



# BERKS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Since 1946

## **BERKS COUNTY FORESTED RIPARIAN BUFFER SHOWCASE**

*(Leesport, PA)* – Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) recently held a Forested Riparian Buffer Showcase on April 26, 2019 at 12:00 pm to present a planting at the Berks County 4H Center, 1206 County Welfare Road, Leesport, PA 19533. This project was made possible by a \$3,000 mini-grant that was provided through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Outreach Program Office (administered by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts).

Thanks to funding from this grant, a 0.5 acre demonstration Forested Riparian Buffer was established near the Berks County 4-H Center. BCCD partnered with Berks County Master Watershed Stewards, Berks County 4H, County of Berks, Berks County Department of Ag, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Stroud Water Research Center to establish the buffer by planting 65 trees and 10 shrubs in a 50-foot-wide strip next to the stream. The species planted include: Silver Maple, Allegheny Serviceberry, River Birch, Redbud, Persimmon, Eastern Red Cedar, Common Ninebark, Sycamore, White Oak, Pin Oak, Red Oak, Black Locust, and Black Willow. This planting will filter nutrients from runoff, trap sediment, cool water temperatures and stabilize the stream bank.

Piper L. Sherburne, Chairperson of BCCD, gave a presentation about the District's work in installing Forested Riparian Buffers in Berks County with the assistance from partnering agencies and the importance of buffers for water quality. After the presentation, attendees could visit ten self-guided stations with information about CREP program, Tree Tubes, Weed Mats, Success Stories, Maintenance and Invasive Species.

Through this grant, a 0.5 acre Forested Riparian Buffer was installed on County of Berks Property to reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality, 49 landowners/farmers/partners were educated about the Forested Riparian Buffer and related programs. BCCD looks forward to continuing this program and education with our next PACD CREP mini grant award of \$2,500



and additional grants in the future.







