

Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District



Biennial Report FY 2010-11

Board of Directors

Chair, Jean R. Packard
Vice Chair, John W. Peterson
Secretary, Johna Good Gagnon
Treasurer, George W. Lamb
Director–Extension, Adria C. Bordas

Associate Directors/ Consultants

Harry Glasgow	Nancy Michaelsen
Walter Hamilton	John Okay
Robert Jordan	Fernando Pasquel
Don Kelso	Jerry Peters
Robert Kohnke	Richard Terwilliger
Laura McNichol	Don Wayne

NVSWCD Staff

Environmental Educator, Taylor Beach
District Administrator, Diane Hoffman
Admin./Tech. Assistant, Nicholas Kokales
Urban Conservation Engineer, Asad Rouhi
Soil Scientist, Dan Schwartz
Watershed Specialist, Lily Whitesell
Senior Conservation Specialist, Wilfred Woode

NRCS Staff

District Conservationist, Larry Wilkinson

About Us

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is a self-governing political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Its boundaries are the same as those of Fairfax County. Founded by citizens concerned about conserving natural resources, NVSWCD is one of 47 conservation districts in Virginia and serves an area with more than a million people.

The Conservation District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. Three directors are elected in a general election every four years, and two, including a Virginia Cooperative Extension agent serving Fairfax County, are appointed by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board. The NVSWCD Board of Directors meets the fourth Tuesday of every month. Directors serve without pay but are reimbursed for expenses related to district activities.

NVSWCD has been Fairfax County's partner for 65 years. Our technical and educational programs are made possible by funding and administrative support from Fairfax County, the Commonwealth of Virginia through its Department of Conservation and Recreation, and various public and private grants. Assistance also comes from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other partners.

Our Vision...

is of a Fairfax County with clean streams and protected natural resources.

On the cover, clockwise from top left.

1) Urban Conservation Engineer Asad Rouhi explains the Kingstowne II stream restoration. Credit: Stephanie Bianco. 2) Conservation District friends peruse the selection of artistic rain barrels at the silent auction. 3) In 2011, the Hidden Pond Nature Center Envirothon team took second place statewide. 4) Hardy workshop participants drill aeration holes in their nearly-completed tumbler-style composters. Credit: Paul Hughes.

Our Mission...

is to lessen the impact of urban/suburban activities on our land and water resources in Fairfax County—vital components of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. We achieve this through effective leadership, technical assistance, and outreach programs in collaboration with government, industry, and the public.

Adult Education * Youth Programs * Outreach

Technical Assistance

Agriculture

Although Fairfax County is mainly an urbanized area, agricultural operations including suburban horse operations, small farmettes, plant nurseries and golf courses still exist within the county boundaries. In FY 2010-11, NVSWCD provided soil and water quality conservation planning assistance to these land users enabling them to meet the requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance.

The Conservation District also performed site investigations and conservation planning for land owners interested in creating and renewing Agricultural and Forestal Districts, and administered the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) Cost Share and Tax Credit programs in Fairfax County. These state programs provide financial incentives to the agricultural community for protecting open space and implementing practices that minimize soil erosion and water pollution.

Development and the Environment

NVSWCD has continued to provide development plan review services to Fairfax County. The erosion and sediment control and stormwater management components of certain development plans, as well as all rezoning applications, are examined by the Conservation District. Staff identify potential impacts on natural resources, including wetlands, streams and resource protection areas (RPAs). Staff also advise residents and local consultants needing better site design and innovative stormwater management.

In addition, staff visit more than a dozen construction sites each year as judges in the county's annual

Land Conservation Awards program, which recognizes the building industry for excellence in installing and maintaining erosion and sediment controls.

Streams and Stormwater

Staff facilitate stream stabilization, riparian buffer enhancement, stormwater pond retrofit, bioretention and other related projects in Fairfax County. During FY 2010-11, the Conservation District facilitated the funding and implementation of the Kingstowne II stream restoration project, along 2,500 linear feet of a perennial stream in Fairfax County (see p. 4). NVSWCD designed a stream stabilization on the Akers property in FY 2010-11 (see p. 6). Since 2007, the Conservation District has continued monitoring of the Little Pimmit Run stream restoration project in McLean.

Technical Assistance

	2010/2011
Pond inquiries & visits.....	24/30
Soils inquiries.....	147/137
Site visits	113/133
Assistance via telephone or e-mail	145/178
Other technical assistance.....	34/37
Site plans reviewed for E&S and SWM.....	13/33
Rezoning/special exceptions reviewed.....	123/109
Agricultural parcels planned.....	52/29
Acreage.....	461.3/396
RPA protected (linear ft).....	30,929/10,645
Nutrient Management Plans	1/8

*Agriculture * Land Use * Stormwater Management * Soil*

The Conservation District participated in site analysis, design and construction supervision of several bioretention facilities, partnering with the Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax County Stormwater Management Division, and others. An innovative Low Impact Development Demonstration Project in the Falls Hill/Poplar Heights neighborhood was completed. The LID practices not only capture rain, protecting nearby streams and yards, but are also important education and outreach tools for the community (see box on p. 5 for details). A number of other rain gardens were also constructed with these dual purposes (see p. 6), and many rain gardens built in previous years were carefully monitored during FY 2010-11 to ensure continued success.

Technical Information

Technical assistance to residents, civic groups, industry, local municipalities, and state and federal agencies continued to be a fundamental component of Conservation District efforts in FY 2010-11. Inquiries about pond management, stream stabilization, erosion, drainage problems, pasture management, horticulture, soils and watershed protection all received attention from staff. Many of these inquiries required a quick e-mail or phone call, others involved

a site visit and analysis or research on the part of staff.

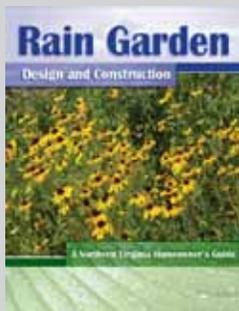
Soils

During FY 2010-11, NVSWCD continued to provide soils information to residents, consultants and government agencies in Fairfax County. Information about local soil characteristics helps these groups conserve soil and water resources, undertake appropriate development or redevelopment, and manage residential and agricultural properties. Conservation District staff helped with final revisions of the updated soil survey which was then adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in June and is now the official soil survey for the county.

Additionally, staff conducted several site-specific infiltration studies to measure the rate at which water percolates into the soil. This data is used to locate and design new low impact development facilities, such as rain gardens, and retrofit existing stormwater ponds, both of which limit and treat polluted stormwater runoff. Staff also assisted in revising county policy regarding the proper soil testing procedure for the design of rain gardens and infiltration trenches. Assistance was also given to the Code Enforcement Division to help resolve a dispute over illegal fill soil placement.

Special Project: Rain Garden Guide

NVSWCD and the Fairfax County Park Authority produced a booklet to help homeowners plan,



design, build and maintain rain gardens on their property. *Rain Garden Design and Construction - A Northern Virginia Homeowner's Guide* includes step-by-step instructions, diagrams and photographs, and an appendix with a list of suggested native plants.

Rain Garden Design and Construction is available at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/raingarden.htm

Special Project: Kingstowne II Stream Restoration

In spring 2011, the Kingstowne II stream restoration was completed. Kingstowne I, the restoration of another section of the same stream, was implemented over a decade ago as one of the first projects of its kind - using natural channel design - in the region. The Kingstowne II \$1.2 million project restored a badly eroded portion of stream, which now features aquatic life, a gentle slope and meanders, and a well-vegetated riparian buffer. NVSWCD partnered on the project with the Nature Conservancy, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Kingstowne HOA, and Fairfax County.

Adult Education * Youth Programs * Outreach

Special Project: Falls Hill Low Impact Development (LID) Project

The Conservation District, in partnership with Fairfax County and other key organizations, piloted a groundbreaking low impact development (LID) demonstration project in the Falls Hill and Poplar Heights neighborhoods in 2008 and 2009.

The \$12,000 grant-funded project included three components: an LID demonstration project, outreach, and a matching grant program.

The Klingelhofer property was chosen to host the demonstration project, and a series of LID practices were installed to demonstrate innovative ways to control stormwater. Included were: bioglog terraces backfilled with a compost blanket, rain barrels, a rain garden with a modified French drain leading to it, and an infiltration trench.



Two workshops held in fall 2008 for community residents introduced stormwater issues, reviewed the demonstration project, and profiled six residential LID practices. All participants were given a copy of the *Residential LID Handbook and Resource Guide*, which built on the workshop content. A demonstration project field day was also held, the first of many tours of the site.

Several homeowners in the neighborhoods requested technical assistance and pursued the recommendations. Five matching grants were awarded to help residents implement their projects. These included tree and native vegetation planting, compost terraces and coir fiber logs (biologs), rain barrels, and riparian buffer restoration and enhancement.

Special Project: Five-Cell Composting Facility

The Virginia, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) approved a grant request for \$25,254 to erect a demonstration multi-cell composting facility at a suburban horse operation.

Partners included the USDA NRCS and the Gunnell's Run Horse Farm where the facility was built. This is a 15-horse boarding and riding operation on a 21.4-acre portion of a 57.4 acre property called the Cajoll Property in the Pond Branch watershed in Great Falls.

Three main objectives were to: erect the facility, hold a demonstration seminar and prepare educational materials.



Construction of the five cell composter was completed in January 2010. The facility comes with an impervious base and roof.

On April 23rd 2010, the district in partnership with Gunnell's Run Horse Farm, NRCS and Great Falls Saddlery held a seminar on Manure Management at the site of the composter. (This was the second in a series of Horse Farm Management Seminars.) Guest speakers included Virginia Tech professors and DCR staff.

In February 2010 a twelve-page brochure, *Earth Friendly Suburban Horse Farming*, was published. This brochure highlighted key best management practices that make for an environmentally sound suburban horse operation, including very specific details on horse farm waste management.



A Seminar on Horse Farm Waste Management

Agriculture * Land Use * Stormwater Management * Soil

Special Projects FY 2010-11

The district's technical staff contributed to many special projects during FY 2010-11 including stream stabilization projects, stormwater pond retrofit planning, environmental assessments and low impact development installations. In partnership with local citizens, non-profits, government agencies and private consultants, the district undertook these on-the-ground efforts to improve water quality and protect our natural resources. Staff also sat on technical committees and taught professional seminars. A few of these special efforts have been highlighted within this section, others are described below.

Merrimac Farm Rain Garden

This bioretention facility is a demonstration site for visitors to the Merrimac Farm Wildlife Management Area, capturing the first inch of rain. NVSWCD designed the facility and supervised construction, partnering with Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries. Afterwards, workshops and tours for professionals on design, construction, monitoring and maintenance of rain gardens were held at the site.

Akers Stream Stabilization

An intermittent stream was stabilized on a private property using step pools and grade control structures, reducing erosion of the stream channel. NVSWCD designed and developed the channel stabilization plan and supervised construction.

Horse Farm Mgmt Seminars

Topics in this series of horse farm management seminars included manure management (see p. 5), pasture management, heavy use (sacrifice) area location, design, and construction, and site planning.

Equestrian Stream Crossing

NVSWCD designed and supervised installation of a stream crossing as part of a new 8-ft. wide riding trail at the Turner Farm Equestrian Center in Great Falls, partnering with Fairfax County Park Authority.

Williams Lane Rain Garden

NVSWCD designed and supervised installation of a large bioretention facility (1600 square feet) in an industrial park to solve a long-standing flooding problem. Fairfax County MSMD built the facility, which is capable of detaining up to a 10-year storm.

PE Soil Morphology Course

This two-day Field Soil Morphology course for Professional Engineers (PE) was held in May 2010. Fairfax County guidelines were revised to allow PEs who passed the course to determine the water table year-round using soil morphology.

Bureau of Land Management Site

NVSWCD designed and assisted with the implementation of several critical stormwater projects, removing culverts and developing a new stream bed and banks, designing a stormwater management pond and spillway, and stabilizing a severely eroding outfall.

Land Conservation Awards

Judges, including NVSWCD and partner agency staff, visit sites twice a year for this annual awards program. Awards are given by development category and to outstanding individuals, firms, and the best protected environmentally sensitive site.

*Adult Education * Youth Programs * Outreach*

Outreach & Education

During 2010-11, the Conservation District continued its high quality environmental education and stewardship offerings for adults and families as well as for youth. Three long-standing NVSWCD stewardship programs for youth and adults - watershed cleanups, volunteer stream monitoring and storm drain education are profiled separately on pages 7-10. Other innovative programs also are featured on the pages to come.

Program Spotlight: Watershed Cleanups

Trash cleanups are family-friendly and satisfying volunteer stewardship opportunities for those interested in protecting our streams, rivers and the Bay.

In FY 2010-11, the Conservation District continued to facilitate Fairfax County's participation in the Alice Ferguson Foundation's spring Potomac River Watershed Cleanup and the Ocean Conservancy's fall International Coastal Cleanup. In spring 2011 cleanups, Fairfax County volunteers took 31,750 plastic bottles and over 200 tires out of local streams.

2010/2011

International Coastal Cleanup

Sites.....25/32

Volunteers.....average 800

Trash collected (tons)average 15

Potomac River Cleanup

Sites.....101/76

Volunteers.....2115/1734

Trash collected (tons)29/28

Artistic Rain Barrel Program

The Artistic Rain Barrel Silent Auction took place on a Saturday evening at Green Spring Gardens Park. Twenty-five beautifully painted and decorated rain barrels had been displayed at libraries, schools, businesses and community centers across the area. The rain barrel artists volunteered their time, and proceeds from the silent auction benefited the Northern Virginia Rain Barrel Program, a partnership that provides discounted rain barrels to area residents.

Composter Workshops

You sir! And you ma'am! Step right up, don't be shy! What would you say if I were to tell you, right here and right now, that you could turn regular household

Next Page >>

Public Outreach

2010/2011

Public info inquiries.....1,349/1,410

Printed info distributed.....2,606/3,627

Newsletters @ circulation3 @2,500/ 3 @2,500

Web site visitors90,970/43,486

Seedlings sold6,650/6,500

Enviroscape demonstrations13/6

Enviroscape demonstration attendance210/168

Presentations, workshops, seminars, tours given, sponsored or organized63/72

Presentations attendance2887/4211

Events with staffed display10/12

Events attendance360/1278

Overall volunteer hours2007/1287

Agriculture * Land Use * Stormwater Management * Soil

kitchen and yard waste into.....gold? Skeptical? You should be, but I'm here to attest to you that where the ancient alchemists failed, we have succeeded! We have created a way to turn what was once considered rubbish into valuable, prized organic humus: the veritable black gold of gardener lore!

This introduction to the composter workshop in NVSWCD's Fall Conservation Currents newsletter intrigued plenty of residents to build their own composters at weekend workshops. After a presentation including step-by-step instructions along with compost do's and don'ts, residents used the supplies provided to assemble the tumbler barrel and frame. The events had a great turnout of willing participants and everyone left with their own composting tumbler ready for use at their home.

Program Spotlight: Rain Barrel Program

The Northern Virginia Rain Barrel Program Partnership has continued to provide low-cost rain barrels to residents since the first rain barrel workshop in March 2007.

"Build-your-own" workshops and rain barrel sales are offered annually by the partnership, helping residents reduce stormwater runoff and conserve water. An educational presentation at each rain barrel program explains where rain barrels fit into watershed protection efforts and residential low-impact development alternatives.



A 2011 Artistic Rain Barrel Program helped enhance the visibility of the program and rainwater harvesting as a way to protect streams and rivers. (See p. 7 for more information.)

2010/2011

Rain barrels distributed.....	690/565
Participants	529/447
Workshops/events	13/15

Watershed-Friendly Tour

In June 2011, the Conservation District organized the Watershed Friendly Home and Garden Tour, inspiring visitors to create an environmentally-friendly landscape at homes, school, or businesses. Local residents opened their gardens and shared their experiences landscaping with our water resources in mind. Sixteen gardens featured vegetated roofs, rain barrels, backyard wildlife habitat, composting, native plant species and more. Materials and resources were provided at each site, and online. The event was co-sponsored by the Fairfax Master Naturalists.

Envirothon

NVSWCD sponsored teams for the 2010 and 2011 Envirothon, a natural resources competition for high school students. With coaching from the Conservation District and our partners, each team of five students became experts in aquatic ecology, forestry, soils, land use, wildlife and a special topic that changes each year. In 2010 and 2011, a participation record was set with teams from Madison High School in Vienna, Hidden Pond Nature Center in Springfield, Centreville High School, Marshall High School in Falls Church, Langley High School in McLean, and Boy Scout Troop 152 in Vienna. A runoff competition organized by the district determined which two Fairfax County teams would continue on to the regional competition. In 2011, the Envirothon team from Hidden Pond took first place at regionals and continued on to the state level, taking second place at the May 2011 state-wide competition at Camp Hanover, the highest-ever finish by a Fairfax County team!

Website & Newsletter

In FY 2010-11, the NVSWCD website saw major changes. Images were added to the homepage to facilitate usability and ease of navigation within the Conservation District's many programs and publica-

*Adult Education * Youth Programs * Outreach*

tions. Many pertinent previous newsletter articles are top hits in their subject area on internet search engines. However, much of this robust archive continued on an older template. In 2011, all articles were brought over to the new template, with staff and interns fixing broken links, bad code, and resolving ADA accessibility issues, making the website more accessible to all users.

The website continues to provide new relevant conservation information to the public. The site's announcement page advertises upcoming events and activities. It also includes numerous resources for residents seeking to protect local water quality and soil resources. Fairfax County also launched a local Environment Facebook newsfeed, and the NVSWCD has contributed events, news, and articles.

The Conservation District continues to publish its quarterly newsletter, *Conservation Currents*. In FY 2010-11, 2,500 copies of each issue were distributed to community associations, government officials, schools, libraries, and interested individuals. Topics included recycled building materials, understanding stream restoration, local wastewater treatment plants and the infrastructure benefits of trees. Articles are often reprinted by other organizations and are available on the NVSWCD website.

Youth and Adult Education

School Programs. NVSWCD continued to offer school programs about stream monitoring, water resources, soil, and local volunteer options for students during FY 2010-11. Presentations at scout gatherings, 4-H meetings, classrooms and summer programs often showcased the Enviroscape Watershed Model, a portable, interactive model for teaching about water quality, soil erosion and pollution prevention. Conservation District staff participated in and assisted with Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences, middle school programs in which students connect with their watershed.

Program Spotlight: Volunteer Stream Monitoring

NVSWCD sponsors a monitoring program for Fairfax County streams. The program offers volunteers an opportunity to make a difference in our environment by assessing stream health and contributing data to local and state management initiatives.

During FY 2010-11, the district continued to train volunteers to assess ecological conditions in streams based on the abundance and diversity of benthic macroinvertebrates (aquatic insects and crustaceans). Water quality data collected by volunteer monitors complements the data collected by county staff and is available for watershed planning groups.



The data is uploaded into the Virginia Save Our Streams online database, which is accessible to the public. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality uses this data in its statewide annual water quality reports.

2010/2011

Active monitors (avg per season).....	70/50
Sites monitored (avg per season).....	32/30
Training sessions	37/29
Monitors trained.....	219/239
Monthly Watershed Calendar circulation.....	890/787
Volunteer hours	882/1,287

Presentations. Giving presentations and staffing exhibits is an important part of the Conservation District's outreach work. Staff members are often called on to speak about our connection to local streams and rivers, soil and compost and geology, conservation landscaping, and other key conservation topics. Presentations and exhibits are often requested by

Program Spotlight: Storm Drain Education

The storm drain education program has continued to be a successful one. Volunteers learn how to educate their communities about non-point source pollution prevention and glue pre-printed labels on the concrete covers of storm drains. The labels identify the stream or Potomac River watershed in addition to a “No Dumping” message. Many in our area still are unaware that storm drains lead directly to local streams without any filtering system, and the storm drain education program is key in getting that message out to the public.

Numerous individuals, scout troops, and community associations participate. Volunteers provide watershed education, informing local residents about non-point source pollution and how everyone can help protect streams, rivers and the Bay.



2010/2011

Projects	27/43
Volunteers	405/857
Storm drains labeled	2,329/4,274
Homes/citizens educated	13,393/19,572
Orientation sessions	25/36
Attendance	48/61
Volunteer hours	1,095/2,280

homeowners’ and citizens’ associations, non-profits, religious groups, and other organizations. In FY 2010-11, the Conservation District expanded outreach to multicultural and multilingual audiences.

Workshops. The Conservation District often holds or co-hosts special workshops on key topics of interest to area residents. From FY 2009-11, NVSWCD staff created opportunities for Fairfax County residents to learn about low impact development (see p. 5), as well as topics in suburban horse-keeping (see p. 6). Rain garden workshops for homeowners and a more technical rain garden construction training for landscape professionals were held.

Seedling Sale

In 2010, “Nature’s Palette” was the theme for the NVSWCD annual spring native seedling sale. Species were chosen for the color and beauty they added to the garden year-round. The 2011 theme was “Not Here, Deer!” The tree and shrub species were selected for being more deer-resistant than other natives. The 2010 and 2011 sales together added more than 13,000 native trees and shrubs to our communities.

Student Internships & Awards

NVSWCD has an active internship program and mentors high school, college, and graduate students interested in learning more about environmental education and natural resource management. In FY2010-11, three high school, four college, and two graduate students interned with the Conservation District, contributing to stewardship programs like the volunteer stream monitoring and storm drain education programs, writing for Conservation Currents, and assisting with work on the website.

Conservation District directors, staff, and friends judge conservation-related projects at the Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair held annually at Robinson Secondary School. In both 2010 and 2011, NVSWCD awarded prizes to three natural

Adult Education * Youth Programs * Outreach

resources projects. Student projects focused on topics including carbon sequestration in wetlands, Vitamin C and Chesapeake Bay grasses, and cattails' ability to reduce nitrate levels in ponds.

Each year, the Conservation District has the opportunity to send two high school students to Youth Conservation Camp, a week of natural resources career exploration held annually at Virginia Tech. The Conservation District facilitates student attendance by providing a partial camp scholarship. In 2010, NVSWCD received very few applications from students and sent only one camper. In 2011, NVSWCD was able to sponsor two excellent students, both interested in natural resource conservation careers. The Conservation District also nominates a Fairfax County senior for a college scholarship offered by the Educational Foundation of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts each year. A panel of judges from Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District staff and board evaluates applications and forwards one to the statewide competition, along with each of Virginia's other 46 conservation districts.

Green Breakfast

NVSWCD facilitates a bi-monthly gathering to discuss environmental topics in a casual setting on a Saturday morning. Attendees at the FY 2010-11 green breakfasts included agency representatives, interested citizens, students, lawmakers, members of the business community and representatives of local non-profits. Six green breakfasts are held each year, drawing 35 - 50 attendees. Once or twice a month, announcements are emailed to ~516 recipients.

Topics for FY 2010-11 included:

- Electricity from Nuclear Energy
- State Legislative Forecast and Green Energy
- In 2030, What Will Northern Virginia Look Like?
- Native Plants & Wildlife in the Managed Landscape
- Managing Growth
- Forest Health and Forest Fire
- Wildlife Management in Fairfax County
- Reflections from Jimmie Jenkins
- TREEmendous Challenges: Fairfax County Tree Ordinance and 30-Year Tree Canopy Goal
- A Case Study from Potomac Vegetable Farms: Preserving Agriculture in Urbanizing Communities
- Reducing Your Carbon Footprint

Partnerships

We accomplish a great deal of our work by facilitating and participating in partnerships with a wide array of agencies and organizations throughout the community. Some of them include:

- Fairfax County Restoration Project
- Fairfax County Tree Commission
- Fairfax County Engineering Standards Review Committee
- Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District
- Northern Virginia Regional Rain Barrel Initiative
- Potomac Council and Potomac Watershed Roundtable
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- VA Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners
- Fairfax Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists
- Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Alice Ferguson Foundation Regional Trash Summit and Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup
- Meadowood Farm Planning and Operations Team
- Fairfax County Environmental Coordinating Committee

*Agriculture * Land Use * Stormwater Management * Soil*

Awards

During FY 2010-11, the Conservation District both gave and earned several notable awards. In 2009, Gunnell's Run Horse Farm in Great Falls received the **Virginia Clean Water Farm**. In 2010, the district nominated Sunshire Stables in Clifton for the award. Given by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, this award recognizes the horse operations' efforts to reduce nutrient pollution.

NVSWCD annually bestows its **Cooperator of the Year** award to recognize excellence in partnership. **Angler Environmental** was named Cooperator of the Year in 2009 for their partnership on many projects in low impact development and stream restoration. In 2010, the award was given to **Bijan Sistani**, Engineer IV with Fairfax County Land Development Services (Dept. of Public Works and Environmental Services) for integrating and promoting the soil survey and other work. In 2011, the **Fairfax Master Naturalists** were recognized for the many ways in

which they partner with the Conservation District.

Fairfax ReLeaf received both the NVSWCD and VASWCD Urban Forestry Awards for the organization's efforts to restore Fairfax County's tree canopy.

The Conservation District's **Little Pimmit Run project** was recognized with several awards. NVSWCD and Vanasse Hangen Brustin were co-recipients of the *Excellence in Ecological Design* award. Angler Environmental received the *Excellence in Ecological Construction* award from the Virginia Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. It was also recognized by the Community Appearance Alliance.

Director John Peterson was recognized by the VASWCD with the **Bobby Wilkinson Award**. This award is given annually to recognize an outstanding SWCD Director. Jean Packard received the **Sally B. Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award** from the Fairfax County Park Authority in 2010 in recognition of her environmental leadership.

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 905
Fairfax, VA 22035-5512

Phone: 703-324-1460, TTY 711
Fax: 703-324-1421

E-mail: conservationdistrict@fairfaxcounty.gov
Web: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd

Nonprofit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 1015 Fairfax VA 22030

Adult Education * Youth Programs * Outreach