



Conservation Plan Walking Tour at Springton Manor Farm

The Chester County Conservation District, in partnership with the Chester County Parks and Recreation Department, has developed a conservation plan walking tour of Springton Manor Farm. Springton Manor Farm is one of five county parks. As a working farm, it is an example of conservation planning in action. The walking tour consists of both structural and farmer-managed best management practices (BMPs) in crop fields, pastures, and barnyard.

Walking Tour maps are available at the Springton Manor Farm Park office and the barn or see below.

Visit the Chester County Parks and Recreation website at <http://dsf.chesco.org/ccparks/site/default.asp> for hours, directions, and more information about the park.

Agricultural Conservation Map

The conservation plan for Springton Manor Farm was developed in 2000. Among the many environmental services the Chester County Conservation District provides, the agriculture team offers free technical service and conservation planning to farmers in Chester County. Please visit our website at www.chesco/conservation.org to learn more about conservation in Chester County.



Legend

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----|-------------------|
| + | Main Entrance | → | Grassed Waterway |
| ● | Manor House | — | Drainage Pipeline |
| ■ | Barn | ··· | Diversion |
| △ | Pond | --- | Stream |
| | Field Boundaries | | |



Scale
1 inch = 800 feet



[688 Unionville Road Suite 200](http://www.chesco/conservation.org)
[Kennett Square PA 19348](http://www.chesco/conservation.org)
[\(610\) 925-4920 ~ Fax \(610\) 925-4925](http://www.chesco/conservation.org)
[www.chesco.org/conservation](http://www.chesco/conservation.org)

Springton Manor Farm

Agriculture Conservation Walking Tour

Crop- Fields 1, 2 & 3

Conservation Crop Rotation- Less erosive corn and hay are paired with soybeans to reduce erosion. Soybeans are grown to collect nitrogen from the air, making it available to future crops through the soil, lessening the need for chemical fertilizers. Crop rotation is also a form of non-chemical pest control.

Cover Crop – Cover crops maintain a ground cover when fields would otherwise be bare, reducing erosion from raindrops that dislodge soil particles.

Diversions- Part of a diversion and waterway system, these diversions collect sheet flow runoff and carry it across the slope to a grassed waterway.

Grassed Waterway- The grassed waterway collects water from diversions, and then carries the water down slope to a stable outlet.

Nutrient Management – A nutrient management plan is a site specific plan to balance nutrient application with crop uptake in order to avoid overloading the soil with nutrient, specifically nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus, which are a source of stream pollution.

Residue Management- Crop residue, or plants matter from the prior season, is left on the soil surface to lessen impacts of raindrops, help hold soil moisture and increase the level of decaying plants, called organic matter, lessening the need for chemical fertilizers.

No-till – No-till is planting crops directly into crop residue without tillage in order to build soil health and structure, lessen soil and crop residue disturbance and increase the amount of earthworms and other beneficial life in the soil.

Strip-cropping- Strip cropping is growing crops in strips parallel to the slope so that soil particles fall out at the strip edge, before reaching the stream below.

Subsurface Drain- The subsurface drainage system was installed to prevent standing water and saturated soils which can affect the productivity of the soil.

Forest and Wildlife - Field 4 & 5

Forest Stand Improvement- Forest Stand Improvement consists of excluding livestock to avoid tree, plant and soil damage, replanting desired species when trees and plants may be damaged and controlling undesired and invasive species to allow forest regrowth.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement- Wildlife habitat improvement is selecting and planting tree and plant species to attract and provided habitat for wildlife.

Pasture - Field 6

Pasture Management – Pasture management maintains grass height, by controlling the animal's access to pasture, in order to ensure that grasses are able to survive grazing and maintain adequate ground cover to reduce soil erosion and continue to be a reliable food source for animals.

Barnyard - Field 7

Roof Runoff Control – Gutters and downspouts function to control roof water runoff, allowing it to soak into the soil, permitting cooling and pollutant filtering in the process, instead of entering the stream from the soil surface, heating up and collecting more pollutants as it goes.

Diversion – The diversion keeps clean runoff from reaching the barnyard areas where manure is located, keeping the runoff free of excess nutrients.