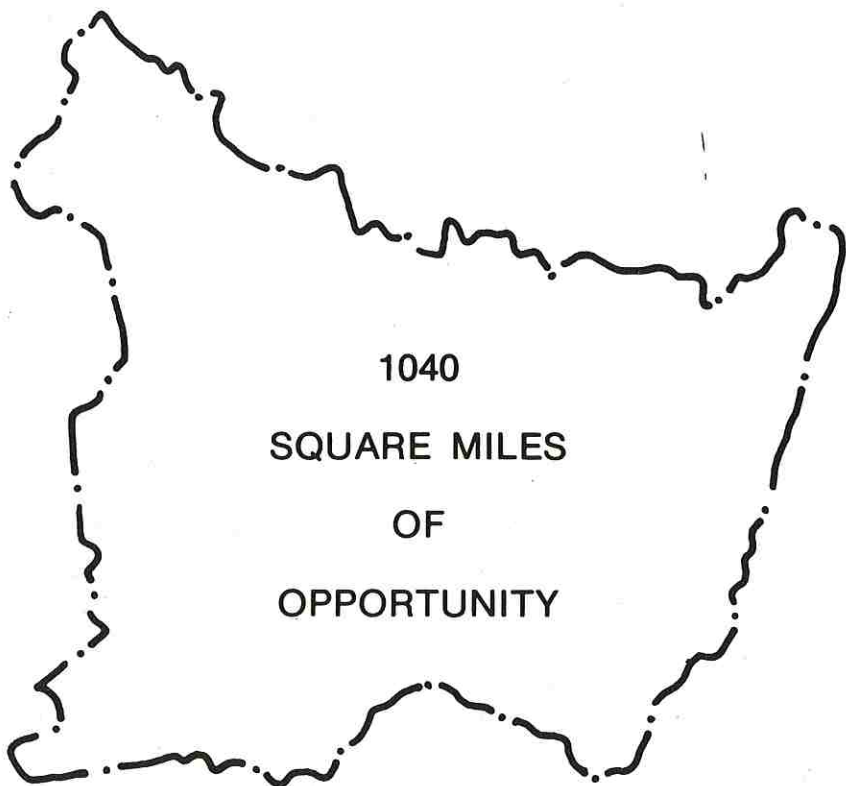


*WESTMORELAND
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT*

1982 ANNUAL REPORT



PENNSYLVANIA CONSTITUTION

"The People have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustees of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

Section 27, Article 1

FEDERAL & STATE FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOR CONSERVATION

\$ 19,500.00	SCS	.....	U.S.D.A., Soil Conservation Service
86,760.00	ASCS	.....	Agriculture Stabilization & Conservation Service
19,096.00	RC&D	.....	Resource Conservation and Development
10,000.00	DER	.....	Jacobs Creeks Administration Costs
170,000.00	DER	.....	Department of Environmental Resources
,900.00	DER	.....	Bureau of Forestry
\$306,256.00		.....	TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED

**WESTMORELAND
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. ROY HOUSTON	<i>Chairman</i>
GILBERT HUTTER	<i>Vice Chairman</i>
FRANK E. SKACEL	<i>Treasurer</i>
BOYD E. WOLFF	<i>Secretary</i>
WILLIAM G. BUTTERMORE	<i>Director</i>
ALEX J. SMITH	<i>Director</i>
TED SIMON, County Commissioner	<i>Director</i>

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

PAUL A. HEYWORTH	MRS. GEORGE SHUPE
CHARLES DeNUNZIO	MRS. JOHN TURNAGE
MILAN MARTINISKO	MRS. JOHN L. POLLOCK
MRS. HARRY S. SAXMAN	KEITH WALTERS
RALPH FRYE, JR.	ED ZARNECKI
ROY KEMERER	HANK TRICE
FRANK SKACEL, JR.	McCAY CARSON
DR. WILLIAM D. SHEA	

STAFF

ELWOOD J. LESLIE	<i>District Manager</i>
MARGE A. COPEMAN	<i>Administrative Secretary</i>
GREGORY M. PHILLIPS	<i>Environmental Control Officer</i>
MARLENE L. ARMBRUST	<i>Conservation Coordinator</i>

Assisted by the

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

BUREAU OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

HARRY MEYER	<i>Field Representative</i>
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U.S.D.A. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

WESLEY M. GORDON	<i>District Conservationist</i>
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WESTMORELAND'S CONSERVATION TEAM

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Bureau of Community Environmental Control

Bureau of Forestry

Bureau of Surface Mine Reclamation

Bureau of Water Quality Management

State Conservation Commission

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PA. FISH COMMISSION

PA. GAME COMMISSION

FEDERAL

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture Stabilization & Conservation Service

Farmers Home Administration

Soil Conservation Service

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Corps of Engineers

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

VOCATIONAL & AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS

LOYALHANNA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

TURTLE CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

The network of the teams listed have constructed working arrangements to cover the environment of Westmoreland County.

Purpose of the WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Westmoreland Conservation District is a legal subdivision of state government responsible under state law for coordinating conservation activities within county boundaries. The State Conservation Commission provides administrative, advisory and financial assistance to Conservation Districts.

The purposes of districts are: to focus attention on land, water, and related resource problems; to develop programs to solve them; to enlist and coordinate help from all public and private sources that can contribute to accomplishing the district goals, and to make all citizens aware of the interrelationship between human activities and the natural environment.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

- Conservation Planning
- Application of Conservation Practices
- Watershed Management
- County Flash Flood Warning System
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Storm Water Management
- Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP)
- Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)
- Solid Waste & Sewage Effluent Disposal
- Soil Survey
- Developers Planning Assistance
- Municipal Planning Assistance
- Agricultural Land Preservation
- Conservation Education

We recognize that three of our basic purposes are to help assure Westmoreland County of adequate water supplies, the land capability to produce adequate supplies of food and fiber, and the continuing protection of our streams and rivers against pollution.

Conservation District meetings are held at 8 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month and are open to the public. The District Office is located on Donohoe Road, ½ mile east of Westmoreland Mall.

CONSERVATION SERVICES TO WESTMORELAND COUNTY

The Westmoreland Conservation District encourages the application of conservation practices and environmental protection measures throughout the county. The U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service (S.C.S.) provides technical assistance to the District and to residents of Westmoreland County.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR SERVICES AND CONSERVATION PRACTICES ESTABLISHED WITH S.C.S. ASSISTANCE DURING 1982:

15	.....	New cooperators requested Conservation District assistance (1,730 acres)
410	.....	Individual landusers were provided assistance
255	.....	Landusers applied one or more conservation practices
18,184	.....	Feet of diversion were constructed
9	.....	Acres of waterway were constructed
41,667	.....	Feet of subsurface drains were installed
588	.....	Acres of stripcropping were established
14	.....	Spring developments were installed
3,727	.....	Acres of conservation plans prepared
2,410	.....	Acres of conservation plans revised
92	.....	Landuse plans were reviewed for adequacy of soil erosion and sedimentation control
30	.....	Pond requests serviced

- Technical assistance to landusers resulted in the application of various agronomic practices designed to reduce soil erosion

RURAL ABANDONED MINE PROGRAM

- 3 RAMP Project sites planned
- Completed reclamation of a priority one RAMP site in the community of Lowber

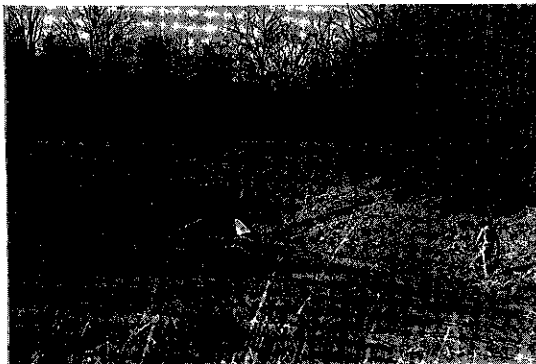
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

- Completed construction of various conservation measures in three separate county parks
- Completed planning and design for critical area treatment projects in North Huntingdon Township and Penn Township Community Park
- Completed survey and preliminary planning for a proposed recreation lake to be located in Northmoreland County Park

TEAMWORK PAYS OFF IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY

A unique stormwater management concept is now a reality in Westmoreland County. Situated at the headwaters of Slate Creek Watershed, the facilities are designed to detain stormwater runoff during peak flows. Slate Creek currently experiences stormwater-related problems where it flows through urbanized areas of Westmoreland County. However, because of stormwater management controls it is possible to continue development of a County Industrial Park within the headwaters of Slate Creek. To adequately detain runoff from the County Industrial Park it was necessary to construct two stormwater ponds within a designated county natural area. The stormwater ponds were uniquely designed to blend into the landscape without adverse environmental impacts.

Pictured at left is one of two uniquely designed stormwater retention facilities recently installed in the Westmoreland County Industrial Park



Using the Soil Conservation Services technical release "Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds", County Engineer Henry Fitz designed the two structures. The earthen dams were placed in the drainage areas with only minimal disturbance to the existing park land. Trees were allowed to remain in the pool area. Stormwater discharged from the pond through several surface grates at various elevations. The result is an aesthetically pleasing structure with no protruding pipes. In one case, the breastwork of the pond serves as an access to existing hiking trails within the park.

Since these structures are located on county owned land, Elwood Leslie, District Manager of the Westmoreland Conservation District and Larry Larese, County Planning Director feel these ponds will also serve as a practical demonstration area. Mr. Larese says, "These ponds can act as a model for stormwater control." Consultants and municipal officials will be encouraged to visit the site to observe the unique stormwater control facilities.

WATER CONSERVATION

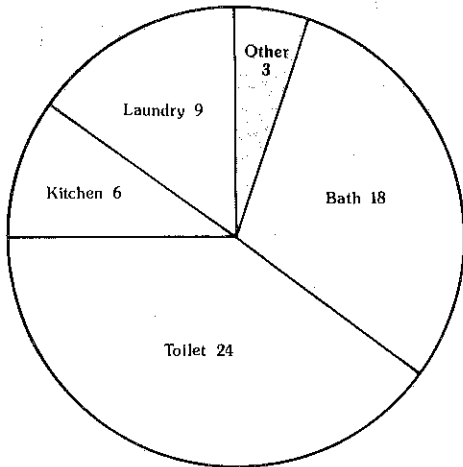
You don't miss the water 'til the well runs dry. How many times have you heard that old proverb? Unfortunately, sometimes our water supplies are so low, those words take on a new meaning for us.

For most of us, water use is a habit. We are accustomed to having water available at the twist of a faucet. We usually don't think about how much water we use.

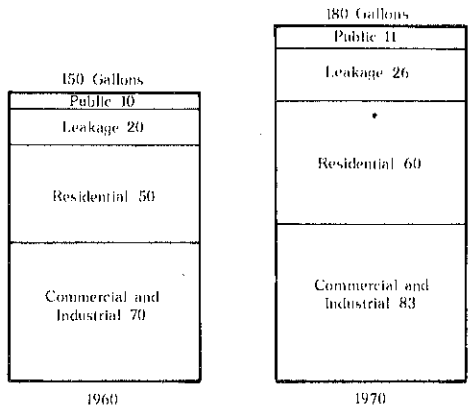
During times of drought, every citizen can help conserve his community's water supply by becoming aware of personal water use habits, especially in the home.

The best way to learn to conserve water is to notice your habits. Do you let the water run while brushing your teeth or shaving? Do you often luxuriate in a long, hot pounding shower or in a steaming bathtub full of water? Do you run the dishwasher when it is only half full? These habits use a great amount of water.

By evaluating your water use habits, you can significantly reduce your water consumption. You can save money too. Not only do you have to pay for your water, you also have to pay the cost of heating it, and for treatment of the water when it goes down the drain.



Per Capita Daily Consumption
of Water in the Home



Daily Per Capita Use of Municipal Water

Water-saving devices such as shower flow restrictors, toilet tank displacement devices, and flow control faucet aerators are inexpensive and easy to install. These devices save valuable water and energy without requiring changes in personal water using habits.

The Conservation District maintains a supply of water-saving devices for sale to the public at reasonable rates. For details call: 837-5271.

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

County conservation objectives for 1983 were vocalized when the Westmoreland Conservation District conducted the Annual Planning Meeting on November 18th, 1982. The meeting was held at the District Office and was well attended by federal, state, and local representatives. The District reviewed 1982 objectives and solicited input for 1983 programs. All meeting members participated actively in discussing the 1983 priorities. There was strong emphasis concerning sewage sludge disposal methods and water conservation education.

The many organizations and agencies responsible for soil and water conservation, land use planning, watershed protection and flood prevention have been most cooperative and helpful in assisting the District to prepare its programs and emphasis priorities.



Wes Gordon, District Conservationist, U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service, discusses conservation priorities for 1983

PROJECTED PRIORITIES FOR 1983 ARE:

CONSERVATION PLANNING
EROSION & SEDIMENTATION
CONTROL
STORM WATER MANAGEMENT
LAND USE PLANNING
RAMP (Rural Abandoned
Mine Program)

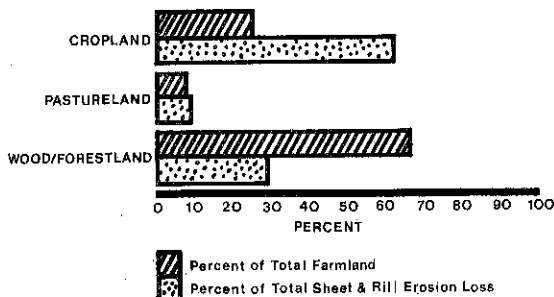
RC&D FUNDING (Resource
Conservation & Development)
FLASH FLOOD PROGRAM
CRITICAL AREA TREATMENT
PUBLIC RELATIONS
ENERGY CONSERVATION
SEWAGE SLUDGE

EARTHMANSHIP

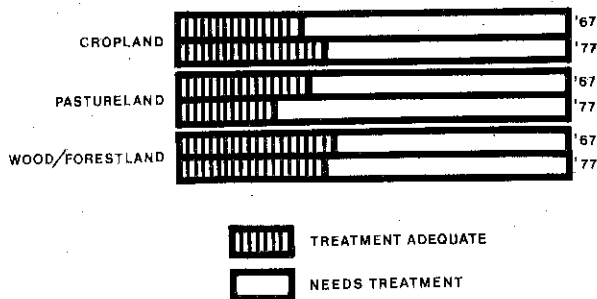
"We travel together, passengers on a spaceship called Earth, dependent on its vulnerable reserves of air, soil, and water, preserved from annihilation only by the care, the work, and the love we give our fragile craft".

Adlai Stevenson

MOST FARMLAND EROSION OCCURS ON CROPLAND



LAND ADEQUATELY TREATED IN PENNSYLVANIA



- 3,500,000 acres (62%) of Pennsylvania's 5.56 million acres of cropland is eroding at excessive rates and needs conservation treatment
- Soil loss averages 5.5 tons per acre on all cropland
- Row crops are averaging a soil loss of over 9 tons per acre
- Conservation treatment is needed on 1.35 million acres (75%) of pastureland. Average soil loss on pastureland is 2.65 tons per acre
- 8.85 million acres (62%) of woodland requires conservation management. Soil loss on woodland averages 1.03 tons per acre annually
- Some of the highest per acre soil losses occur on developing land
- Over 52,000 acres of cropland are lost annually to urban and other land uses
- Total soil loss due to erosion equals 70 million tons annually

OUTSTANDING COOPERATOR IN 1982

Eugene Schramm and sons Hilery, Ralph and John were named Outstanding Cooperators for 1982 by the Westmoreland Conservation District Board of Directors. The award is given annually to the District cooperator who implements the most conservation practices.

In March of 1981 the Schramms relocated their farming operation to Westmoreland County from Allegheny County due to unabated development surrounding their farm. They now own and operate a 400 acre fruit and vegetable farm north of Harrison City in Penn Township. Some of the vegetables grown by the Schramms are: sweet corn, tomatoes, pumpkins, broccoli, cucumbers, cauliflower, green peppers, melons, asparagus and potatoes. The 20 acre



Pictured above, left to right are Eugene Schramm and son John

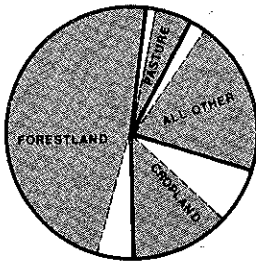
orchard consists of 2,650 fruit trees. The operation also includes 4 greenhouses, a fruit and vegetable stand and a packing house.

Through the Conservation District, with technical assistance provided by the U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service, the Schramm family has initiated a conservation plan. The plan outlines appropriate uses for each acre of the farm and the conservation treatments and measures needed for protection and sustained production of crops. Some of the conservation practices implemented by the Schramms include: 175 acres of contour stripcropping, 548 feet of diversions for surface water control and 3,000 feet of hedgerow removal. Additional conservation work is planned. The Westmoreland Conservation District congratulates the Schramms for their fine achievements in conservation.

PRESERVE PRIME FARMLAND

Prime farmland is that land which is best suited for producing food, forage and fiber. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high crop yields. Approximately 4.4 million acres (16%) of Pennsylvania's 28.1 million acres are prime farmland. About 42,000 acres of prime farmland are converted to non-agricultural uses each year. The continuing loss of our best land for food, forage and fiber to non-agriculture uses is an issue that concerns us all. The Westmoreland Conservation District actively promotes the preservation of prime farmland.

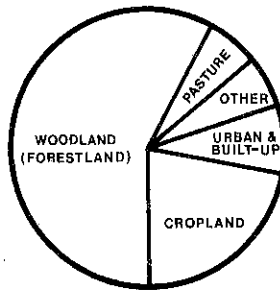
**PENNSYLVANIA
PRIME FARMLAND
1977**



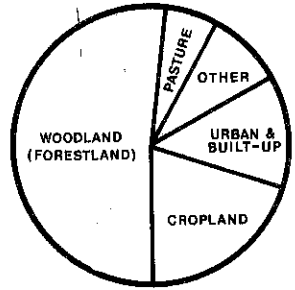
□ Prime

PENNSYLVANIA LAND USE 1967-1977

1967



1977



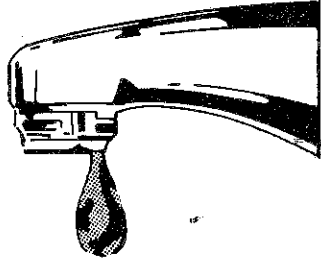
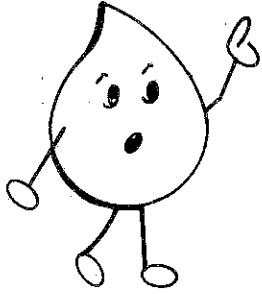
WESTMORELAND COUNTY AGRICULTURE FACTS (1980 Census)

Total County population 392,294



Number of farms	1,395
Acres in farms	172,679
Proportion of land area in farms	26%
Value of farm land and buildings	\$209,000,000
Total value of crops produced	\$ 13,151,000
Total livestock value of farms	\$ 25,670,000
Total value crops and livestock	\$ 38,821,100

WHEN WATER IS SHORT
BE A GOOD SPORT
CONSERVE !!

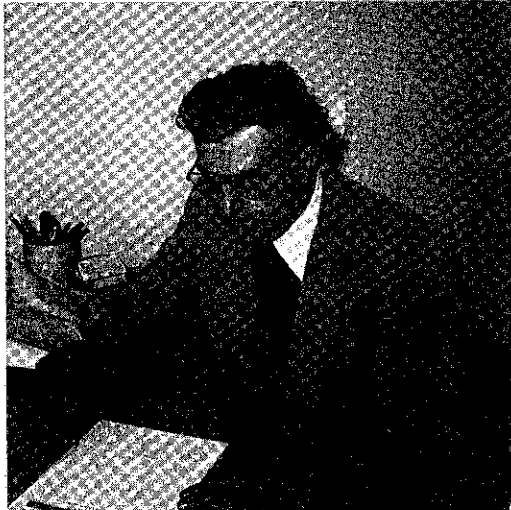


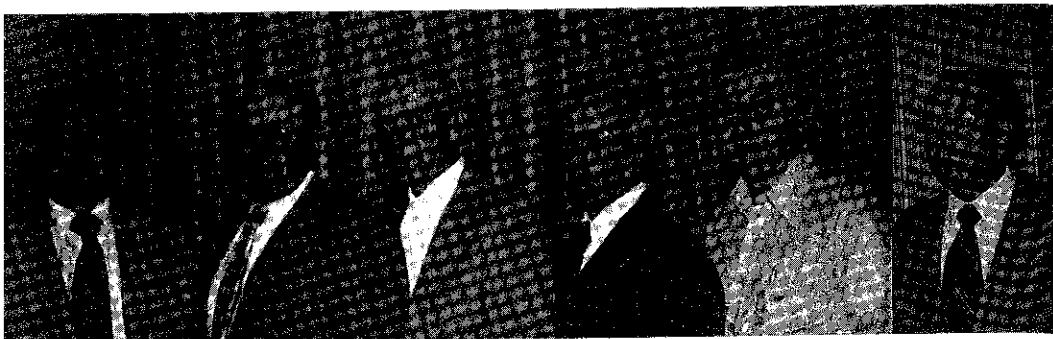
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES, BUREAU OF
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION STATE PLAN OBJECTIVE**

Provide direction for a viable soil and water conservation program for the State Conservation Commission and the Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, and encourage the involvement of local conservation districts and their cooperating landowners, agencies, and organizations to meet the present demands and future resource needs for an improved social, economic and physical environment for the citizens of the Commonwealth.

P.A.C.D. PRESIDENT

Alex Smith of Oakland Avenue, Greensburg, has been elected president of the Pa. Association of Conservation District Directors, Inc. Smith, a graduate of Pa. State University, teaches Agriculture at Central Westmoreland Vo-Tech. He will be responsible for decisions concerning the environment throughout Pennsylvania.





THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Above, left to right are:

**J. Roy Houston, Frank E. Skacel, William G. Buttermore,
Gilbert Hutter, Alex Smith and Boyd Wolff**

The Conservation District is administered by a duly appointed Board of Directors composed of four farmer directors, two urban directors and one County Commissioner director.



Ted Simon



John R. Regoli



Robert H. Miller

We express our appreciation to the Westmoreland County Commissioners who contributed greatly to the District's progress, not only through financial support, but through sincere interest and encouragement in carrying out programs to wisely use and conserve our natural resources in Westmoreland County.

**WESTMORELAND
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Donohoe Road
R.D. #8, Box 23-A
GREENSBURG, PA 15601