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For Immediate Release:

## **Volunteer Tree Planting Day tomorrow at Grings Mill Recreation Area**

Reading, PA — **On Saturday, October 9th at 9AM**, the Berks Conservancy will be planting trees with volunteers along the Tulpehocken Creek at the Berks Leisure Area of Grings Mill Recreation Area to improve the water quality.

Findings in the release of the 2009 State of the Environment in Berks report include data related to water issues in our community. The report states that 26.4% (361 miles) of Berks County streams are impaired. The Tulpehocken Creek (“Tully”) ranks as the poorest quality watershed (out of six Berks watersheds studied) according to Stroud Water Research Center’s benthic macroinvertebrate sampling data (2009). The Macroinvertebrate Aggregated Index value for the Tully is 5 (Poor) while the other five watersheds in Berks are valued 10 (Fair) and above.



As a result of this data, we aim to advance partnerships to improve impaired watersheds – in this case, the Tully. This particular project is aimed to improve the water quality and aquatic habitat of the Tully (below Blue Marsh Dam) by establishing a healthy 20 foot wide riparian buffer, where none currently exists. This section of the Tully sustains an exceptional trout population and is known regionally for its fishing opportunities – a \$40 million annual business in Berks. Improving the stream quality will further enhance this habitat, and recreational opportunity.

**About the Tree Planting**

Saturday, October 9, 2010 from 9am-12pm

Berks County Leisure Area, Grings Mill Rec Center

Come help plant trees with the Berks Conservancy. We provide all of the training, we just need your helping hands. Volunteers can make a huge difference by helping to plant the trees. People will benefit from the trees for years to come.

**About State of the Environment in Berks**

The State of the Environment in Berks program and publication contains concrete, measurable data of 25 indicators with local examples that will inspire members of this community to make lifestyle choices that will improve our impact on the environment. It contains measurable and actionable steps that the community can make to improve the quality of our everyday lives. Learn more at [www.greenberks.com](http://www.greenberks.com).

**Visit the Berks County Conservancy’s website at [www.berks-conservancy.org](http://www.berks-conservancy.org) to learn about other conservation projects in your community. *We’re Saving a Place for You...***