

Montgomery Co. Conservation District Assists with “Trout in the Classroom” Program

In May 2022, Montgomery County Conservation District partnered with volunteers from Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited (PVTU), staff from Aqua Pennsylvania and staff from Stroud Water Research Center to provide interactive environmental education programming to students from Christopher Dock High School and Upper Perkiomen High School. This programming included two “Trout in the Classroom” (TIC) field trips on May 4th and 12th. Jim Coffey, who serves as a Board Member, TIC Coordinator and Youth Education Coordinator with PVTU, brought project partners together to make delivery of these unique educational experiences possible.

Trout in the Classroom is a Trout Unlimited and PA Fish and Boat Commission environmental education program that enhances science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics curriculums. Students study and raise trout from eggs to fingerlings in a cold-water aquarium during the school year. The program provides a unique, hands-on opportunity to teach the relevance of watershed conservation. Where permitted, the program culminates with a field trip to a community stream, river, lake, or pond where students release their fish into a state-approved location. For more information on this program, visit <https://www.troutintheclassroom.org/>

During each field trip, groups of students rotated through a series of stations, where they learned about aquatic macroinvertebrates, the importance of riparian (streamside) forests, fly-tying and fly casting. Before each event concluded, students had an opportunity to release the trout fingerlings that they raised in their classrooms into the East and Main Branches of Perkiomen Creek.



Students learning about the multiple benefits of riparian forests (Credit: J. Coffey)



Students releasing trout fingerlings into East Branch of Perkiomen Creek (Credit: B. Vadino)