

Working Together

as Members of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition



Part of Something Big

- Renowned and respected organization
- A sense of community
 - Monthly meetings
 - Collaborate and share ideas with other districts and agencies
 - Support system
- Financial Assistance
 - Variety of programs assist with project implementation costs
 - Matching funds for federal and state grants
 - Lower landowner cost share
 - Chesapeake Bay Incentive Payment (CBIP)
- Technical Assistance
 - Wetlands
 - Streambank stabilization
 - Riparian buffer establishment and maintenance



Buffer Programs

- USC Riparian Buffer Establishment Assistance
 - Replanting native trees and shrubs
 - Tree tube maintenance and removal
 - Invasive species management
 - Herbicide applications
 - Evaluation for survivability
 - Data collection and field reports
- Our Buffer Steward program began in 2018
 - We evaluate and maintain an average of 300 acres each year
 - Steward group work days
- 2020 Herbicide Pilot Program
 - Funding to hire licensed herbicide applicator to perform work
 - Stewards assist in collecting data and making observations



Steward Work Day
in Madison County



Invasive Species
Removal



Herbicide
Application



Replanting to increase
survivability



Trees for Tributaries

- Offered twice annually in Spring and Fall
- USC provides free plants and materials to plant streamside buffers in Susquehanna Watershed
- Volunteer events
 - School groups
 - Local organizations
 - Private landowners
- Education and Outreach
- USC Riparian Restoration
 - Funding for project planning
 - Non-CREP buffers





Cover Crops

- Funding for continued and new acres of cover crops each fall
 - Greater incentive for new acres
 - Encourages districts to form relationships with new participants
 - Use this funding to reimburse farmers for their costs
 - 2022 State rate was \$70/acre
- **2019 Pilot Program** - aerial seeding by helicopter
 - 300 acres on three Susquehanna Watershed farms in Delaware County
 - Research and data collection
- Delaware County implements an average of:
 - 1220 continued acres and 30 new acres each year with at least 16 Susquehanna farms
 - Utilize USC funding in combination with state funding



Agricultural BMPs

- USC Programs provide additional funding to implement agricultural BMPs
- Matching funds for state and federal programs
- RCPP funds were used to match our Round 23 Ag Non-Point Source grant to complete this waste storage facility



Changing Plans

- Kortright Creek isolated **cloud burst** released five inches of rain in less than an hour
 - Loss of pasture land
 - Road and stream crossing washouts
 - Stream bank failure and erosion
 - 6 ft Head cut
- Extensive damage made this area ineligible for CREP as originally planned
- Worked with USC and NRCS partners to obtain funding and repair this area
 - 763 LF of rock rip-rap
 - 4000 LF of livestock exclusion fence
 - 4 watering facilities
 - 2 Stream crossings
 - 5.46 acre tree planting



Featured in
our DCSWCD
Annual
Newsletter



Streambank Stabilization

- Significant erosion along Ouleout Creek was causing loss of valuable pasture and crop land
- Obtained USC and EQIP funding to install:
 - 350 LF Berm removal
 - 865 LF of rock rip-rap
 - 3 Rock deflectors
 - 3 Grade control structures
- Project to be completed this spring
 - 1 acre tree planting
 - Large plant stock – 6-8ft tall trees
 - 600 LF of livestock exclusion fence





Before



After

Special Program: Ouleout Creek Assessment

- The Ouleout is a 109 mi² watershed located in Delaware County
 - contains a substantial amount of agriculture including dairy and crop production
- Assessment funded by USC
 - Funding for additional staff to complete assessment
 - Modeled after research conducted along the West Branch Delaware River
 - Identify and prioritize water quality issues along the Ouleout Creek
 - Estimate amount of nutrients entering the stream through erosion

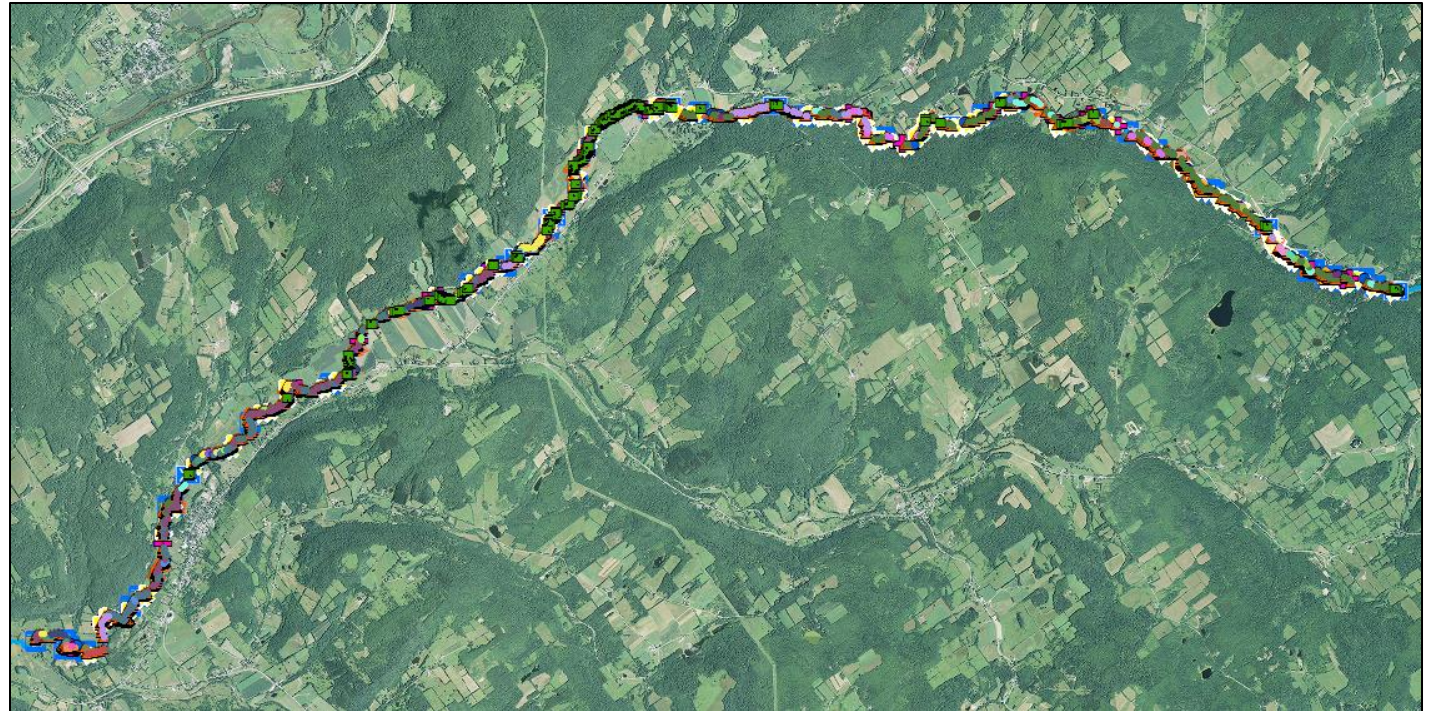


Featured on the USC Watershed Wednesday's series!



Assessment Steps

- Data collection relies on Stream Feature Inventory methods
- Evaluate eroding streambanks using the Bank Assessment for Non-point source Consequences of Sediment model
- Sample representative streambank soils for total phosphorus and total nitrogen content.
- Calculate annual nutrient loading rates for segments of streambank erosion.



Assessment cont.

- Rank stream **reaches** by annual nutrient loading rates.
- Create reach specific action plans as part of an overall **Ouleout Watershed Action Plan**

▪ Phase 2?

- Utilize Action Plan to prioritize and implement necessary projects
- Remediate streambank erosion
- Prevent nutrients from reaching Chesapeake Bay



Getting Involved

- **Reach out and communicate your needs**
 - USC can provide funding and assistance through a variety of sources
 - Funding for independent projects or matching funds for other grants
- Don't forget about other Soil and Water Districts!
 - Collaborate, ask questions, and share information
- Be comfortable with trying new things
 - Building a new program or enhancing an existing program in your county
- Continue to be active in your community and form relationships with potential participants
 - Outreach and education

