Unpaved Road Assessments

Assessment History: Since it began in 1997, the DGLVR program has used a field-assessment process to evaluate unpaved roads and determine where runoff pollution is impacting nearby streams. Trout Unlimited volunteers identified 900 pollution sites that helped to establish the program in the mid 1990’s. Since then, conservation districts have completed two assessments, in 2000 and 2008, and have identified over 6,000 miles of pollution sites on Pennsylvania’s 17,000 miles of public unpaved road.

2018-19 Assessment: Recognizing that the unpaved road assessment was incomplete in many counties, conservation districts requested additional training and the ability to edit and add to the assessment in their county. Center and program staff held three assessment trainings for conservation districts in 2018, and more are planned for 2019. The additional pollution sites identified during this assessment will factor into conservation district allocations, and will add to the list of sites for future potential projects.

Quarterly Reporting

The program implemented significant improvements in the project and financial reporting system used by conservation districts in 2018. First, the program moved from annual to quarterly reporting beginning with the July to September 2018 quarter. Second, the level of data reported in the system was improved to allow real-time tracking of all program financial information for each conservation district by both the district and SCC staff. The system has received overwhelmingly positive reviews from conservation district staff and has greatly increased the financial tracking capabilities within the program.

Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QAQC)

The Quality Assurance / Quality Control (QAQC) effort is conducted jointly by program and center staff. The QAQC team visits individual county conservation districts to ensure the program is being administered properly at the local level. The QAQC team spends significant time in the field visiting and evaluating recently completed projects. It also provides an educational and idea-sharing opportunity between the program, center, and districts. The QAQC effort visits an average of 25 counties per year so that each district is visited on a three-year cycle.

Education: ESM Boot Camps

In addition to the regular trainings, webinars, and on-site technical assistance for program participants, the program held two new “Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance Boot Camps” for the first time in 2018. The boot camps were geared towards new conservation district staff running the DGLVR Program. Approximately 75% of the training was spent on field trips that included topics such as:

- Active Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) placement.
- Active crosspipe installation including inlet / outlet protection and installation of a gradebreak.
- Comprehensive site diagnostic including group work and development of project work plans.
- Visit to several potential stream crossing replacements.
- Other topics such as: basics of surveying, estimating material quantities, construction and equipment basics, township structure, project administration, and more.

Map showing unpaved roads in red, overlaid with identified pollution sites in yellow.
Dirt and Gravel Contracts completed in 2018

168 Paved LVR Contracts completed in 2018

262 Dirt and Gravel Contracts completed one or more contracts since 1997

DGLVR Program 2019 Status Map

Example Projects: the projects in this report represent a small fraction of the 430 projects completed in 2018. They were chosen to show the wide variety of project types that are funded through the program. More information is available at [www.dirtandgravelroads.org](http://www.dirtandgravelroads.org), or by contacting the PA State Conservation Commission, or your local conservation district.

- **Project Details:** Unpaved, Wisconsin County, Town of Schofield, Winkler Road, $17,000 grant, $5,000 in-kind
  - The existing shoulder area on the road was too narrow and unsafe for vehicles. The project widened the shoulder area to provide a safer driving environment. 
  - Additional trees and shrubs were planted along the road to improve the visual appeal of the area.

- **Project Details:** Paved LVR, Washington County, S. Union Township, Lewis Road, $62,000 grant, $30,000 in-kind
  - This project involved the improvement of an existing pavement road by adding additional layers of material to increase its durability. 
  - The project included the installation of drainage systems to prevent water accumulation.

- **Project Details:** Unpaved, Indiana County, McGregor Township, Michigam Road, $10,000 grant, $5,000 in-kind
  - The existing road was narrow and difficult to navigate. The project widened the road to improve its usability. 
  - Additional vegetation was planted alongside the road to provide safety and aesthetic benefits.

- **Project Details:** Paved LVR, Allegheny County, S. Fayette Township, Coal Pit Road, $100,000 grant, $50,000 in-kind
  - This section of Coal Pit Road was damaged due to heavy rainfall. The project involved the replacement of deteriorated pavement with new materials. 
  - Additional drainage systems were installed to prevent future water-related issues.

- **Project Details:** Unpaved, Bradford County, Mill Creek Township, East Branch Road, $5,000 grant, $5,000 in-kind
  - The existing road was narrow and difficult to maintain. The project widened the road to improve its usability. 
  - Additional vegetation was planted alongside the road to provide safety and aesthetic benefits.

- **Project Details:** Paved LVR, Dauphin County, Lower West Fork Township, Lower West Fork Road, $50,000 grant, $20,000 in-kind
  - This section of Lower West Fork Road was damaged due to heavy rainfall. The project involved the replacement of deteriorated pavement with new materials. 
  - Additional drainage systems were installed to prevent future water-related issues.