



# Soil Conservation District FY 2027 Budget Overview

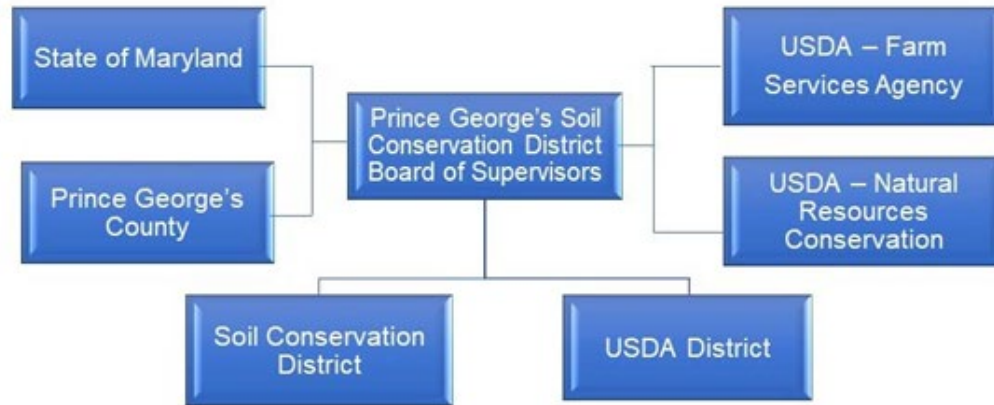
Budget & Policy Analysis Division

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**

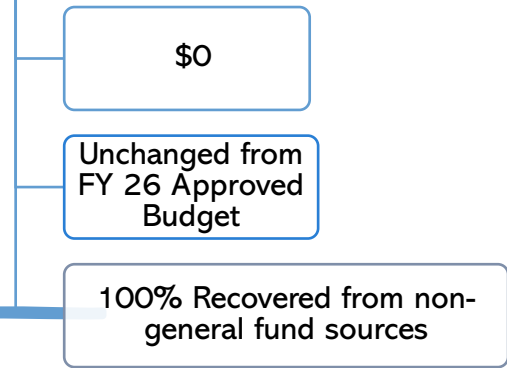
**Increase the acres of preserved agricultural land in the County through perpetual easements, directing development away from the rural tier, reducing the need for development related infrastructure funding to rural areas of the County and encouraging investment in active agricultural enterprises that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

**Increase education and outreach of soil and water conservation**

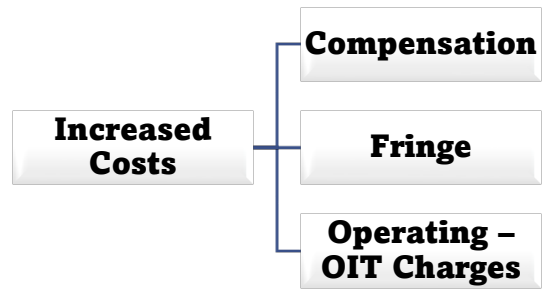
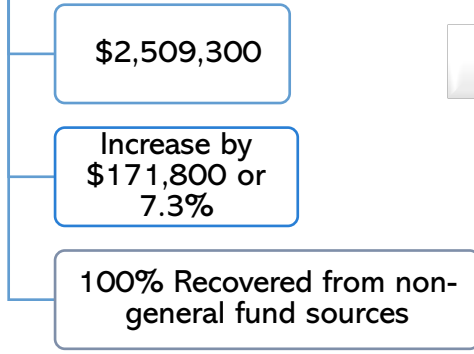
**Increase technical assistance for the conservation of soil and water resources on urban agricultural operations in the County.**

# FY 2027 BUDGET SUMMARY

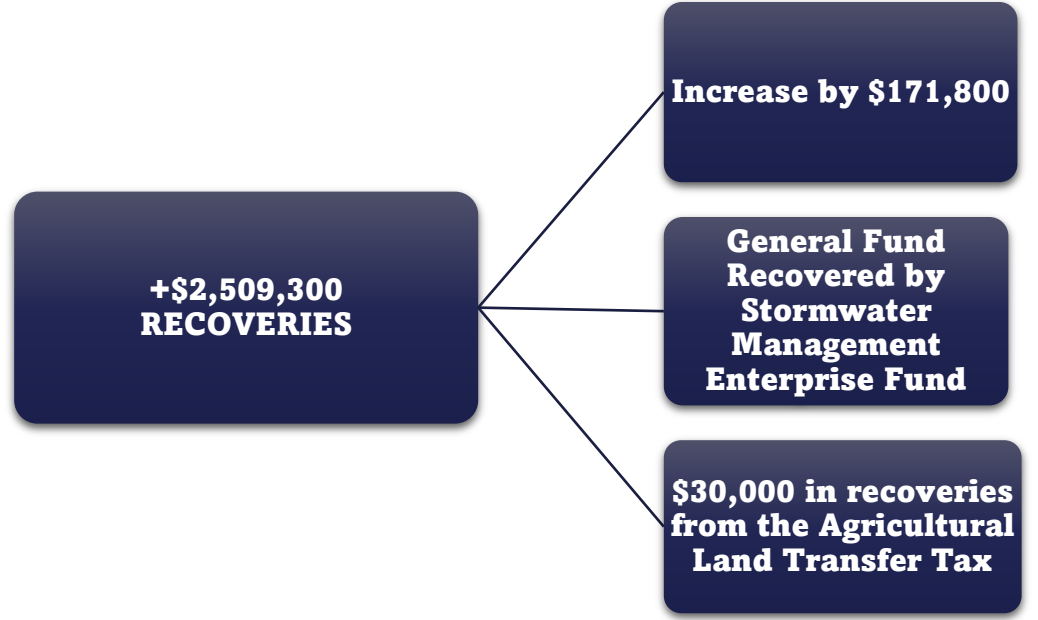
## Proposed FY 2027



## Proposed FY 2027 Before Recoveries



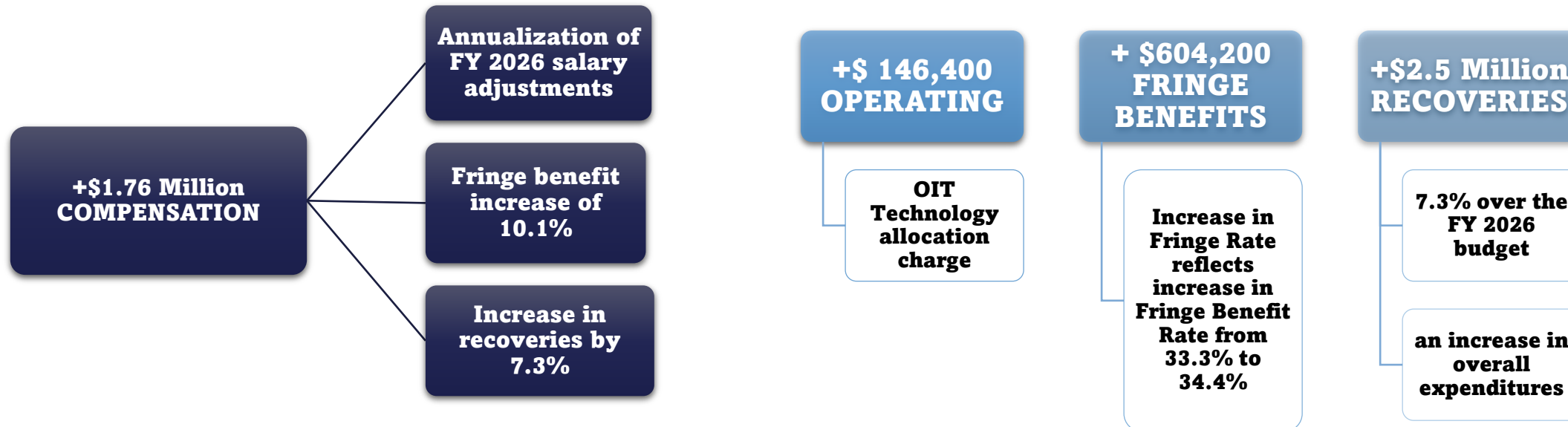
Recoveries, FY 2026 and FY 2027						
	Specific Project	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Proposed	Change (FY26 VS FY27)	Change %
1	Salaries - MD Ag Tax	\$ 22,300	\$ 22,500	\$ 22,300	\$ -	0%
2	Fringe - MD Ag Tax	\$ 7,700	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,700	\$ -	0%
	<b>Sub-Total MD Ag Tax</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
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%
	<b>Sub-Total Storm Water Mgmt.</b>	<b>\$2,307,500</b>	<b>\$2,307,700</b>	<b>\$2,479,300</b>	<b>\$ 171,800</b>	<b>7.44%</b>
	<b>TOTAL RECOVERIES</b>	<b>\$2,337,500</b>	<b>\$2,337,700</b>	<b>\$2,509,300</b>	<b>\$ 171,800</b>	<b>7.35%</b>



# GENERAL FUND OVERVIEW

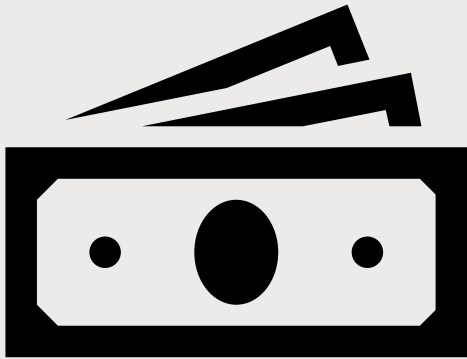
100%  
Recovered from  
non-general  
fund sources

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	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>SubTotal</b>	<b>\$2,178,203</b>	<b>\$2,337,500</b>	<b>\$2,337,700</b>	<b>\$2,509,300</b>	<b>\$171,800</b>	<b>7.3%</b>
Recoveries	(2,178,203)	(2,337,500)	(2,337,700)	(2,509,300)	(171,800)	7.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$—</b>	

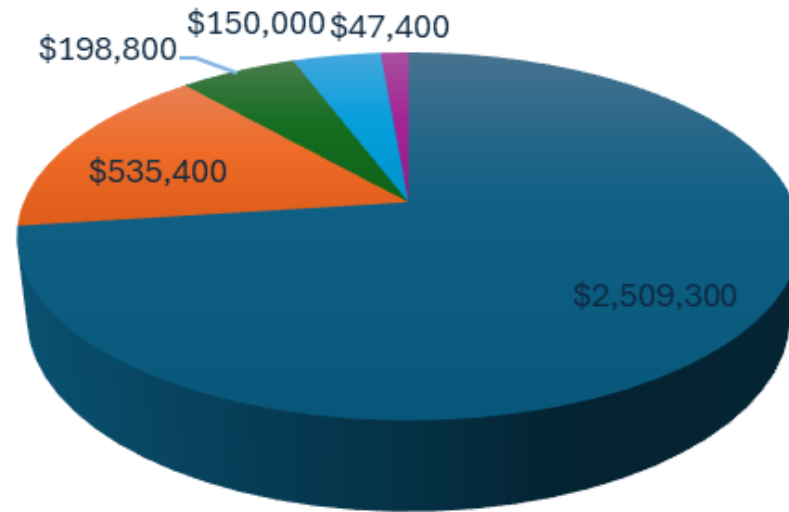


# Revenues

- **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 2<sup>nd</sup> NACD-TA grant (National Association of Conservation Districts technical grant) to continue to pay for their Urban Agriculture Planner.

## Full time Urban AG Planner

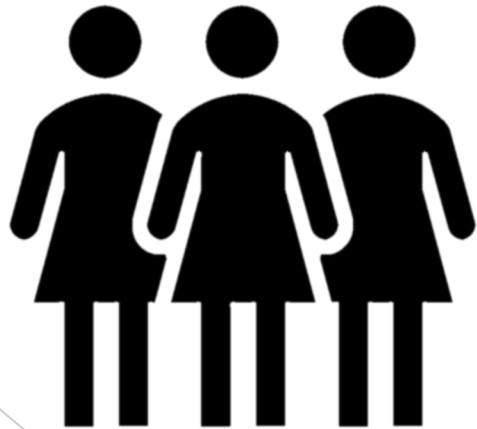
- Efforts are underway to make this a permanent position. If approved for a 3<sup>rd</sup> NACD-TA grant, the Planner would be funded until June 2027.

# 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  
CIVILIAN  
- 16

Unchanged

# Highlights

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**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.**

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**- Five other application rankings were approved for 289.66 acres.**

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

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**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**

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**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**

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**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**

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**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

## The Agricultural Food Security Innovation Center

The Revenue Authority contracted out the feasibility for this project

Ms. Nicole Hall (Revenue Authority) is the project manager for the Feasibility Study

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

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

This is a 14-month project

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?



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?



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 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

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