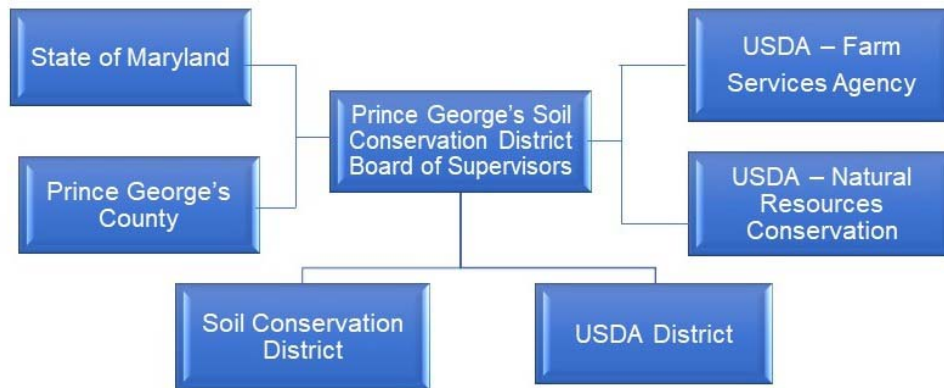


# Soil Conservation District



## MISSION AND SERVICES

The Soil Conservation District provides grading, erosion and sediment control services, agricultural landowner assistance and rural land preservation services to the citizens and residents of the County in order to protect the County's soil and water resources.

### CORE SERVICES

- Provide technical review/approval for land grading, erosion and sediment control and small pond dam safety
- Provide agricultural landowner assistance services for soil and water conservation program implementation
- Administer rural land preservation programs
- Provide soil and water conservation technical services to urban agricultural operations
- Provide education and outreach to the citizens and students through multiple soil and water conservation programs

### FY 2022 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued to meet and exceed the Maryland Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) milestone goals for conservation planning and best management practice (BMP) implementation.
- Exceeded the outreach goals for the urban agriculture conservation program. Collaborated with Department of Permits Inspection and Enforcement to develop a fast track process for installation of high tunnel systems. Partnered with MNCPPC and Eco-City Farms to establish a twelve-acre incubator farm for aspiring urban agriculture producers.
- Maintained an average urban plan review time below five business days (aside from a slight increase during the COVID-19 pandemic) while continuing to partner with DOE and the Clean Water Partnership on stormwater management retrofit projects throughout the County.
- Conducted two virtual trainings and one competition for the local Envirothon. Awarding additional higher education scholarships for a total of \$26,000 since 2013.

- Preserved additional acres of agriculture land through the Historic Agricultural Resource Preservation Program (HARRP) and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) Rural Legacy programs totaling 7,000 acres.

**STRATEGIC FOCUS AND INITIATIVES FOR FY 2023**

The district’s top priorities in FY 2023 are:

- Maintain the average turnaround time for urban land grading, mining, erosion/sediment control, dam safety and small pond plan reviews at or below five days by providing efficient technical assistance to customers.
- Increase the number of acres treated by BMPs on agricultural land by providing technical assistance to agricultural land owners on appropriate installation of those BMPs in order to mitigate water quality issues.
- Increase the acres of preserved agricultural land in the County by preserving agricultural land through perpetual easements, possibly directing growth away from the rural tier and limiting the need for infrastructure funding to rural areas of the County.
- Increase education and outreach of soil and water conservation to the citizens and students of Prince George’s County.
- Increase technical assistance for the conservation of soil and water resources on urban agricultural operations in the County.

**FY 2023 BUDGET SUMMARY**

The FY 2023 approved budget for the Soil Conservation District is \$0 and unchanged from the FY 2022 approved budget. The FY 2023 approved budget before recoveries is \$1,997,700, an increase of \$238,200 or 13.5% over the FY 2022 approved budget. The Soil Conservation District General Fund costs are 100% recovered from non-General Fund sources.

**Expenditures by Fund Type**

Fund Types	FY 2021 Actual		FY 2022 Budget		FY 2022 Estimate		FY 2023 Approved	
	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total	Amount	% Total
General Fund	\$—		\$—		\$—		\$—	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$—</b>		<b>\$—</b>		<b>\$—</b>		<b>\$—</b>	

**Reconciliation from Prior Year**

	Expenditures
<b>FY 2022 Approved Budget</b>	<b>\$—</b>
<b>Increase Cost: Compensation - Mandated Salary Requirements</b> — Annualization of FY 2022 and FY 2023 planned salary adjustments as well as anticipated grade changes within the staffing complement	\$137,300
<b>Increase Cost: Fringe Benefits</b> — Increase in the fringe benefit rate from 31.3% to 35.0% to align with projected costs	95,000
<b>Increase Cost: Operating - Technology Cost Allocation</b> — Increase in OIT charges based on anticipated countywide costs for technology	5,900
<b>Decrease Cost: Recovery Increase</b> — Reflects anticipated FY 2023 compensation and fringe benefit adjustments as well as an increase in the technology cost allocation charge	(238,200)
<b>FY 2023 Approved Budget</b>	<b>\$—</b>

### STAFF AND BUDGET RESOURCES

Authorized Positions	FY 2021 Budget	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2023 Approved	Change FY22-FY23
<b>General Fund</b>				
Full Time - Civilian	16	16	16	0
Full Time - Sworn	0	0	0	0
Subtotal - FT	16	16	16	0
Part Time	0	0	0	0
Limited Term	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>				
Full Time - Civilian	16	16	16	0
Full Time - Sworn	0	0	0	0
Subtotal - FT	16	16	16	0
Part Time	0	0	0	0
Limited Term	0	0	0	0

Positions By Classification	FY 2023		
	Full Time	Part Time	Limited Term
Administrative Aide	4	0	0
Administrative Assistant	1	0	0
Administrative Specialist	1	0	0
Engineer	7	0	0
Planner	3	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Expenditures by Category - General Fund**

Category	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2022 Estimate	FY 2023 Approved	Change FY22-FY23	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
Compensation	\$1,209,882	\$1,264,500	\$1,238,900	\$1,401,800	\$137,300	10.9%
Fringe Benefits	384,048	395,800	410,400	490,800	95,000	24.0%
Operating	83,935	99,200	99,200	105,100	5,900	5.9%
Capital Outlay	—	—	—	—	—	
<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>\$1,677,865</b>	<b>\$1,759,500</b>	<b>\$1,748,500</b>	<b>\$1,997,700</b>	<b>\$238,200</b>	<b>13.5%</b>
Recoveries	(1,677,865)	(1,759,500)	(1,748,500)	(1,997,700)	(238,200)	13.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>	

In FY 2023, compensation expenditures increase 10.9% over the FY 2022 budget due to annualization of FY 2022 and FY 2023 planned salary adjustments and anticipated grade changes within the staffing complement. Compensation costs include funding for 16 full time positions. Fringe benefit expenditures increase 24.0% over the FY 2022 budget to reflect the change in the fringe benefit rate and compensation adjustments.

Operating expenditures increase 5.9% due to an increase in the technology cost allocation charge.

Recoveries increase 13.5% over the FY 2022 budget to reflect an increase in overall expenditures. The General Fund cost of the Soil Conservation District is recovered from the Stormwater Management Enterprise Fund, which includes District and State reimbursement for sediment control fees. In addition, the agency will recover \$12,300 from the Agricultural Land Transfer Tax for the expenditures associated with the Agricultural Land Preservation Program.

## SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN AND PERFORMANCE

**Goal 1** — To provide urban land grading and erosion and sediment control planning services to the County's citizens and residents in order to protect the County's water quality and against adverse impacts associated with sediment pollution.

**Objective 1.1** — Maintain the average turnaround time for urban grading and sediment plan reviews at or below five business days.

FY 2027 Target	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Estimated	FY 2023 Projected	Trend
5	4	6	5	5	↔

### Trend and Analysis

In order to improve the County and State's water quality and dam safety program, the District reviews grading, erosion and sediment control plans. Reviewing these plans quickly with a high degree of quality and accuracy allows sediment control plans to be implemented in a timely manner. The average number of work days required to review a plan remains faster than the District's Board of Supervisor's maximum standard of 10 business days.

### Performance Measures

Measure Name	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Estimated	FY 2023 Projected
<b>Resources (Input)</b>					
Certified staff reviewing plans	6	6	6	6	6
<b>Workload, Demand and Production (Output)</b>					
Submissions reviewed	1,762	1,470	1,765	1,600	1,600
Training sessions provided to internal and external customers	4	21	7	15	15
<b>Efficiency</b>					
Plans reviewed per employee	294	240	344	229	229
<b>Impact (Outcome)</b>					
Plans approved	469	395	394	500	500
Workdays required to review a plan	3	4	6	5	5

**Goal 2** — To provide technical assistance to the County's citizens and residents in order to protect the County's water quality.

**Objective 2.1** — Increase the number of acres treated by Best Management Practices (BMPs) on rural agricultural land.

FY 2027 Target	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Estimated	FY 2023 Projected	Trend
4,100	6,207	4,882	4,100	4,100	↔

**Trend and Analysis**

A BMP is an engineering or agronomic practice designed to reduce soil erosion, nutrients, and/or improve water quality. The number of BMP's installed is due in large part to farmer participation in the Maryland State Cover Crop Program and support from the Soil Conservation District who also provides technical assistance in the installation of other BMPs. The performance data is impacted by weather as well as the farmer's ability to implement the State's Cover Crop Program. The total agricultural land mass is approximately 60,000 acres.

The approved USDA 2018 Farm Bill impacts Federal Cost Share programs and BMP implementation. The national emphasis on soil health and carbon sequestration may increase the use of no-till and cover crops that will incorporate more BMPs on farmland.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Name	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Estimated	FY 2023 Projected
<b>Resources (Input)</b>					
County, State, and federal staff developing plans and implementing BMPs	5	5	5	6	6
<b>Workload, Demand and Production (Output)</b>					
BMPs installed	204	200	210	200	200
State and federal cost share contracts processed	99	108	70	80	80
<b>Efficiency</b>					
BMPs installed per employee	41	43	42	33	33
<b>Impact (Outcome)</b>					
Acres treated by BMPs	4,628	6,207	4,882	4,100	4,100

**Objective 2.2** — Increase the number of soil conservation plans on urban agricultural land.

FY 2027 Target	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Estimated	FY 2023 Projected	Trend
11	n/a	3	10	10	↑

### Trend and Analysis

In order for the County's Urban Agricultural Industry to flourish, there must be sound and prudent use of the soil and water resources related to this land use. The District will develop soil conservation and water quality plans for these operations to address the implementation of BMPs that focus on the reduction of soil erosion, efficient nutrient management and improvement of water quality, while producing fresh food sources for the surrounding population.

The soil conversation and water quality plan program started implementation in FY 2021.

### Performance Measures

Measure Name	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Estimated	FY 2023 Projected
<b>Resources (Input)</b>					
Staff developing and implementing soil conservation plans	n/a	n/a	1	1	1
<b>Workload, Demand and Production (Output)</b>					
Site visits	n/a	n/a	46	36	36
Soil and water conservation plans written	n/a	n/a	3	10	10
Training sessions	n/a	n/a	9	6	6
<b>Efficiency</b>					
Site visits per staff member	n/a	n/a	46	36	36
Number of plans written per staff member	n/a	n/a	3	10	10
Number of training sessions per staff member	n/a	n/a	8	6	6
<b>Quality</b>					
Customer service satisfaction survey results	n/a	n/a	0	3	3
<b>Impact (Outcome)</b>					
Urban agriculture producers receiving technical assistance	n/a	n/a	132	120	120
Soil conservation plans written	n/a	n/a	3	10	10

**Goal 3** — To provide rural land preservation assistance services to citizens and residents in order to protect agricultural land in the County.

**Objective 3.1** — Increase the preservation of acres of agricultural land in the County.

FY 2027 Target	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Estimated	FY 2023 Projected	Trend
7,600	6,486	7,129	7,200	7,300	↑

**Trend and Analysis**

The Historic Agricultural Resource Preservation Program application process takes approximately two years, therefore, a property may not be purchased for several years spanning multiple fiscal budgets. The goal is to preserve over 10,000 acres of privately owned agricultural land by the year 2027. Securing federal, State, county and outside funds to purchase easements is critical for meeting long term program goals.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Name	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Estimated	FY 2023 Projected
<b>Resources (Input)</b>					
Staff supporting enrollment of land into preservation programs	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Workload, Demand and Production (Output)</b>					
Applications processed for various State and County agricultural preservation programs	4	9	0	10	10
New agricultural acres approved for the program, pending purchase	901	34	84	300	300
Acres purchased in the County for easement/ preservation	239	128	603	300	300
Outreach events	32	20	16	30	30
<b>Efficiency</b>					
Applications processed per staff member	4	6	0	5	5
<b>Quality</b>					
Maintain State certification through Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Impact (Outcome)</b>					
Protected agricultural acres countywide	6,400	6,486	7,129	7,200	7,300
Agricultural acres protected countywide	17%	18%	19%	19%	19%