



PRINCE GEORGE'S  
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# FY 27 Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment (TIEE) Committee Budget Review

## CONSERVING SOIL, WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES

SINCE 1941



## PRINCE GEORGE'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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FY 27 Budget Review for TIEE Committee,  
Prince George's County Council



PRINCE GEORGE'S  
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# DISTRICT OPERATIONS

2026 marks the Prince George's Soil Conservation District's 85th year of implementing locally led soil and water conservation in Prince George's County.

The Soil Conservation District works inclusive of the Maryland Conservation Partnership along with 22 other Soil Conservation Districts and over 3000 Districts nationally.

The District receives funding, staff, equipment and operating funds from multiple sources.

We have three primary partners:

- Prince George's County
- Maryland Department of Agriculture
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

FY27 Proposed Budget Sources:

- **County:** Prince George's County Government (73%)
- **Federal:** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Conservation Service (NRCS) (16%) Resource
- **State:** Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) (6%)
- **Review Fees :** Technical Plan Review (4%)
- **Grants:** Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund (1%)



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# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS A TECHNICAL SERVICE AGENCY

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## Locally Led Soil & Water Conservation Programs

- **Rural Agricultural Conservation Program**
- **Agricultural Land Preservation Program**
- **Urban Agricultural Conservation Program**
- **Urban Development & Conservation Program**
- **Outreach & Education Programs**



# Agricultural Conservation Program

The Agricultural Conservation Program through the District provides farmers and stakeholders engaged in agricultural activities with the technical assistance and potential funding needed to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to conserve soil and water resources. Cooperators receive technical services free of charge. Planners and technicians will assist in the preparation of soil conservation and water quality plans on farms and appropriate BMPs and engineering designs as needed. Staff can also assist with programs and applications with the landowner if eligible for State or Federal cost-share.



**11 Cover Crop Participants**  
covering  
**1,965 acres**

**274 BMPs**  
installed by  
**84 farmers**  
covering  
**3,948 acres**

**100 plans**  
covering  
**5,232 acres**

**78 Federal Contracts** for  
**\$2,144,573**

## 2025 Highlights

2025 was another busy year assisting landowners with soil and water conservation technical assistance. The conservation equipment program saw an increase in usage especially for stream fencing projects to restrict animal access into local tributaries. The Conservation Partnership with Maryland Department of Agriculture saw continued support for the State's cover crop program that protected over 1900 acres of farmland as well as the Maryland Cost Share Program that helped fund major engineering best management practices (bmps), such as the large, roofed animal waste storage facility shown in the photo above. BMPs Reduce soil erosion and improve water quality by reducing sediment and nutrients from entering surface and subsurface water bodies. The USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service partners set a record by processing 78 federal conservation contracts for \$2.15M of which 67 federal contracts worth \$1.7M were obligated and paid out to County farmers.

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# Agriculture Land Preservation

Agriculture is a significant part of Prince George's County, both as an industry and as a contributor to the County's character. It is a goal of the Prince George's Soil Conservation District to preserve agricultural land from development. These properties will produce local commodities, protect scenic vistas and enhance environmentally sensitive areas. In order to achieve this goal, the District administers several programs that preserve land through perpetual easements while allowing landowners to retain their private property rights. Land preservation programs administered by the District include the Historic Agricultural Resource Preservation Program (HARPP), Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) and the Rural Legacy Program (RLP). As Administrator for Prince George's County, the District has preserved 83 properties on 7,513 acres utilizing \$52M of land preservation funds.

HARPP  
easements in  
process

**6 farms,**

Totaling

**341 acres**

**83 Farms**

Preserved

Since 2008,

Totaling

**7,513 Acres**

## 2025 Highlights

Six properties are pending the sale of a land preservation easement. Once settled, 341 acres will be permanently preserved. Recent legislation has reduced state-sponsored land preservation programs; fortunately, in Prince George's County, the local Historic Agricultural Resource Preservation Program (HARPP), sponsored by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), is committed to continuing its funding. As land values have increased, land preservation values per acre have increased to near highs since program inception. Please contact our office if you have a qualifying property!

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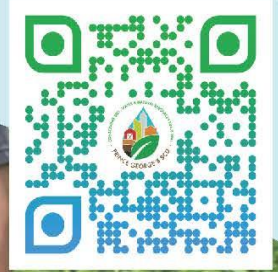
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# URBAN AG CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Through its Urban Agricultural Conservation (UAC) Program, the District connects urban farmers and partners engaged in urban agricultural activities with the tools, services, and potential financial assistance needed to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to conserve soil, water, and other natural resources. District staff identify climate-smart solutions to improve the health and productivity of urban soils for growing food and mitigating stormwater runoff. Urban soils are important to protect because they are found in watersheds which provide drinking water, food, waste utilization, and natural resources to communities. The Program is supported by staff from the District, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), the Maryland Department of Agriculture, and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).



**15**

farmer workshops & community events conducted

**31**

Soil Conservation & Water Quality Plans developed

**85**

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) site visits on

**81**

urban farms

**44**

collaborators engaged with UAC & food system initiatives

**2,090**

individuals reached through outreach events

**43**

USDA NRCS urban ag contracts

**\$576,447**

USDA NRCS funds for urban farms

## 2025 Highlights

- **Assisted with planning** the 2025 Prince George's County Community Garden Summit and the District's annual Seedling Giveaway (donated 1,000 seedlings)
- **Served on committees** for the Prince George's County Food Equity Council, Metro Washington Council of Governments Regional Ag Workgroup, PGC Public Schools Environment, Ag & Natural Resources Program, the Urban Farm Incubator, the Prince George's Food Security Collaborative, the Interagency Climate Commission, and Extension Advisory Committee
- **Worked with 40 urban farmers** to install **19** Best Management Practices
- **13 urban** and/or small farms participated in the MDA's **Small Acreage Cover Crop Program**
- **Received** National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) **2024 Technical Assistance Grant**
- **Presented** at the 2025 Braveboy Climate Leadership Summit
- **Served as advisors** for conservation-related grants received by ECO City Farms and the University of MD Extension

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# Urban Development & Conservation Program

The Prince George's Soil Conservation District's Urban Development and Conservation team members review Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) engineering plans/applications, and dam safety designs (impoundment facilities) for conformance with federal, state, and local standards, specifications, regulations, and codes. Application types include residential, commercial, forest harvest, stream channel mitigations and repairs, surface mining, fill sites, landfills, and county/municipal projects. Additionally, the District provides program support and consultation to the four delegated inspections/enforcement authorities in the County. Staff routinely engage development teams – developers/consultants – to facilitate the progression of projects from concept to permit with fewer iterations and to preserve timelines.



**4,580 acres**

approved for Urban Development projects

**Reviews:**

**56.6%**

within 5 business days

**98%**

within 10 business days

**MDE Delegated Inspections**

**Authorities Supported:**

**4**

(Prince George's County, Laurel, Greenbelt, Bowie)

**180 Hours +**

of one-on-one client consultations and collaborations

## 2025 Urban Development Program Highlights

Improving customer experience, programmatic efficiencies, and reducing application timelines were the main headers in 2025 for developments proposed within the urban sphere. Proactive and constructive feedback from the industry—specifically, the Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), consultants, builders, and developers—over several roundtable engagement sessions provided for a targeted approach and prioritization of efforts. Several bulletins and clarifications have been issued for the purpose of improving the consistency and predictability of applications, as well as reducing submission iterations. An increased emphasis on earlier interventions, where needed, and client engagements have resulted in better communication, and alignment of expectations and deliverables. 2026 will be—and has been thus far—a resilient continuation of these efforts.

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# Education and Outreach

At Prince George's Soil Conservation District we strive to make an impact through our educational efforts and outreach programs. Our District has worked in various capacities to improve the education and knowledge of our citizens, honor those who have made a difference in their own communities, and promote new ways of learning to empower students for a better future (and planet). A few of the outreach and education programs we are involved with include: Envirothon; County Fair; Beautification Committee; Summer Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP); Annual Cooperator's Dinner; PGCPs – Environment, Agriculture, Natural Resources; District Coloring Contest; Community Garden Summit; PGC Bloomin' Open Mic Nights; Spring Seedling Giveaway and Vendor Fair; Earth Day Plant Giveaways; Arbor Day Tree Planting; and Community Farmer's Markets.



**17**  
Teams from **10**  
schools  
competed in the 2025  
Envirothon Competition  
with training provided  
to over  
**120**  
students

**\$48,500**  
Envirothon scholarship  
money awarded to  
**31**  
high school students  
since 2013

**54**  
Outreach events  
coordinated in 2025,  
reaching  
**thousands**  
of County residents

**192**  
Guests attended  
Annual Cooperator's  
Dinner  
**600+**  
Copies of Annual  
Report distributed

## 2025 Envirothon

The Envirothon is a natural resources competition for high school students. Five-member teams study provided reference material and participate in hands-on training in soils, aquatics, wildlife, forestry, and a fifth environmental issue that changes from year to year. The winning team earns the right to compete at the next level, be it the state or national event. The Envirothon provides a fun and exciting way for high school students to learn about natural resources, make informed decisions about the environment, and earn scholarship money for college. The event is a problem-solving competition that challenges students to work collaboratively to answer questions and conduct hands-on projects focusing on natural resource issues. The goal is to increase students' environmental knowledge and understanding, while also motivating young people to care for the environment by practicing stewardship in their homes, schools, and communities. **We are proud to announce that Laurel High School won first-place honors at the 2025 Prince George's County Envirothon for the fourth year in a row and went on to compete at the state level!**

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## FY 27 PROGRAM INITIATIVES

### Ag Conservation

Focus on meeting post 2025 WIP III Goals. Meet with Maryland Department of Agriculture to discuss revised planning strategy for post 2025 WIP III.

### Ag-land Preservation

Continue promotional outreach efforts to eligible landowners. Continue working with land preservation partners to shorten the timeline from application to settlement. Work on creative methods to utilize Ag Transfer Tax funds for preservation.

### Urban Ag Conservation

Continue collaboration with USDA/MDA/UM Extension and County Agencies to smooth out challenges with zoning and permit requirements for urban ag.

### Urban Development and Conservation

Implement electronic platform for plan submission and review. Continue the hands on and one-on-one weekly interaction with Engineers and Clients to further lower the number of “submissions” to obtain approvals.

### Education and Outreach

Continue outreach activities that will encourage schools to be involved in the Envirothon, FFA activities, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences and Natural Resources (MANRRS) and Green School Initiatives.

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# THANK YOU for your support!

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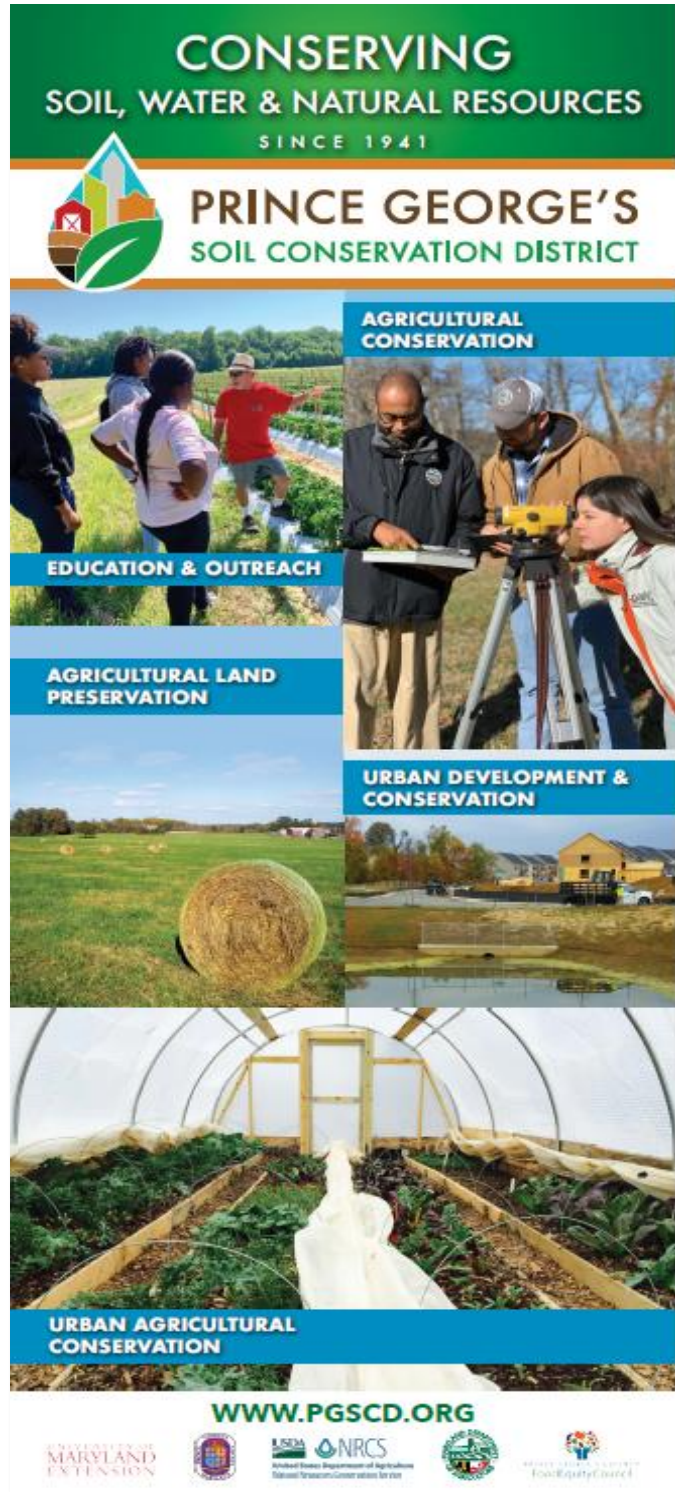
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The Prince George's Soil Conservation District prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.



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