

Best Management Practices Interpretive Trail Educates Visitors



Rain Gardens on the Interpretive Walking Trail. Photo Courtesy of BCCD

If you visit the Berks County Conservation District (BCCD), take the opportunity to visit their stormwater best management practices (BMP) interpretive trail. Over \$253,678 of education and construction funds was provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection through Growing Greener and Environmental Education funds and the Pennsylvania Association of

Conservation District's Nonpoint Source Pollution Mini-Grant Program. The trail was designed to educate visitors about stormwater management and nonpoint source pollution.

Visitors will walk by rain gardens, which capture rain, allowing it to soak into the ground. This filters pollution out before it can reach our rivers, lakes, and streams.

Other stops include porous concrete and asphalt walkways which are used to allow water to penetrate the surface and reduce runoff. There are also educational signs installed around the property and a kiosk that details the path of the tour.

Guests of the conservation district can take various brochures with them as they walk the trail to better understand the best management practices and to learn how they can improve their home environment using these structures.





Before and after photos of porous paver installation. Photos courtesy of BCCD.

Kate Keppen, Berks' Watershed Specialist/Environmental Educator, stressed that the practices and the tour itself are ever-changing and evolving as the district's understanding of stormwater continues to grow. "The showcasing of these various BMPs are not only educational for the public and the design/engineering worlds, they are educational for us at the Conservation District level as we get to see first-hand what they do during storm conditions."

To learn more about BCCD visit <http://berkscd.com>.

