

Local Dirt & Gravel Road Improved

This year, Washington Township officials again were able to improve another section of Shaffer Hill Road through funding from the Dirt & Gravel Roads Program. Best management practices (BMPs) installed on Shaffer Hill Road in 2011 and 2012 include cross pipes, ditch stabilization, rock lined outlets, seeding and mulching and the placement of driving surface aggregate (DSA).



Above: A section of Shaffer Hill Road improved inside Washington Township during 2012.

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 almost \$300,000 for eleven projects 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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