control of erosion and sediment during the activity and proper restoration to eliminate these problems after earthmoving has been completed.

Farmers are required to have an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for their farming operation by July 1, 1977. No acreage limits and no permits are required for a farming operation. A Farm Conservation Plan is acceptable. This can be provided by the assistance of the USDA Soil Conservation Service at no cost to the farmer. Financial assistance is available for certain long-term practices through Federal Cost-Sharing Programs administered by the Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS).

Land developers disturbing more than 25 acres at one time (12 in the Turtle Creek Watershed) must obtain a permit before the start of the earthmoving activity.

The Conservation District has the inspection authority, reviews applications for permits, and makes recommendations to the Bureau of Water Quality Management regarding issuance or denial of permits. Municipalities should report all earthmoving in their areas exceeding five acres to the Conservation District.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

66 Erosion & Sedimentation Plans	39 Municipalities Services
16 Subdivision Reviews	117 Inspections
22 Inventory & Evaluations	3,400 Acres Reviewed for Future Development
7 Highway Projects (E&S)	1,860 Acres Presently Under Development

THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE ASCS

During 1976, for the first time, the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) and the Westmoreland Conservation District entered into a basic Memorandum of Understanding which established a basis for the cooperation of these agencies. The County Committee and the District Directors have the common objective of helping to bring about the conservation, development, and wise use of land, water, and related resources. The County Committee is authorized under administration of the Department of Agriculture to carry out a broad program of cost-sharing assistance to farmers and other eligible landowners.

THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Technical expertise is provided to the Conservation District by the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

Major Item or Service Provided	Number of Items
Services to Individual Landusers	1,251
Conservation Practices Completed	252
Conservation Plans Completed	63
Inventories and Evaluations	30
Services to Units of Government	249
Erosion & Sediment Control Subdivision Plans Reviewed	91
ACP Referrals Completed	108
Services to Groups	50
RC&D Measure Plans Completed	2
Animal Waste Management Systems Completed	5
Critical Area Planting	17 acres
Contour Strip Cropping	417 acres
Diversions	1,895 feet
Spring Developments	16
Tile Drains	61,408 feet
Land Adequately Treated	2,015 acres



WATERSHED ASSOCIATIONS IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY

The three Watershed Associations in Westmoreland County are Loyalhanna, Turtle Creek, and Jacob's Creek. Presently Jacob's Creek is the only watershed with a PL-566 Flood Control Project now in operation.

JACOB'S CREEK PL-566 FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

The 62,500-acre Jacob's Creek Watershed is located in Southern Westmoreland and Northern Fayette Counties. Due to flooding in Scottdale, Everston, Laurelville, and other areas, a Public Law 566 Flood Control Project was authorized in 1969.

The plan to control flooding in the watershed includes three dams, a channel in Scottdale, and accelerated land treatment. To date two of the dams, Green Lick in Fayette County and Acme in Westmoreland County, have been completed.

The Green Lick Dam has a 100-acre permanent recreation lake and 130 acres of flood water storage. The Acme Dam has a 25-acre permanent recreation lake and 78 acres of flood storage. Combined, the two completed dams will hold back runoff from up to once in one hundred-year magnitude storms for 10% of the watershed.

The Bridgeport Dam will be constructed for flood storage only. It will have a flood pool of 354 acres and control runoff for up to once in one hundred-year storms and 30% of the watershed.



Roy Houston, Chairman, and Elwood Leslie, Executive Director of the Westmoreland Conservation District, participate in the final inspection of the dam.

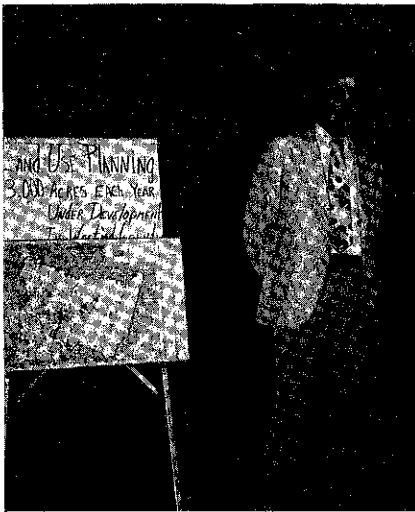
Westmoreland County, having responsibility for obtaining the land rights for the Bridgeport site, has set up a special office in the County Planning Department to acquire the necessary properties. This office, staffed with a Director, Relocation Officer, and secretary, are working in cooperation with the Conservation District and the Soil Conservation Service to obtain the necessary land for the Dam.

The County has also let a contract for geologic investigation of the deep-mined area at the Northern end of the flood pool.

PLANNING MEETING FOR 1977

The Conservation District held their Annual Planning luncheon and meeting at Mt. View Inn. Local, county, state, federal, and civic agencies met with the District to coordinate the conservation activities within Westmoreland County and decide which Objectives should have priority for the coming year. Those joining in conservation planning for Westmoreland County included the County Commissioners, State Representative, Amos Hutchinson and State Representative-elect Jess Stairs.

Top Priority on the list of objectives went to Farm Plans, Erosion and Sedimentation Control and Land Use Planning.



Larry Larese of the Westmoreland Planning Department spoke of the necessity of a Land Use Plan before development.



Directors R. Houston, A. Smith, and G. Hutter review land planning with State Representative Jesse Stairs.

Long range programs included 1) Cost-share for Conservation Practices, 2) Promoting planting of Forest Trees on Critical Areas and Idle Lands, 3) Promoting Jacobs Creek and Jacks Run Watershed Projects, 4) Assisting Watershed Associations in Implementing Conservation Programs, 5) Alerting the Public to the Rapid Development in Westmoreland County and Its Effect on the Environment, 6) Cooperation between the District and Agencies in Planning and Carrying Out Conservation Projects and Programs, and 7) Resource Conservation and Development Projects (RC&D).

WESTMORELAND COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION CENTER

The Environmental Information Center is the most complete center of its kind for information in Westmoreland County. By calling at the EIC, located at a special area in the Twin Lakes Nature Center, it is possible to get a complete listing of all information available. At this center, established by the Westmoreland Conservation District, one can find answers to what constitutes noise pollution; what is a watershed and who is in charge of Watershed Associations; and what is erosion and sedimentation. Among the items which may be obtained are two 40-page "Directories of Environmental Information for Westmoreland County." These publications cover every aspect of environmental problems and include names, addresses, and phone numbers of County, State, and Federal agencies you may want to contact concerning environmental problems. Visiting the EIC and reviewing the available material will challenge you to research problems by using pertinent references listed in the Directory.

The process of coordinating conservation education in the 17 school districts in the area covered by the Intermediate Unit is taking place at the EIC in conjunction with the Conservation District, the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit, and the Nature Center of the Parks and Recreation Department.



The Environmental Information Center of the Westmoreland Conservation District.

CONSERVATION SHOW AT MALL

The 8th Annual Conservation Show, held the first week in March, was a rewarding event for the twenty-nine Federal, State, County, and Individual agencies and organizations who participated.



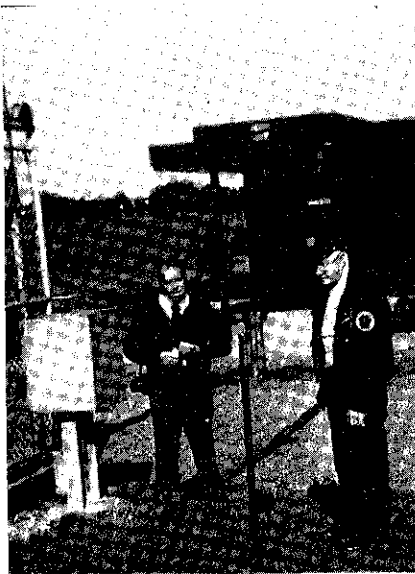
E. Leslie, coordinator of the show and Alex Smith.

FLASH FLOOD PROGRAM IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY

The Conservation District initiated a Flash Flood Warning Program for Westmoreland County in 1973. Since that time we have been continually updating this program with assistance from Civil Preparedness and the National Weather Service.

In the event heavy rains occur at the headwaters of Jacob's Creek, Sewickley Creek, Little Pucketa Creek, Loyalhanna Creek, and the Arnold and New Kensington areas; a public warning will be issued to areas downstream where flooding is imminent.

A dedicated group of volunteers read the rain gauges and report above normal readings to the local 911 Emergency Center. The Center alerts local fire companies and industries to prepare for a flash flood. The time factor enables those who will be involved to make necessary preparations to eliminate as much as possible, the damage that is the result of flash flooding.



Elwood Leslie, District Executive Director, checks one of our volunteer rainfall reporting stations on the Upper Pucketa Watershed.



Louis Schmaley, Manager, reading the River Gauge on the Allegheny River at New Kensington where above normal readings are reported.

CONSERVATION AWARDS BANQUET

Westmoreland Conservation District's Awards Banquet was held at the Greensburg Country Club to honor individuals and organizations which did an outstanding job in conservation during 1976.



DARWIN REESE ACCEPTS THE "OUTSTANDING SPORTSMEN'S AWARD" FOR THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY LEAGUE FROM CONSERVATION CHAIRMAN J. ROY HOUSTON.



SOME OF THE 200 PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED THE BANQUET.

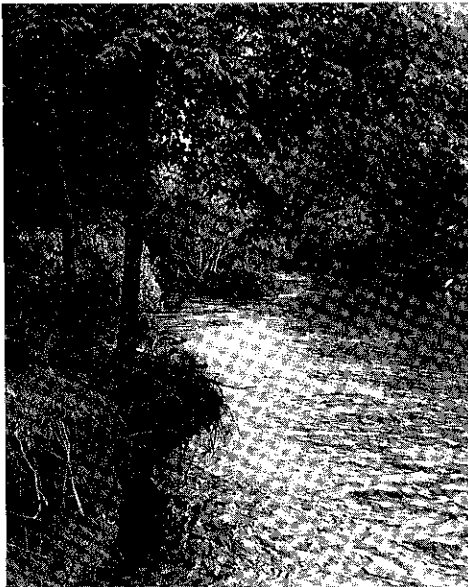
THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY STREAM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (WCSI)

The Westmoreland Conservation District and the Department of Planning will determine priorities for the stream improvement program currently being initiated in Westmoreland County by the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners and the office of Manpower under Ceta I Job Training Program.

This project is to employ residents of Westmoreland County who have had no previous work experience or training. The employee will be introduced to the demands and responsibilities of holding down a job and gain experience necessary to get into the labor market.

The program will be a county-wide stream improvement program. The first priority is the removal of logs, brush or debris that is causing a stream flow problem. Priority two, if the program is expanded, would be bank restoration. All work involved will be in compliance with the Department of Environmental Resources and Fish Commission regulations.

Municipalities desiring information regarding work required in their areas may contact the Conservation District (412) 837-5271 of the Westmoreland County Planning Department (412) 834-2191.



The first priority of the stream improvement program will be removal of brush and debris blocking stream flow. Stream bank restoration is a secondary objective. Brush not blocking stream flow will serve as wildlife habitat.

This project will be coordinated by the Westmoreland County Conservation District with Executive Director, Elwood Leslie, as Project Coordinator. Jerry Stercho will be the Project Supervisor.

FISHING FOR THE HANDICAPPED RC&D PROJECT FOR WESTMORELAND COUNTY

The Penn's Corner RC&D Area is located in Southwestern Pennsylvania and includes the Counties of Westmoreland, Allegheny, Greene, Fayette, and Washington. These Counties cover an area of 2,571,520 acres and have a population of approximately two and one-half million people.

The Penn's Corner Project was authorized for planning in 1973. It has since gone into the operations phase and has a total of 147 proposed project measures. Fifty-two of these proposed measures are in Westmoreland County.

Of the Westmoreland project measures, one associated measure has been completed and two cost-shared measures should be under construction in the summer of 1977. The two measures to go into construction are the "Fishing for the Handicapped" Project at Twin Lakes County Park, and the Goehring Park Project at West Newton. The Twin Lakes Project is being designed by the Westmoreland County Parks Department under a contract with the Soil Conservation Service. The work in Goehring Park is being designed by the Soil Conservation Service. Both projects will be partially constructed with workers employed by the local sponsors. This work will serve as a portion of the local cost-share.

Other projects being planned in the County for installation during the next two years are:

Trafford B-Y Pond and Forbes Trail Park
Loyalhanna and Jacob's Creeks Streambank Stabilization
Kennedy Memorial Park
Critical Area Treatment of Roadbanks and Stripmine Areas



Site for the Future Deck which will be designed for "Fishing for the Handicapped".

JOHN R. WIGLE OUTSTANDING COOPERATOR FOR 1976

John owns and operates a 220-acre dairy farm in Mount Pleasant Township, just south of Pleasant Unity and farms an additional 75 acres. The farm has had conservation measures applied since 1955 and had a conservation plan developed in 1969. The following practices have been applied on Mr. Wigle's farm.

Contour Strips	105 acres
Conservation Cropping System	2,808 feet
Diversions	170 acres
Grass Waterways	5,620 feet
Tile Drain	6,917 feet
Drainage Ditch	1,912 feet
Drainage Land Grading	3 acres
Ponds	2
Pasture Renovation	45 acres
Animal Waste Storage Facilities	4
Land Adequately Treated	120 acres

WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. Roy Houston	Chairman
Frank E. Skacel	Treasurer and Vice Chairman
Ted Simon	County Commissioner Director
William G. Buttermore	Director
Gilbert Hutter	Director
Alex J. Smith	Director
Boyd E. Wolff	Director

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Paul A. Heyworth	Mrs. Harry S. Saxman	Mrs. George Shupe
Charles DeNunzio	Dr. Wm. D. Shea	Mrs. John Turnage
Milan Martinisko	Mrs. Steven Schellin	Mrs. John L. Pollock
Wm. H. Walker, Jr.		

STAFF

Elwood J. Leslie	Executive Director
Edward G. Kontor	Environmental Control Officer
Marge A. Copeman	Administrative Secretary
Debbie A. Garrett	Youth and Education
Kathy Shale	Conservation Planning Coordinator
Jerry Stercho	Project Supervisor

COOPERATING AGENCIES

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

State Conservation Commission
Bureau of Water Quality Management
Community Environmental Control
Department of Forestry

PENNSYLVANIA:

Department of Transportation
Fish Commission
Game Commission

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
Soil Conservation Service
Farmer's Home Administration

WESTMORELAND COUNTY:

Cooperative Extension Service
Department of Planning
Department of Parks and Recreation
Vocational Agricultural Schools

The networks of cooperating agencies listed above have constructed working arrangements to cover the environment of Westmoreland County. These agreements are the result of patient negotiations and long experience. They represent patterns of joint action that are essential in carrying out an adequate resource development program.

The State Conservation Commission provides administrative and advisory assistance to conservation districts and has responsibility for administering various programs.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT PROGRAM**



**WESTMORELAND COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA**

**WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT
975 Old Salem Road
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601**