

Luzerne Conservation District: Coal Creek Restoration Project



On July 3, 2011, major flooding destroyed the neighborhoods and streets surrounding Coal Creek in Plymouth, PA. Although flood damages totaled upwards of \$5 million, the localized event did not qualify for FEMA funding. In order to address the problems, the Luzerne Conservation District obtained a Growing Greener grant and acted as the local sponsor for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program funds. These funds, in addition to contributions with other state and local organizations, combined to provide approximately \$1.3 million to restore the stream channel and protect eroded banks.

The restoration project was completed in the spring of 2013. The district was also able to install five other EWP projects totaling more

than \$300K because of the effective partnership on the Coal Creek project.

District Manager Josh Longmore said, “This project was the epitome of cooperation. The partnership, especially with our colleagues at USDA NRCS, enabled us to not only complete the work on Coal Creek and the other EWP sites, but it freed up Growing Greener dollars that will be used to address three or four more stream stabilization projects.”

This project is a key example of success when multiple conservation partners work together. For more photos of the finished restoration, please visit

<http://www.senatoryudichak.com/CoalCreek>.

