

Press Release:

In September 2019, the Berks County Conservation District along with the project funder PennDOT and engineering support from AECOM and PA Fish & Boat Commission, completed a stream restoration on 1,100 linear feet of the Tulpehocken Creek. The project site was located on a 96-acre conventional crop farm owned by the Zartman family, outside of Womelsdorf, in Berks County, PA. The project installed in-stream habitat and streambank protection structures including an 80 ft. wide rock cross vane, 60 ft. wide J-Hook, 400 ft. of mudsills, 500 ft. of random boulder placement, 200 ft. of rock toe to protect an exposed gas utility line, livestock and equipment stream crossing, 200 ft. of boulder packing around existing streambank trees, 100 ft. of root wad habitat and deflectors. The stream corridor was narrowed and the grade was increased to assist with sediment transport, exposing gravel, cobble, and boulder substrate for aquatic species habitat.

In addition to the stream restoration, the BCCD was awarded a PACD/DCNR Multi-Functional Riparian Buffer Mini Grant in March 2020 to complete a 1.5-acre riparian forest buffer along the stream corridor. In total, 265 native trees and shrubs were planted to create a riparian buffer 35 – 50 ft. wide. Over 500 native live stakes were also planted along the streambanks. The native riparian plantings included edible species like elderberry and highbush blueberry, as well as seasonal decorates, like winterberry and red osier dogwood. A pollinator friendly floodplain seed mix was also established to create ½ acre of additional wildlife habitat. Maintenance includes mowing by Zartmans and herbicide application by a local contractor. A video of project can be viewed on the BCCD Website at <http://berkscd.com/watersheds/services/>.