



CUMBERLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

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2025 CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS

Conservation award winners demonstrate excellence in their commitment to conservation best management practices and are recognized for their great work through the conservation awards. Each of these individuals and organizations go above and beyond to help conserve the natural resources of Cumberland County.

Farmer of the Year

Denny McCullough



Clean Water Award

Mainline Excavating, Inc.



Watershed Protection Award

Middle Spring Watershed Association



Conservation Organization of the Year

DCNR - Cindy Adams Dunn



Erosion & Sedimentation Control & NPDES Program

Cumberland County Remains one of the Fastest Growing Counties in PA

The Conservation District is seeing more redevelopment in the county, occurring especially on the eastern side of the County, with projects such as Beltway Commons in Hampden Township, located at the interchange of PA 581 and U.S. 11. The District plays a critical role in these projects by processing the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, which is required any time there is one (1) acre or more of earth disturbance. During this process, the erosion and sedimentation control and the post-construction stormwater management plans are reviewed to determine compliance with state regulations. Implementing these plans minimizes the impacts of sediment laden runoff to local streams, as well as reduces flooding from stormwater runoff, which protects the County's aquatic resources and maintains public safety. During the construction of projects, the District conducts site inspections to ensure that the approved plans are being implemented.

Explore NPDES Projects Through our Interactive Map

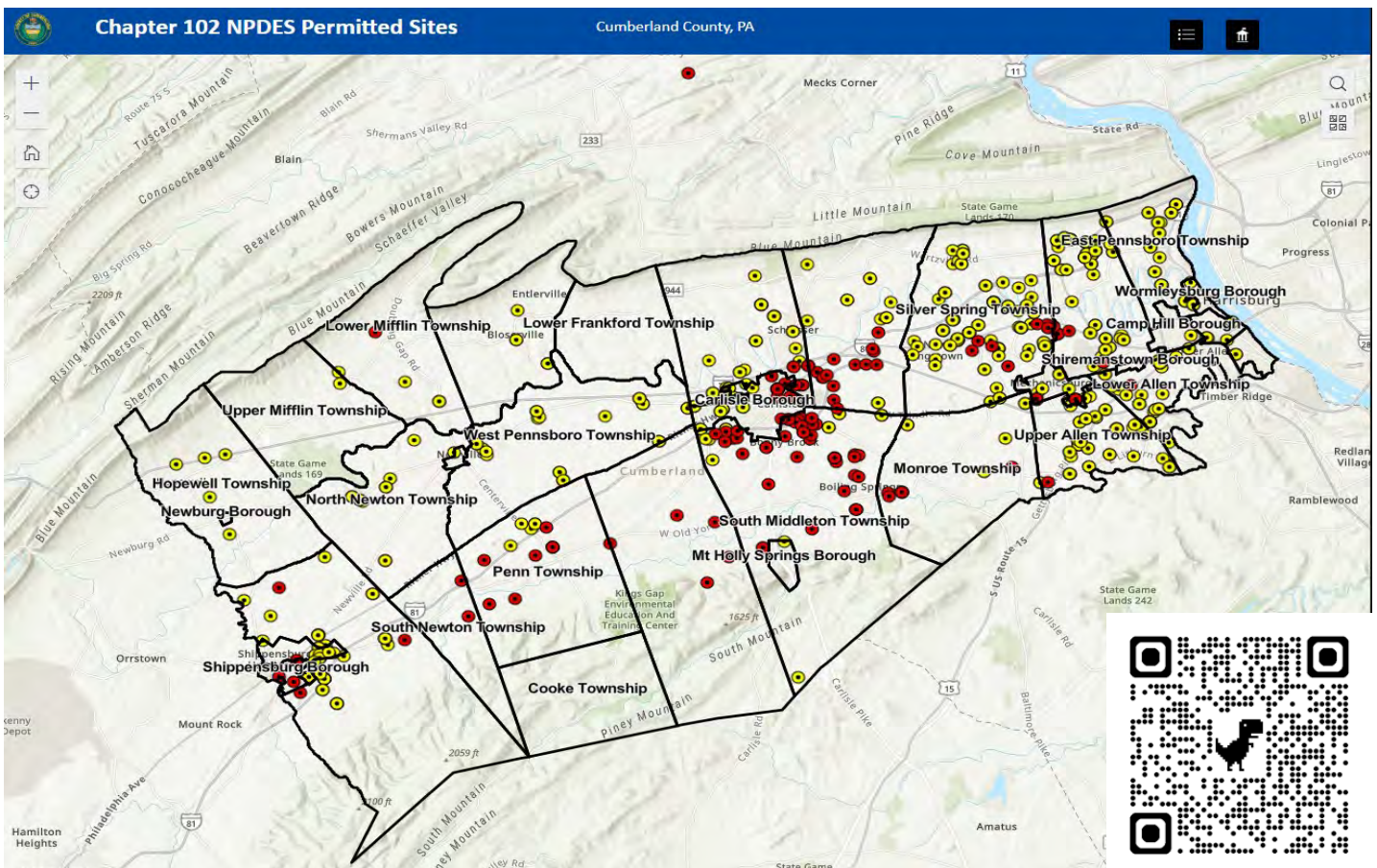
To help residents stay informed, a valuable online tool was developed in partnership with the County's GIS Department. A few years ago, the District launched an Interactive NPDES project map, which allows the public to view NPDES-permitted projects in Cumberland County.

Click on project markers (dots) to view details, such as:

- Project name
- Permit number
- Disturbed acreage
- Permit issuance and expiration dates

Navigate multiple records (if applicable) using arrows in the project dialog box. Turn on aerial imagery for easier site identification

Access the map at: <https://gis.ccpa.net/maps/npdes-sites/> - Or scan the QR code below for quick access.



DIRT, GRAVEL, AND LOW VOLUME ROADS

2025 DGLVR Annual Maintenance Conference

Cumberland County co-hosted the 2025 Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) Annual Maintenance Conference, held from September 23–25. As part of the event, Conservation Districts, DCNR staff, and municipalities from across Pennsylvania toured two key projects in Mount Holly Springs Borough: the Ridge Road Dirt & Gravel project and the newly completed East Street Low Volume Road project. Both projects have played a vital role in enhancing the water quality of Mountain Creek and have significantly reduced flooding throughout the Borough.



Brooke Weary presenting on Ridge Road



Mount Holly Borough's East Street

To reduce flooding and protect residential properties, the Borough installed stormwater inlet boxes along East Street. These inlets capture runoff and direct it to a large infiltration basin constructed beside Trichy Park, allowing water to infiltrate into the ground. Following the completion of these drainage upgrades, the road received a fresh layer of pavement, enhancing the driving surface.

2025 Municipality of the Year Award

Each year the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies recognizes one municipality for exceptional dedication and achievement in infrastructure improvement. This year Mount Holly Springs Borough earned this award for their outstanding work on the Ridge Road project.

Borough Supervisor Chief Thomas Day Jr. and Roadmaster Ed Ginter proudly accepted the award at the DGLVR Awards Ceremony held on September 24th in Gettysburg. Their leadership and commitment were instrumental in the project's success.

Mount Holly Springs Borough has long been an advocate of infrastructure enhancement throughout the Borough, prioritizing the safety and well-being of its residents.



Left to Right: Russel Redding (PA Secretary of Agriculture), Brooke Weary (District DGLVR Technician), Carl Goshorn (District Manager), Ed Ginter (Road Master), Chief Thomas Day Jr. (Borough Manager), Wade Brown (Center for DGLVR), Douglas Wolfgang (SCC Executive Secretary).

Apply for a Road Grant!

The grant application period opens in the Spring of 2026 for both the Dirt & Gravel Road Program and the Low Volume Road Program. Grants are available to public road owning entities for projects that reduce sediment and nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality along public roads. Low Volume paved roads must have less than 500 average traffic count of vehicles per day. A traffic counter is available to borrow. Applicants must complete the Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance certification training prior to the application deadline in June 2026.

Contact the District for more information and to set up technical assistance or a pre-application meeting.

Better Roads, Cleaner Streams!

WATERSHED

Mountain Creek Stream Restoration,

Mount Holly Springs Borough

This project successfully restored 640 feet of stream bank with the use of trout habitat structures. Structures included a sawtooth modified mudsill, log framed cross vanes, and sawtooth stone deflectors. These structures will direct the current to the center of the stream, resulting in less bank erosion, and increase in trout habitat. Project partners included the PA Fish and Boat Commission, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Gleim Excavating, and the Mountain Creek Trout Club and Conservation Society. This project was funded through the District's Unconventional Gas Well Fund.



Mountain Creek, Lakeside Drive



Cross vane installed in Middle Spring Creek

Middle Spring Creek Stream Restoration, Shippensburg Borough

This Countywide Action Plan (CAP) funded project restored 1,700 feet of Middle Spring Creek within Shippensburg Borough. Construction was completed in June 2025 and featured the installation of log-framed stone deflectors, modified mudsills, log-framed cross vanes, and single log-framed deflectors.

In collaboration with the District, project partners included the PA Fish & Boat Commission, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and the Middle Spring Watershed Association. This successful restoration marks a significant step forward in advancing Cumberland County's water quality goals.

2025 Rain Barrel Workshop

This year at the Mechanicsburg Earth Day Festival, 30 Cumberland County families learned the benefits of rain barrels, including stormwater mitigation and water collection for future use. Each family received a 55-gallon food-grade plastic barrel along with all the necessary components to build their own rain barrel to take home.

Interested in attending a future Rain Barrel Workshop? Contact Brooke Weary
bsweary@cumberlandcountypa.gov or 717-240-5358



ENVIROTHON

On April 30th, 2025, the Aerosol Avengers from Shippensburg Area Senior High School took first place at the 40th Annual Envirothon that was held at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, in Cooke Township. Second place was awarded to the Green Guardians from Cumberland Valley High School and third place went to the Awesome Omnivores from Big Spring High School. The Aerosol Avengers advanced to the state competition at Windber Recreational Park where they placed 32nd out of 64 teams.

Save the Date for the 41st Envirothon, which is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026. The winning team from Cumberland County will advance to the Pennsylvania Envirothon competition at on May 20, 2026.



The Aerosol Avengers from Shippensburg Area Senior High School. Team Members include: Avery Jackson, Cohen Michajluk, Zach Seeders, Asher Thomas, Carlisle Crawley.

Photographed with Commissioner Kelly Neiderer (left) and Envirothon Coordinator, Brooke Weary (right)



Manure Gases: Invisible Hazards, Real Risks

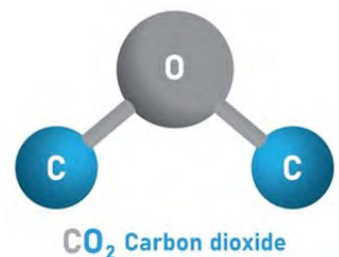
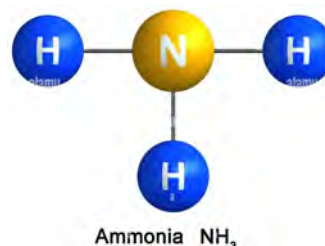
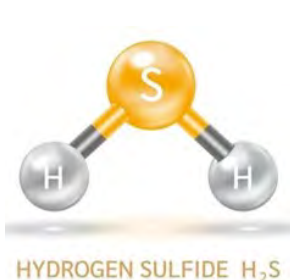
Manure gases are a serious—and often underestimated—hazard on the farm. They are colorless, sometimes odorless, and can turn deadly in minutes, especially in enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces.

The Big Four Gases:

1. **Hydrogen sulfide (H_2S):** Smells like rotten eggs—but don't rely on smell. At high concentrations, it paralyzes your sense of smell and can be lethal in seconds.
2. **Methane (CH_4):** Highly flammable; explosion risk.
3. **Ammonia (NH_3):** Causes severe irritation to eyes, throat, and lungs.
4. **Carbon dioxide (CO_2):** Displaces oxygen—can cause suffocation.

Stay Safe Around Manure Gases:

- **Never enter a manure pit or enclosed space alone** or without proper gas detection equipment.
- **Ventilate well** during agitation and pumping—open all access points and use fans.
- **Keep people and animals away** during agitation and for several hours afterward.



AGRICULTURE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE GRANT FUNDING:

AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ACAP) & CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE GRANT (CEG)

The Cumberland County Conservation District has two grant programs available to assist farmers with the implementation of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) on their farms. These programs, the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) and the Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG), provide 90% cost-share of eligible expenses associated with the implementation of on-farm BMPs, up to a maximum of \$500,000 per applicant. To be eligible, proposed BMPs must address a resource concern on the farm, such as erosion issues or manure nutrients and sediments impacting nearby waterways. Projects that are eligible include but are not limited to: roofed animal heavy use areas, liquid manure storage tanks, manure stacking facilities, animal mortality facilities, animal trails and walkways, streambank fencing, stream crossings, grassed waterways, and silage leachate management systems. So far, the Cumberland County Conservation District has completed 5 ACAP projects and 8 CEG projects across the county, with 6 more slated to be completed by the end of 2025.

Applications for both programs are accepted on a rolling basis, though there is currently a waitlist to receive engineering assistance from the District. All applications must be approved by the Conservation District Board before proceeding. Applicants must possess a Chapter 91 Manure Management Plan or equivalent, a Chapter 102 Ag Erosion and Sediment Plan or equivalent, and agree to participate in a Chesapeake Bay Phase I Inspection (review of the aforementioned plans). If you have questions about the programs, need assistance completing an application, or have a project that you think may be eligible, please contact Emily Stambaugh at (717) 240-5357 or at erstambaugh@cumberlandcountypa.gov.

Before



An unroofed barnyard creates concentrated manure flow draining to a culvert that outlets towards the creek.



A denuded cattle trail and loafing area mixes with rainwater, creating nutrient and sediment runoff.

After



A roofed animal heavy use area was installed through the ACAP program to contain nutrients and keep the manure and cattle dry.



A cattle walkway with diversion belts was installed through the CEG program to improve the walking surface, divert rainwater, and discourage loafing to get cattle out to pasture.



COVER CROP INCENTIVE PROGRAM

20 Years of Supporting Cover Crops in Cumberland County!

The Cumberland County Conservation District is proud to celebrate 20 years of helping local farmers improve soil health and protect water quality through its Cover Crop Incentive Program. This long-standing initiative provides financial support to farmers who plant cover crops using no-till or minimum till management systems. To be eligible, cover crops must be planted after corn silage, corn grain, soybeans, or sorghum. Farmers who use no-till practices receive \$30 per acre, while those using minimum till receive \$20 per acre. Last year, we had 100 farmers sign up over 11,000 acres of cover crops. We were able to incentivize over 5,000 acres total and up to 73 acres for each farmer. Without the incentive payments farmers receive, many of these acres would not be planted. The signup period ends December 1 each year. Please contact Rachel Zimmerman at 717-240-7796 with any questions or to join our mailing list for 2026-2027!



Pictured Above: Wheat cover crop planted in Upper Allen Township



Pictured Above & Left: Crimson Clover cover crop planted in North Middleton Township



Pictured Below: Triticale cover crop planted in Southampton Township



48TH ANNUAL TREE SEEDLING SALE

Pick Up

Thursday, April 16, 2026 9 am – 5 pm

Friday, April 17, 2026 8 am – 12 pm

Cumberland County Conservation District Office

ORDER DEADLINE- MARCH 20, 2026

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| •Two and Three Year Old Bare Root Seedlings | •Flowering Bulbs |
| •Apple Tree Packs and Pear Tree Packs | •Wildflower Mix |
| •Cherry Trees | •Blueberry & Blackberry Plants |
| •Peach Trees | •Wood Stakes |
| •#2 Containerized Plants – Limited Supply | •Tree Shelters |

Email us at conservationdistrict@cumberlandcountypa.gov to get on the mailing list to receive an order form. The order forms will be mailed out the week of February 9th, 2026.



23rd Annual Golf Tournament

The 23rd annual Cumberland County Conservation District golf tournament was held September 26th at Rich Valley Golf Course. Thank you to the 110 golf participants who spent their day supporting our efforts. This year's event raised \$12,972.17 for student scholarships, the most since the inception of the tournament. To date, the Conservation District has raised over \$88,000. The winning team of Nic DiSanto, Joe Fortino, Rebecca Slenker, and Nate Weiss shot a 17 under par, 54 – nice job!

The District would like to thank everyone at Rich Valley Golf who helped make the day a success. Also, a special thank you to all our hole sponsors, especially the Conservationist Hole Sponsors below. Their contributions allow us to continue our efforts in providing scholarships to Cumberland County students, as well as sponsorships for students to attend conservation camps. Finally, thank you again to all the golfers. We hope to see you again next September!



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CCCD golfers and volunteers at the 23rd annual golf tournament.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT MANAGER BIDDING FAREWELL

Carl Goshorn, a Cumberland County Conservation District employee for thirty-seven years and the District Manager for the last thirty-five years, will be retiring from his position on January 7, 2026. I began working at the District on August 1, 1988, as an Erosion Control Technician reviewing E&S plans and inspecting earthmoving sites in Cumberland County. After two years in that position, I took over as manager when Dave Keller left the Conservation District to work for the Pa. Fish & Boat Commission.

I am very proud of the steps that have been taken by the district to protect the soil and water resources of Cumberland County. Many new programs have been implemented providing technical and financial support for residents that seek assistance from District staff. Programs that started up after I was hired as manager include the Dirt & Gravel and Low Volume Roads, Nutrient Management, Watershed Specialist, Rain Barrel, Golf Tournament, Cover Crop, the summer Internship program and several agriculture assistance programs.

In 1990, the Conservation District had five employees and two programs to manage with a budget of only several hundred thousand dollars. Today, with a budget of nearly 5 million dollars, the district has ten full-time employees, three part-time employees and nearly ten programs to oversee and implement at the county level. Also, just like the rest of the world, many steps have been taken to improve technology to complete work more efficiently. A great example of this advance can be seen when you look at an employee's desk. Back in 1990, the most technologically advanced piece of equipment was the secretary's typewriter and if you compare that to today, every employee has a computer on their desk as well as a minimum of two monitors to complete their everyday tasks. Plus, the District has a fleet of vehicles to complete construction inspections and to meet with farmers on their home turf. When I started at the Conservation District, I had to drive my personal vehicle to the construction sites and pulling up in a Chrysler Lebaron was quite the site to see.

The growth of the Conservation District to where it is today is all made possible through the support and commitment from the County Commissioners, cooperating agencies, Conservation District Board of Directors and the hard-working staff of the Conservation District. Everyone should expect to see the same level of professionalism in years to come from all involved in the Conservation District.

In my retirement, I am looking to spend more time with the family as well as hunting, fishing, golfing and working in some type of part-time position.

Vince McCollum will be taking over as Manager of the Conservation District starting in January.



Carl Goshorn accepting a Conservation District Week proclamation from the Cumberland County Commissioners





Cumberland County Conservation District

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CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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Farmer Director	Michael Berkheimer
Farmer Director	Victor Barrick
Public Director	Michael Wadel

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Asst. District Manager	Vince McCollum
E&S Program Manager	Thomas Swartz
District Secretary	Michele Marsh
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Conservation Coordinator	Noelle Bennese
Conservation Coordinator	Matt Stough
Conservation Coordinator	Mark Kimmel
District Engineer	Mike Lubinsky
District Engineer	Robin Sukley
Ag. Program Manager	Emily Stambaugh
Chesapeake Bay Tech	Rachel Zimmerman
Nutrient Mgmt Spec.	Dylan Varner
DGLVR / Watershed Spec.	Brooke Weary