

Best Management Practices Bus Tour Hosted by Montgomery County Conservation District



The above photo is of the Black Rock Sanctuary, a county park and interpretative center. The discussion at this site was led by representatives from KMS, a local environmental consulting/landscape architecture firm.

On October 24, approximately 60 individuals participated in a tour of sites featuring Stormwater and Sustainable Open Spaces throughout Montgomery County. The bus tour was open to all interested individuals, which included state representatives, environmental professionals and members of the public.

The concept for the bus tour began through the collective efforts of a committee formed by members of the Southeastern PA Sustainable Lands Partnership. Montgomery County Conservation District obtained a grant to support the tour through the Department of Environmental Protection Environmental Education program. Additional sponsorship was obtained through the PA Landscape and Nursery Association and the Montgomery County Farm, Home, & 4-H Center.

A variety of sites were visited to provide the attendees with an overall picture of current best management practices. The tour made six location stops which included commercial complexes, residential lots and private lands. At each of the sites, the guests heard from speakers and saw working rain gardens, green roofs, porous pavement and much more.

Participants were shown Mayfield Estates where homes were built while protecting existing trees, managing stormwater without a lot of underground pipes, and incorporating native plantings into the overall neighborhood design. At Colorcon, a naturalized meadow, planted terraces, vegetated swales, and cisterns for irrigation were highlighted. Rounding out the tour, innovative ways to manage stormwater runoff through vegetated wetland mitigation areas that protect nearby Perkiomen Creek were showcased at Shelly Square Shopping Center.

