NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION NEWS

Getting Conservation on the Ground since 1944

Fall 2019

CONSERVATION PRACTICES BENEFIT LOCAL FARM OPERATION

Manure Storage Structure

The Cook family farm in Glasgow has transitioned from being a dairy farm to raising heifers for other farm operations in the area. The farm utilized USDA NRCS farm programs and the District's Cost Share Program to install several conservation practices for water quality and nutrient management. These include gutters on the buildings and an underground drainage system to manage rainwater runoff, a manure storage structure, concrete pad for manure management, and animal watering units in several pasture locations.

Gutters and downspouts collect rainwater and take it to an underground outlet then to an existing farm pond.

Heavy Use Area Concrete Pad for manure management

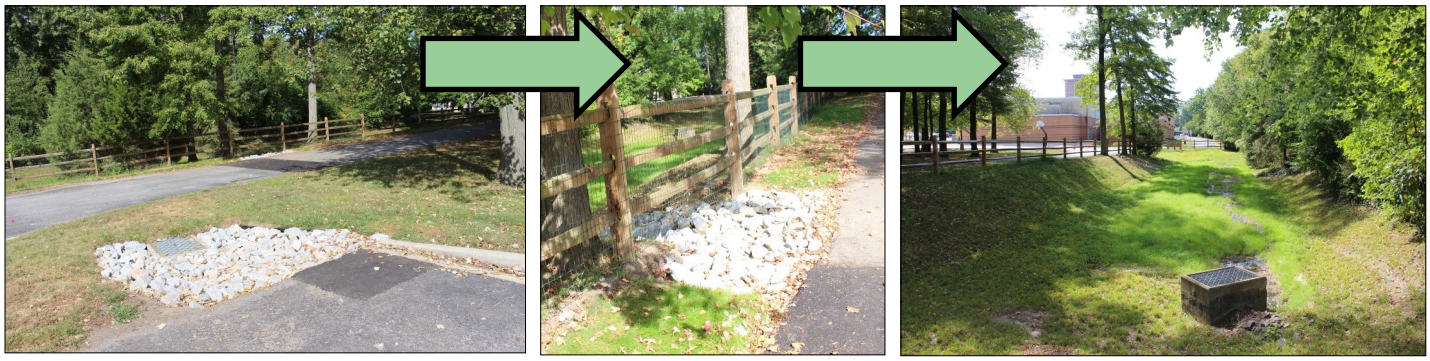
COVER CROPS SUPPORTED BY LEGISLATURE & DDA

The cover crop program is an important part of the yearly cost-share funding received from the Delaware General Assembly. New Castle County farmers/cooperators utilize these funds to protect their precious soil resources from erosion and nutrient loss. Requests for cost-share assistance for cover crop totaled 67 applicants for 12,149 unharvested acres of cover crop and 2,603.8 acres of harvested cover crop. This increased acreage is due to additional cover crop funding provided by the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA).

CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM

Eroding ditch below a pipe outfall in Cotswold Hills was protected using a special fabric and riprap.

Several homes in Centreville Terrace experienced drainage issues due to sump pump discharges and roof water. The sump pumps and downspouts were connected to an underdrain system which was connected to an existing basin and stormwater pond.



Mary Magdalen Catholic Church and School received cost share funding to address a drainage issue. A catch basin was repaired with the pipe outfall protected with stone. Sediment and debris was removed from the stormwater management pond.

DELAWARE ENVIROTHON BEGINS 25TH COMPETITION

Charter School of Wilmington placed 11th out of 53 teams at the NCF International Envirothon this past July.

The 25th season kicked off in early October with the Soils and Forestry workshops held at Blackbird State Forest. The Envirothon is sponsored by the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts. Students study Air Quality, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils/Land-Use, Wildlife and a special environmental topic. For 2020 the topic is "Water Quality: Local Issues, Local Solutions". To become a financial supporter, go to www.delawareenvironthon.org or contact Rick Mickowski, Chair at rick.mickowski@delaware.gov.

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WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Stormwater runoff down a steep slope affected townhomes in the community of Mill Race off Rockland Road.

Work included re-shaping a rock lined channel to direct the water to the existing pipe structure under the homes.

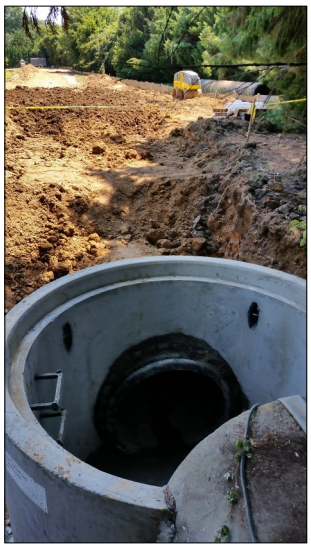
View of the new concrete headwall behind the townhomes in Mill Race.

Gushing water during an early July thunder-storm tested the new rock channel.

Newly completed concrete headwall and rock channel keep water away from homes.

New drainage system installed in a drainage easement behind yards in Sharpley off Route 202.

A new drainage system was installed in three yards in Brandywood to capture constant running water from a spring. The water was taken to a nearby stream.



Drainage system in Morningside captured water draining from Paper Mill Road

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Touring Bellevue Community Center garden and rain barrels at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church garden

URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Tour of The Village Tree garden

In late August, NCCD hosted a garden tour to visit projects completed by recipients of this year's Urban Farmer and Gardener Mini-Grant. Over the winter, the adult container gardening program, "Grow It Yourself" is implementing a new community teacher training component in partnership with the Rose Hill Community Center. Talks and workshops were given at various organizations on different gardening topics.

Rose Hill workshop and Lutheran Church garden

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The District assisted with the Delaware Conservation Partnership exhibit at the Delaware State Fair in July. Children were able to make a soil profile in a tube using Delaware's State Soil, the Greenwich Loam.

Outreach was conducted on a regular basis at the Glasgow Farmer's Market. During the October 4th Harvest Festival, children and adults made veggie prints using vegetable cutouts and ink and took home free seeds.

2020 Soil and Water Stewardship Week Theme