



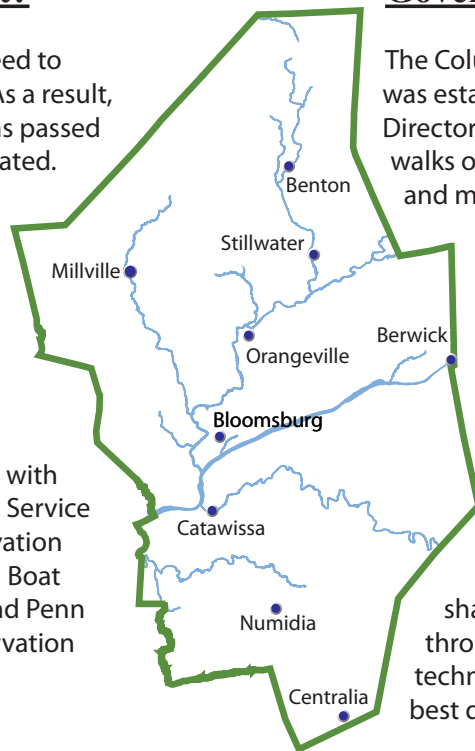
WORKING TO SERVE YOU IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

What is a Conservation District?

In 1945, state legislators recognized the need to support grass roots conservation efforts. As a result, ACT 217, the Conservation District Law, was passed and county conservation districts were created. Conservation is the wise use of our natural resources. Districts help make conservation a way of life by delivering environmental education programs and other services to local communities.

Partners

The Conservation District actively partners with cooperating agencies such as USDA's Farm Service Agency, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, PA Game Commission, PA Fish and Boat Commission, DCNR's Bureau of Forestry, and Penn State Extension. Columbia County's conservation programs are listed inside this brochure.



Governing Board

The Columbia County Conservation District was established in 1949. It is led by a Board of Directors made up of local people from various walks of life. The Board implements programs and makes decisions to enhance and protect the county's natural resources. District staff coordinate available technical, financial, and educational resources to meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water and related resources.

Mission

To lead the citizens of Columbia County in sustainable use of our shared agricultural and natural resources through partnerships, education, and technical assistance, in order to assure the best quality of life for future generations.



CCCD services provide solutions to county residents for natural resource protection. Whether a farm, rural, or urban setting, we must all do our part to stop pollution and improve water quality as a whole.

Point Source Pollution – obvious, single identifiable source, such as an industrial plant discharge or gas spill.

Non-Point Source (NPS) Pollution – less obvious source, such as stormwater runoff from an agriculture field, residential, or commercial property.

Because NPS pollution is not from one specific source, it poses an equal or greater risk than a point source contaminant. Strategies to prevent NPS pollution and improve water quality include:

- 🌱 Don't mow right up to a stream's edge. Vegetation acts as a buffer to stop contaminants from reaching the water and prevent eroding banks.
- 🌱 Never pour hazardous waste materials onto the ground or into a storm drain.
- 🌱 Don't flush unwanted medications. Properly dispose at a drug collection location.
- 🌱 Keep animals, including livestock and their waste, out of streams.
- 🌱 Take action! Get involved in a volunteer group!

WE ALL LIVE DOWNSTREAM!



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Photos by CCCD, Press Enterprise, Inc. and Ingrid Podgurski.

COLUMBIA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SERVICES SOLUTIONS



Columbia County Courthouse



Mount Pleasant Township Farm



Susquehanna River







Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

702 Sawmill Road • Bloomsburg, PA 17815
(570) 784-1310 x102 • www.columbiaccd.org

AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

The Columbia County Conservation District administers programs for our agriculture community centered on water quality. Our office is your local resource for federal, state or local agriculture information.

-  **Chesapeake Bay Program** – Combats degradation of the Chesapeake Bay from pollutants (nutrients and sediment) from upstream communities. Grant funds are available to conservation districts located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to install projects that reduce nutrient and sediment on farms or in urban settings. A majority of CCCD's efforts focus on the agriculture community, promoting conservation tools such as no-till, cover crops, nutrient balancing and field buffers.
-  **Farmland Preservation** – CCCD's goal is to save prime farmland through the purchase of farm easements to guarantee the preservation of farmland for agricultural production.
-  **Nutrient/Manure Management** – All concentrated animal operations falling under this program must have a current nutrient management plan approved by CCCD board of directors. The plan must address Nitrogen and Phosphorus.
-  **Workshops** – Agriculture workshops and onsite field day demonstrations offer conservation solutions.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

CCCD works with people of all ages to convey conservation concepts. We hope to provide county residents with the tools and strategies to be responsible environmental citizens.

-  **Annual Seedling/Native Plant Sale** – Held each spring to educate residents about environmental benefits of native plants.
-  **Envirothon** – A high school/middle school competition to help students learn more about the environment.
-  **Kocher Park** – District-owned, Kocher Park offers access to the creek for outdoor education, exploration, and recreation.
-  **Outreach Programs** – Conservation programs are offered to schools, scouts, civic groups and the general public.
-  **Poster Contest** – Held each Earth Week to integrate art, science and conservation.
-  **Scholarships** – CCCD offers two college scholarships and the Penn State Conservation Leadership School scholarship.
-  **Summer Camps** – Youth learn about conservation at our outdoor nature camps.



EROSION CONTROL




Work to protect our streams and rivers assures long term use and benefit to the public. A major source of pollutants to Columbia County's water resources is sediment created from human activities.

-  **Dirt and Gravel Road Program** – If our miles of unpaved roads are not properly maintained, they can become sources of runoff and pollution to neighboring streams and waterways. CCCD distributes state dirt & gravel road maintenance funds to local municipalities and state agencies to improve dirt and gravel roads.
-  **Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control** – PA regulates earthmoving activities to minimize impacts while allowing for continued development and use of the land. The District assists with these regulations through review and approval of E&S control plans, site inspection with earth-moving activities, and response to complaints about erosion.
-  **Stormwater** – When it rains, some soaks into the soil, some evaporates. Some rain becomes stormwater runoff, flowing to streams or stormwater drains leading to streams. Stormwater picks up pollutants as it flows over parking lots and streets, degrading water quality and stream health. New land development requires a stormwater management plan to help reduce pollution and potential flooding of our streams. CCCD assists municipalities with stormwater problems and plan reviews.



WATERSHED AWARENESS

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common body of water. High points serve as watershed boundaries. Water flows downhill and collects in tributaries and streams.

-  **Streambank Stabilization** – These projects help protect our streams from pollution and improve habitat both in and along the stream banks. Vegetation planted along streams, stream bank fencing, and agricultural crossings are some solutions to help reduce stream pollution. If you own land along a stream that could benefit from this type of project, contact CCCD about available funding and required criteria.
-  **Volunteer Organizations** – CCCD works with four volunteer watershed groups in our county. These groups are dedicated to protecting and conserving the county's natural resources. CCCD's website lists webpage links for Briar Creek Association for Watershed Solutions, Catawissa Creek Restoration Association, Fishing Creek Watershed Association, and Roaring Creek Valley Conservation Association. CCCD is also involved with the Columbia-Montour Coalition for Source Water Protection. Visit www.columbiamontourswp.org for more on protecting local water supplies.
-  **Working in Streams** – Work in or near a stream, lake or wetland is regulated by the state. CCCD assists with stream-related questions and concerns. The District's first goal is to help the public with permitting and accomplishing their goals without causing negative impacts on the stream.

