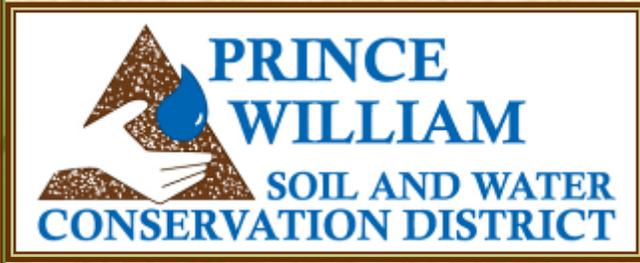


*Inspiring personal responsibility for our environment and natural resources*



8850 Rixlew Lane  
Manassas, VA 20109-3733  
571.379.7514  
[www.pswxcd.org](http://www.pswxcd.org)

Annual Report  
July 1, 2017—June 30, 2018



**Cattle in a field in Nokesville that is part of a rotational grazing system created by a recently installed stream exclusion cost share practice.**

**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.



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.

### Board of Directors



**John Price**  
Chairman



**Jim Gehlsen**  
Vice Chairman



**Paige Thacker**  
Secretary



**Elizabeth Ward**  
Treasurer



**Stephanie Cornell**  
Director

### Associate Directors



**Steve Danziger**



**Deb Oliver**



**Harry Glasgow**

### Staff



**Jay  
Yankey**



**Veronica  
Tangiri**



**Alice  
Markiewicz**



**Nicole  
Slazinski**



**Linda  
Dunn**



**Mike  
Miller**

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

*- Margaret Mead*

## About our county



According to the USDA 2007 Census of Agriculture for Prince William County (latest census available), there are 32,816 acres of farmland in the county, approximately 15% of the total acres. This represents a 1% increase in farmland over the 2002 census. The average size of farms is 95 acres. The market value of products sold is \$9,429,000. Farmland is mainly located in three districts; Brentsville, Gainesville and Coles.

## What is the Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District?

The Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District 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.

**Nationally**—Across the United States, nearly 3,000 conservation districts - almost one in every county—are helping local people to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and 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.

Among other things, conservation districts help:

- implement farm, ranch and forestland conservation practices to protect soil productivity, water quality and quantity, air quality and wildlife habitat;
- conserve and restore wetlands, which purify water and provide habitat for birds, fish and numerous other animals;
- protect groundwater resources;
- assist communities and homeowners to plant trees and other land cover to hold soil in place, clean the air, provide cover for wildlife and beautify neighborhoods;
- help developers control soil erosion and protect water and air quality during construction; and
- reach out to communities and schools to teach the value of natural resources and encourage conservation efforts.

*"Good farmers, who take seriously their duties as stewards of Creation and of their land's inheritors, contribute to the welfare of society in more ways than society usually acknowledges, or even knows. These farmers produce valuable goods, of course; but they also conserve soil, they conserve water, they conserve wildlife, they conserve open space, they conserve scenery."*

—Wendell Berry

## Awards

*Clean Water Farm Award &  
Potomac Grand Basin Award*



*Greenville Farm*

*The Latham Family*



Alternative Watering System



Vegetated buffer

**Farm Name:** Greenville Farm & Family Campground, Inc.

**Location:** 14004 Shelter Lane, Haymarket, VA 20169

**Watershed:** PL-42 Upper Bull Run

**Farm acreage:** 270 acres of cropland, 90 acres of hayland, and 124 acres of pasture.

**District:** Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District (PWSWCD)

Greenville Farm & Family Campground, Inc. is a beef cattle farm located in Haymarket, VA. It is owned and operated by members of the Latham family. Thomas Latham is the primary individual responsible for day to day operations of the farming operation. Mr. Latham is the fifth generation in his family to run this operation, since the farm was founded in 1828. Greenville Farm currently maintains a herd of approximately 150 beef cattle. In addition to the cattle, approximately 270 acres of field crops and 90 acres of hay are raised to support the cattle and for cash sale. In 1967 the Family Campground was added to the operation, which currently consists of 43 wooded acres developed for all types of camping from tents to RV's.

### Conservation

Greenville Farm implements the following Best Management Practices (BMPs). All practices are used to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff, improve soil and pasture quality, and increase water infiltration.

- Stream Bank Exclusion Fencing
- Alternative Watering System
- No-Till Planting
- Cover Crops on Cropland
- Grassed Waterways
- Nutrient Management Planning and Split Applications
- Manure Storage





## How we served our agricultural community

### Prince William County deliverables:

Nutrient Reductions for writing 71 conservation plans:

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Acres
4,596 pounds	424 pounds	1843

**DCR Cost-Share Best Management Practices (BMPs)** in production, providing nutrient and sediment reductions:

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Acres	Sediment Reduction
3614 pounds	233 pounds	1767	118 tons

These numbers represent 513 head of livestock and poultry eliminating approximately 20,164 pounds of manure per year.

We partner with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation under grant agreements to provide technical assistance in designing and installing Best Management Practices for natural resources conservation. Under these agreements for the Nonpoint Source Pollution Cost-Share Program we gave technical assistance 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.

### Water Awareness Milestone; Clean Streams and Water Quality Update

We continued to see a growing interest among residents, in 2018 to learn more about water quality and to promote clean streams with the District. This shows the important role water plays in our communities, in relation to human health and vitality.

At the end of June 2018, 1657 volunteers put in over 5800 hours under the District to support the course of clean streams and improved water quality. Compare this to 2017, where there were 621 volunteers who put in 2350 hours. The number of active monitoring sites increased from 12 sites in 2017 to 15 sites in 2018. 50 cleanup events took place under the Adopt-A-Stream program in 2018.

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

Water is the earth's lifeline and therefore the need to protect and conserve this natural resource for the coming generations is vitally important. Residents are already making a difference in the community, but we can always use more help to further our goals. Join the Soil and Water Conservation District for more water quality awareness in Prince William County. You can contact the district at (571) 379-7514 or Veronica Tangiri at

*"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people."*

*-Franklin Delano Roosevelt*



# Virginia Conservation Assistance Program

Presented by Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts



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 of your yard where problems like erosion, poor drainage, or poor vegetation occur. Qualified sites shall be used for residential, commercial, or recreational purposes with a proposed practice that addresses a need.

The Prince William SWCD completed two urban BMP projects, using the VCAP, in FY18. One project was a rain garden for an individual homeowner in Manassas and the other was a conservation landscaping project for and HOA in Occoquan. District staff assisted several other landowners in 2018 with VCAP projects that are still awaiting funding.



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

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 2018 the foundation raised over \$20,000 by holding their second annual Farm to Table Fundraiser Dinner and securing a Dominion Energy Grant, and a Fairfax Water Grant.

## PWEE Foundation

### Board of Directors

Mike Miller, Chairman  
 Jim Gehlsen, Vice Chair  
 Elizabeth Ward, Treasurer  
 Jeannie Heflin, Secretary  
 Harry Glasgow, Director  
 Paige Thacker, Director  
 Pam Popovich, Director  
 Kathy Coughlin, Director

## Volunteers and Partners

In FY18 the PWSWCD has worked with numerous partners, including DCR, NRCS, Prince William County, the City of Manassas, and Town of Dumfries governments, the Prince William Conservation Alliance, VCE Master Gardeners, VCE Staff, VDOF, local watershed and civic groups, the Merrimac Master Naturalists, Prince William/ Fairfax Farm Bureau, public and private local schools, Windy Knoll Farm, Prince William Veterans Farm Club, Nokesville FFA chapter, Stonewall Jackson HS Ecology Club, PWC 4-H, VDGIF, adjoining SWCDs, scout groups, The American Nepal Society, Friends of the Square, Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition, Keep Prince William Beautiful, Fairfax Water, The Prince William County Service Authority, and the Prince William Agricultural and Forestry Advisory Committee to implement and deliver our diverse programs.

The District also utilizes an amazing group of volunteers to accomplish our goals. We have a wide array of volunteer opportunities for citizens who want to get involved with local conservation and natural resources education efforts. Opportunities range from an hour or two helping with a one time stream cleanup to part-time in office volunteer positions coordinating programs. In FY18 PWCWCD's 1812 volunteers logged over 8500 hours of donated time to see that local conservation and education programs are thriving in their community. This donated time is valued at over \$175,000.

If it weren't for the tireless dedication of these volunteers the District wouldn't be able to accomplish much of what we do in our community. Even the directors who lead our organization are volunteers. Here is how some of our programs utilize volunteers.

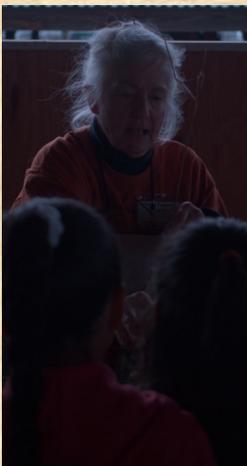
**Agricultural Conservation Planning**– 25% of our work is done by volunteers

**Water Quality Monitoring**– Other than program coordination, this program runs completely on volunteers

**Stream Cleanup Programs**- Other than program coordination, this program runs completely on volunteers

**MWEE Field Trip Program**– Completely organized and run by volunteers

**Farm Field Days**– 75% of the workload is accomplished by volunteers



**Pam Popovitch**  
Volunteer  
MWEE Coordinator



**A Small Group of our Water Quality  
Monitoring and Stream Cleanup  
Volunteer Leaders**



**Duane Mohr**  
Volunteer  
Conservation Planner

## Adopt-A-Stream

### Stream cleanup results:

# volunteers	miles cleaned	pounds of trash removed
1425	57.5	35,493

A HUGE thanks to all the stream stewards who participated in stream cleanups. You made a 35,493 pounds of trash difference in our community! **Great job!!!!!!!**



### Adult-centered Watershed Education results:

440 adults attended:

2 PWC Neighborhood Summits, Penn Elem STEM Parents Seminar, Belmont Bay Water Quality Outreach Program, GMU Stream Health Program, Winter Vegetable Growers Seminar

### Youth-centered Education Events results:

#### Conservation Capsules-to-go:

- 5,115 students were given environmental sciences and natural resources education through our capsule program
- 217 teachers reserved these capsules for in-classroom presentations

#### Farm Field Days:

- 1,272 fourth grade students from county schools attended Farm Field Days in October
- 61 teachers attended Farm Field Days
- 42 chaperones attended Farm Field Days

## Natural Resources Conservation and Environmental Science Education Programs offered in FY 2018

All Conservation Capsule programs are based on Virginia Standards of Learning and are available to all Prince William County schools, private schools, community clubs and youth organizations.

A Drop in the Bucket	6th Grade & up
Build an Ecosystem	2nd Grade
Get Outside	K-5
Incredible Journey	3rd Grade
Introduction to Natural Resources	1st Grade
Land Beneath Your Feet	9th Grade
Plant Anatomy & Non-Vascular Plants	4th & 5th Grades
Plants of the Powhatan	2nd & 4th Grades
Regions of Virginia	4th Grade
Soils	3rd Grade
Sum of the Parts	4th Grade
Tree Talk	1st Grade
Virginia Natural Resources	4th Grade
Water Cycle	2nd Grade
Watershed Enviroscape Model	K - Adult
Weathering and Erosion	2nd & 5th Grades
Who Polluted the Bay?	K & 1st Grade

### Land Beneath Your Feet



### Soils



*"But now, says the Once-ler, Now that you're here, the word of the Lorax seems perfectly clear. UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."*

*- Dr Seuss*

# Hooray for Farm Field Days!



They all love the animals. Thanks to their owners for sharing.



Hats off to our faithful volunteers: Farm Bureau Women's Committee, Master Gardeners, John Marshall SWCD, PWC Public Works, PW Beekeepers, Stonewall Jackson High School Ecology Club students, our cooperators, local farmers, educators, and many individuals.

**We can't do it without YOU!**



The Farm Bureau Women's Committee members teach the structure of corn



How much horse power can the 4th graders muster? We know!



The PWC Beekeepers talk about the importance of bees as pollinators.



And they all say "hooray for Farm Field Days!"

Words are inadequate to describe the dedication and generosity of all 130+ volunteers who selflessly gave their time and energy to 1,272 of our youth. (No wonder you were exhausted at the end of the day!)

**Our most grateful thanks to each and every one of you!**

1,272	4th grade students
61	teachers
10	PWC schools
3	City of Manassas schools
9	Title 1 schools
60	high school student volunteers
3	high school teacher volunteers
42	chaperones



*"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."*

— Theodore Roosevelt

# Hooray for Arbor Day!



*Poet's Tree  
Underneath the poet tree  
Come and rest awhile with me,  
And watch the way the word-web weaves  
Between the shady story leaves.  
The branches of the poet tree  
Reach from the mountains to the sea.  
So come and dream, or come and climb-  
Just don't get hit by falling rhymes.  
-Shel Silverstein*

Supervisors who held Arbor Day ceremonies/  
celebrations:

- Ruth Anderson, Occoquan District
- Marty Nohe, Coles District
- Peter Candland, Gainesville District
- Frank Principi, Woodbridge District
- John Jenkins, Neabsco District

Arbor Day ceremonies were held on April 24-27, 2018  
at:

School	Tree/Shrub Planted
Old Bridge	Black Gum
Loch Lomond	Viburnum
Alvey	Dogwood
Leesylvania	Crape Myrtle

Arbor Day Tree Ceremonies/  
Festival activities allow stu-  
dents to investigate and under-  
stand that plants produce oxygen  
and food, are a source of useful  
products and provide benefits in  
nature.

Clean Cut Trees donated their time  
and resources to plant all of the  
Arbor Day trees for our ceremo-  
nies this year. Thank you!

