

## **Hatch Run Conservation Demo Area is a Nature Enthusiast's Dream**



Warren County Conservation District (WCCD) continues to improve their Hatch Run Conservation Demonstration Area, which will showcase best management practices in a fun and engaging manner. This area has several major components that serve the needs of the public in Warren County.

Since 2008, the community has had the opportunity to have a plot in the community garden. An individual can rent a 25' by 25' area to plant and grow their own fruits and vegetables. These plots increase environmentally safe growing practices as well as increasing community involvement.

For exercise and nature enthusiasts, the Hatch Run Area also provides walking and hiking trails. Hundreds of people use the trails year round for outside activities varying from bird watching to cross country skiing.

Scientists are drawn to the installed weather station, which has collected data since 2006. The USDA Forest Service-Allegheny National Forest partnered for this project to develop fire risk indicators.

Currently, WCCD is working on the largest part of the Hatch Run Conservation Demo Area. The Hatch Run Conservation Education Center is about 70% completed. Once finished, the center will provide an area for children and adults to learn about forestry, agriculture, wildlife, soil and water resources. There will be indoor and outdoor classroom settings, which will be home to the new children's nature camp. The education programs will utilize a recreational fishing pond, walking trails and outdoor pavilion in order to engage the public and better educate on all of the areas of conservation.



For more information, visit <http://www.wcconservation.net/hatch-run-conservation-demonstration-area/>

