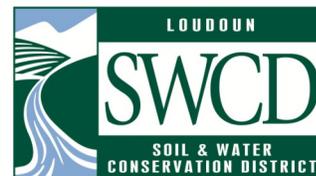


2019 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN...

Directors

- James Christian, Chairman
- James Wylie, Vice Chairman
- John Flannery, Treasurer
- Marina Schumacher, Director
- James Hilleary, Director

Associate Directors

- Robin Bartok
- Barbara Christian
- Holly Flannery
- Terri Higgins
- Gary Hornbaker
- Tia Walbridge

LSWCD Staff

- Suzanne Brown, District Operations Manager
- Charlotte DeMolay, Education Specialist
- Jennifer Venable, Education Specialist
- Kris Dennen, Program Assistant
- Jay Frankenfield, Conservation Specialist II
- Peter Holden, District Financial Officer
- Pat McIlvaine, Conservation Specialist III

On behalf of the Directors and staff of the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District, I am pleased to present our 2019 Annual Report (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019). The report provides an overview of our programs as well as a summary of our accomplishments during the past year.

The Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) Cost-Share Program has another successful year, allocating \$517,101.05 in cost share dollars to Loudoun landowners. Although only part of a much larger cooperative effort of local, state, and federal agencies to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, the program does much to help agricultural operators and landowners implement BMPs specifically designed to improve water quality and prevent erosion.

The District has continued to assist and partner with Loudoun County on various agricultural and conservation issues. LSWCD staff worked with zoning staff to help find solutions to the increasingly high profile problem of fill dirt dumping on farmland in the county. While landowners are sometimes tempted by payments from contractors and promises that the fill materials will improve drainage or the productivity of their soil, dumping of fill on agricultural land usually requires years to mitigate and can lead to sedimentation and contamination issues both in the soil and in adjacent surface waters. By teaming up with Extension staff, LSWCD and county staff have worked to keep fill from ending up on non-permitted sites.

The District Education program continued to grow due to the leadership of our Education Specialist, Charlotte DeMolay. The in-classroom presentations, teacher check-outs, and exhibits are extremely popular with Loudoun schools and the number of students reached grows each year. This year also saw the launch of the Loudoun SEAS event to highlight the work of conservation education agencies in the County. Charlotte chaired the committee and led the formation of this event. Charlotte is now our former Education Specialist as she has recently moved out of state, but an incredibly good candidate will be stepping in to continue to grow the program in different areas. We welcome Jennifer Venable to the staff of the Loudoun SWCD.

In closing, I wish to thank the County of Loudoun, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, VA. Coop. Extension Service, Virginia Department of Forestry, and the many individuals who worked with us during the past year. Great things are accomplished when we work as a team, Loudoun SWCD is very fortunate to have such incredible partners on our team.

Sincerely,
James B. Christian
Chairman, LSWCD

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS VIRGINIA AG BMP COST SHARE

> (Top left)

Stream exclusion fence below Short Hill Mountain along tributary of Dutchmans Creek.

(Top right)

Cows secluded from Sycoln Creek tributary.

- 447,580.27 paid to local landowners in FY2019.
- 11 SL-6 practices installed with 40,892' of fencing.
- 11 CCI with 114,043' stream bank protection.
- 3 SL-1 with acres of 219.8 acres grassland conversion.
- 6 SL-8B and SL-8H with 772.8 acres of cover crops.



LOUDOUN COUNTY COST SHARE PROGRAM

> (Bottom)

Pond exclusion fence along Beaverdam Creek tributary.



- \$38,521.73 paid to local landowners in FY2019.
- 6 SL-6 installed with 3,130 feet of fencing.
- 5 CCI installed with 4,693 feet of streambank protection.

LAND USE TAX PROGRAM

The District writes conservation plans for those enrolled in the Land Use Tax program. As of June 30, 2019, 68,304 acres in Loudoun County are included in Conservation Plans that are maintained for 1,527 Loudoun County landowners. The District also writes farm plans required for residents building barns and other agricultural structures as well as those looking to enter an Ag and Forestal District. In addition, the District provides farm plans for landowners wishing to keep livestock on parcels under 5 acres. The District farm plans give basic rule of thumb management techniques and can help direct landowners to other resources available to the agricultural community in Loudoun.

URBAN CONSERVATION PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP

District staff including the Urban/Ag Conservation continued to work on existing suburban and urban conservation initiatives throughout FY19. The demand for small acreage live-stock plans for backyard poultry increased as more residents looked to keep a few backyard birds. The plans provided by the District, in consultation of Loudoun Cooperative Extension give new chicken wranglers good rule of thumb conservation techniques for keeping birds on small properties. These include a proper stocking rate, special areas of environmental concern on their property, and animal care. A few of the regular tips are always making sure to have secure fencing to keep birds in and predators out and to avoid denuding or overgrazing the septic drainfield.



“Featured here (top left) Rainwater Harvesting assistance from VCAP solves a weak well issue for this vegetable farm in Middleburg.



LSWCD has also continued to deliver the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program to our local residents as well. This year’s projects included rainwater harvesting and conservation landscaping VCAP practices. The District has also previously worked with HOAs and homeowners on Vegetated Stormwater Conveyances, Permeable Pavement, and Dry Wells.

Featured below (bottom right) A backyard in Sterling with turfgrass removed and converted to native plantings with assistance from VCAP.

Finally, the Urban/Ag Conservationist has also teamed up with Extension to assist in teaching the Master Gardeners certification class. The Urban/Ag Conservationist tackles the water conservation class, a three hour session to teach prospective Master Gardeners about reducing run off, keeping surface waters healthy, and helping to reduce nutrient, sediment, and bacteria pollution.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD) is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia funded by four revenue streams: federal, state and local governments, as well as the private sector. The federal government, through the USDA, provides a full time employee to the Loudoun SWCD at no expense to the locality. The state provides funding for operational expenses, technical assistance and cost share funds. The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has provided most of the District staff’s salaries for over 40 years. The private sector provides funds through the purchase of rain barrels and their equity share of the Cost Share Program.

The Directors of the Loudoun SWCD are appointed or elected volunteers. Their hundreds of hours of devoted public service are provided at no cost the taxpayers of Loudoun County. Few taxpayers look at local government expenditures as an investment with a tangible Return on Investment (ROI). However, if one were to total revenues brought in to Loudoun County from the state by the Loudoun SWCD and divide this amount by the level of County funding, the ROI is astonishing. This generated an ROI of **\$3.00** for every dollar invested by the Loudoun County BOS in FY 2019.

“For every dollar invested by the Loudoun Board of Supervisors, \$3.00 is generated from other sources of income.”



Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District
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 Leesburg, VA 20175
 571-918-4530
www.lswcd.org

The LSWCD website, is maintained to inform and educate the public about District activities. District activities are also publicized on the District Facebook page. Visit www.lswcd.org.

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

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

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

RAIN BARRELS, CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS, AND MORE

- As of June 30, 2019, staff presented 132 conservation education programs for approximately 2903 students at 16 Loudoun County elementary schools and several community groups.
- The use of 10 conservation “check-out” trunks reached 761 students.



- Staff presented 4 Rain Barrel workshops: 4 in Leesburg, 27 participants, 39 rain barrels sold.
- Staff assisted with 2 Riparian Workshop field trips held with Monroe Technology Center students.
- Staff mentored 1 student for the Youth Conservation Leadership Institute.
- Staff recruited and assisted 1 team for the Area II Envirothon. Staff, Directors, and Associate Directors also volunteered at the competition as judges and assistants.
- Staff participated in the following special community events: “Hail to the Trail in Purcellville”, Rural Summit in Middleburg, VASWCD Annual Meeting, Loudoun 4-H Fair, Leesburg, Loudoun County Equine Alliance Expo; soil tunnel at Loudoun SEAS event, Enviroscope at Willowsford Camp, Soil Stations at Rust and Brambleton libraries, storm drain marking at United Airlines.
- Staff continues to support and collaborate with Loudoun Community groups through co-chairing LESA.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

- Staff judged the Regional Science and Engineering Fair held at Riverside high School. Four Science Fair Awards, totaling \$400, were awarded to students for projects related to water quality, natural resource conservation and a “best project” award .

- Staff served on the Leesburg-Loudoun Arbor Day committee and the District sponsored the Annual Arbor Day celebration..

- Two mini-grants totaling approximately \$850 were awarded to teachers at Lovettsville and Forest Grove Elementary school.

- Staff increased communication with LCPS and other education leaders through a quarterly newsletter.

- Staff continues to promote and support quality conservation education at the state level through participation on the Board of the Virginia Association of Environmental educators.



Loudoun SWCD Welcomes New Education Specialist

Greetings ...

My name is Jennifer Venable, and I am the new Education Specialist at LSWCD. Charlotte DeMolay, my amazing predecessor, is moving out of state with her family. She has contributed enormously to the education efforts of the LSWCD and will be greatly missed. Good luck Charlotte.

I am a Loudoun County resident and have lived in Loudoun County for over fifteen years along with my husband. We have two children who currently attend Loudoun County Public Schools. My passion is learning about and sharing knowledge of the natural world to help people make a nature connection. Most recently, I have been working with a Science in the Park program teaching elementary school children about natural science in an outdoor classroom. I am a certified Master Naturalist who has volunteered with various conservation organizations such as Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Banshee Reeks Master Naturalists, Audubon at Home Ambassadors and Plant NOVA Natives. I am excited to join LSWCD and look forward to continuing the LSWCD conservation efforts in advance.

