

## **Community Tree Planting Event**

The Berks County Conservation District (BCCD) was awarded a \$2,500 grant through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Outreach Program Office (administered by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts). Financial and other support for the CREP Outreach Program Office Mini-grant Program is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a Growing Greener Watershed Protection grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and with additional support from USDA-NRCS.

The grant funds were used to hold a community tree planting event on November 9, 2019 from 9 am to 12 pm to plant a Forested Riparian Buffer on property owned by the County of Berks by the 4-H Community Center. As part of the event, BCCD staff provided education on how to plant a Forested Riparian Buffer, the environmental benefits of Forested Riparian Buffers, financial programs available for planting Forest did riparian buffers and required maintenance for Forested Riparian Buffers to succeed. At the event, there were 20 volunteers who helped to plant 130 trees on 0.6 acres to provide 2 or more rows of trees along the stream. Forested Riparian Buffers act as filters to help stop pollutants and sediment from reaching the stream. They also slow runoff, increase infiltration, recharge the groundwater, reduce flooding, stabilize streambanks, cool water temperatures, increase oxygen, and provide habitat for aquatic life in the stream. Over the next few years, the Berks County Conservation District, Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards and County of Berks Employees will perform maintenance including mowing around the trees and herbicide application to ensure long-term success. Tree tubes were installed to protect the trees from deer and other wildlife; mowing and herbicide treatments will deter rodents from damaging the trees and prevent weeds and invasive species that can reduce survival of the trees.

Thank you to our partners: PACD, Penn State Extension and County of Berks.



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Before Picture



After Picture