

Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development Area – provides technical and financial assistance for a number of conservation projects, including land drainage, flood prevention, fish and wildlife management, and forest stewardship.

Donohoe Center, Suite C. 724-853-5555, Option #3.

Penn State Cooperative Extension, Westmoreland County – provides resources and informational programming in a number of areas, including: agriculture, horticulture, environmental issues, forest resource management, food safety, family life, nutrition, health, community development, and youth development (4H).

Donohoe Center, Suite E. 724-837-1402. westmoreland.extension.psu.edu.

Rural Development – offers a variety of programs ranging from helping communities create jobs to maintaining infrastructure in rural areas.

GreenForge, Suite 201. 724-853-5555, Option #4.

Smart Growth Partnership – helps communities make good long-term decisions about when, where and how they should grow to help assure a good quality of life for the future.

GreenForge, Suite 105. 724-552-0118. www.smartgrowthpa.org

Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation – works to clean up land and water damaged by past coal-mining practices in 24 counties in western Pennsylvania.

GreenForge, Suite 110. 724-852-3625. www.amrclearinghouse.org.

Westmoreland Cleanways – fights litter and illegal dumping and promotes recycling.

GreenForge, Suite 101. 724-856-4129. www.westmorelandcleanways.org.

Westmoreland Conservation District – works to insure the wise use of natural resources, including soil, forests, streams and waterways, and watersheds.

In the adapted red barn. 724-837-5271. www.wcdpa.com.

Westmoreland County Agricultural Land Preservation Program – provides agricultural conservation easements that permanently protect farmland from development and limit its use to agriculture only.

Donohoe Center, Suite B. 724-837-8971. www.InWestmoreland.com/WCALP.

Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation – maintains nine parks throughout the county and offers a variety of recreation programs for the enjoyment of residents.

194 Donohoe Road. 724-850-3950. www.InWestmoreland.com/CountyParks.

For more information on the Conservation Campus contact Greg Phillips at the Westmoreland Conservation District
724-837-5271
greg@wcdpa.com

CAMPUS FACILITIES

The main campus buildings include the following.



The Westmoreland County Public Works Building (1970) – home to the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation.



Donohoe Center (1994) – a 13,600-square-foot agricultural/conservation service center that's home to two agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture (the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service), Penn State Cooperative Extension, the Westmoreland County Agricultural Land Preservation Program, and Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development Area.



The Westmoreland Conservation District headquarters (1880s and 2001) – a 125-year-old, 7,600-square foot barn adapted with a variety of energy-conservation measures and used as the offices and education center of the Westmoreland Conservation District.



GreenForge (built mid-1980s; refurbished with green materials and practices, 2008) – a previously vacant, 23,000-square-foot commercial building rehabbed with sustainable materials and technologies to provide affordable lease space that will bring more grassroots agencies to campus, and to demonstrate model green building practices.



The campus also features the beautiful, wooded, 65-acre **Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park**, a Westmoreland County public park featuring a stream, pond, and series of walking trails.

Directly across Donohoe Road is the Clairview School and the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit.

Building a CONSERVATION CAMPUS



In the past few years, 10 separate conservation, rural development, and environmental agencies have all located just steps away from each other along the well-traveled and easily accessible Donohoe Road (just one mile from US Route 30 and Westmoreland Mall).

It is an amazing demonstration of partnership and cooperation, built on an innovative way of thinking: that when like-minded organizations have the chance to interact on a daily basis – sharing ideas, resources, and energies – amazing things can happen. Their operations become more effective, new opportunities for collaboration arise, and the community benefits from improved services.

In the case of this campus, each of those has proven to be true. For example:

- Four campus agencies pooled resources and hosted a major, 11-county, regional workshop on no-till farming that drew more than 120 attendees.
- As part of their separate, organizational goals, the Westmoreland Conservation District planned to install a demonstration stormwater cistern, and Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development Area planned



to install a demonstration solar pump. When the two organizations shared information about their plans, they saw that they could combine their efforts in a way that would benefit the work of another campus agency. The two projects, now in place, not only demonstrate these practices, but they also serve a practical function of providing irrigation for Penn State Cooperative Extension's demonstration flower, herb, and vegetable gardens.



CAMPUS PROGRAMS

The agencies on this conservation campus have built a solid reputation for relevant programs and quality service that annually attracts more than 14,000 visitors each year.

People from all walks of life – farmers, gardeners, land-owners, engineers, municipal officials, students, loggers, developers, and conservationists – come to attend workshops, get technical assistance, apply for programs, take a tour,



watch a satellite downlink program, or participate in an event. For instance: the Sustainable Energy Field Day sponsored by the majority of campus organizations attracted some 300 attendees interested in geothermal heating and cooling, solar power, and green roof technology.

Below are just a few of the many program subjects offered by the campus agencies. For more information, contact the individual agencies or visit their websites (see *Campus Agencies* section on next page).

Introduction to Conservation

Pond Management

Forestry

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

4-H

Composting

On-lot sewage systems

Irrigation

Building and Farmstead Planning

Gardening

Water Quality

Wind/Solar Power

CAMPUS FEATURES

The campus has a variety of conservation features, from an arboretum to a windmill, that are open to the public. Outdoor features are available daily from dawn to dusk. Indoor ones are available Monday through Friday during regular business hours. Many have brochures, fact sheets, and/or information for self-guided tours.



Arboretum – featuring 75 species of trees. Located on all sides of Donohoe Center.

Flower, herb, and vegetable gardens – featuring a changing array of plants maintained by the Penn State Master Gardeners.

Located on the west side of Donohoe Center. Plant information is available in the special 'mailboxes' in the garden.



Stormwater trail – 12 stations explaining the hydrologic cycle and ways each of us can manage stormwater in beneficial ways, from creating rain gardens to reducing the burden on storm sewer systems.

Located on all sides of the Westmoreland Conservation District headquarters and in Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park. Information is available at each station.

Discovery trail – a 16-station interpretive trail through Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park, explaining

various natural features and habitats.

Information is available in the special 'mailbox' on the bulletin board between Donohoe Center and the Westmoreland County Public Works Building. This also is the entrance to the park.

Soils exhibit – five vertical slices of earth, taken from different locations in Westmoreland County, allow visitors to get an eye-level view of the world that's usually hidden under their feet, and discover why not all "dirt" is the same.

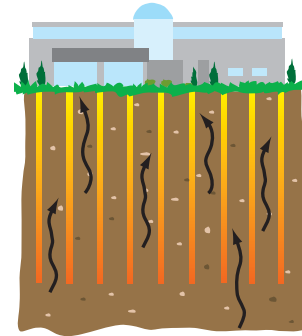
Located inside the Westmoreland Conservation District headquarters.



Alternative energy technologies – incorporated in campus buildings to reduce the use of non-renewable electric and natural gas energy and to serve as demonstrations of how alternative technologies can be employed in homes or businesses to save energy and money, create a healthier environment, and make the living or work environment a more pleasing place to be.

These include:

- a geothermal system to draw on the earth's natural thermal qualities to heat and cool (located in both the Westmoreland Conservation District headquarters and in GreenForge);
- a 3,600-watt solar array installed in the summer of 2007 that is expected to produce an average of about 7,000 watts of power a day, which is approximately equal to the daily electrical needs of an average family, living in an energy efficient home, and using natural gas for cooking and heating (located on the roof of GreenForge);



- a 9,000-square-foot flat roof planted with live plants as a natural way to moderate building temperature, reduce stormwater runoff, enhance air quality, insulate sound, and improve aesthetics (located on GreenForge);

- a solar pump distribution system to move water from a 3,000-gallon cistern to the demonstration gardens (located behind the Westmoreland Conservation District headquarters);

- a wind turbine that provides an average of 6.5 kilowatt-hours of power generation each day, and annually prevents emissions of 5,283 pounds of carbon dioxide, 15 pounds of nitrous oxide, and 9 pounds of sulfur dioxide (located behind Donohoe Center);

- an accompanying 2,100-watt solar array that provides



additional power generation. Production averages 6.5 kilowatt-hours each day, and annually prevents emissions of 5,283 pounds of carbon dioxide, 15 pounds of nitrous oxide, and 9 pounds of sulfur dioxide (located behind Donohoe Center, adjacent to the wind turbine).

- **Sustainable building materials and practices** – incorporated into campus buildings to create structures that use resources more efficiently, minimize the overall impact on the environment, and are healthier for people to live and work in.

These include:

- water-saving toilets that reduce the amount of potable water drawn from the municipal system and save twice: once in the cost of water, and once in the cost of sewage (located in the Westmoreland Conservation District headquarters);
- densely packed cellulose fiber insulation made of recycled newspapers that, inch for inch, provides a better R factor than fiberglass (located in GreenForge);
- a rain garden that collects roof runoff and recirculates the water in a series of waterfalls (located at the Westmoreland Conservation District headquarters);



- a number of special parking lots, made with crushed stone, pavers, and porous concrete, that allow snow and rain to slowly infiltrate into the ground, recharging the groundwater and lessening the burden on the storm sewer system (located between the Westmoreland County Public Works building and Donohoe Center; in front of and behind the Westmoreland Conservation District headquarters; and around GreenForge).

CAMPUS AGENCIES

The agencies that make their homes on this campus follow.

Farm Service Agency – provides financial assistance for commodity and conservation programs, as well as operating and ownership loans, to farmers.

Donohoe Center, Suite F. 724-853-5555, Option #2.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – assists in reducing erosion, improving soil and water quality, improving and conserving wetlands, enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, improving air quality, improving pasture conditions, reducing flooding, and improving woodland.

Donohoe Center, Suite C. 724-853-5555, Option #3.