

God's Country Chronicle

Newsletter of the POTTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Watershed Work

Austin Dam Project

In September, the District worked with CB Excavating and Demolition to install 8 single log vanes, 5 Log framed stone deflectors, and 1 log cross vane on Freeman Run at the Austin Dam Park. The main purpose of this project was to create trout habitat and protect the stream banks from erosion. Riparian Plantings also occurred on nearby sections of Freeman Run. The project was completed through DEP CEP funding and PA Fish and Boat funding.



Education Events and Volunteering

Numerous volunteering and educational events in the realm of watershed health were offered by the District in the summer and fall, including but not limited to:

- The Genesee Library Summer Picnic—students and families learned about benthic macroinvertebrates
- Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards Macro Count Lesson at the Austin Dam Park
- Potter County Junior Conservation School—Watershed and Wetlands Lesson at Sinnemahoning Park
- Genesee Homeschool Groups—Lessons on Macroinvertebrates and Water Quality, at the Penn York Camp



- Genesee Headwaters Watershed Association Annual Fall Macro Count
- Rain Barrel Workshop—held at PA Lumber Museum
- *Pictured to the left:* Oswayo Valley School Student volunteers installed multi-log vanes on the Cooney Project and the Portage Projects. More OV students also volunteered for e-fishing various spots in the watershed in July.

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Dirt and Gravel / Low Volume Roads Program

Road Rankings and Program Funding Updates

PCCD received 30 DGLVR applications in the 2021 grant round. 18 of 30 municipalities applied for grant funding. 25 DGR and 5 LVR applications were received, of which 7 and 1 were funded, respectively. \$790,658 in grant funding was awarded out of \$2.7 million requested. 8 DGR projects were completed in 2021, 2 DGR projects are in progress, and 1 LVR project is in progress. 4 stream crossings were replaced, 64 cross pipes were installed, 35 cross pipes were replaced, 13,000 tons of road fill were placed, and 5,404 tons of DSA were placed.



DGLVR Education Events

- The annual breakfast meeting was attended by 22 individuals. DGLVR Technician Andrew Mickey presented on administrative/policy updates and available technical assistance. CDGRS staff Eric Nevel and David Morrison presented on road fill and driving surface aggregate placement. Trout Unlimited's Jacob Tomlinson discussed culvert replacements that re-establish stream continuity and provide increased flood resiliency. Quality Assurance Board members were present to field questions from attendees.
- Pictured below, Municipalities were invited to attend an active DSA placement in Sweden Township on S. Dry Run Road in July 2021. David Morrison from the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies explained proper road preparation and discussed important things to watch for when placing DSA to ensure the best product possible.



Project Highlights from Summer 2021 Construction

Keating Township-Matt Ward Road

A 7' undersized steel round pipe stream crossing across Matt Ward Road on Freeman Run in Keating Township was causing an excessive scour hole, AOP barrier, and road bank erosion. This detrimental culvert was replaced with a 19'-5" bottomless aluminum box culvert. 7 constructed rock riffle grade control structures were installed to achieve stream continuity through the affected stream reach. A stream bed, bank margins, and a low flow channel were created inside the new structure to promote natural stream function and accommodate AOP. 60' of modified mudsill cribbing and 10 root wads were used to stabilize the downstream banks and create habitat following scour hole remediation. 1,300' of the road were improved through the replacement of 3 cross pipes and the installation of 1 new cross pipe. 2A road fill and a 6" lift of limestone driving surface aggregate were placed on the road segment to achieve surface drainage and reduce surface erosion. Project cost totaled \$211,316.92. The DGLVR Program contributed \$162,109.17 while \$45,000.00 came from DEP CEP funding. Keating Township contributed \$4,207.75 in equipment and labor.



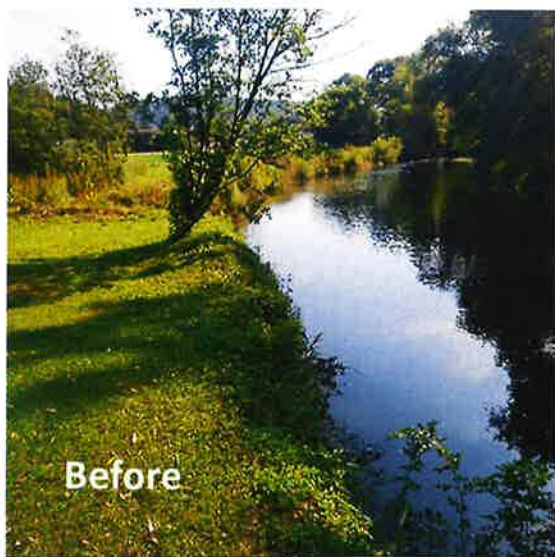
Left—before project implementation, the existing culvert is severely undersized and causing a scour/pool effect. This disrupts the stream channel and allows for sediment to gather, which may later lead to flooding. Right—installing correctly sized culverts gets to the root of the problem, restores the stream channel, and prevents flooding.



A&W West End Grill Allegheny River Kayak Launch

PCCD worked with Upper Allegheny Watershed Association (UAWA) and West End Grill to develop and implement a new improved kayak/canoe access thanks to a grant from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Canoe Access Development Fund. This new access location is the most upstream improved access area on the Allegheny River, 9.6 miles upstream of the next improved access area in Roulette. This new access is open to the public with parking available in the West End Grill parking lot. WPC awarded UAWA \$4,000

towards materials for the project. West End Grill supplied equipment and labor as in-kind contributions. PCCD and the God's Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited later completed a stream cleanup through the area to dedicate the new launch. Severe rain events this summer shortly after construction heavily damaged the launch. PCCD and West End Grill will complete repairs prior to the spring of 2022.



Education and Outreach

Pollinator Education

Pollinator health and native plant education offerings is a major goal of the District. In June 2021, DEP mini grant funds were used to plant a small pollinator patch at the north end of CARP. Sheila Gabreski's Beyond the Horizon 4H group volunteered to help plant and maintain the site, and were previously involved in milkweed seed collection volunteering with PCCD. The group has also attended two pollinator related programs presented by PCCD Educator Emily Shosh, including a Monarch Butterfly tagging demonstration.

Another Pollinator program offered by the District included a public Monarch Tagging demonstration held in September at Mitchell Park in Coudersport. From late August through October, the Monarchs making their journey to Mexico are in flight. The butterflies tagged that night have hopefully done so as well. The District will continue to offer these programs and new, progressive tools for pollinator and plant conservation as they become available. We hope to organize more plantings and similar projects for interested landowners of Potter County.



Above, members of the Beyond the Horizons 4H group plant native flowers at the CARP site. Species included Purple Coneflower, Common Milkweed, Hyssop, Asters, Blazing Star, and others natives.

Aquatic Invasive Species Boot washing Stations



This summer, the District worked with the God's Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited to update wader/boot washing stations along Route 872 in Sinnemahoning State Park. These four stations were in disrepair and not usable, however through GCTU funding the District was able to create new signage, repaint the stations, install brushes and basins, and place fresh ecofriendly wash solution. Aquatic invasives pose a huge threat to our water quality and world class fishing opportunities in Potter County. Some species on the lookout for include Didymo (aka Rock Snot), New Zealand Mud snail, and the Rusty Crayfish. For more information or to report a sighting, please contact us.

Hemlock Wooly Adelgid Education and Planning

In September the District hosted a Hemlock Wooly Adelgid (HWA) field day at Ole Bull State park, with a presentation by Sarah Johnson, DCNR Forest Health Specialist. Her talk included an update on Hemlock Wooly Adelgid in Potter County and potential control methods. HWA is an invasive insect that has been decimating hemlock trees in Pennsylvania and has continued its spread north to many areas of Potter County. Hemlock Trees are vital in our forests and streams. These trees shelter stream banks and shade cold water streams, and provide habitat for many PA mammals and birds. Please report any sightings of HWA to the District or our local Forest District.



Above, Sarah presents some HWA treatment options and tools. Left, and example of HWA infestation on a young Hemlock Branch.

Fruit Trees—ORDERS DUE FEBRUARY 14th, 2022



Fuji Red Apple

4-6 foot bare root tree, Semi-dwarf—\$24 each

With it's sweet/tart flavor, the Fuji Red apple is a favorite fresh eating apple that is crisp, firm, and juicy. Boasts beautiful red-colored skin and is medium in size. Produces large yields that ripen late in the season. Reaches 12-15 feet at full maturity. Not drought tolerant, may require watering. Not self-pollinating, will require accompaniment of a complimentary fruit tree for optimal fruit production. Pruning will also aide in production.



Granny Smith Apple

4-6 foot bare root tree, Semi-dwarf—\$24 each

Large, tart, multipurpose apple ideal for baking, eating, apple sauce, and apple juice. Fruit is crisp and sour/tart with green skin. Tree reaches 12-15 feet at full maturity. Not drought tolerant, may require watering. Not self-pollinating, will require accompaniment of a complimentary fruit tree for optimal fruit production. Pruning will also aide in production.



Bartlett Pear

4-6 foot bare root tree, Semi-dwarf—\$26 each

A prime eating, canning, and baking fruit. Pears will keep well in colder, dry conditions. Tree grows at a faster rate and does best in full sun. Not drought tolerant, may require watering. Not self-pollinating, will require accompaniment of a complimentary fruit tree for optimal fruit production. Pruning will also aide in production.



Goldrush Apple

4-6 Foot bare root tree, Semi-dwarf— \$24 each

The fruit ripens late October through mid November. The apple is medium large, and a greenish yellow blushed bronze. The coloring tends to deepen in storage. Flesh is hard, very crisp, and breaking, with an intense and memorable spiced flavor. Both sugar and acid levels are high and mellow with storage. This tree is also often recommended for wildlife plantings and food plots.

Tree Use Key



WETTER SOIL



FULL SUN



BIRD HABITAT/FOOD



WILDLIFE HABITAT/FOOD



POLLINATOR-PREFERRED

Conifers

Norway Spruce - bare root, 4 year seedlings, 12-18"



Norway spruce trees support a wide variety of wildlife. They are important as winter cover for deer and small game including grouse, rabbits, and woodcock. Song birds and fur bearers also frequent these forest types. Norway spruce also makes a good roosting tree for hawks and owls. They are also very beneficial as privacy barriers and wind breaks. At full maturity, reaches a height of 40-60 feet with a spread of 25-30 feet.



Eastern White Pine - bare root, 5 year seedlings, 15-30"



Eastern white pine seeds are favored by black bears, rabbits, red squirrels and many birds, especially red crossbills. White pines provide nesting sites as well for many birds including woodpeckers, common grackles, mourning doves, chickadees and nuthatches. At full maturity, grows to a height of 50-80 feet with a spread of 20-40 feet. Unlike the pyramidal shape of most other conifers, the shape of this tree is considered oval. Tolerates drought but prefers moist, well-drained soil. Great for use as wind-breaks.



White Spruce - bare root, 4 year seedlings, 12-18"



Prefers full sun and tolerates a range of soil types, often drought resistant. At full maturity reaches a height of 40-60 feet with a 20-30 spread and pyramidal shape with blue-green needles. Besides providing nesting sites and shelter, white spruces provide food for many kinds of wildlife. Crossbills, evening grosbeaks and red-breasted nuthatches prefer the seeds. The foliage is eaten by grouse, rabbits and deer. Red squirrels cut open cones to eat the seeds, and they feast upon young, tender spruce shoots.



Hardwoods

Red Oak—bare root, 4-5 feet



A sturdy, fast-growing, handsome shade tree. At full maturity, reaches 60-70 feet tall with equal spread. Grows best in sandy to rich loam soils and in full sun. Acorns are bitter but eaten by deer and squirrels. Tolerant of urban conditions such as higher road salt. Very valuable as a timber tree. Beautiful red fall foliage!



Pin Oak—bare root, 4-5 feet

The Pin Oak is a fast growing, hardy tree that can withstand a range of soil types and wetness, but prefers full sun conditions. It remains pyramidal for a majority of its life but at full maturity gains an oval shape, with a height of 60-70 feet with a spread of 25-40 feet. Fall color is russet, bronze, and red-dish. The acorns and catkins are enjoyed by a variety of wildlife including deer, songbirds, ducks, and turkey.



Hackberry—bare root, 24-36"



This is a hardy tree that can withstand air pollution, wetter soils, and a wide range of temperatures. It does best in full sun, and grows to a height of 40-60 feet with equal spread. The flowers of this tree are a favorite of spring butterflies, and the berries are especially loved by winter birds including cardinals, grosbeaks, cedar waxwings, and dark-eyed juncos.



Due to the variability in sites, weather conditions, and seedling care, the District cannot be responsible for failure of your plantings.

Orders and payment can be sent by mail or in person to our office at 107 Market St, Coudersport PA 16915. Conifer, Hardwood, Shrub, and Flower orders and payments are due MARCH 23, 2022

Tree Pick Up will take place on April 8th, 2022 at the District Office.

Shrubs



American Hazelnut—bare root, 15-30 inches



This nut-producing shrub bears abundant crops of small, sweet hazelnuts. Expect nuts 2-3 years after planting. The nuts are easy to crack and drop free of the husk when mature. Excellent for mammals, birds, and people! The shrub's winter-time male catkins also serve as a staple food for grouse. Requires well-drained soil and full/partial sun. Grows to a height of 15-18' and a spread of 10-12' at maturity.



Arrowwood Viburnum—bare root, 12-18 inches



A multi-stemmed, rounded shrub with creamy white late spring or early summer flowers. Leaves are lustrous, dark green in summer changing to yellow to glossy red and reddish- purple in the fall. Flowers are followed by 1/4" blue-black berries that ripen in early fall. This shrub provides food, cover, and nesting sites for birds, and larval food for butterflies and moths. Grows 6'-15' high with a comparable spread. Prefers well-drained soils and full sun to partial shade.

Native Perennial Flowers

Purple Coneflower

Potted plantlet

Grows 2-3 feet in height, in a variety of soil conditions, but prefers full sun. Pale Purple blooms with large centers, abundant source of pollen and nectar. Spreads easily and thus does best as a large planting, or in native meadow plantings. Attracts butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds during its bloom time of May-September, and produces many seeds sought after by many songbirds through the fall.



Black-Eyed Susan

Potted Plantlet

Grows 2-3 feet in height in a variety of soil conditions, but prefers full sun much like the coneflower. Does best as a large planting or in meadows. Golden yellow/ Orange blooms, with smaller centers that attract bees and butterflies. Blooms June-October and later produces seeds loved by goldfinches, sparrows, and other songbirds through the fall.



Tree Sale Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone or email: _____

Seedling size—Tree/Shrub Species—Price	Bundle Quantity	Subtotal
12-18" Norway Spruce—10/\$15		
12-18" White Spruce—10/\$15		
15-30" White Pine—10/\$35		
4-5' Red Oak—\$5 per tree		
4-5' Pin Oak—\$5 per tree		
24-36" Hackberry—10/\$15		
12-18" Arrowwood—10/\$20		
15-30" Hazelnut—10/\$20		

Fruit Tree Variety	Quantity	Subtotal
Bartlett Pear	_____ X \$26	
Granny Smith Apple	_____ X \$24	
Fuji Red Apple	_____ X \$24	
Goldrush Apple	_____ X \$24	

Perennials (Pack of 5 for \$10)	Bundle Quantity	Subtotal
Purple Coneflower		
Black Eyed Susan		

ORDER TOTAL = \$ _____

Payment of cash or check, made payable to PCCD, should be received prior to pick up.

Fruit Tree Orders are due February 14, 2022. All other orders are due March 23, 2022.

Pick up of all orders will be April 8th, 2022!



Agriculture

No-Till Equipment Final Acreages

Our no-till equipment can be rented by any farmer of Potter County or the surrounding area. The goal of the program is to provide an accessible option for no-till planting, which is a proven method for maintaining soil health and optimum productivity. Our drills include a John Deere 1590, Great Plains 1006, and a John Deere 7000 corn planter. During the 2021 planting seasons, total combined acreages came to **930**. The acreages used in each major Potter County watershed is broken down in the table below.

	Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Genesee Watershed	Upper Allegheny Watershed
Acres Implemented	374	298	258

POTTER COUNTY TO HELP LANDOWNERS PROTECT STREAMS

(Coudersport) – Potter County Conservation District was recently awarded \$2,400 to work with landowners to prevent pollution in our local streams, lakes, and rivers.

The mini-grant was provided through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Outreach Program Office (administered by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts). The CREP Program pays farmers and other landowners to conserve and enhance their land.

Potter County Conservation District will use these grant funds to hold a workshop and field day in the spring/summer of 2022 to explain the financial and environmental benefits of the CREP Program in partnership with the Farm Service Agency and NRCS.

“With this funding, anyone who owns land next to a waterway will be invited to find out if they are a candidate to get paid to conserve and enhance their land,” said Jason Childs, Potter County Conservation District Manager. “Over the next year, we plan to educate landowners on the CREP Program and to help those already enrolled in the program with maintenance issues.”

Through this grant program, eight projects received funding. Projects include field days, workshops, and one-on-one visits. For a complete listing of awarded projects, visit <https://tinyurl.com/CREP2021-22>.

Financial and other support for the CREP Outreach Program Office Mini-grant Program is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a Growing Greener Watershed Protection grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and with additional support from USDA-NRCS.

For more information about the Potter County Conservation District visit pottercd.com or call 814-274-8411 ext. 4. For more information about CREP, visit www.creppa.org.

Land Development

On Friday, October 8th, 2021 the Potter County Conservation District hosted “Erosion Control in Our Forests” - a Sustainable Forestry Initiative workshop for foresters, loggers, logging contractors, and private forest landowners. The event provided SFI and SAF credits and was held at both the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum and on field sites within the Susquehannock Forest. The event was also held with the support and expertise of several speakers and organizations, including the PA Department of Agriculture, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, and Elk, McKean, Cameron, and Tioga County Conservation Districts. In total, 51 attendees were present, and topics covered included erosion prevention/102/105 permitting, planning harvests, stream crossings, and post-timbering BMP's. Financial and other support was provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

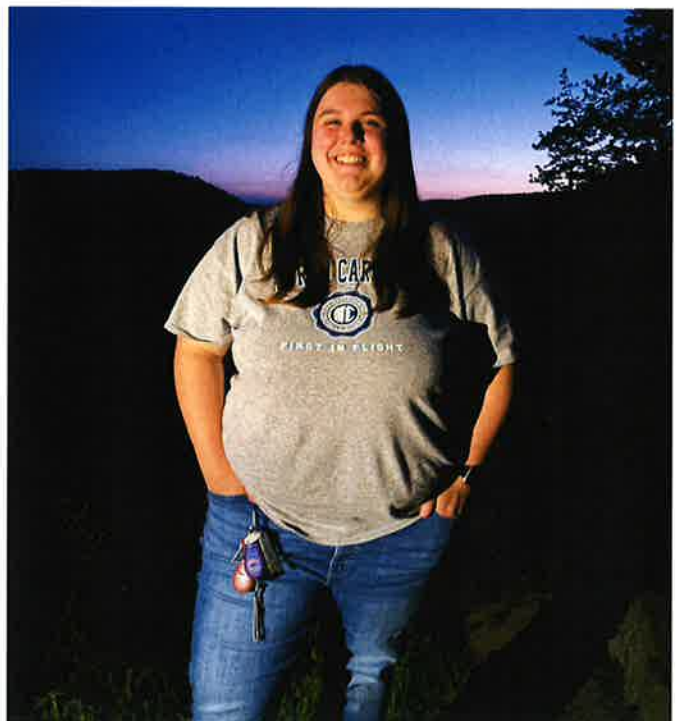


Left: The group en route to a site in Susquehannock Forest Right: Eric Monger, DCNR Forestry (Left); Glenn Dunn, PCCD Resource Conservationist (Middle); Andrew Mickey, PCCD DG/LVR Specialist (Right).

2021 Summer Intern: Haylee Ludington

We were happy to announce the return of our summer internship offering with the introduction of 2021 summer intern, Haylee Ludington! Haylee is a 2019 graduate from Galeton Area High School and is currently a senior at the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford majoring in Environmental Studies and Environmental Science. Haylee enjoys being outdoors hiking, swimming, or fishing. She also loves reading and hanging out with friends. This summer Haylee will be assisting with a number of district activities, especially NAACC Surveying of stream crossings for project prioritization.

Our 2020 intern, Morgan Jones, now lives and works in the area as the Resource Conservationist for Tioga County Conservation District! We certainly plan to keep this opportunity going in the coming years. Thanks goes to the God's Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited, who helped fund both positions!



A-MAZING WINTER SURVIVAL

Temperatures are falling!
Animals across Pennsylvania
are preparing for winter.
Help these **ectotherms** find
their way to the correct
hibernaculum. Use the
descriptions under the
habitat pictures to assist
you in making your decision.



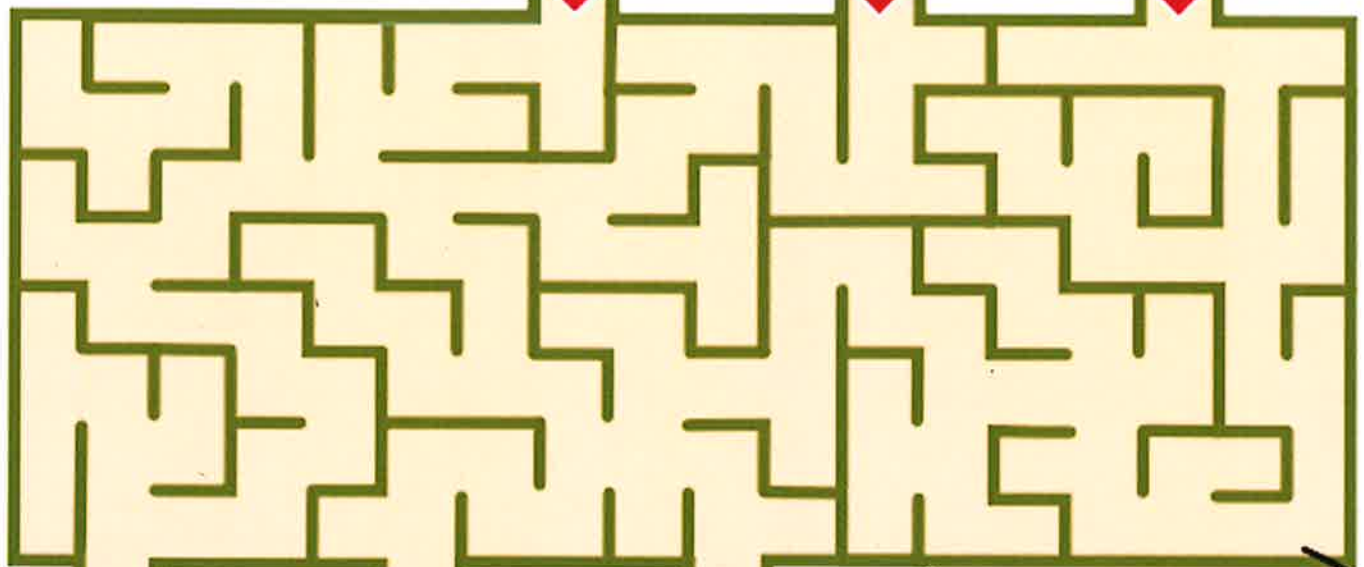
EASTERN MILK SNAKE



SPOTTED TURTLE



WOOD FROG



UNDER LEAF LITTER

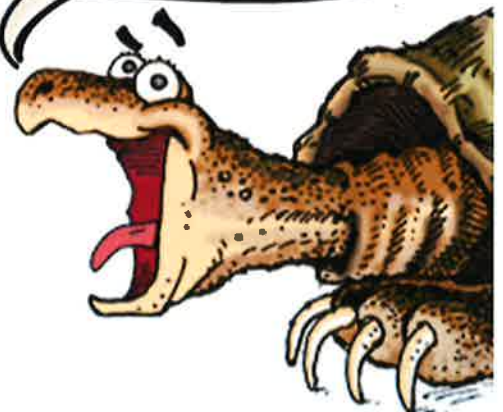


ROCK CREVICE DEN



UNDERWATER

The solution to the maze can be
found on the "Living in Cold Water"
page of this *PLAY* newsletter



PLAY

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Design and Illustrations: Jeff Decker

Photos: Jackie Carey, Tom Diez, Spring Gearhart, WCO David G. Kaneski,
Richard Kriebel, Hunter McClelland, Art Michaels, Ben Moyer, Kristi Niekamp,
PFBC archives, Andrew L. Shiels and Miranda Smith.
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POTTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Betsy Long	CC Felker
Bart Ianson	Don Heiner



Mission: The Potter County Conservation District will provide leadership to ensure the protection of the natural resources of Potter County through project implementation, educational programs, technical assistance, and by fostering public and private partnerships.

Vision: The Potter County Conservation District is dedicated to establishing innovative conservation practices with leadership and education through partnership with the community we serve. It is our goal to foster stewardship of our natural resources by inspiring current and future generations to preserve the legacy of conservation.

