

2024-25 Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Mini-grants for Conservation Districts

Funding:	Conservation District:	Project Title:	Project Summary
\$2,000	Beaver	Stormwater Help for Homeowners	A workshop will be presented focused on watershed awareness, developing a plan to manage stormwater on one's property, and will include a stormwater Best Management Practices tour at the Beaver County Conservation District Environmental Center. Each participant will receive a free rain barrel and kit.
\$2,000	Cambria	Agriculture Immersion Lab at the American Legion County Fair	The district will provide an Agricultural Immersion Lab at the American Legion County Fair, thereby reaching a large, varied audience. The Agricultural Immersion Lab provides hands-on experiences such as an Environment & Soil activity that demonstrates the importance of soil sampling to determine nutrient levels. Soil sampling, whether in a yard, garden, or farm field, can prevent accidental overuse of fertilizers and, in turn, prevent added runoff into our waterways or leaching into groundwater.
\$950	Centre	Rain Barrel Workshop for Homeowners	This project focuses on funding materials to host rain barrel workshops for homeowners interested in installation on their property. Participants will experience an informational presentation on watershed health and stormwater, then will watch a live rain barrel construction demonstration. The themes will be focused on the "We All Live Downstream" campaign.
\$2,000	Clearfield	Manure Management Plan, Ag E&S Plan, & Ag BMP Workshop	The district will hold a workshop/ field day for local farmers to come out to the local farm owned by the Clearfield Conservation District. This location is chosen to show the Best Management Practices that have been implemented on the farm and show the benefits that they bring. Also being discussed would be the importance of Manure Management Plans and their role on farms.

\$2,000	Cumberland	Cumberland County Conservation District Rain Barrel Workshop	The district will host a Rain Barrel workshop that will educate participants about nonpoint source pollution and how their activities impact water quality within their watershed and will promote the theme "We All Live Downstream." There will be an optional hands-on component to the workshop which includes teaching participants how to construct a rain barrel.
\$1,500	Elk	Nonpoint Source Pollution Workshops	The district will host two separate events. One of the events will be on agricultural activities as they relate to nonpoint source pollution and one on riparian buffers and how they reduce nonpoint source pollution as well as ways to manage them without contributing to nonpoint source pollution.
\$2,000	Franklin	2024 Summer Conservation Farm Tour	This annual farm tour will begin in a centralized location for a brief introduction to non-point source pollution, learning how excess nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment affect our surface waters. After this introduction, attendees will travel to a couple of different locations to see various Best Management Practices (BMPs), including but not limited to, concrete manure stackpads with runoff collection systems, a manure storage pit, pastures/rotational grazing and concrete heavy use areas. Attendees will also learn about the benefits of implementing no-till and utilizing variable rate manure application.
\$1,300	Jefferson	Farmer Workshop	The Jefferson County Conservation District will hold a Farmer Workshop to promote conservation practices that prevent pollutants from entering water sources. Topics of discussion will include soil and manure management planning, the importance of soil health, and options for conservation practices.
\$1,880	Juniata	Juniata County Ag Best Management Practice Tour	Attendees will take a tour of current and recently completed Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) projects around Juniata County. During the stops, attendees will learn about Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as animal heavy use areas, roofed waste storage facilities, and riparian buffers. These BMPs prevent nutrients such as Nitrogen and Phosphorus from entering our waterways through crop nutrient uptake and promotes soil health. This project tour will show the Juniata

			County farming community that utilizing many partnering agencies and funding sources can meet their conservation and farming operation goals.
\$1,685	Juniata	Eastern Hellbender Lecture and Stream Restoration Tour	<p>The district will hold two workshops and one site tour. The topics addressed will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining nonpoint source pollution (NPS) and the benefits of stream restoration/wetland restoration in reducing NPS effects on watershed health & improving aquatic wildlife habitat. • A guest speaker, will present current research activities including monitoring, restoration, & reintroduction of Eastern Hellbender populations in the Susquehanna River Watershed. Eastern Hellbenders are an indicator species of great water quality as they are very sensitive to pollutants, especially silt. • Touring the stream restoration work completed on East Licking Creek in and around the Lions Club Park and its role in combatting NPS effects, specifically with limiting sedimentation & Nitrogen & Phosphorus loading in East Licking Creek.
\$2,000	Lawrence	Catch Stormwater with Rain Barrels	This grant will provide 30 rain barrels to homeowners along with education for Stormwater Best Management Practices to implement around the home to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater runoff within the Watershed. Additional education will include the basics of watershed definition, Nonpoint Source Pollution reduction and rain barrel assembly & maintenance. As part of this workshop, we will partner with cooperating agencies and a local community garden.
\$2,000	Lebanon	2025 Lebanon County Rain Barrel Workshop: Water Quality 101	Participants will be educated on the topic of non-point source pollution. They will learn how it affects water quality and quantity and how homeowners can help minimize Nonpoint Source Pollution in and around our homes. Specifically, they will learn about local sources of NPS pollution and how a rain barrel can be used as a measure to help reduce NPS pollution.

\$1,340	Lehigh	Demystifying Microplastics: What are They, Where do They Come From, and What Are They Doing to Our Ecosystem?	The district will hold one workshop. Participants will receive an overview of the types of Nonpoint Source Pollution, how they are arrested by riparian buffers, and be introduced to the concept of plastic particles resulting from inorganic, human produced waste (trash/litter) as an additional type of NPS pollution due to its highly-mobile and long-lived nature. Data, as well as microscopy images from the district's currently on-going freshwater microplastic survey of the Little Lehigh Creek will be shared, as well as wide-spread ecosystem impacts resulting from freshwater microplastic presence, and strategies for the individual to avoid producing and consuming them.
\$2,000	Luzerne	Retain the Rain - A Stormwater Solution	Workshops offered to the public to educate on stormwater and nonpoint source pollution. Workshop attendees will learn what they can do to handle stormwater and address nonpoint source pollution with rain barrels and rain gardens.
\$1,000	Montgomery	NPS Pollution Prevention and Watershed Awareness Site Tour	Montgomery County Conservation District (MCCD) will plan and deliver one Nonpoint Source Pollution prevention and watershed awareness field trip/site tour with volunteers/trainees from Penn State Master Watershed Stewards Field trip/site tour location(s) might include project site(s) that feature Green Stormwater Infrastructure, riparian buffers, native meadows, retrofitted storm water management basins, rain gardens or other BMP/NPS pollution prevention practices installed within urban, suburban and/or agricultural settings.
\$1,997	Pike	Barrels & Breakfast	Pike County Conservation District will host an informational program on stormwater management and non-point source pollution prevention. This presentation will include an overview of what non-point source pollution, stormwater runoff, and watersheds are; the impacts of Nonpoint Source Pollution and stormwater on our natural resources and watersheds; and actions that individuals can take to mitigate these negative impacts, including maintaining a rain barrel. District staff will give

			instructions for proper installation and maintenance after the stormwater presentation.
\$2,000	McKean	Water Quality Education Program	Through a series of educational programs, participants will gain the knowledge and tools to implement practices to improve water quality in their watershed. Topics presented through the educational programs will help them to prevent non-point source pollution and protection of natural resources.
\$2,000	Snyder	Ag. BMP Tour	The Snyder County Conservation District will hold a tour of recently installed agricultural best management practices (BMPs) to selected farmers who may benefit from installing these BMPs. The Snyder CCD and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staffs will relate how these BMPs can help farmer improve their management, reduce non-point source pollution and improve local water quality.
\$2,000	Venango	2025 Venango Rain Barrel Workshop	The project will be an educational presentation by conservation district staff in the form of a workshop. The workshop will include information about what nonpoint source pollution is, where it comes from and what practices homeowners might be able to employ in their own backyard to reduce it, such as the use of rain barrels. In this way, the presentation will help reinforce the theme of "we all live downstream."
\$1,600	Washington	Washington County Conservation District Rain Barrel Event	This event will provide 20 rain barrels to homeowners and provide an education for stormwater Best Management Practices around their property. Homeowners will be educated on how stormwater can negatively impact their homes, communities, and environment. Rain barrels will be given out to participating homeowners to help reduce stormwater impacts of pollution, sewage overflow, runoff, and erosion.
\$1,700	Westmoreland	Pedaling for Conservation	The Westmoreland Conservation District will host a bike ride on a local rail trail to highlight issues related to water quality. Participants will learn about local watershed issues and see completed projects that improve water quality.