



Snyder County Conservation District

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Local Dirt & Gravel Road Improved

This year, Washington Township officials were able to improve a section of Shaffer Hill Road through funding from the Dirt & Gravel Roads Program. In the picture below, Jim Kiel, Washington Township Roadmaster, was in the process of constructing a basin to catch excess water and sediments at the bottom of the road. So far, the Snyder County Conservation District has paid Washington Township 70% for their progress on this road project. Best management practices (BMPs) for this project include cross pipes, rock lined outlets, seeding and mulching.



The Dirt & Gravel Roads program helps cost share road improvements by local municipal governments statewide. This program is sponsored through the [Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies](#) (at University Park, PA), the [PA State Conservation Commission](#) (SCC) and local conservation districts.

The Snyder County Conservation District has allocated at least \$291,000 to municipalities since 2000. Municipalities that have received funds include: Chapman Township, Center Township, Washington Township and West Beaver Township. Over four miles of roads have been improved.

While municipalities and drivers appreciate the improved roads, the local water quality is improved by reducing or eliminating road sediment from reaching nearby streams.

In order for a municipal government become eligible (or to remain eligible) for funds under the program, at least one municipal leader (such as a township supervisor) must attend a 2-day "Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) of Dirt and Gravel Roads" course through the Center for Dirt & Gravel Road Studies. This must be done before an application can be accepted by the Conservation District.

As of this time, these Snyder County townships have had at least one representative attend the ESM course: Adams, Beaver, Center, Chapman, Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Spring, Washington and West Beaver.

Contact [Craig Bingman](#), District Manager, for more information about the ESM course, application process, roads that may be eligible or the program in general. His phone number is 570-837-3000, extension 114.

Additional Website Link:

Center for Dirty & Gravel Road Studies: www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu

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