

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN PLANNING AND PRACTICE

Westmoreland Conservation District



The Boots-on-the-Ground of Flood Resilience

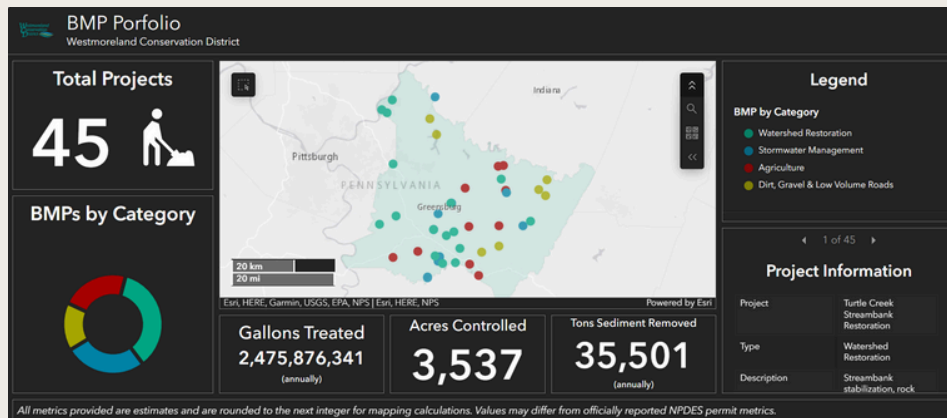
The Westmoreland Conservation District (WCD) in southwestern Pennsylvania serves as a behind-the-scenes leader in protecting land and water resources. While flooding remains the number one concern for emergency management in Westmoreland County, WCD is the trusted local government unit that turns planning into action. Though not deeply embedded in formal hazard mitigation planning, the District plays a critical implementation role, especially when flood impacts meet infrastructure and land use.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) PORTFOLIO

Visit the online dashboard at westmorelandconservation.org/bmp-portfolio/

For over 20 years, WCD has partnered with communities and conservation groups to implement projects that reduce erosion, manage stormwater, and strengthen watershed resilience across the county with Best Management Practices (BMP) that incorporate **sustainable, nature-based solutions**. These projects are showcased on the “BMP Portfolio” online dashboard and can be explored by the four major categories of projects:

- ✓ Watershed restoration
- ✓ Agriculture
- ✓ Dirt, gravel & low-volume roads
- ✓ Stormwater management



Each project has a fact sheet with key details like partners, budget, phases, and expected benefits. Examples of projects include:

- Stream restoration and mitigation
- Sediment basins
- Riparian buffers
- Green infrastructure installations



For additional resources, please visit www.eli.org/wetlands/building-partnerships.



FROM RISK IDENTIFICATION TO PROJECT COMPLETION:

A deep dive into the phases of the Style-Rite Kitchens Streambank Stabilization Project

The Style-Rite Kitchens Streambank Stabilization Project in Lower Burrell, PA is one of the District's more recent projects. The project was completed in May 2025.

1. Flooding Event/Identified Risk

In April 2024, heavy rainfall caused Pucketa Creek to reroute dangerously close to the Style-Rite Kitchens building, eroding the streambank to within 18 inches of the foundation. The damage raised serious concerns about public safety and water quality downstream.

2. Emergency Management Contacts Westmoreland Conservation District

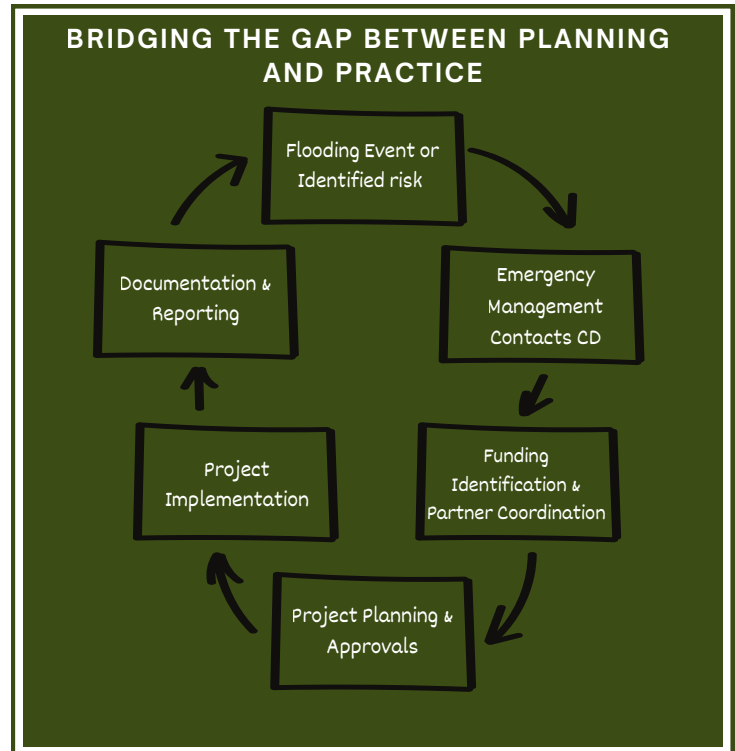
3. Funding Identification & Grant Coordination

WCD took the lead in securing project funding and spearheading coordination with partners, including:

- NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)
- DEP Office of Water Programs
- A local contractor, RJI Excavating LLC

4. Project Planning/Permitting and Approvals

WCD developed a stabilization plan to reshape the streambank and reduce erosion risk.



5. Project Implementation

The following outcomes resulted from the project's implementation:

- Streambank graded and stabilized
- Building protected
- Vegetation restored
- Long-term erosion reduced

6. Documentation and Reporting

WCD created a project fact sheet and will add this project to the BMP Portfolio.

