

NOVEMBER 2024

Conservation and Agriculture

A group of farmers concerned about soil conservation and water quality led to the formation of the Westmoreland Conservation District in 1949. Since then, we have worked with our farming community to protect our natural resources even as the picture of agriculture has changed in Westmoreland County throughout the decades. Here are some examples of agriculture projects undertaken in 2024.

Animal Walkway Improvements

District staff stabilized this animal walkway with stone and conveyor belt diversions. The diversions direct water off the walkway before the water can cause erosion. Channeling cattle onto this new walkway also improves pasture health and protects herd health by keeping the cattle out of the mud.

[Read more about the project.](#)



Riparian Buffer Project

District staff reduced sediment and nutrient runoff in a high quality watershed by transitioning former cropland into a riparian buffer. It took the contractor, district staff, and volunteers three days to plant 325 trees and 114 shrubs as well as install the protective shrub cages and tree tubes in the new buffer.

[Read more about the project.](#)



Urban Agriculture Grant

The District received a \$10,000 Urban and Community Conservation Planning Grant from the National Association of Conservation Districts and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Grant Initiative to explore the possibility of expanding small scale agriculture in urban areas.

With this funding, we will identify Westmoreland County's underserved communities, assess their conservation needs, and connect with local partners and organizations that can assist with promoting and expanding agriculture in urban areas.

A local consultant with knowledge and experience working with underserved communities has been retained to gather information from the public. This grant is the first step towards building future urban agriculture projects in the county.



Conservation Through the Years

During our 75th anniversary celebration this year, we have shared some of our history and accomplishments on our Facebook page (#wcd75) and website. We invite you to take a look at some of the highlights of the past 75 years.

[Timeline](#)

Westmoreland Conservation District

J. Roy Houston Conservation Center
218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg PA 15601
Phone: 724-837-5271 email: wcd@wcdpa.com

[Visit our website](#)

