

On April 9, 2019, students from the Penn State University School of Agricultural and Biological Engineering presented their Chimney Rocks Trail Stabilization Project for Chimney Rocks Park, accompanied by Thomas Shaffer, PSU Coordinator of Academic Internships and Community-Based Studies.

Annaliese Long, Molly Laurie and Nelson Zhukas created a storm water mitigation project for Chimney Rocks Park after seeing how badly the trails at the park were eroding due to storm water. The runoff has created gullies and has made the trails dangerous and hard to pass through, especially after rainfall, which makes steeper portions of the trail slippery.

The students began their presentation by displaying site photos that outlined the erosion issue and the need to create a design that would maintain the natural look while keeping the solution at a minimal cost. The students noted that they took customer needs into consideration, such as: environmental impact, cost, regulations, labor implementation, safety, sustainability/durability, keeping it natural and alignment with ethics and values.

Using Storm Water Management software as well as other programs, the students were able to make visual concept solutions for the stabilization project. The proposed erosion control structures included broad-based dip and modified water bars.

Along with the stabilization project, Long, Luarie and Zhukas have also written an article that will be published in the July/August 2019 issue of the IECA Environmental Connection Journal. The Sustainable Communities Collaborative Closing Event for the semester took place on April 25, 2019 at which time they finalized the report and solutions for this project.

For more information, call the Blair Township Office at 814-696-4363.