



Join Us In
 a Partnership for
**Clean Water,
 Healthy Soil**
 and a Bright
Tomorrow

Plant the
 Seeds of
 Conservation
 In Your
 Community

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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**MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF
 SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

53 SLAMA ROAD / EDGEWATER, MD 21037
 (410) 956-5771

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SOIL CONSERVATION
 DISTRICT AS IT WORKS TO:**

-  Help farmers, developers and other landowners prevent soil from washing or blowing away.
-  Protect the Chesapeake Bay by developing Tributary Strategies to safeguard the rivers that feed it.
-  Protect communities from too much or too little water.
-  Promote conservation and farmland preservation programs so that the food we buy will always be plentiful.
-  Plant trees and other vegetation to hold our soil in place, provide habitat for wildlife, and give beauty to our communities.
-  Educate our youth on the importance of conserving our natural resources.
-  Help farmers comply with federal and state mandated conservation programs.
-  Help farmers secure financial assistance to install conservation practices.
-  Help prepare soil surveys to assist local governments in growth and development issues.
-  Provide homeowners with conservation information for home and garden projects.



Revised 11/02

**MARYLAND'S SOIL
 CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Who We Are

We are your local soil conservation district. You can find us in every county in Maryland, and in nearly every county and city across the nation. Our origins date back to the Dust Bowl Years of the 1930s when Congress—in response to the widespread damage caused by the loss of our nation's topsoil—passed the Soil Conservation Act. This Act created for the first time a national program to control and prevent soil erosion and led to the birth of soil conservation districts—independent units of state government responsible for carrying out natural resources protection programs at the local level.

Today there are more than 3,000 soil conservation districts in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. District responsibilities have evolved over the last half century as our land use patterns have changed and the importance of addressing the environmental impacts of development activities and nutrient pollution in our waterways has come to light. As we look ahead, Maryland's soil conservation districts will continue to involve local citizens and communities in soil conservation and water quality programs—both on the farm and in our towns and cities.

What We Do

The men and women of your local soil conservation district perform a range of conservation activities aimed at keeping the soil productive and our waterways clean and healthy.

A typical soil conservation district staff includes a district manager and district conservationist, engineers, agricultural planners, technicians, soil scientist, urban reviewers, and administrative staff. These professionals oversee a range of soil conservation and water quality protection efforts to enhance farming operations, prevent flooding, safeguard streams and reservoirs, foster wildlife habitat, manage forest resources and address natural resource impacts from urban growth. Detailed advice on planning and establishing agricultural best management practices, such as terraces and grassed waterways to help control erosion, is at the core of their mission. District staffs also provide landowners and developers with information on soils and other natural resources, while approving stormwater management plans for local governments and sediment and erosion control plans required by Maryland law.

A casual glance within your own community will attest to the work quietly being performed by Maryland's soil conservation districts. Farm fields and streams protected from erosion and nutrient pollution, new developments and shopping centers outfitted with special sediment and stormwater management controls, and a strong, conservation-minded agricultural community are among the accomplishments of Maryland's 24 soil conservation districts.

How We Work for You

Each soil conservation district functions independently under a local five-member Board of Supervisors. This local leadership ensures that county issues are addressed. Although soil conservation districts typically occupy the same boundaries as counties, they are not part of county government. Their staff and operating budgets are funded through a combination of federal, state and local assistance.

To carry out their mission, soil conservation districts work with a number of local, state and federal agencies, including the Maryland Departments of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, Maryland Cooperative Extension, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Army Corps of Engineers.

Become a Partner In Conservation

Your soil conservation district is hard at work protecting our natural resources and the quality of life for you and your family. But we can do an even better job with your help. If you are a farmer, become a cooperator in your local soil conservation district. Remember, we are not a regulatory agency. The aim of Maryland's soil conservation districts is to enhance farming operations while helping to protect our valuable soil and water resources. We can also assist you in applying for financial assistance to install best management practices on your farm that control soil erosion, reduce nutrient runoff and safeguard water quality in local streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

If you live on a smaller parcel of land, you can practice conservation by joining your local Tributary Strategy team, becoming an Earth Team volunteer, signing up for local environmental cleanup activities and educating yourself on sound conservation practices for home and garden projects. Call us today. As partners in conservation, we can ensure a bright future for our children.