

**LOUDOUN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2009 ANNUAL REPORT
(July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009)**

WHO WE ARE

Soil and water conservation districts are an important part of a nationwide partnership of Federal, State, and local agencies working together to conserve natural resources and improve water quality. The Loudoun District is one of 47 districts in Virginia. The districts, which are political subdivisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia, are alike in many ways, but each one has unique aspects.

The Loudoun District works with Federal, State, and local authorities and the private sector to address Loudoun's soil and water conservation needs. It promotes educational and technical programs in the field of natural resources conservation, provides advice on the handling of conservation issues to governmental entities and private citizens, and administers programs aimed at specific goals.

District operations are directed by a Board of five Directors (three elected in the general election process, two appointed by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board) and carried out by professional staff. Conservation efforts are further enhanced by the District's Associate Directors and the programs of cooperating agencies.

State and local appropriations, grants, and proceeds from District special programs account for the District's income. The District is professionally audited on a regular basis.

District Directors, staff, and representatives of cooperating agencies meet the first Wednesday of each month. The public is welcome to attend. Board work sessions and standing committee meetings are held as needed.

2009 SERVICES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Rural Conservation Program

●Prepare conservation farm/land management plans for farmers and other land users to help them

- ◆implement ag BMPs designed to reduce non-point source pollution and improve water quality;
- ◆meet requirements of Federal, State, and local government programs including:

- VA Ag BMP Cost-Share Program
- Catoctin Creek Watershed Ag and Residential TMDL Cost-Share Programs
- Federal Cost-Share Programs
- Local Land Use Tax Program
- Ag and Forestal Districts Program
- County building permits re: barns, sheds, etc.

48 plans for 4,353 acres prepared for the Ag BMP Cost-Share program and Federal programs provided through NRCS

●Provide technical assistance to landowners/users re: natural resources conservation

●Administer VA Ag BMP Cost-Share Program to help farmers and land users pay for costs incurred in implementation of BMPs designed to improve water quality and quantity of surface and ground water, control point source and nonpoint source pollution, and prevent erosion

VA Ag BMP Cost-Share paid 2009: \$150,839.81

TMDL Ag Cost-Share paid 2009: \$4,181.50

TMDL Residential Cost-Share paid 2009: \$81,914.00

●Monitor activities and legislation affecting local agricultural and conservation issues
VASWCD, NACD, federal, local, state government.

●Work with environmentally oriented groups and organizations to monitor streams, encourage good soil and water conservation habits and appreciation of the environment

**Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance
Earth Day at Loudoun Planning Committee
Arbor Day Planning Committee
Loudoun Watershed Watch**

●Provide information to HOAs, individual homeowners regarding soils information and drainage and erosion concerns

98 HOAs contacted regarding availability of programs. 23 participated in planting tree seedlings

Urban Conservation Program

●Provide speakers for HOAs and other civic groups to address suburban homeowner's environmental concerns
Earth Day, Broadlands

●Provide technical assistance to watershed committees and other environmental groups

Leesburg Watershed Committee

Information and Education

●Provide Watershed Education Program for students and teachers including

- water quality field trips for middle and high school students and teachers from Monroe Vo-Tech Center.
- assistance to students working on environmental projects for class, Science Fair, etc.
- exhibits for schools, libraries, community centers, special events

●Provide/sponsor special programs for teachers/educators.

As a part of Loudoun Environmental Stewardship Alliance, the District organized environmental education teacher workshops for Loudoun teachers. Assisted in obtaining a grant to provide environmental education resources to Loudoun teachers.

●Provide and administer mini-grant program for teachers/educators for projects to enhance environmental science education programs. **mini-grants were awarded to Creighton's Corner Elementary, Potowmack Elementary and Briar Woods High School.**

●Provided **40** conservation education classroom programs to Loudoun elementary school students .

●Support and help to organize Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations. **Earth Day at Loudoun was held April 26, 2009 in Broadlands and the Arbor Day Celebration was held April 18, 2009 at Oatlands.**

●Co-Sponsor Arbor Day Poster Contest for local elementary-high schools. **This year there were 435 entries.**

●Develop and distribute fall/winter newsletter to more than **3500 cooperators** and other interested individuals plus an Annual Report is available on the website.

●Prepare and submit articles to local news media as warranted/needed. District information is now included on the District website, **www.loudounsoilandwater.org**

●Provide education materials to teachers, at no cost, for special programs such as Soil and Water Stewardship Week 2009 **S&W Stew. Week: materials sponsored by County School Board; 11,700 materials distributed to 25 schools by the District**

●Donate scholarships to students to attend Youth Conservation Camp/similar activities **2 campers, Holiday Lake Forestry Camp, June 2009**

●Sponsor annual **Tree Seedling Sale, 12 Rain Barrel Workshops** to encourage conservation awareness, to raise funds for Environmental Education Program.

LOUDOUN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DIRECTORS

James B. Christian, Chairman
Christopher S. Simmons, Vice-Chairman
C. Corey Childs, Director
Peter C. Rush, Director
James K. Wylie, Director

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Marian A. Czarnecki, Former Director
Gary W. Hornbaker, Former Director
Kenneth H. Lowery, Former Director
Dr. Joseph M. Rogers, Former Director

DISTRICT STAFF

Suzanne M. Brown, Public Information/Education Specialist
Anne B. Burgess, Administrative Assistant
Jay B. Frankenfield, Conservation Technician/Assistant
Peter R. Holden, District Liaison
Patricia J. McIlvaine, Agronomist
Chris Van Vlack, TMDL Ag Specialist

COOPERATING AGENCIES / ENTITIES

County of Loudoun, Board of Supervisors
County of Loudoun Government
Loudoun Cooperative Extension Service
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Northern Virginia Planning District Commission
Towns of Leesburg, Purcellville, Hillsboro, Hamilton, and Round Hill
USDA-Farm Service Agency
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Virginia Department of Forestry
Virginia Department of Transportation

All programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

County of Loudoun
Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Program
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Water Quality Improvement Fund
Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund
District Tree Seedling Program
District Rain Barrel Project

The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors supports the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District through an annual grant and provides administrative assistance through the Department of Management and Financial Services, Division of Payroll and Benefits, to administer payroll and benefit matters.

Mission Statement *The Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District is responsible for the conservation work within the boundaries of Loudoun County*. The mission of the District is to provide leadership in recognizing and addressing soil and water conservation issues and problems, both existing and potential, and to promote and develop education and technical programs which will meet the agricultural and urban conservation needs of our District. * Code of Virginia, Title 10.1.500*

Vision Statement *The Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District will be the medium through which individuals, organizations and agencies promote and support a conservation ethic for land, water, and other natural resources to preserve the environment, aesthetics, and community assets of Loudoun County.*