



2025

Bucks County
Conservation District

ANNUAL

REPORT

OVER 60 YEARS IN PURSUIT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

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2025 Manager's Message



Photographed above: BCCD Manager Gretchen Schatschneider with her dog, Dash.

Conservation in Bucks County has always been a community effort. While the Bucks County Conservation District (BCCD) carries out important regulatory responsibilities, our work ultimately depends on the partnerships we maintain with municipalities, engineers, contractors, farmers, educators, and residents who all share a stake in protecting our local natural resources. Throughout 2025, we continued to strengthen those connections through outreach events, collaboration with municipal partners, and the everyday conversations that help people better understand how conservation practices protect our streams, soils, and landscapes.

This year also highlighted the evolving nature of our regulatory responsibilities, particularly as Pennsylvania continues to modernize its approach to permitting under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. The implementation of updated policies, guidance, and review processes has required applicants, municipalities, and conservation districts alike to adapt to a changing regulatory landscape. Our staff has worked diligently to help navigate these changes by providing guidance, reviewing plans, and maintaining open communication with project applicants and agency partners so that development can proceed responsibly while meeting the Commonwealth's water quality goals.

Even as regulatory programs grow more complex, the heart of our work remains the same. It is about connecting people with conservation. Some of the most meaningful moments this year came from seeing community members engage directly in stewardship, whether through educational events, conversations about native plants and stormwater practices, or residents looking for ways to improve the health of their own properties and neighborhoods. These interactions are a powerful reminder that conservation is shaped not only by regulations and policies, but also by the shared commitment of the community.

I would also like to recognize the dedicated staff of the District and the support of our Board of Directors. Their professionalism, knowledge, and commitment allow the District to serve the public effectively while maintaining high conservation standards. As we move forward, I remain optimistic about the future of conservation in Bucks County. The interest, energy, and stewardship shown this year reminds me that protecting our natural resources is a responsibility we all share, and one that this community continues to embrace.

Board of Directors

Directors:

David Wolfinger

Chairman

John Frederick

Vice Chair

Robert J. Harvie, Jr.

Commissioner Director

Peter Stampfl

Treasurer

Dwight L. Ely

Farmer Director

Joel Roney

Farmer Director

Kellie McGowan, Esq.

Public Director

Associate Directors

Brett Ely

PFK Mark III

Jacklyn Fiola

Delaware Valley University

Evan Stone

Bucks County Planning Commission

Lisa Braud

Hollow House Farms

Theresa Bentley

Happily Retired from a Long Career
in Environmental Regulation

The BCCD is a legal subdivision of state government and is administered by a Board of Directors composed of four farmer members, two public members, and one county commissioner member, all of whom serve without pay. The Directors work with all individuals, organizations, and agencies interested in soil and water conservation, land use planning, watershed protection, and flood prevention in the broadest sense to secure their assistance and support in planning and carrying out District programs.

Our Team

Administration

Gretchen Schatschneider
District Manager

Marilyn Laurelli
Compliance Specialist, RTK Officer, and Board Secretary

Erik Gunstensen
Chapter 102/NPDES Permit Coordinator

Susan Seykot
Chapter 102/NPDES Permit Coordinator

Nadia Warrick
Receptionist

Agricultural Conservation

Carly Seldow
Agricultural Conservation
Technician

Ryan Herstine
Agricultural Conservation
Technician

Watershed & Resource Conservation

Karen Ogden
Watershed Specialist

Logan Freed
Administrative Assistant &
Conservation Specialist

Morgan Ladner
DGLVR Program
Administrator

Environmental Protection Specialists

Alex Peppiat

Amanda Sandor—*Amanda left the District to pursue other opportunities.*

Christian DeSimone

Jason Maurer

Joslyn Tomlinson

Kevin Mault

Matt Pale

Richard Krasselt—*Rich left the District to pursue other opportunities.*

2025 New Staff

Alex Peppiatt

Environmental Protection Specialist



Alex began his time with BCCD in 2025 as an Environmental Protection Specialist. His responsibilities include reviewing applications for NPDES permits, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan reviews, and conducting site inspections.

Alex is a recent grad from Penn State with a B.S in Earth science and Policy, climate change focus. Alex enjoys hiking, photography, and playing sports. He is an Eagle scout and has had a deep passion for the environment since he was a kid.

Matt Pale

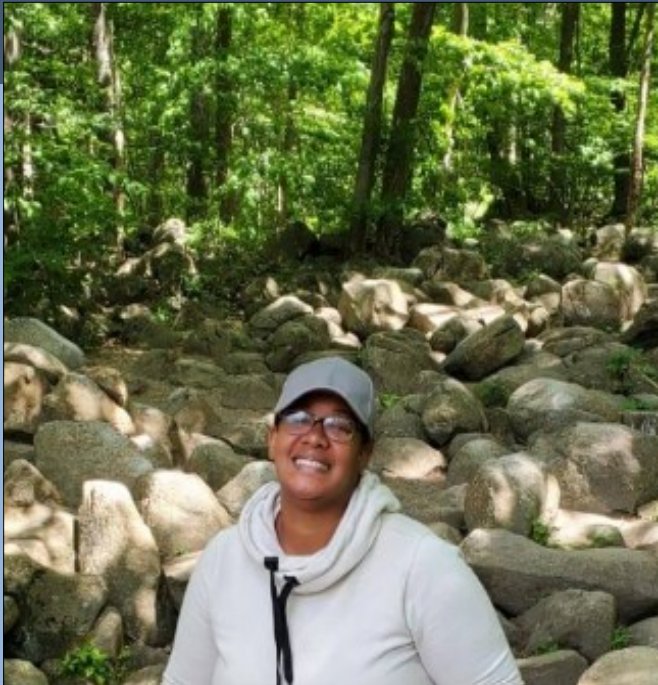
Environmental Protection Specialist

Matt, a graduate of Temple University with a degree in Environmental Studies, began his role as an Environmental Protection Specialist in 2025. His responsibilities include reviewing NPDES permit applications, evaluating Erosion and Sediment Control Plans, and conducting site inspections for municipalities in Bucks County.

Matt spends his free time with his family, reading, writing, and practicing Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.



Nadia Warrick Receptionist



Nadia joined BCCD in 2025 as a receptionist. In this role, she manages submission intake, ensures fee accuracy, and serves as the primary point of contact for all BCCD communications.

As lifelong resident of Bucks County, Nadia enjoys spending time outdoors—whether hiking, swimming, fishing, or exploring local parks. Her deep connection to the county is reflected in her strong commitment to the Conservation District’s mission.

Kevin Mault Environmental Protection Specialist

Kevin graduated from Evergreen State College in 2004 with a B.A. in Environmental Studies. Kevin joined BCCD in May of 2023 and is an Environmental Protection Specialist. His responsibilities include reviewing applications for NPDES permits, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan reviews, and conducting site inspections.

Kevin is born and raised in Bucks County and enjoys spending his free time birdwatching, gardening, and cooking.

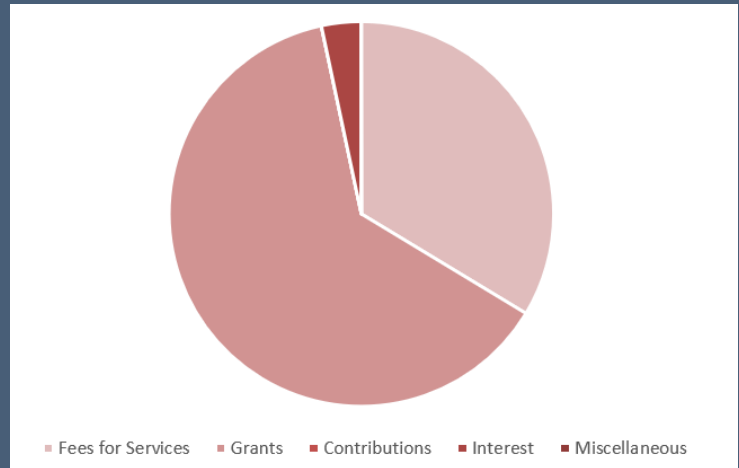


Kevin isn't new to BCCD this year—he's been with us for two years. He was accidentally left off last year's staff page, so we're glad to highlight him this year.

2025 Financials

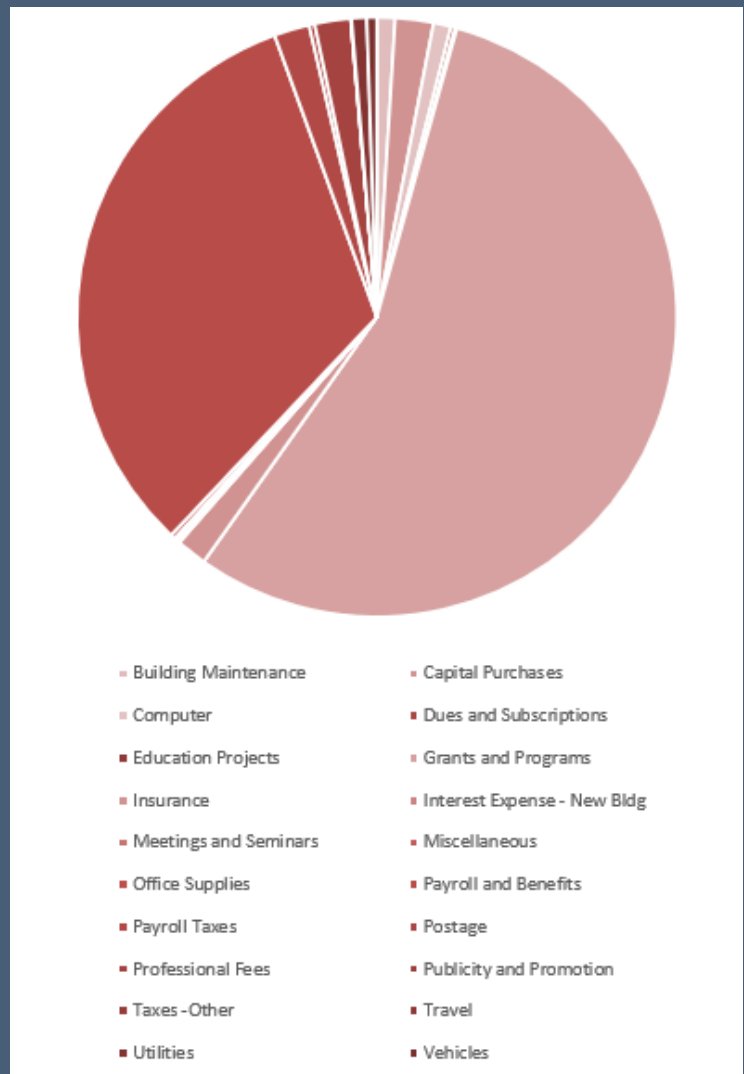
Revenue:

Fees for Services	\$1,027,921.00
Grants	\$1,924,425.00
Contributions	\$429.00
Interest	\$101,051.00
Miscellaneous	\$913.00
Total Revenue	\$3,054,738.00



Expenses:

Building Maintenance	\$32,655.00
Capital Purchases	\$69,016.00
Computer	\$31,557.00
Dues and Subscriptions	\$7,567.00
Education Projects	\$3,370.00
Grants and Programs	\$1,857,466.00
Insurance	\$55,317.00
Interest Expense - New Building	\$2,822.00
Meetings and Seminars	\$4,777.00
Miscellaneous	\$3,615.00
Office Supplies	\$8,341.00
Payroll and Benefits	\$1,085,421.00
Payroll Taxes	\$63,865.00
Postage	\$10,088.00
Professional Fees	\$64,996.00
Publicity and Promotion	\$865
Taxes - Other	-
Travel	\$1,307.00
Utilities	\$27,093.00
Vehicles	\$18,017.00
Total Expenses	\$3,348,153.00



Excess of Revenues over Expenses

\$ (293,415)

Chapter 102: Erosion & Sediment Control

In 2025, BCCD's Environmental Protection Specialists continued enforcing PA Code Title 25, Chapter 102 regulations relating to erosion and sediment pollution control and administering Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection programs.

BCCD staff review permit applications and conduct site inspections to ensure projects are in compliance and not causing negative impacts to local resources. These efforts protect local water resources for the health, safety, and enjoyment of Bucks County residents.

Photographed to the right demonstrate some of the problems BCCD works to prevent and correct on project sites. BCCD provided technical assistance and recommendations to help the contractor bring their site back into compliance following this event. The site is currently in compliance and no further pollution events have occurred.



Observed above is sediment-laden discharge into a local stream from complications on one project site.



Above, you can noticeably see the difference between the clear water from normal conditions versus the discharge from the project.

Dirt, Gravel & Low Volume Roads

Pennsylvania's Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Roads (DGLVR) Program provides grant funding to local road-owning entities for road and environmental improvements on unpaved and low volume paved roads.

This year, Bucks County received:

Dirt & Gravel Roads	Low Volume Roads
\$100,000.00	\$192,355.00

Two grant projects were funded this year – one in each program. Clay Avenue in Springfield Township involved the installation of a new stormwater system along a section of the low-volume road, as well as two pipe replacements. Old Carversville Road in Solebury Township is a multi-phase Dirt & Gravel project, with Phase 1 completed in 2025. We look forward to continuing work on future phases and completing improvements along the full road segment.

Low Volume Road Projects:

- Clay Ave, Springfield Township, Contract amount \$90,141.58

Sections of this road had been steadily deteriorating due to unstable roadside ditches and failing cross pipes. As conditions worsened, the roadway narrowed while the ditches expanded, creating increasingly unsafe conditions for residents.

Photographed below: the unstable ditches alongside Clay Ave in Springfield Township.



This has also accelerated on-site erosion, sending sediment directly into Tohickon Creek and adjacent wetlands.

The Township's public works department replaced two failing cross pipes with new 18-inch arch pipes, along with new headwalls and endwalls. They also installed an underground stormwater system with new inlets along one section of the road to address year-round wet conditions. Final improvements are planned for 2026, at which point the project will be complete.

Photographed below: the non-functioning cross pipes under Clay Ave in Springfield Township.



Dirt & Gravel Road Project:

- Old Carversville Road, Solebury Township, Contract amount \$136,400.00

This D&G project on Old Carversville Road is part of an extensive, multi-year, multi-phase effort. Over the past several months, we have worked with Solebury Township and the Center for D&G Road Studies to develop a plan to address the road's significant drainage and water management issues.

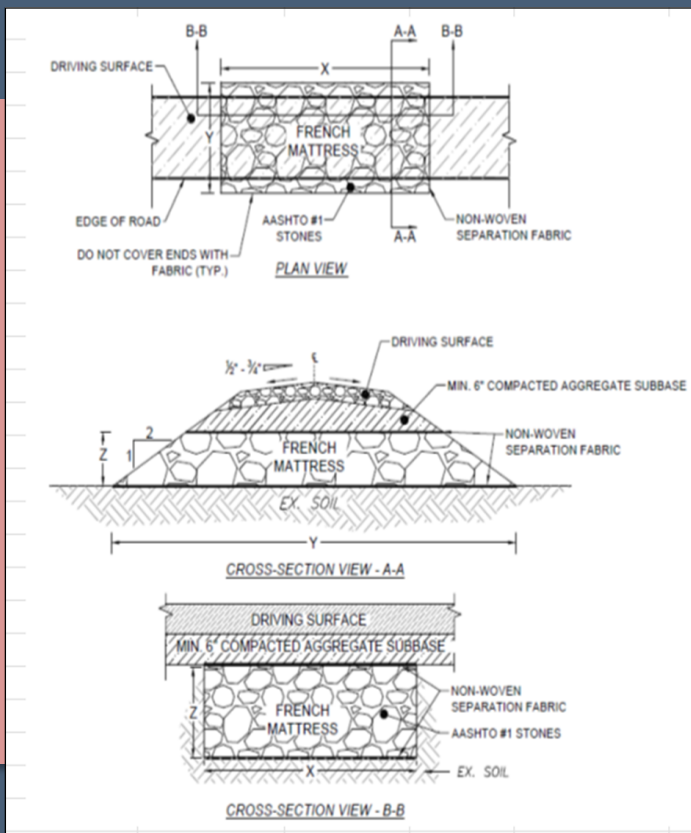
The roadway had become highly unstable, with ditches, cross pipes, and road banks. These conditions accelerated erosion, sending sediment directly into the Delaware River and creating unsafe driving conditions for residents.



Photographed above: Old Carversville Road in Solebury Township, showing the unstable conditions of ditches, road banks and drainage issues.

Numerous new cross pipes were installed along the road with new headwalls and end walls. All ditches were regraded, shaped, and stabilized and a large French Mattress was installed to help the water flow freely underneath the road without negative impacts. The next phases include a large 5' arch pipe installation and DSA (driving surface aggregate) resurfacing. This project is a great example of the large environmental benefits that this program provides.

Photographed below is the plans for Old Carversville Road in Solebury Township.



BCCD is always looking for more applicants and eligible projects within the County to work towards the DGLVR program's goal of better roads and cleaner streams. To be eligible for DGLVR program funding, a representative from the local entity applying must attend an environmentally sensitive management training (ESM) once every five years.

For more information on the DGLVR program, possible sites to be funded in the future, or the required ESM training, please contact BCCD's Dirt & Gravel/ Low Volume Road Administrator Morgan Schuster at mschuster@bucksccd.org.



Photographed above: Old Carversville Road in Solebury Township, showing the unstable conditions of ditches, road banks and drainage issues.

Agricultural Conservation

In 2025 our Agricultural Technicians (Ag Techs) focused on developing agricultural plans, designing projects, working with landowners, and conducting construction inspections for implemented Best Management Practices (BMPs). These efforts support more sustainable and efficient farm operations while protecting Bucks County's natural resources.

Act 38 Nutrient Management

BCCD administers Pennsylvania's Act 38 Nutrient Management program. Farms with an annualized animal density of 2,000lbs per acre or more are classified as Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) and are required to have an up to date nutrient management plan. Bucks County has 11 CAOs and 1 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO). Our Ag Techs reviewed 3 nutrient management plans in preparation for the 2026 crop year, when updated plans take effect.

Outreach/Education

BCCD's Ag Techs participated in trainings throughout the year to strengthen their skills and expand professional networks.

Photographed to the right: Carly Seldow representing BCCD at PECO's Earth Day Event.

Carly and Ryan attended Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)-sponsored sessions focused on BMPs and conservation planning. They also attended the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) Convention in Harrisburg, where they engaged with topics such as emerging technologies, livestock management, grant coordination, and program updates.

Carly co-presented to the Bucks Farm & Garden Club on BCCD's role in protecting water quality and addressing nonpoint source pollution. She also participated in PECO's Earth Day event and organized BCCD's second annual Seed Swap, encouraging residents to adopt practices that help manage stormwater on their properties.



Ryan conducted several outreach efforts, including speaking to a Delaware Valley University class about an upcoming ACAP/EQIP project located on the campus. He also presented at an NRCS engineering technician workshop and worked with farmers in Montgomery County to share information on agricultural regulations and available cost-share programs.

Grants

Our Agricultural Department was granted Section 319 funding through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) in 2022, to implement best management practices that reduce sediment and nutrient runoff on a dairy farm. This project remains underway and is expected to conclude in 2026.

Pictured below: a concrete Heavy Use Area for dairy cattle and roofed waste storage facility.



BCCD continues to maintain its partnership with NRCS, helping farmers access technical and financial assistance to plan, design, and implement BMPs. Currently, Ryan is supporting 21 farms with a range of practices, from structural improvements like grassed waterways and manure storage to non-structural approaches such as no-till, cover crops, prescribed grazing, and nutrient management.

BCCD works to connect farmers with other funding opportunities, including the Pennsylvania (PA REAP) tax credit program. This year, five REAP contracts were completed. Through the Ag Plan Reimbursement Program, which covers 80% of plan development costs, eight farms received funding and three additional applications are in progress. BCCD also assisted farmers in securing low-interest loans through the Agri-Link program.

For the third consecutive year, BCCD administered the ACAP. In 2025, eight projects were completed, distributing over \$1.2 million to farmers. To date, the program has awarded nearly \$3.5 million locally, supporting 12 completed projects with six more underway.

Watershed Programs

2025 marked several successes.

Six municipalities in the Neshaminy Watershed agreed to formalize a collaboration with the Neshaminy Watershed Association and the District to advance stormwater education, outreach, and public engagement surrounding MS3 stormwater programs. The partnership will provide a single point of facilitated collaboration to provide tools, resources, and grant support to municipalities. This marks the first stormwater collaborative in Bucks County.

With leadership from the District, the Tohickon Watershed Association was born at the end of 2025. In a short six months, the group evolved from 30 interested residents at an informal community meeting to a registered 501 (c) 3 non-profit with a 120-person mailing list. The group has big plans for public outreach and on the ground projects in the watershed that is the second largest watershed, and totally confined to Bucks County.



Pictured above: Logan Freed and Kathleen Davis holding trees to be planted on a conservation easement.



Pictured above: a Tohickon Watershed Association Volunteer sampling and observing Cray Fish along the Tohickon Creek.

The Watersheds Team, supported by dedicated volunteers, continued water quality monitoring throughout 2025. In addition to three continuous in-stream monitoring locations, the team collected phycocyanin data from county lakes to contribute to a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant-funded regional study, Monitoring Harmful Algal Blooms in the Delaware River Watershed (NJ, PA).

Green and Growing: Community Conservation in Bucks County builds capacity and connection around green initiatives at the municipal level.



Pictured above: Karen Ogden sampling a local pond for Harmful Algal Blooms.

The program brings together nonprofit organizations, municipal Environmental Advisory Councils, Penn State Master Watershed Stewards (MWSS), and local conservation champions to network and share ideas.

A model project from 2025, a tree planting on private property under a township held conservation easement, demonstrated how these partners can collaborate effectively. Nearly two acres were planted by (MWSS) and community volunteers, with grant funding facilitated by the District through the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society / Aqua America's Trees for Watersheds program.



Pictured above: local superheroes in action—our conservation community volunteers—planting native trees on a conservation easement

Education & Outreach

Throughout 2025, BCCD participated in multiple workshops and tabling events to educate the public and professionals about BCCD's role in Bucks County watersheds, stormwater management, and more.



Pictured above: BCCD staff demonstrating the stream table at Warrington Day

In February of 2025, BCCD hosted our annual seed swap. Carly Seldow lead this seed swap and shared her knowledge on gardening with both native and fruit/vegetable plants. With a goal of doing this annually, we hope to engage with the local community.

Working alongside Penn State MWSS, BCCD received and distributed about 500 trees in Fall 2025, marking the final season of the program.



Pictured above: BCCD staff working alongside Penn State MWSS to receive and

Volunteers planted these trees in municipal open space, county, parks, and backyard riparian buffers. The conservation community is grateful for the support of Keystone Ten Million Trees partnership, a program of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Envirothon

The 2025 Envirothon competition was held April 24th at Delaware Valley University. This venue provides the students hands-on, in-field examples of each station; forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife, soils and land use, and current issues.



Photographed above: is a group of students at the soils station for the local Envirothon Competition.

The current issue for the 2025 Envirothon was “Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change”, focusing on the forest ecosystems and their impacts, as well as developing strategies for more sustainable forest management.

Congratulations to Quakertown Community High, who won our local county Envirothon!

Thank you to all teams who put in the hard work to join us each year at our local Envirothon.

Thanks to PA Envirothon for their effort in putting together the Envirothon event. BCCD thanks all our volunteers, agency partners, and partners at Delaware Valley University for their participation in an event focusing on environmental science topics.



Photographed above: is the winning team, Quakertown Community High,

Social Media Content

Total Views:
80,923

Content Interactions:
1,545

Traffic to Page:
3,312

Follows:
163

Overview

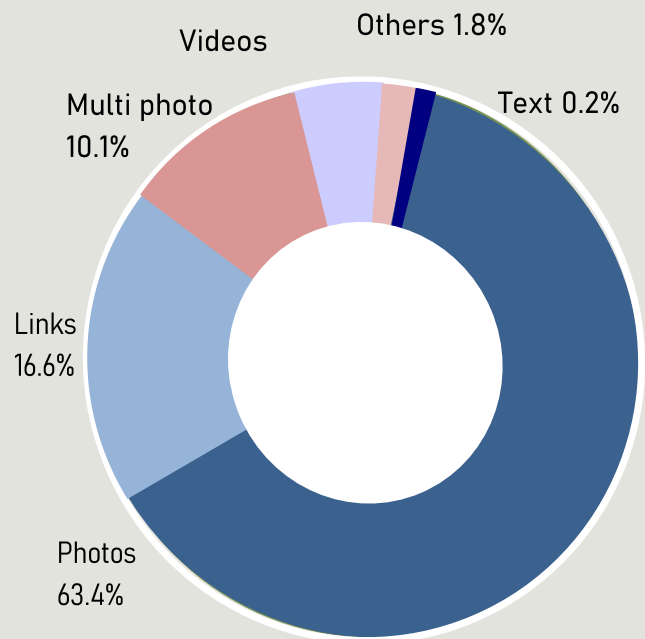
To keep the Bucks County community informed with up-to-date environmental information, the BCCD maintains an active presence on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. A few BCCD staff members manage social media tasks, creating content that includes local environmental events, volunteer opportunities, educational materials, and more.

Key Highlights

This page's infographics show the combined reach, engagement, and demographics of our Instagram and Facebook pages. Compared to last year:

- Total reach, engagement, and page traffic increased from 2024.
- BCCD has continued to share content on our Youtube.
- Our top post was "Baby it's Cold Outside" focusing on providing habitat to wildlife following the holiday season.

Post Interactions by Media Type:



Challenges

One of our main challenges continues to be creating and scheduling social media content. Producing regular content in advance would help us stay organized and ensure consistent posting. To enhance community education and outreach, we aim to build a strong and engaging social media presence.

Gift your post-season Christmas tree to birds and wildlife. Give your sparse, winter yard some interest - a place for birds to shelter from the cold. Read more - link in comments.







OUR MISSION

To Provide for the Wise Use, Management,
and Development of the County's Natural
Resources

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