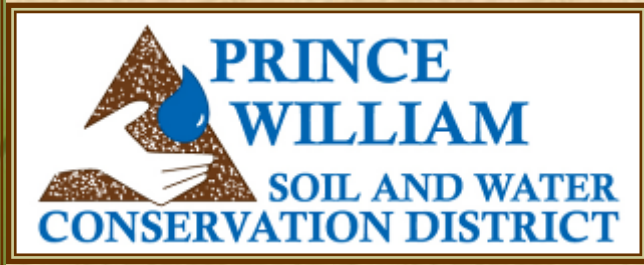


Inspiring personal responsibility for our environment and natural resources



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Manassas, VA 20109-3733
571.379.7514
www.pswxcd.org


Annual Report
July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020




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



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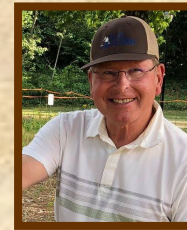
Nicole Slazinski
Conservation
Specialist



Linda Dunn
Administrative
Assistant



Mike Miller
Conservation
Specialist

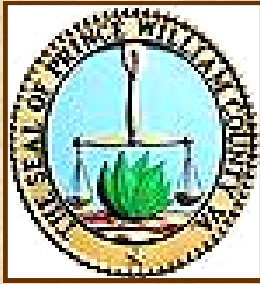


Duane Mohr
Conservation
Technician

"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 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 30% decrease in farmland over the 2007 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.

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.
- Work with local partners to address special conservation concerns of the community.

"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



*Potomac Grand Basin Clean
Water Farm Award
Kettle Wind Farm*

Farm Name: Kettle Wind Farm LLC.

Location: 11261 Morla Ln, Nokesville, VA 20181

Watershed: PL33: Kettle Run, PL34: Broad Run – Rocky Branch, PL40: Cedar Run – Slate Run

Farm acreage: 3150 acres of cropland, 50 acres of hay land, 900 acres of turf grass, and 103 acres of pasture in Prince William and Fauquier County.

Conservation

Kettle Wind 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.

- Over 17,000 feet of streambank protected with livestock exclusion fencing
- 22.5 acres of created riparian buffer
- 1526 acres enrolled in Resource Management Plans
- Annually plant 250-1000 acres of cover crops



A field border on Kettle Wind Farm traps sediment and nutrients while providing wildlife habitat.



The owners of Kettle Wind Farm explain how precision fertilizer application and no till planting equipment work to a group of visiting high school students.

*District Clean Water
Farm Award
Mohr Family Farm*

Farm Name: Mohr Family Farm

Location: 9031 Burwell Rd, Nokesville, VA 20181

Watershed: PL32:Broad Run - Catletts Branch

Farm acreage: 5 acres of pastureland

Conservation

Mohr Family Family 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.

- Nutrient management plan followed on all acres
- Rotational grazing practiced on all acres
- Hardened heavy use area installed where animals congregate
- Stall waste collected, properly stored, composted and used on the property



The Mohr family utilizes a hardened heavy use area where their livestock are fed and watered to minimize erosion.



A well managed rotational grazing system on the Mohr Family Farm maximizes forage production while minimizing nutrient and sediment losses.



How we served our agricultural community

Prince William County deliverables:

Nutrient Reductions for writing 73 conservation plans:

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Acres
5130.3 pounds	494.9 pounds	2152

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

Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Acres	Sediment Reduction
5677.21 pounds	162.38 pounds	1230.4	138 tons

These numbers represent 960 head of livestock and poultry eliminating approximately 3382 tons of manure per year.

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 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

Until the beginning of the pandemic, we continued to see a growing interest among residents in 2020 to learn more about water quality and to promote clean streams with PWSWCD . This shows the important role water plays in our communities, in relation to human health and vitality.

At the end of June 2020, 2,066 volunteers put in over 25,109 hours under the District to support the cause of clean streams and improved water quality. Compare this to 2018, where there were 1,657 volunteers who put in 5,800 hours. The number of active monitoring sites increased from 15 sites in 2018 to 17 sites in 2019. 48 cleanup events took place under the Adopt-A-Stream program in FY 20.

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).

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

"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 Soil and Water Conservation District (PWSWCD) completed two urban BMP projects, using the VCAP, in FY20. Both projects completed were conservation landscaping where areas of turf were converted to native plants.



“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 FY20 the foundation raised over \$2,000 by holding their third annual Farm to Table Fundraiser Dinner. The funds were used to support PWSWCD education programming.

PWEE Foundation

Board of Directors

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

Adopt-A-Stream

Stream cleanup results:

# volunteers	miles cleaned	pounds of trash removed
603	21.05	18,298

A HUGE thanks to all the stream stewards who participated in stream cleanups. You made a 18,298 pounds of trash difference in our community! **Great job!!!!!!**



Adult-centered Watershed Education results:

368 adults attended watershed education events put on by the district in FY20.

Youth-centered Education Events results:

Conservation Capsules-to-go:

- 3746 students were given environmental sciences and natural resources education through our capsule program
- 179 teachers reserved these capsules for in-classroom presentations

Farm Field Days:

- 1084 fourth grade students from county schools attended Farm Field Days in October
- 54 teachers attended Farm Field Days
- 213 chaperones attended Farm Field Days

Volunteers and Partners

In FY20 the PWSWCD has worked with numerous partners, including DCR, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (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 soil and water conservation districts, 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 FY20 PWSWCD's 1000+ volunteers logged over 4000 hours of donated time to see that local conservation and education programs are thriving in their community. This donated time is valued at over \$100,000.

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.

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**

Hooray for Farm Field Days!



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



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



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

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

We can't do it without YOU!



The Tree Team talk about the importance of Trees as a Virginia crop



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 1084 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!

1084	4th grade students
54	teachers
9	PWC schools
2	City of Manassas schools
7	Title 1 schools
60	high school student volunteers
2	high school teacher volunteers
213	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

Natural Resources Conservation and Environmental Science Education Programs offered in FY 2020

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