SCHUYLKILL RIVER RESTORATION FUND

2023 Project Summaries

Grantee: Berks County Conservation District
Project & Location: Cold Run Project – Geigertown, PA
Grant Amount: $45,500

The primary objective of the project is to reduce sediment and nutrient pollutant runoff to Cold Run, a tributary to Hay Creek in the Village of Geirgertown, Berks County. The project will also reduce pollutant loads to the drinking water source for the community of Birdsboro. The Berks County Conservation District and partners will achieve these objectives by implementing a comprehensive conservation plan on a 35-head sheep operation. Livestock access to Cold Run, smaller tributaries, and wetlands will be restricted with streambank fencing and cropland converted into new pasture paddocks. A grazing plan will be implemented that prioritizes rotational grazing and off-stream watering facilities. Severely eroded streambanks on Cold Run will be stabilized through the assistance of the PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) and National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) funding. Old pastures along the stream corridor will be converted into ~6 acres of riparian forest buffer.

Grantee: Berks Nature
Project & Location: Burkholder Farm – Kutztown, PA
Grant Amount: $75,000

This project will install Agriculture BMPs on the Leon Burkholder family steer and crop operation in the limestone geology of the Saucony Creek for positive contribution to the Saucony marsh and Kutztown Borough water supply and the Maiden Creek and City of Reading water supply, Lake Ontelaunee. BMP's will include a roofed heavy use area, dry manure storage, and stormwater improvements.

Grantee: Berks Nature
Project & Location: Phillips Farm – Lenhartsville, PA
Grant Amount: $95,000

This project will also install Agriculture BMPs on the Phillips Family steer operation in the headwaters of an unnamed tributary to the Maiden Creek and Lake Ontelaunee, the drinking water supply for the City of Reading in conjunction with an existing NRCS contract and engineered design. BMP's will include a roofed heavy use area, stormwater controls an improved 35' riparian buffer.

Grantee: Lehigh County Conservation District
Project & Location: Last Chance Angus Farm – New Tripoli, PA
Grant Amount: $51,000

The goal of this project is to improve water quality in the Ontelaunee Creek by reducing agricultural sediment and nutrient in an Unnamed Tributary (UNT) to the Ontelaunee Creek. Lehigh County

Conservation District (LCCD) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) have been working with the owners of Last Chance Angus to develop a conservation system that addresses water quality concerns and meets producer objectives. Resource concerns being treated include a large animal concentration area (ACA), a lack of manure storage, and unrestricted animal access to the stream. These concerns will be treated using a roofed heavy use area (HUA) and manure storage facility, stream exclusion fencing, a stream crossing, and other supporting structural and cultural practices.

Grantee: Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited
Project & Location: Longacre Farm – Barto, PA
Grant Amount: $45,000

The Longacre Farm Phase 2 West Branch Perkiomen Creek project objective is to continue stream restoration and habitat improvement work along approximately 1200-feet of the stream. Work will concentrate efforts upstream of similar work successfully completed by PVTU on the property in September 2021. The proposed stream design has identified fifteen specific locations which will require a variety of stream bank stabilization structures and habitat improvements that will reduce stream bank erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality, improve aquatic habitat, and greatly enhance protection of the stream from future erosion, resulting sedimentation, and habitat loss.

Grantee: Schuylkill Headwaters Association
Project & Location: Otto AMD Facility – Branchdale, PA
Grant Amount: $39,000

The primary goal of this project involves the construction of a new treatment system within the original footprint of the existing treatment system. The new treatment system is a totally passive system with a settling pond and two finish settling ponds. Level spreaders have been added before and after the cells to increase oxygen and drive off carbon dioxide making the precipitation process more efficient. Additional goals included improving clean-out access for future system cleanings.