



Inspiring Personal Responsibility for our Environment and Natural Resources

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Annual Report **July 1, 2021—June 30, 2022**



VCAP Rain Garden

Our mission:

To provide leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related resources to all Prince William County citizens, through technical assistance, information, and education.



The Commonwealth of Virginia supports Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).



The District receives funding via a Memorandum of Agreement with Prince William County to provide technical assistance, as well as compliance programs that solve and prevent natural resource problems for landowners, and encourage good stewardship of the environment.

Directors and Staff

Board of Directors



Jim Gehlsen
Chairman



Will Lintner
Vice Chairman



Thomas Bolles
Director



**Mansimron
Kahlon**
Treasurer



Tiziana Bottino
Secretary

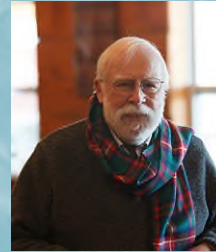
Associate Directors



Steve Danziger



Clay Morris



Harry Glasgow



Sonnie Cuffey

Staff



***Jay Yankey**
District Manager/
Conservation
Consultant



***Duane Mohr**
Conservation
Technician/
District Manager



Linda Dunn
Office Manager



Veronica Tangiri
Water Quality
Program Manager



Jessica McCauley
Education
Specialist



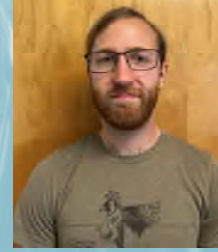
***Mike Miller**
Conservation
Specialist



Nicole Slazinski
Conservation
Specialist



***James Mitchell**
Conservation
Specialist



***Seth Hatfield**
Conservation
Specialist



***Alex Murphy**
Conservation
Specialist

**Jay became a Conservation Consultant and Duane became District Manager in May 2022. Mike left the District in April 2022. James joined the District in February 2022. Seth joined the District in March 2022. Alex joined the District in April 2022.*

About our County

About our county



According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 2017 Census of Agriculture for Prince William County (latest census available), there are 22,874 acres of farmland in the county, approximately 10% of the total acres. This represents a 36% decrease in farmland over the 2012 census. The average size of farms is 75 acres. The market value of products sold is \$11,612,000. Farmland in Prince William County is mainly located in three magisterial districts: Brentsville, Gainesville, and Coles.

What is the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District?

The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District (PWSWCD) encompasses all of Prince William County. Our mission is to provide leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related resources to all Prince William County citizens through technical assistance, information, and education. The District accomplishes this mission by administering the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice Cost-Share Program in the county and developing and administering educational programs to youth and adults. The District plays a role in the larger objective of improving water quality not only in local watersheds, but also in the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay Watersheds..

PWSWCD provides the following services to the residents of Prince William County:

- Agriculture—Conservation Plans, Virginia Agriculture Cost-Share program
- Youth Education—Conservation Capsules (classroom education), Farm Field Days, Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE), Arbor Day
- Water Quality—Adopt-a-Stream/Pond, Water Quality Monitoring, Chemical Monitoring, Floatables Monitoring, Plastic Pollution
- Home Owners—Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP), Gardeners Gold.

Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts



Virginia's diverse terrain is covered by 47 soil and water conservation districts. Each district provide a variety of services, uniquely dependent to their locations and their goals and objectives. "The mission of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and its Foundation is to provide and promote leadership in the conservation of natural resources through stewardship and education programs. "

National Association of Conservation Districts

Across the United States that are 3,000 conservation districts who are helping local people to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife, and other related natural resources.. More than 17,000 volunteers serve in elected or appointed positions on conservation districts' governing boards. They work directly with more than 2.3 million cooperating land managers nationwide, and their efforts touch more than 778 million acres of private land.



National Association of
Conservation Districts

Prince William County Deliverables

The District wrote 64 conservation plans for over 1,272 acres that reduced the following nutrients from entering our waterways:

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Sediment
2,835.8 pounds	283.5 pounds	17.8 tons

These numbers represent 208 head of livestock eliminating approximately 1,827.7 tons of manure per year.

DCR Cost-Share Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The District completed 7 cost-share practices for over 474.0 acres that reduced the following nutrients from entering our waterways:

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Sediment
2,790.6 pounds	70.9 pounds	67.1 tons

We partner with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) under grant agreements to provide technical assistance in designing and installing Best Management Practices (BMPs) for natural resources conservation. Under these agreements for the Nonpoint Source Pollution Cost-Share Program we gave technical assistance to 159 citizens for the following: agricultural production, BMPs, drainage/ stormwater management, urban erosion, agricultural erosion, land disturbance, partner agency assistance, pond management, trees, native plants, water quality, weeds, and wildlife management.



Prince William Clean Water Farm Award Over Across Farm



Farm Name: Over Across Farm

Location: Brentsville, VA 20112

Watershed: PL34: Broad Run – Rocky Branch

Farm acreages: 21.6 acres of pasture and 4.5 acres of woodland.

Conservation: Over Across Farm implements the following Best Management Practices (BMPs). All practices are used to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff, improve soil and pasture quality for his ~15 beef cows, and increase water infiltration:

- All streams are protected with livestock exclusion fencing. The vegetated buffer between the pasture fields and Broad Run is about 5.7 acres, of which 1.2 acres are herbaceous (21%) and 4.5 acres are forested (79%). The buffer is 80+’ wide and protects 3,647’ of streambank.
- The certified nutrient management plan covers their 21.6 acres of pastureland



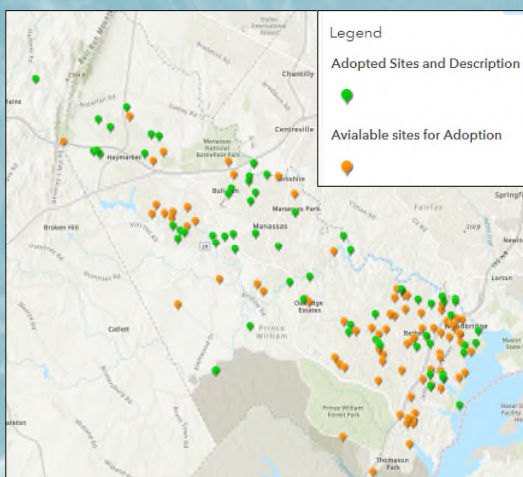
We continued to see a growing interest among residents in PY22 to learn more about water quality and to promote clean streams within PWSWCD. This shows the important role water plays in our communities, in relation to human health and vitality.

Adopt-A-Stream/Pond

Here are this year's highlights from our Adopt-a-Stream/Pond Program:

- 52 cleanup events took place in PY22 (October 2021 to June 2022 due to recovery from COVID)
- 27,192.25 pounds of trash were removed from 90.9 miles of streams
- 1,636 volunteers put in over 4,141.75 hours of time to support the cause of clean streams and improved water quality

Current and available clean-up sites can now be viewed online at <https://arcg.is/1n0rnC1>.



Stormwater Management Pond clean up May 2022

Water Quality Monitoring

PWSWCD continued to develop partnerships to help with water quality outreach. Data collected from our monitoring and outreach is shared with Prince William County (PWC) Environmental Services and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Here are this year's highlights from our Water Quality Monitoring program:

- The number of active monitoring sites increased to 147; these sites include chemical monitoring, benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring, and E.coli monitoring
- 2 Volunteers were certified for Biological Monitoring
- 5 Volunteers were trained for Chemical Monitoring



Water Quality Monitoring at Russia Branch in the City of Manassas Park

Conservation Capsules-to-go

- 34 teachers reserved 13 capsules for in-classroom and virtual presentations reaching approximately 596 students
- Popular capsules this year include the Watershed Enviroscape Model and Plants of the Powhatan

Farm Field Days

- Due to COVID-19, Farm Field Days was canceled in PY2022, but will be held again next year in October PY2023

Trick-or-Tree

- Held at Silver Lake Regional Park in Haymarket, VA
- 17 adults and 18 children attended along with 10 volunteers. Kids did scavenger hunts, leaf experiments, and played games learning about trees.

Arbor Day

- Neabsco Elementary planted a Flowering Dogwood tree at their school
- Mountain View Elementary planted a Sweetbay Magnolia tree planted at their school
- T. Clay Woods Elementary planted Blueberry and Serviceberry at their school



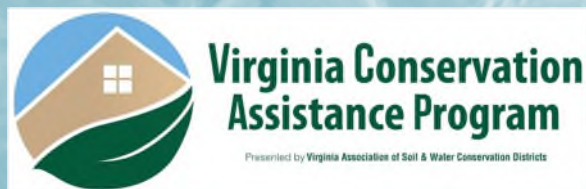
Trick or tree event October 2021



T Clay Woods Elementary Arbor Day



Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)



The **Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)** is an urban cost-share program that provides financial incentives and technical and educational assistance to property owners installing eligible Best Management Practices (BMP's) in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

These practices can be installed in areas where problems like erosion, poor drainage, or poor vegetation occur. Qualified sites can be used for residential, commercial, or recreational purposes .

The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District (PWSWCD) completed two urban VCAP projects in PY22.

Mr. Caleb Stoltz installed 1 rain garden (140 ft²) and 1 conservation landscaping practice (2,025.0 ft²) on his property through VCAP. These practices totaled to 2,165 ft² of native plants.



Before



After

Volunteers and Partners

Award Ceremony

Due to COVID, PWSWCD had been unable to recognize our amazing volunteers until this year. On May 11, 2022, PWSWCD had an award ceremony as a way to thank our volunteers over the past couple of years who have dedicated their time and energy to help keep Prince William County beautiful.

Winners included:

- Adopt-a-Stream Volunteer of the Year 2021: Prince William Trails and Stream Coalition
- Water Quality Special Team Award 2021: Tom Ligon and Shea Megale
- Thank you for all of the MWEEs! Award 2021: Pam Popovich
- Volunteer and Intern of the Year Award 2021: Jahara Lewis
- Staff Volunteer Recognition Award 2021: Dale Alling
- Water Quality Volunteer Special Award 2021: Janice Cook
- Outstanding Scout Group of the Year 2021: Scout Troop 964
- Outstanding Partner Organization 2019: Virginia Master Naturalists—Merrimac Farm Chapter
- Outstanding Partner Organization 2020: Belmont Bay Paddlers
- Outstanding Partner Organization 2021: Friends of the Occoquan
- Clean Water Farm Award 2019: Duane Mohr
- Clean Water Farm Award 2020: Mike Rolband
- Clean Water Farm Award 2021: Mike Edwards
- Ducks Unlimited Conservationist of the Year 2019: Nancy Vehrs & Harry Glasgow
- Ducks Unlimited Conservationist of the Year 2021: Scott C. Plein



Award Winners group photo

Other Events

The District also assisted with other events such as:

- Native Plant Symposium on Feb. 12, 2022 (virtual)
- Vet's Park Plants !
- Native tree planting at Leesylvania state Park



Native Tree Planting at Veterans Park



Native tree planting at Leesylvania State Park in May 2022

State and National Earth Team Award

The Earth Team Award is presented by NRCS/USDA and goes out to organizations and individuals whose time and passion in protecting our soil, water, and wildlife in their communities goes above and beyond.

Not only did the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District's Water Quality Team win the state Earth Team Award, but the national award as well!

Presenting the State, Southeastern Region, and National Earth Team Award to the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District and Board of Directors, Dr. Edwin Martinez-Martinez of the Natural Resources and Conservation Service Agency (USDA) who came all the way to Prince William County noted:

"You are a true friend of the Earth Team, demonstrating leadership and dedication in science education and community engagement via the water quality monitoring program."

Dr. Martinez-Martinez, NRCS Virginia State Conservationist, thanked the entire Prince William SWCD team and all its volunteers for providing such an outstanding example for others to follow!

Veronica Tangiri, the coordinator/Manager of the Water Quality program, received the award on behalf of the Prince William Water Quality Team.



From left to right:
Barbara Bowen—NRCS , Veronica Tangiri—PWSWCD, Brian
Wooden—NRCS , Dr. Edwin Martinez-Martinez - NRCS



Earth Team volunteers Shea Megale and Tom Ligon doing
chemical monitoring



Earth Team volunteers cleaning up stream behind Costco in November 2021



Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation (PWEEF)



"Dedicated to Helping Provide Environmental, Agricultural, and Natural Resources Conservation Education Beyond the Walls of the Classroom."

PWEE Foundation Board of Directors

Jim Gehlsen, Chairman, Treasurer

Will Lintner, Vice Chair

Linda Dunn, Secretary

Harry Glasgow, Director

Paige Thacker, Director

Pam Popovich, Director

Kathy Coughlin, Director

The Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation is a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit affiliated with the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District. The foundation raises money to support PWSWCD educational and outreach activities. In FY22 the foundation provided funding to support the Prince William SWCD youth environmental education programs and the Annual Prince William Native Plant Symposium

Meaningful Watershed Environmental Experience (MWEE)

In the Spring of 2022, the Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District (PWSWCD) hosted two successful MWEE (Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience) events for 3rd graders in Prince William County. Topics included pollinators, stream buffers, soils, and aquatics.

- Dean Kilby Elementary School taught had 105 3rd grade students who worked together to plant 5 trees: Smooth Sumac, Staghorn Sumac, Winged Sumac, and Blackhaw trees.
- Marumsco Hills Elementary School had 98 3rd grade students who worked together to plant 5 native trees: Willow Oak, Persimmon, and Black Gum.

Volunteers represented organizations from: Virginia Department of Forestry, Prince William County Forest Pest Management, Prince William Master Gardeners, Merrimac Farm Master Naturalists, and Fairfax County Department and Public Works and Environmental Services. This event was funded with grant money from the VDOF's Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant which PWSWCD was awarded in September 2021 as well as through PWEEF.



MWEE at Marumsco Hills Elementary



Students at Kilby Elementary looking at soil and rocks