

NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CONSERVATION NEWS

Delaware Agriculture Week will be held all month long in January 2022. Go to <https://sites.udel/delawareagweek> for the schedule of live, virtual, and pre-recorded sessions.

Fall 2021

EROSION ISSUES RESOLVED FOR LANDOWNER IN COVERED BRIDGE FARMS NEAR NEWARK



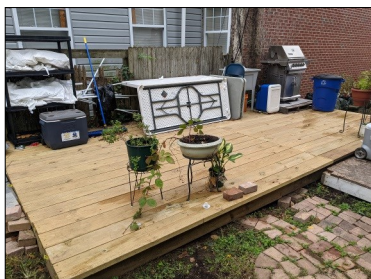
This eroding drainage channel was first re-graded before installing rock drop structures with plunge pools to control the erosive nature of the water during storm events. A collapsing timber retaining wall was replaced with a concrete wall and a variety of trees and shrubs planted to complete the project.

FUNDING CONTINUED FOR COVER CROP PROGRAM BY LEGISLATURE

Conservation Cost-Share funding provided in the state budget by the legislature helped 54 agricultural producers plant 13,000 acres of cover crop this fall. Funding was provided by DNREC with additional funding through USDA NRCS, the Delaware Department of Agriculture and the Chesapeake Bay Program.



URBAN AGRICULTURE PROJECTS COMPLETED NRCS AGREEMENT FUNDS PLANNING WORK



Newly installed deck at the Village Tree Garden in Wilmington

The 13 funded urban agriculture grant projects completed their work. A new round of grant applications will be



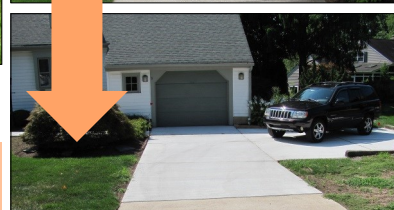
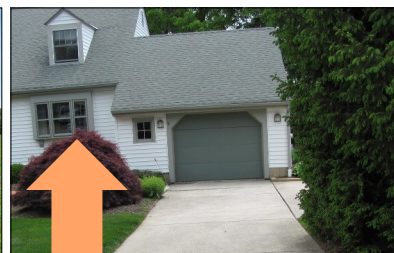
accepted in Spring 2022. The District signed a USDA NRCS urban agriculture agreement. Over the next two years, Madison Walter will be conducting an urban agriculture assets inventory to catalog the existing components of the urban ag community in New Castle County, build an

urban ag website in collaboration with the Delaware Urban Farm and Food Coalition, develop and pilot an urban farmer training program in partnership with Conscious Connections Inc, and Bellevue Farms, and then marketing the findings to the various conservation and urban ag partners.



American Turners of Delaware installed Hugelkultur beds for this new garden in Wilmington

CONSERVATION COST SHARE ASSISTANCE



L to R: an underdrain was installed around the new hoop house at the Food Bank of DE farm; pollinator habitat plantings at area farm, regraded driveway to relieve garage flooding.

PERSONNEL UPDATES FROM NCCD AND USDA NRCS



Jamare'e Taylor

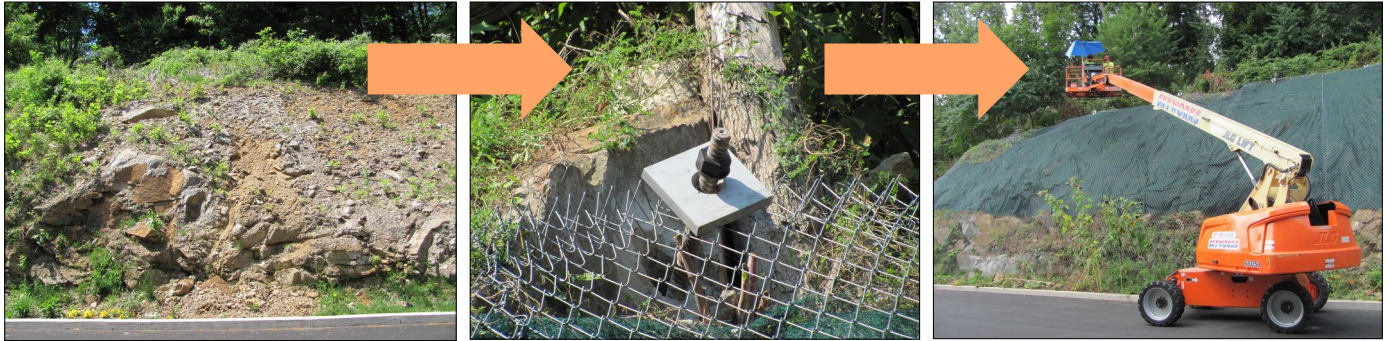
In August, the District welcomed Bruce Macolley as the new Business Manager. He comes to the District with over 10 years of management experience. Bruce previously worked at SubCon where he managed an international depot operation in support of high profile telecommunication companies. Prior to his work at SubCon, he was the Service Manager at Hooper, Inc.

Jamare'e Taylor is the new USDA NRCS Soil Conservationist for the Kent/New Castle County Field Offices. She is originally from Alexandria, VA but has lived most of her life in Maryland. She obtained a bachelor's degree in General Agriculture from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.



Bruce Macolley

URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS PROVIDE DRAINAGE RELIEF TO HOMEOWNERS



Falling rock from a steep slope off of Riddle Avenue in Wilmington was a concern to homeowners. A green mesh and fencing was anchored into the slope covering it from top to bottom to prevent any loose rocks from tumbling to the street below.



A drainage out fall pipe from Duncan road caused severe erosion of the downstream ditch. It was re-graded and protected with riprap.

A deteriorating concrete swale and outlet erosion was in Windybrush was replaced with a new concrete swale and the outlet protected with riprap.



Two homeowners in Ramblewood were affected by backyard drainage, erosion, and a decrepit timber retaining wall. The wall was removed and replaced with a new stone wall and the area re-graded and stabilized with straw matting.

NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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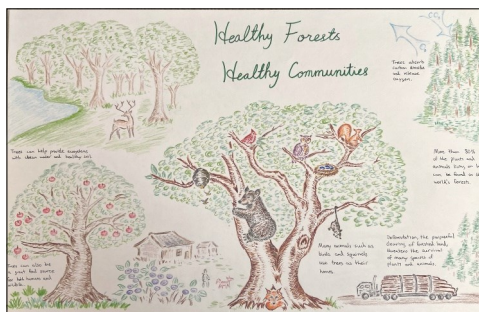


YouTube Channel/New Castle Conservation District

The New Castle Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



Board of Supervisors (L to R): Norman Pierce (Associate Member), Mike Harris (Representing County Executive Matt Meyer), Julian Pellegrini (Associate Member), Dan Severson (Secretary), Richard Morris (Vice-Chair), Robert Emerson (Chair), Brandon Yerkes (Member), Gwen Pierce (Treasurer), and S. R. Smith, III (Member).



Three of the 1st place posters are featured in this issue from L to R: Christine Alex—3rd grader at Gallaher E. S., Samuel Vasquez Ortiz—5th grader at Gallaher E.S., and Eason Li—11th grader at Tower Hill.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



19 high school students from 6 schools learned about soils and forestry at a Delaware Envirothon workshop held at the Blackbird State Forest Education Center.

The District set up displays at the Bellevue, Carousel, and Glasgow Park Farmers Markets and the Blackbird Creek Fall Festival. Over 150 posters were received for the 2021 conservation poster contest.



Printed on 30% recycled paper



A family checks out conservation booklets at the District tent during the Blackbird Creek Fall Festival.