

How Municipalities and Watershed Groups Can Be Good Partners



Conodoguinet Creek
Watershed Association



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Introduction

Lisa Beatty, President of Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association.

CCWA Mission Statement: “a non-profit, environmentally concerned citizens group created to take appropriate action on matters that affect the welfare of the Conodoguinet Creek Watershed”

Ed Myers, East Pennsboro Township Assistant Wastewater Superintendent and MS4 Coordinator.



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Objectives

How Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association (CCWA) and East Pennsboro Township (EPT) partner to meet MS4 Goals

Direct Action Case Studies

- Creek Clean-Ups
- Riparian Buffers
- Storm Water Basin projects

Environmental Education

- CCWA story map
- East Pennsboro Storm Water page



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Meaningful Partnerships Overview

Partnerships are established by mutual goals and projects

- CCWA provided the in-kind established Creek Clean-Up program
- EPT supported CCWA with planning, waste disposal, and promotion
- CCWA reported tonnages, volunteer hours, and education for MS4 reporting

Partnerships grow with positive communication and commitment

- EPT promoted CCWA on their website, newsletter and social media
- CCWA approached EPT with a Riparian Buffer Planting
- EPT and CCWA partnered for a 2nd Riparian Buffer Planting

Partnerships are solidified with confidence and support

- EPT came to CCWA for storm water basin planting
- CCWA, EP and Master Gardeners planted 10,000 plugs in 6 hours



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East Pennsboro Township Treemont Basin



Building Partnerships

Idea

- CCWA approached EPT with idea of a **specific project** – Riparian Buffer Planting with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation 10 Million Tree Program

Focused Planning:

- Resources and Needs
- Assign roles and responsibilities
- Set realistic goals and timelines
- Method of communication
- Incorporate educational goals



Meaningful Meetings

- Review focused planning outcomes, modify plans, set new goals, roles and timelines
- Follow through with agreed upon roles and responsibilities

Growing the Meaningful Partnership

East Pennsboro Township

- Riparian Buffer GIS Map to facilitate best site of the project
- Site meeting and planting plan collaboration
- Infrastructure of a park and staff for long term maintenance
- Provided promotion and if needed EMS support
- Official MS₄ reporting

CCWA

- Site meeting and planting plan collaboration
- Application to Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Promotion, registration and organization of volunteers
- Education on planting basics and connection to the environment
- Implementation of the planting and assistance with maintenance
- Organized summary reporting to township for MS₄ purposes



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CCWA and EPT Riparian Tree Plantings



Strengthening Partnerships

Honest Reflection and Communication

- Trees were not planted along unconstructed swale because of miscommunication on both CCWA and EPT
- Some trees were not planted in rows easy for EPT maintenance
- *Solution:* After swale construction CCWA planted 30 trees to fill the gap in rows

Changing the Collaboration:

- Sewer Lines pre-marked before site meeting
- All trees marked with spray paint to avoid disc-golf recreation and planting a complete success, but be...

Flexible

- Disc golf person ripped up tubes and stakes and EPT police were called
- CCWA and EPT worked with disc golf group to relocate trees
- Disc golf group raised \$45 donation for CCWA



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Environmental Education

CCWA education focus at all events:

- What is a Watershed?
- How you are a part of your watershed
- How the action is helping you locally ie drinking water, flooding
- How the action is affecting the environment including animals and plants
- Connection to the Susquehanna River, Chesapeake Bay, and oceans
- Importance of your action combating Climate Change
- What you can do after the event to help the environment

East Pennsboro Township Education:

- Participated as a partner in the digital story map developed by CCWA and Shippensburg University linked at <http://conocreek.org/>
- Promotes CCWA events, newsletter and communications on website https://www.eastpennsboro.net/departments/public_works/stormwater/index.php
- Actively participates in storm water PA



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Environmental Education



STORMWATER STAFF

Assistant Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent

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▼ Contact Us

▼ Project Clean Stream

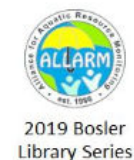
▼ Dickinson College Water Quality Study

▼ Annual MS4 Stormwater Update

▼ CCWA December 2019 Partner Activities

▼ 2019 Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Snapshot

▲ 2019 Stormwater Events



Click each one for more information.



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Lasting Partnerships

Storm Basin Planting

- EPT contacted CCWA to plant 10,000 plugs in bio-retention storm water basin
- CCWA led the volunteer registration and gained new contacts with EP schools
- CCWA recruited *Penn State* Master Gardeners to assist with planting plan and planting leaders. MG returning in-kind work from the EP Butterfly Garden
- EPT Maintenance staff dug 10,000 holes and prepared the site
- EPT fire company #3 provided water for the plants in a large plastic pool
- CCWA leaders bringing supplies, walkie talkies, and experience

Partnerships starting 3 years ago fostered an amazing day of 82 volunteers from toddlers to senior citizens coming together from 9 different townships/boroughs and a CCWA Member from Virginia to spend 6 hours planting native plugs to mitigate storm water pollution for the Conodoguinet Creek Watershed.



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Partnership Outcomes

2017

- Creek Clean-Up – 157 volunteers removed about 2.5 tons of trash from 5.5 miles
- Volunteer Value is approximately \$15,291

2018

- Creek Clean-Up - 50 volunteers removed about 1.5 tons of trash from 1.9 miles
- Acri Meadow Planting -41 volunteers planted 130 trees
- Volunteer Value is approximately \$9,078

2019

- Ridley Park Planting – 32 volunteers planted 112 trees
- Treemont Storm Water Planting 81 volunteers planted 10,000 plugs
- Volunteer Value is approximately \$15,312

Volunteer Value Total is almost \$40,000

People connected to their community and watershed is Priceless!



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CCWA and EPT Storm Water Planting



Maintaining Meaningful Partnerships

Partnerships are established by mutual goals and projects, grow with positive communication and commitment, and solidified with confidence and support.

As trees need maintenance so does growing your partnership by:

- Promoting each other events on website, newsletters and social media
- Check in every once a quarter to talk about new ideas and projects
- Keep each other in mind when new funding streams become available
- Invite each other to partner events and activities
- Refer volunteers and other partners to each other
- Make new connections within your existing networks



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Tips on Meaningful Partnerships

Ideas are turned into project-based goals

- Start small and grow the partnership

Focused Planning:

- Resources and Needs
- Assign roles and responsibilities
- Set realistic goals and timelines
- Method of communication
- Incorporate points for environmental education
- Incorporate a dedicated well-connected local volunteer

Honest Reflection and Flexibility Leads to Solutions

Maintain Partnerships with Communication and Support



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Contact Information

To start a meaningful partnership CCWA please contact Lisa Beatty at ccwadocs@gmail.com

To view the digital story map visit <http://conocreek.org/> and check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ConodoguinetCreekWatershedAssociation>

Ed Myers, East Pennsboro Township Assistant Wastewater Superintendent and MS4 Coordinator contact emyers@eastpennsboro.net and visit EP storm water page https://www.eastpennsboro.net/departments/public_works/stormwater/index.php

Questions?



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