

PRINCE GEORGE'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP 2021 (Calendar Year)
PLAN OF OPERATION

Strategy 1.

Protect soil resource base from degradation by erosion.

Goal Develop Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans (SCWQP) on every farm that is 50 acres or greater in size within the boundaries of the District by 2025. In 2021, the District will set a workload goal to develop new and revised SCWQPs on 4200 acres.

Accomplished: Prepared 59 plans on 4506 acres (105 %) completion.

Goal Implement all planned conservation compliance systems and install BMPs. In 2019, the District will set a workload goal to assist in installing 165 BMPs on 4100 acres.

Accomplished: Installed 212 BMPs on 4818 acres (106% & 118%) respectively.

Goal Assist landowners with State and Federal cost-share programs. In 2021, the District will process 80 components (applications, agreements, claim for payments, etc.) of State and Federal cost-share contracts.

Accomplished: Processed 97 components (106%) completion.

Goal Review sediment control measures for non-agricultural construction sites. Provide administrative and technical review of erosion and sediment control plans, including forest harvest plans and pond/stormwater management plans. In 2019, the District will set a workload goal to approve 500 erosion and sediment control plans and pond/stormwater management plans.

Accomplished: Approved 413 erosion and sediment control plans and pond/stormwater management plans. A total of 1759 reviews occurred on different types of plans (110% completion).

Goal Provide a high level of efficiency and proficiency in reviewing all plans, including forestry plans, erosion and sediment control plans, and pond/stormwater management plans. In 2021, the District will maintain a goal of five business days or less for all plan review turnaround times.

Accomplished: Maintained an average of 5.0 business days for plan reviews.

Goal Provide service to clients relating to Federal, State, and local pollution prevention and water quality initiatives. The District will set a workload goal to provide education and outreach programs to 100 agricultural landowners and operators by promoting conservation education and outreach to maximize participation.

Accomplished: Assisted over 50 farmers with the implementation of 212 BMPs on 4818 acres for an estimated 1776 tons of soil saved. Assisted partners with technical services resulting in state and federal payments to 22 producers and assisted over 100 landowners on technical aspects of soil erosion, water quality, and stormwater management issues on farms.

Strategy 2.

Protect surface and groundwater from excessive sedimentation and detrimental runoff from animal waste, nutrients, and pesticides.

Goal Support marketing, promotion, and participation in FSA, NRCS, and Maryland Conservation Grant Programs by conducting public information campaigns to protect the land resources.

Goal Endorse, promote, and participate in Federal, State, and local initiatives/programs like the Cover Crop Program, CREP, AMA, and EQIP that mitigate the effects of nutrients, animal waste, and pesticides. **Accomplishment: 13 farmers fall certified 2083 acres for the MDA Cover Crop Program on 58 tracts. 10 farmers applied for 9 EQIP and 1 for AMA. Five farmers signed contracts—one for AMA and four for EQIP.**

Goal Support watershed initiatives that promote water quality improvements. Provide enhanced resources to local priority areas of 0225 and 0226 to address conservation management issues.

Strategy 3.

Facilitate program delivery through the Partnership's locally-led conservation approach.

Goal Improve efficiency, effectiveness, quality, and equality of soil and water conservation programs, services, and operations.

Goal Expand partnerships, coalitions, and outreach.

Goal Support Equal Employment Opportunities.

Goal Provide all services on a non-discrimination basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, marital status, or handicap.

Goal Share training opportunities with District, MDA, and NRCS staff to improve technical and administrative skills. **SoMD Technician Workshops, AutoCAD Civil 3D trainings, Practice Keeper and Conservation Desktop planning trainings, ArcMap, Pasture Conference, Nutrient Management, Soil Health webinars, concrete pipe school, riparian buffers training, ASDSO, and MDE Dam Safety trainings, Cover Crop TAC meetings, Micro-Irrigation workshop, RUSLE 2 Workshop, Ag Law Conference, Ag 101 training, ACI Concrete Box Culvert training, HOW meeting, MACS 101 training, ADS StormTech pipe training, Ethics and Accountability training, Security Awareness, Sexual Harassment Training, and Diversity Equity and Inclusion training.**

Goal Ensure well-informed agricultural landowners and operations through an established information and educational program.

Goal Provide quality customer service.

Strategy 4.

Local operational priorities of the Prince George's Soil Conservation District

Goal Contact and provide technical services to equine operations throughout the County. Equine farm operations will be identified and actively engaged in encouraging the implementation of pasture management and manure management BMPs to reduce erosion and improve water quality. Outreach to these and other livestock operations will be made to promote the use of the newly acquired post-pounding rental equipment. New fencing projects will exclude livestock from streams and improve rotational grazing systems. **Accomplishment: Completed roof runoff management, underground outlet, stream crossing, heavy use areas, vegetated treatment area, waste storage facility/HUA extension, and fencing installations on equine operations as well as designs completed for critical area planting, grassed waterway, and diversion. Landowners used the rental equipment program to use the post pounder for rotational grazing to install a cross fence and used the no-till drill for pasture renovations.**

Goal The District will support the NRCS District Conservationist with implementing EQIP and CREP contracts. Assisted District Conservationist with contract activities, including new applications, modifications of contracts, and payment of Federal contracts. **Accomplishments: Committed over 16% of the \$100K local working group EQIP funds. There were 13 BMPs installed using EQIP and AMA programs.**

Goal To encourage and facilitate farmers to utilize reduced tillage methods that reduce soil erosion on farms. **Accomplishment: No-till equipment rentals of no-till drills on cropland, hayland, and pasture, as well as fencing off streams for livestock access using the post pounder. Forty-one (41) farmers used the no-till equipment on 380 acres. This included 8 farmers installing 531 fence posts for pastures using the post pounder.**

Goal To assist farmers in implementing nutrient management plans by offering technical services in the interpretation of soil test results, nutrient recommendations, and infield calibration of spreading equipment. Facilitate the use of the District's rental equipment, specifically the 5-ton capacity lime spreader, 150-bushel capacity manure spreader, and the 600-pound capacity fertilizer spreader to assist operators with implementing their nutrient management plans. **Accomplishment: Five (4) farmers used the nutrient management-related equipment on 23 acres.**

Strategy 4 continued.

Goal Increase outreach to the limited resource farmers in Prince George's County by identifying and offering technical assistance in regard to soil and water conservation issues. Initiate a loan program to facilitate the implementation of BMPs by this demographic. Continue to identify and conduct outreach to minority farmers in the County that may need conservation assistance. **Accomplishment: Upcoming interest has been expressed in using the BMP revolving loan program pending MACS cost-share eligibility for heavy use areas by a new equine cooperator. Continue to serve all farmers regardless of background to the highest standard possible as requests come into the office.**

Goal Promote agricultural land preservation as the local Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) administrator through increased landowner participation in various land preservation programs, including MALPF, Rural Legacy, and the Historic Agriculture Resource Preservation Program (HARPP), and the Federal Ranchland Preservation Program (FRPP). **Accomplished: Maintained State "certification" for MALPF. To date, the district has preserved 7134 acres on 75 farms.**

Goal To meet the WIP III goals by focusing on:

1. Updating expired soil and water conservation plans and writing new soil and water quality conservation plans on 4200 acres of privately owned agriculturally assessed parcels. By 2025, this strategy will have all ag-land parcels >10 acres operating under approved soil and water quality conservation plans.
2. Prioritize the installation of BMPs that maximize nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) reductions. These include cover crop, nutrient management, precision agriculture, manure incorporation, stream fencing, and manure management practices.

