

DCNR Programs for Conservation Districts

2023 Update



DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) Grants

The Bureau of Recreation and Conservation's goal is to connect citizens and the outdoors through recreation, conservation, and community revitalization projects. The bureau achieves this goal by partnering with communities across Pennsylvania to provide grants and technical assistance for local recreation and conservation projects. These projects include:

- Park rehabilitation and development
- Recreation and conservation planning
- Land acquisition and conservation
- River access and conservation
- Community and watershed forestry
- Trail planning and construction
- ATV and snowmobile projects
- Statewide and regional partnerships

BRC provides its grants through the Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2), which combines several funding sources into one program. In 2022 alone, BRC awarded more than 300 grants totaling about \$90 million to local recreation and conservation projects all across Pennsylvania. To learn more about bureau grants, and to apply, visit the DCNR Grants Customer Service Portal at apps.dcnr.pa.gov/grants.



The following C2P2 Grant Opportunities may be of particular interest to Conservation Districts and agricultural agencies:

Community and Watershed Forestry

Riparian Forest Buffers, Lawn Conversion and Community and Urban Forestry

- [Lawn Conversion](#): Conversion of presently maintained lawn to actively managed upland forest or perennial native meadow.
- [Riparian Forest Buffers](#): Trees, shrubs, and other plants that grow next to waterways to help protect water quality.
- [TreeVitalize](#): A program that builds capacity within communities to plan for, plant, and care for trees.

Rivers Conservation

Stream habitat restoration, small dam removal, boat launches, boardwalks and fishing access, river and watershed conservation plans

DCNR Bureau of Forestry

Service Foresters

The Bureau of Forestry has an assigned [service forester to each county](#).

These individuals offer information and advice to managers of rural and community forests and are a resource for the residents of Pennsylvania, helping to guide landowners and residents in the practice of sustainable forestry. Some of the topics that [Service Foresters](#) can help address are:

- Sustainable forest management technical assistance
- Cost-share assistance
- Information on hiring a professional forester
- Help reviewing Forest Stewardship and [Natural Resource Conservation Service](#)-related plans
- Regional planning advice
- Advice on forestry and water-related best management practices
- Presentation of educational forestry-related programs to a variety of audiences
- Urban and community forestry management assistance
- Tree planting
- Riparian forest buffers

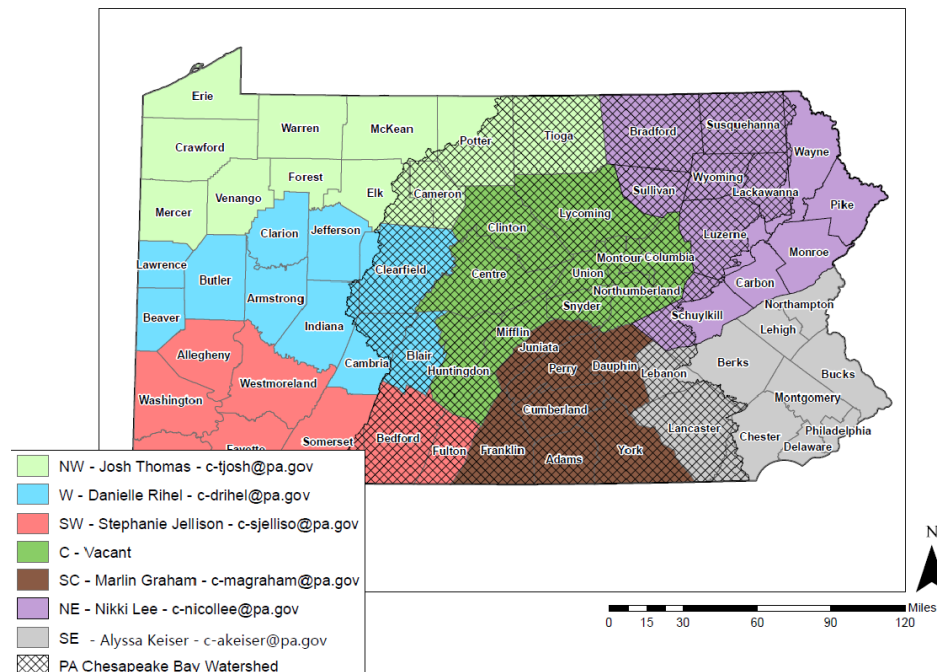


Regional Watershed Forestry Specialists

The Bureau of Forestry has seven Regional Watershed Forestry Specialists serving the Commonwealth.

These individuals work with landowners and partners within their assigned areas who are interested in implementing Watershed Forestry BMPs. Watershed Forestry BMPs include riparian forest buffers, lawn-to-meadow conversions (conservation landscaping), and lawn-to-forest conversions (upland/urban forest planting). Regional Watershed Forestry Specialists can help you find the best source of funding for a riparian forest buffer or lawn conversion project in your county. They can help connect directly with landowners, or can provide information to help you with your outreach, technical assistance, and financial assistance options for landowners.

DCNR Watershed Specialists Map



Consulting Forester List

DCNR maintains [a list of consulting foresters](#) who must meet certain training and educational criteria, along with other resources to guide you through the process.

A consulting forester works with private citizens, schools, municipalities, and other entities who own forestland.

Consultants help forest landowners with the planning and management of their forest or woodlot.

Spongy Moth Infestations in Pennsylvania Forests

Spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar dispar*) - formerly known as gypsy moth - is a serious forest pest and is responsible for killing millions of oak and other species of trees across the state.

Although oak species are preferred, spongy moth caterpillars feed on hundreds of other tree and shrub species, including: Apple, Alder, Aspens, Basswood, Birches, Hawthorn, Hemlock, Tamarack (larch), Pines, Spruces, Willows, and Witch hazel.

The longest-standing effort to manage forest pests on Pennsylvania's forest lands has been the DCNR's Bureau of Forestry's spongy moth (previously known as gypsy moth) program.



The spongy moth has been causing significant forest damage in Pennsylvania since the 1970s. An outbreak occurred from 2013 to 2019 and another outbreak is occurring from 2021 through 2023.

This pest has been the principal agent of tree mortality on state forest land since the 1970s.

The DCNR Bureau of Forestry uses an integrated pest management approach to monitor and treat spongy moth populations to lessen tree mortality and prevent significant defoliation.

The bureau conducts [annual egg mass surveys](#) to monitor spongy moth populations and implements a suppression program when populations exceed threshold levels.

The bureau uses applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis*, subspecies *kurstaki* ([Btk](#)) -- a natural biological insecticide -- and tebufenozide -- an insect growth regulator -- to control spongy moth populations via aerial application using airplanes and helicopters.

Please see the [2023 Spongy Moth Spraying Program Overview](#), and the [2023 Spongy Moth Spray Program Map](#) for more info.

DCNR conducts an aerial spongy moth suppression program to treat state and federal forest lands. DCNR does not spray for spongy moths on private lands.

Private landowners or municipalities can conduct their own treatment program by following the steps in the [Guide to Conducting a Private Spongy Moth Suppression Program](#). In addition, see [the Aerial Applicators Licensed to Work in Pennsylvania](#) list.

Treatments begin in the spring (usually May) when 50 percent of the caterpillars are in their second instar, so timing is critical.

If you believe that you have a need for a spongy moth suppression treatment, you should begin making plans during the fall and winter months preceding the year of treatment.

Pennsylvania Plant Conservation Network

The Pennsylvania Plant Conservation Network is a program that leverages statewide partnerships to coordinate on-the-ground stewardship efforts for native rare, threatened, and endangered plants.

The network's mission is to safeguard these species through a variety of conservation practices.

If you are researching or promoting stewardship of native plants listed as [rare, threatened, or endangered in Pennsylvania](#), please reach out! We want to hear about your work and help facilitate its application to plant conservation.

If you are interested in learning more about these species or want to help Pennsylvania Plant Conservation Network achieve research goals, please view [DCNR's Wild Resource Conservation Program](#) grant program, the only state funding source for plant conservation and research.



Grid-Scale Solar Installations

A grid-scale solar facility is one which generates power from the sun and feeds it into the grid, supplying a utility with energy.



The department supports advancing grid-scale solar that avoids or limits impacts on forests, wildlife, and water. As Pennsylvania's conservation leader and trustee of the commonwealth's natural resources, DCNR has developed guidance for landowners, developers, planners, and local officials for the siting and construction of grid-scale solar projects.

[DCNR's Conservation Considerations for Siting, Planning, and Maintaining Grid-Scale Solar Systems in Pennsylvania guidance document](#) includes several key resources for informed planning and decision-making.