

CHRONIC DRAINAGE ISSUES ALLEVIATED OFF PIGEON POINT ROAD



The District worked with the owners of Auto Port and Port Contractors to install two major drainage infrastructure projects off Pigeon Point Road near the Port of Wilmington. A pipe system was installed in a tidal influenced open channel at one location and a concrete drainage swale was installed at the second location. Both projects together cost in excess of 1.2 million dollars. Port Contractors was installed by JJID Inc. of DE and Auto Port was installed by Merit Construction Engineers and Zack Excavating, Inc. Additional drainage work on Pigeon Point Road will be done by DeIDOT.

Auto Port project above left and Port Contractors project above right.

FALL COVER CROP PROGRAM SEES RECORD NUMBERS

The District's cover crop program had 62 applicants totaling 14,806 acres in New Castle County. This cost-share program is funded by the Delaware legislature. Winter cover crops protect the soil from erosion and loss of nutrients into nearby waterways and provides organic material for improved soil health.

Daikon radish is one of several types of cover crops that can be sown from late summer through early fall. Winter wheat cover crop in a farm field south of Townsend.



URBAN AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS

The urban agriculture program had a busy spring and summer. Some of the initiatives included:

- The New Ground Growers training series worked with 17 partner organizations to host 27 events from April through September and included field trips to both Philadelphia and Baltimore. There were three graduates of the program and a total of 32 different participants through the entire course.
- At the end of September, NCCD was awarded an urban agriculture agreement with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service totaling \$502,000 over three years. The agreement will allow NCCD to assist partnering agencies to expand their work into the urban agriculture space, to conduct urban agriculture outreach, and to continue the New Ground Growers program.
- The Delaware Urban Farm and Food Coalition continued to work through organization structure and selected new steering committee members. The October meeting featured Efrén Robles talking about his organization, Frutos del Guacabo (an urban farm/agrotourism organization/local farm distribution business) in Puerto Rico.
- The NCCD grant recipients continued to work to complete their projects to meet the end of year deadline.



Top R to L: NGGS students watch Dr. Melvina Brown talk about harvesting and processing honey; two NGGS graduates Emily Sens (left) and O’Shea Francis (right) with Madi Walter; new education raised beds at the Food Bank of DE; and the new greenhouse at Odyssey Charter School.

SOIL HEALTH EVENT AT HASTINGS FARM

The Hastings Farm was host to a Soil Health Event. Some of the topics included:

- Pasture related soil health issues.
- Pasture and grazing system planning with USDA NRCS.
- Soil testing and interpretation of results with UD Cooperative Extension.
- A demonstration on no-till planting.

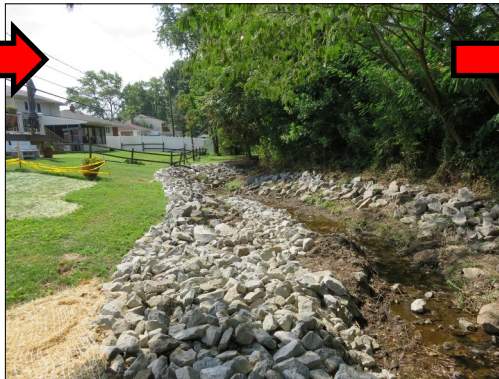
More soil health sessions in 2024!



WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS



Drainage inlet installed and embankment stabilized for landowner adjacent to marsh land in New Castle.



An eroding urban channel in the development of Maplecrest was cleared of vegetation, re-graded and stabilized with riprap.



An embankment behind homes in Colton Meadows backing up to the stormwater pond was cleared of vegetation and some spots stabilized with riprap to enable the HOA to begin regular maintenance to maintain visual views to the pond.



NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2430 Old County Road
 Newark, DE 19702
 Phone: 302-832-3100 ext. 3
 Fax: 302-832-5060
 Email: www.newcastlecd.org
 Website: www.newcastlecd.org
 Instagram@newcastle_conservation
 Like us on Facebook
 Check out our YouTube Channel

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- Richard Morris - Vice Chair
- Gwen Pierce - Treasurer
- Robert Emerson - Chair
- Mike Harris - Representing County Executive
- Brandon Yerkes - Member
- S. R. Smith - Member

2024 Soil and Water Stewardship Week Theme Announced

The theme of "May the Forest Be with You, Always" is of course a play on the Star Wars theme. Forest conservation covers a wide range of topics including the importance of forests, forest eco-systems and biodiversity, sustainable forestry practices, and the challenges faced by our forests. Materials can be found on the NACD website at www.nacdnet.org under **Marketplace** tab.



2024 Delaware Envirothon Season Underway

To learn more about the Envirothon program go to the website at www.delawareenvirothon.org.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Education and outreach about conservation related topics continued throughout the summer months and into the fall. Some events included:

- Outreach at the Glasgow Park and Bellevue Farms Farmers Markets run by New Castle County.
- The Conservation Partnership exhibit at the DE State Fair.
- Soil Health Event at Hasting's Farm near Townsend.
- Penn Farm Day with groups of 8th grades students learning about the importance of our living soil.



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