



## Beaver County Conservation District

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### Multifunctional Riparian Forest Buffer Planted at Zelenople Airport



In a cooperative effort the Beaver County Conservation District and the Zelenople Airport Authority combined forces to improve streams affected by the airport runway project. Although streams were rerouted for the runway project, the future is bright for these streams!

Hundreds of native trees and shrubs were planted along streams affected by the runway project in the fall of 2021. This was made possible by a \$26,000 grant received by the conservation district! If you pass by the airport project you will see hundreds of tubes protecting newly planted trees. In just a few years the trees will grow out of their protective tubes and reach for the sun. Their roots will grow and hold the soil. The growing trees will provide habitat for pollinators, birds and all matter of living creatures.

Streams function better ecologically when forests grow adjacent to them. Trees provide erosion control, improved water quality and wildlife habitat to name just a few of the many ecological benefits.

Not only will the ecology of the streams benefit, but since these are multifunctional riparian forest buffers there will be additional benefits. As the trees and shrubs mature, they will provide food and

fiber for people. Produce such as persimmons and elderberries can be harvested. Willow may be harvested for floral arrangements or other uses. Environmental education will be a focus of these new multifunctional riparian forest buffers.

These multi-functional riparian forest buffers are one example of the Beaver County Conservation District working with a wide variety of partners to improve the natural resources of the county!

*Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation*

**Caption:** These rows of tubes protect newly planted trees along streams at the Zelenople Airport. As these trees grow they will provide multiple benefits to the people of Beaver County.