

## **Successful Partnership Reduces Streambank Erosion, Improves Local Waters**

During the past three years, local project partners have been working closely together to restore approximately 2,500 feet of streambank that borders Emmerling Park in Indiana Township in Allegheny County. Through comprehensive outreach, the Allegheny County Conservation District (ACCD) held a workshop, “Stream Relief 101” to educate local municipal officials and township public works departments and explain the benefits habitat improvement structures can provide, as well as how these structures work to naturally create habitat and decrease streambank erosion. In addition, the workshop allowed local officials to also understand the proper installation of the structures using natural materials.

Funding for the projects has been provided by the Allegheny County Conservation District Clean Water Fund, PA Fish & Boat Commission’s CHIP Program, and grants from Reliant Energy. Matching funds have been provided through the PA Fish & Boat Commission to design and oversee construction as well as many of the needed tools, Indiana Township Public Works Department for the needed equipment and operators, and a volunteer labor force through the Deer Creek Watershed Association and Penn Woods West Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

With the success of the workshop, ACCD has worked with several municipalities as well as watershed groups and other non-profit organizations throughout the county doing similar projects. Several streams in Allegheny County are lacking in natural habitat for a variety of reasons such as stream channelization, inadequate stormwater management, and disturbance to the riparian zones bordering the stream.

