



Soil Conservation District FY 2027 Budget Overview

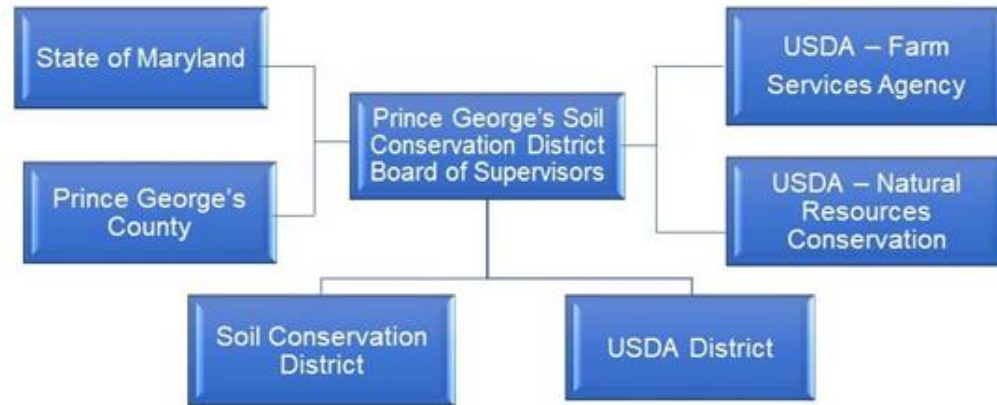
Budget & Policy Analysis Division

Alex Hirtle, Policy Analyst

April 9, 2026

Soil Conservation District

Steven Darcey, Executive Director



Mission

- 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 citizens and students through multiple soil and water conservation programs

Strategic Focus FY 2027

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 best management practices on agricultural land by providing technical assistance to land owners

Increase the acres of preserved agricultural land in the County through perpetual easements, directing development away from the rural tier, reducing the need for development related infrastructure funding to rural areas of the County and encouraging investment in active agricultural enterprises that enhance economic development in rural areas

Increase education and outreach of soil and water conservation

Increase technical assistance for the conservation of soil and water resources on urban agricultural operations in the County.

FY 2027 BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed FY 2027

\$0

Unchanged from FY 26 Approved Budget

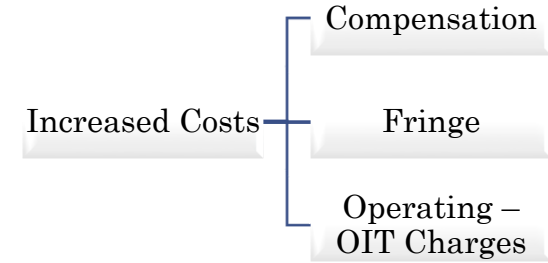
100% Recovered from non-general fund sources

Proposed FY 2027 Before Recoveries

\$2,509,300

Increase by \$171,800 or 7.3%

100% Recovered from non-general fund sources



Recoveries, FY 2026 and FY 2027

	Specific Project	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Proposed	Change (FY26 VS FY27)	Change %
1	Salaries - MD Ag Tax	\$ 22,300	\$ 22,500	\$ 22,300	\$ -	0%
2	Fringe - MD Ag Tax	\$ 7,700	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,700	\$ -	0%
	Sub-Total MD Ag Tax	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -	
3	Salaries - Storm Water Mgmt.	\$1,624,300	\$1,624,100	\$1,736,400	\$ 112,100	6.90%
4	Fringe - Storm Water Mgmt.	\$ 541,100	\$ 541,500	\$ 596,500	\$ 55,400	10.23%
5	Operating - Storm Water Mgmt.	\$ 142,100	\$ 142,100	\$ 146,400	\$ 4,300	3.03%
	Sub-Total Storm Water Mgmt.	\$2,307,500	\$2,307,700	\$2,479,300	\$ 171,800	7.44%
	TOTAL RECOVERIES	\$2,337,500	\$2,337,700	\$2,509,300	\$ 171,800	7.35%

+\$2,509,300 RECOVERIES

Increase by \$171,800

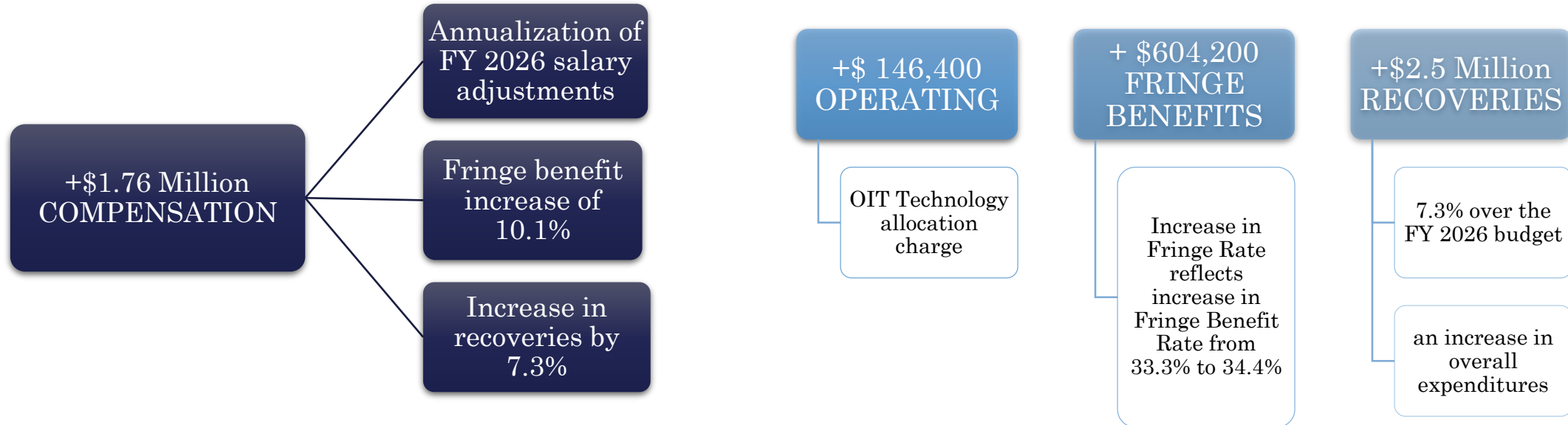
General Fund Recovered by Stormwater Management Enterprise Fund

\$30,000 in recoveries from the Agricultural Land Transfer Tax

GENERAL FUND OVERVIEW

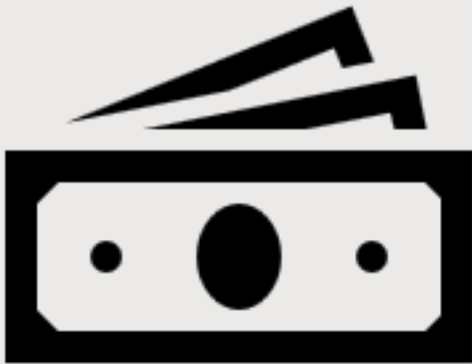
100%
Recovered from
non-general
fund sources

Category	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Budget	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Proposed	Change FY26-FY27	
					Amount (\$)	Percent (%)
Compensation	\$1,558,507	\$1,646,400	\$1,646,600	\$1,758,700	\$112,300	6.8%
Fringe Benefits	497,873	549,000	549,000	604,200	55,200	10.1%
Operating	121,823	142,100	142,100	146,400	4,300	3.0%
Capital Outlay	—	—	—	—	—	—
SubTotal	\$2,178,203	\$2,337,500	\$2,337,700	\$2,509,300	\$171,800	7.3%
Recoveries	(2,178,203)	(2,337,500)	(2,337,700)	(2,509,300)	(171,800)	7.3%
Total	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	

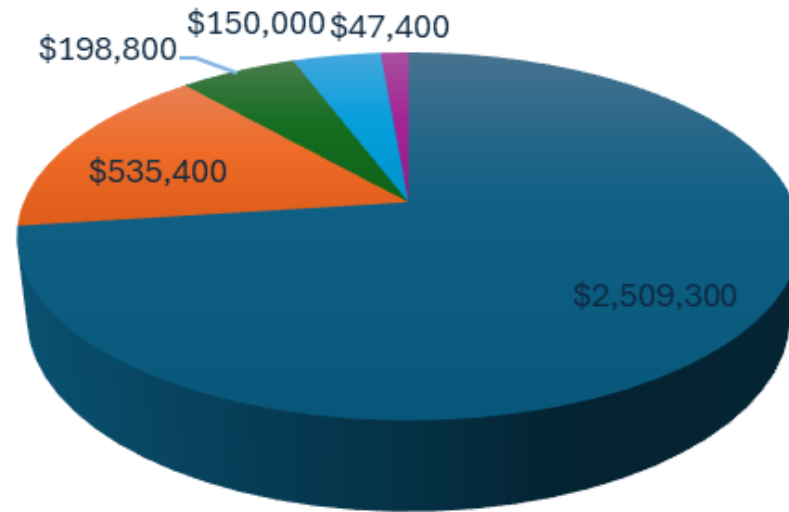


Revenues

- The County provides the majority of the District's operating Funds (approximately \$2.5 million) followed by the Federal (\$535,400) and the state (\$198,800)



FY27 Budget Sources (Proposed)



■ County ■ Federal ■ State ■ S.C. Fees ■ Grants

Grants

FY 2027
Grant Funding

- \$47,400, a \$25,600 decrease from FY 2026
- The District is currently utilizing the 2nd NACD-TA grant (National Association of Conservation Districts technical grant) to continue to pay for their Urban Agriculture Planner.

Full time Urban
AG Planner

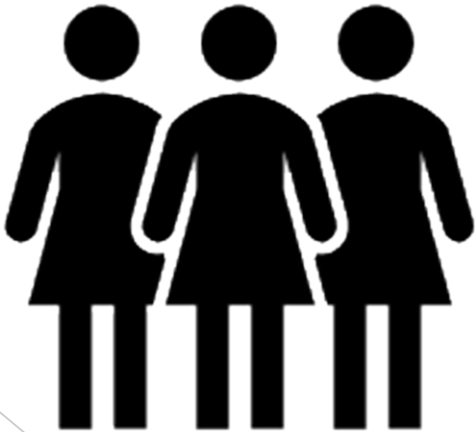
- Efforts are underway to make this a permanent position. If approved for a 3rd NACD-TA grant, the Planner would be funded until June 2027.

STAFFING

The FY 2027 Proposed Budget includes funding for 16 full-time positions and remains unchanged from FY 2026.

There have been no resignations in 2026

0% attrition rate



FULL
TIME
CIVILI
AN -
16

Unchanged

Highlights

The District's integral initiatives include the preservation of acres of agriculture land through various programs. Current programs total 7,356 preserved acres countywide.

- Two properties settled for 64 acres and \$251,430.

- Five other application rankings were approved for 289.66 acres.

- All five properties have been appraised and one property has been made an offer.

Continued involvement with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) on the curriculum in Agricultural Science Education and Environmental Science Academy, the Envirothon, and interacting with the Future Farmers of America (FFA), has yielded positive results for the District's education and outreach programs

The District has participated in the County's Summer Youth Enrichment Program over the past several years, and plans to host an intern in FY2027, contingent on state and federal budgets

The Urban Farm Incubator at Watkins Regional Park currently has 10 farm businesses with working plots, and M-NCPPC is looking to open additional parcels

The District provided technical assistance with a pilot project at Clagett Landing Road to specialty farmers providing flowers, vegetables, and grains on those parcels. Currently, there are two farmers there

Highlights Con't

i. The Agricultural Food Security Innovation Center

The kick-off meeting was held in December 2025 with the Revenue Authority and New Ventures Advisors

This is a 14-month project

- The Revenue Authority contracted out the feasibility for this project
- Ms. Nicole Hall (Revenue Authority) is the project manager for the Feasibility Study

- There have been four project team meetings, two advisor meetings, and three stakeholder engagement meetings
- The consultants are conducting in-depth interviews with stakeholder groups

- No delays so far and no delays anticipated

Questions
For
Committee
Consideration:



Given the challenges of current and future State budgets, unknown cuts from the federal government, and reductions in grants opportunities, will the District be able to continue optimal program delivery to its customers?



What will be the impact on the County's environment due to reductions in programs under the District that facilitate enhancement of our water quality and soil retention? Land preservation enrollment in the County has declined in recent years. Given the competition for other uses (solar, development, mining, recreation, etc.), what programs can be developed or enhanced to increase more acreage annually for preservation?



What will be the Council's role in assisting the District with the expansion of agritourism within the County so public safety, development, noise, and traffic can be addressed through reasonable guidelines and regulation?



What resources can be utilized to ensure the District will have a full-time, permanent Urban Agriculture Planner that is solely dedicated to SCD's programs and under the District's supervision?



THANK YOU

 **Alex Hirtle**

 **+1 (301) 952-3170**

 **AJHirtle@co.pg.md.us**