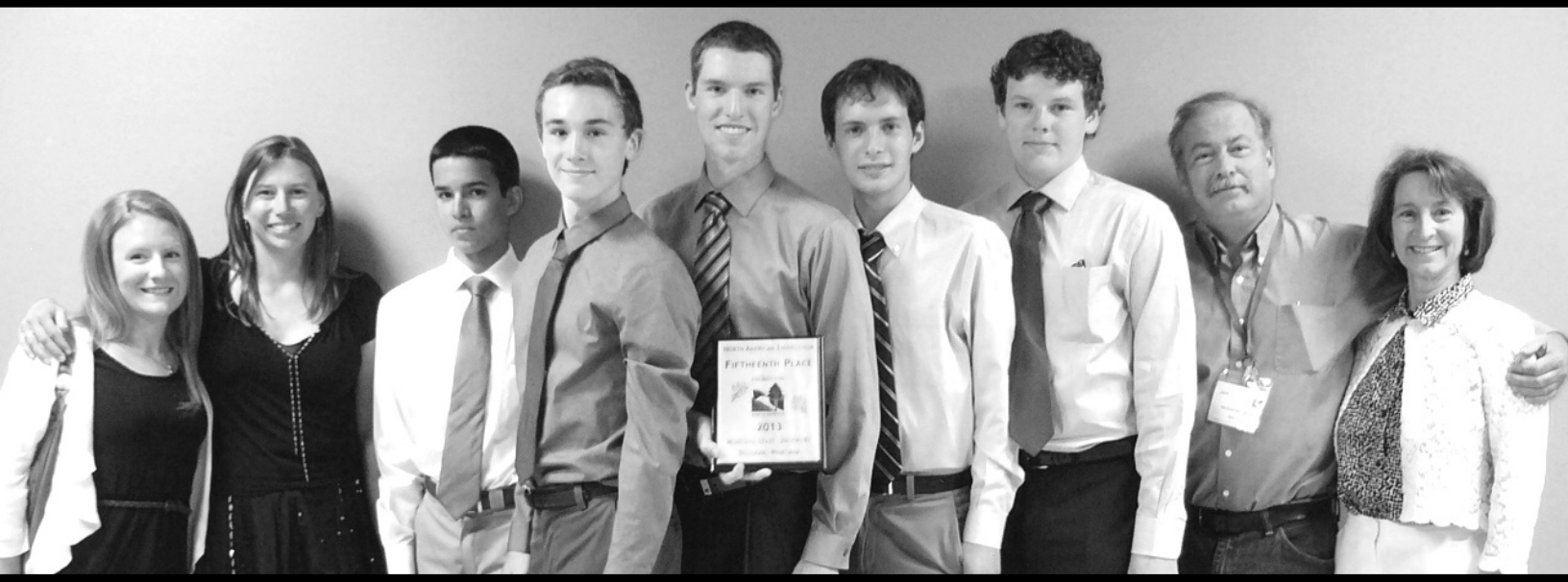
NORTHERN VIRGINIA

SWCD

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



WHAT WE DO

Biennial Report FY 2012-2013

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Modern Traditions

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) were established in the 1930s to develop comprehensive programs and plans to conserve soil resources, control and prevent soil erosion, prevent floods and conserve, develop, utilize and dispose of water.

Founded in 1945 by citizens concerned about conserving natural resources, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is now one of 47 conservation districts in Virginia and approximately 3,000 nationwide. NVSWCD is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, governed by a five-member Board of Directors. Its boundaries are the same as those of Fairfax County, home to over 1.1 million people.

NVSWCD is a locally-led conservation agency with a long history of responding to Fairfax County's changing rural to urban landscape, transitioning programs based on identified needs. NVSWCD is valued for its leadership in using new and emerging techniques to address traditional issues and modern challenges.

NVSWCD is not a regulatory agency. Instead, it collaborates with Fairfax County and other partners to provide conservation information, technical services, educational programs and volunteer opportunities to residents on many aspects of water quality, nonpoint source pollution and stream health and connects residents with environmental initiatives and opportunities.

Our Vision...

is an informed community working together to protect natural resources.

Our Mission...

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

On the Cover

Top, Wakefield Run stream restoration groundbreaking ceremony with project partners (see p. 5)
Bottom, Hidden Pond Envirothon Team receive their award in Montana (see p. 7)

Adult Education * Youth Programs * Outreach

Technical Assistance

Agriculture

Although most of Fairfax County is urbanized, agricultural operations including suburban horse operations, small farmettes, plant nurseries and golf courses still exist within the county boundaries. In FY 2012-13, 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 performs site investigations and conservation planning for land owners interested in creating and renewing Agricultural and Forestal Districts, and administers 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 also provides development plan review services to Fairfax County. The erosion and sediment control and stormwater management components of certain environmentally sensitive 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 on environmental 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 2012-13, the Conservation District facilitated a stream restoration project along 800 linear feet of Wakefield Run, and for a project stabilizing 170 linear feet on Little Pimmit Run, also protecting a sanitary sewer main (see p. 5). NVSWCD staff also monitored Kingstowne II and other previously installed natural channel design stream restoration projects that now feature aquatic life, a gentle slope and a well-vegetated riparian buffer.

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.

NVSWCD has supported efforts to implement an innovative Low Impact Development Demonstration Project in the Franklin Park neighborhood. The Conservation District has offered technical assistance in the design of county facilities in the VDOT right-

Technical Assistance

	FY 2012/2013
Pond inquiries & visits	23/18
Soils inquiries	95/77
Site visits	149/111
Assistance via telephone or email	87/241
Site plans reviewed for E&S and SWM	32/37
Rezonings/special exceptions reviewed	123/109
Agricultural parcels planned	16/52
Acreage	237/945
RPA protected (linear ft)	6860/38,102
Nutrient Management Plans	
Acreage	237/257

Agriculture * Land Use * Stormwater Management * Soil

of-way and is working with homeowners to lay the groundwork for implementing these facilities on private property through a pilot cost-share program.

Low impact development practices not only capture rain, protecting nearby streams and yards, but are also important education and outreach tools for the community. A number of other rain gardens were also constructed with these dual purposes (see p. 6), and rain gardens built in previous years are carefully monitored to ensure continued success.

Technical Information

Technical assistance to residents, civic groups, industry, local municipalities, and state and federal agencies is a fundamental component of Conservation District efforts. Inquiries about pond management, stream stabilization, erosion, drainage problems, pasture management, horticulture, soils and watershed protection all receive attention from staff. Many of these inquiries require a site visit and analysis or research on the part of staff, while others involve a quick email or phone call. The Conservation District also developed a new online drainage and erosion troubleshooting guide for homeowners (see p. 6).

Soils

NVSWCD provides 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. After the new soil survey was adopted by the county Board of Supervisors in 2011, the Conservation District's soil scientist continued to incorporate updates to the map layer and is recommending these changes for adoption.

Additionally, staff conducts 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 brought together partners to hold a soil morphology certification course (see p. 6). Assistance is also given to the Code Enforcement Division to help resolve disputes over illegal fill soil placement and other issues.

Agricultural Cost-Share: McCormick Property Stream Crossing

Hickory Run flows through the McCormicks' five-acre horse farm in the Difficult Run watershed. The owners wished to update their practices and resolve the active erosion and waste discharge problem stemming from the horses' unrestricted access to the stream. As a result of their new Soil and Water Quality Conservation Plan and cost-share partnership, the McCormicks implemented stream buffer fencing, a stream crossing, rotational grazing, proper horse waste composting, a nutrient management plan, erosion control recommendations and received information on Integrated Pest Management control. Now 700 linear feet of Hickory Run are protected with stream fencing, providing a 35-foot wide non-grazing vegetated buffer in this environmentally sensitive area.

Above (Before): Unlimited access to the stream degrades the stream channel. Right (After): A 100 foot long, 12 foot wide stream crossing allows access to the drinking water source without causing erosion. Waste composting outside of the stream buffer provides additional protection.

Adult Education * Youth Programs * Outreach

Special Project: Wakefield Run Stream Restoration

[This project] will serve as a small example of the healthy and stable state we hope to achieve for the entire Accotink watershed and Fairfax County.

Suzy Foster, Friends of Accotink Creek

Wakefield Run is a small tributary to Accotink Creek named after the park it flows through in Annandale. The stream is actively eroding, causing damage to downstream natural resources and a sanitary manhole, trail crossing, bridge and natural gas line in the stream corridor.

The stream restoration project is 800 linear feet long starting at the outfall of a culvert under I-495. It is a partnership between NVSWCD, Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Dominion Virginia Power, and Friends of Accotink Creek.

The restoration design is based on Natural Channel Design concept and includes in-stream best management practices designed to provide bed and bank stability and habitat.

NVSWCD initiated the present phase of the project, coordinate among diverse partners, helped with field measurements and obtained the needed county, state and federal permits. The project will be completed in fall 2013, with Conservation District staff supervising construction.

Special Project: Packard Center Rain Garden

Under the shade of a Hornbeam tree in Annandale sits a picturesque teardrop-shaped rain garden bordered by stone and filled with woodland ferns and shrubs. It captures runoff from the Packard Center (next door to Hidden Oaks Nature Center), filters out pollutants and soaks the water into the ground.

This new rain garden was inspired by the legacy of **Sally Ormsby**, an avid environmentalist and community activist who dedicated many years of service to Fairfax County, and was built with contributions from her memorial fund. The rain garden was designed and installed by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District and the Fairfax County Park Authority, in partnership with Merrifield Garden Center and with assistance from the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust and Earth Sangha.

Sally Ormsby served in leadership roles with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, the Park Authority Park Partners, Fairfax Committee and the League of Women Voters. An Environmental Stewardship Award is given each year in her name and a Stream Valley Park along Accotink Creek was named in her honor.

Special Project: Little Pimmit Run II Stream Restoration

At Little Pimmit Run, runoff from a drainage ditch and stream bank erosion threatened an exposed 21-inch sanitary sewer main. Building on an adjacent successful project, this stream restoration stabilized the stream bank and drainage channel (total 170 linear feet) using rock vanes, step pools, floodplain benching, step pools and re-vegetation. The project was funded by Fairfax County and NVSWCD managed the design, permitting, construction, as well as the outreach and coordination with the community that facilitated construction of the project.

Special Projects FY 2012-13

The district's technical staff contributed to many special projects during FY 2012-13 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.

Solving Drainage and Erosion Problems: Homeowners Guide

This new online guide helps homeowners troubleshoot typical drainage and erosion problems, step by step. It brings together knowledge and know-how formed by years of offering technical assistance to residents of Fairfax County. The solutions will help homeowners protect soil and water resources by taking care of their own land.

Wishard Property Stream Buffer Enhancement

1.5 acres of denuded resource protection area was replanted with approximately 835 native trees, shrubs, grasses and sedges. The original vegetative stand was removed by the previous property owner in an attempt to establish pasture fields. Partners included Fairfax ReLeaf, Earth Sangha, Fairfax County, current property owners and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Huntley Meadows In-Stream BMPs

With careful site selection, best management practices were modeled after naturally-occurring logjams, which raise the stream invert and connect the stream to the floodplain. Monitoring of the stream's longitudinal profile and two cross-sections for each structure will be performed annually for three years.

Marymount Rain Garden

At Marymount University, a 600 square foot rain garden catches the first inch of runoff from 1.2 acres, including the campus library building. NVSWCD led design and supervised construction. A subsequent rain garden workshop at the site attracted over 30 people.

Soil Morphology Professional Certification Course

This two-day Field Soil Morphology course in May 2013 brought together soil scientists, engineers and ecologists. The location of infiltration facilities requires an accurate estimate of depth to the seasonal high water table. Fairfax County allows professional engineers who pass the course to determine the water table depth year-round using soil morphology.

Lanier Middle School Rain Garden

A new rain garden at Lanier Middle School absorbs runoff from the parking lot, filtering it through the soil, providing a functional amenity that inspires students and teachers alike.

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

The Conservation District provides high quality environmental education and stewardship offerings for adults and families as well as for youth.

Envirothon

In 2013, the Hidden Pond Nature Center Envirothon team swept the local Fairfax County competition in March, the Area II regionals in April and took first place in Virginia in May. In August, the team flew to Bozeman, Montana for the North American Envirothon competition focusing on rangeland management. They represented Virginia in top form by placing 15th out of 57 teams, and came in first place on the rangeland special topic test. This was the first year ever that a team from Fairfax County went to the North America-wide competition! (See front cover for the team picture in Montana.)

Envirothon is a natural resources competition for high school students. With coaching from the Conservation District and our partners, each team of five students becomes experts in aquatic ecology, forestry, soils, land use, wildlife and a special topic that changes each year. In 2012 and 2013, teams competed from Hidden Pond Nature Center, Langley High School, Marshall High School, Thomas Jefferson High School, Fairfax High School, Madison High School and Centreville High School.

Program Spotlight:
Watershed Cleanups

Trash cleanups are family-friendly, satisfying volunteer stewardship opportunities that help protect our streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

In FY 2012-13, the Conservation District continued to facilitate Fairfax County's participation in the Alice Ferguson Foundation's spring Potomac River Watershed Cleanup and the fall International Coastal Cleanup, organized regionally by Clean Virginia Waterways.

	FY 2012/2013
Fall International Coastal Cleanup	
Shoreline miles/sites	58/36
Volunteers	1022/801
Trash collected (tons)	10/9
Spring Potomac Watershed Cleanup	
Sites	110/86
Volunteers	2270/2211
Trash collected (tons)	25/45

Public Outreach

	FY 2012/2013
Public informational inquiries	1,583/1,244
Printed info distributed	1991/1409
Newsletters @ circulation 2,200	3/3
Website visits	95,477/110,258
Page views	139,249/156,415
Seedlings sold	7,600/6,750
Enviroscape demonstrations	41/23
Attendance	715/362
Presentations, workshops, seminars, tours given, sposored or organized	67/60
Presentations attendance	2933/2448
Events with staffed display	7/5
Events attendance	1866/550
Overall volunteer hours	4693/3566

Composter Workshops

Several Build-Your-Own Tumbler Composter workshops have been held following a successful start in 2011. After a presentation on composting best practices and step-by-step instructions, residents use the pre-packaged supplies to assemble the tumbler barrel and frame, made from recycled building materials. The workshops have been a great success, with happy participants taking home their composting tumblers ready for use.

Watershed Friendly Tour

In June 2012 and 2013, the Conservation District organized Watershed Friendly Garden Tours. Local residents open their gardens and share their experiences landscaping with our water resources in mind.

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. Each year's program is self-contained, so the numbers below are given by calendar year.

	CY 2011/2012/2013
Rain barrels distributed	591/405/388
Participants	422/324/309
Workshops/events	15/13/14

Gardens feature rain gardens, vegetated roofs, rain barrels, backyard wildlife habitat, composting, native plant species and more, inspiring visitors to incorporate these features into their landscapes at homes, schools, and businesses. Materials and resources are provided at each site and online. The Fairfax Master Naturalists, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, Audubon at Home Program and many others support the tour.

Native Seedling Sale

The annual spring Native Seedling Sale is one of the Conservation District's most popular and longest-standing programs. "Incredible Edibles" was the 2012 theme, featuring native species with edible fruits and nuts. The 2013 theme was "Restore and Beautify Your Landscape," encouraging homeowners to replant trees and shrubs after destructive windstorms and snows. The 2012 and 2013 sales together added more than 14,000 native trees and shrubs to our communities.

Youth and Adult Education

School Programs. NVSWCD offers school programs about stream monitoring, water resources, soil, and local volunteer options for students. Presentations at scout gatherings, 4-H meetings, classroom and summer programs often showcase the Enviroscape Watershed Model, a portable, interactive model for teaching about water quality, soil erosion and pollution prevention. Conservation District staff also assist with Meaningful Watershed Education Experiences, middle school programs in which students connect with their watershed.

Presentations. Giving presentations and staffing exhibits is an important part of the Conservation District's outreach work. Staff members often 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 homeowners' and citizens' associations, non-profits, religious groups, and other organizations. In FY 2012-13, the Conservation District expanded outreach to multicultural and mul-

tilingual audiences.

Workshops. The Conservation District often holds or co-hosts special workshops on key topics of interest to area residents. NVSWCD staff create opportunities for Fairfax County residents to learn about low impact development, as well as topics in suburban horse-keeping. Rain garden workshops for homeowners are also held.

Student Awards & Internships

Internships. 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 FY 2012-13, students helped lead stewardship programs like volunteer stream monitoring and storm drain education, built ArcGIS skills, wrote for Conservation Currents and assisted with work on the website.

Science Fair. 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 2012 and 2013, NVSWCD awarded prizes to three natural resources projects. Student projects focused on topics including pesticides, greywater filtration, benthic macroinvertebrates, stream health and land use mapping.

Youth Conservation Camp. Each year, the Conservation District has the opportunity to send 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 to two students. In 2012 and 2013, NVSWCD sponsored eleven total students, four of whom received partial scholarships.

College Scholarships. 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.

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 2012-13, 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.

	FY 2012/2013
Active monitors (avg per season)	35/28
Sites monitored (avg per season)	22/25
Training sessions	23/28
Monitors trained	189/143
Watershed Calendar circulation	995/1,050
Volunteer hours	893/728

Green Breakfast

NVSWCD facilitates a bi-monthly gathering to discuss environmental topics in a casual setting on a Saturday morning. Attendees at the FY 2012-13 green breakfasts included agency representatives, interested citizens, students, lawmakers, members of the business community and represenatives of local

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.

	FY 2012/2013
Projects	33/26
Volunteers	518/448
Storm drains labeled	3,074/2,688
Homes/citizens educated	13,903/11,844
Orientation sessions	20/21
Attendance	35/35
Volunteer hours	2,620/1,598

non-profits. Six green breakfasts are held each year, drawing 35 - 50 attendees. Once or twice a month, announcements are emailed to ~650 recipients.

Topics for FY 2012-13 included:

- Offshore Wind Energy
- Sneak Peek at the General Assembly Session
- Urban Stormwater Management in Fairfax Co.
- Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Soils
- Greening Your Community, One School at a Time
- Recognizing Our Region's Treasured Landscapes
- Energy Action Fairfax
- Green Energy Triangle
- Government Center Stormwater Project Tour
- Conservation Practices for All Landscapes
- Huntley Meadows Restoration
- Saving Nearby Nature
- Green Buildings, Passive Homes and Residential Energy Efficiency
- Huntley Meadows Park Wetland Restoration

Newsletter & Website

The Conservation District publishes a quarterly newsletter, Conservation Currents. In FY 2012-13, 2,200 copies of each issue were distributed to community associations, government officials, schools, libraries, and interested individuals. Topics included backyard chickens, stormwater ponds, energy efficiency and renewable energy, stream health, preventing fertilizer and pesticide pollution, wildlife conservation and NVSWCD programs and activities. Articles are often reprinted by other organizations and are popular hits on the NVSWCD website.

The website provides new relevant conservation information to the public. The site promotes upcoming events, activities and resources for residents seeking to protect local soil and water quality. The Conservation District also contributes events, news and articles to Fairfax County's Facebook Environment and Environmental Newswire feeds. Major efforts to make website PDFs and HTML pages accessible to individuals with disabilities were achieved in 2012 and 2013. Steps were also taken to make the homepage and other pages more usable from mobile and tablet devices.

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
- Virginia 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 Potomac Watershed Cleanup
- BLM Meadowood Farm Planning & Operations
- Fairfax County Environmental Coordinating Committee

Partners that provide financial support include Fairfax County, the Commonwealth of Virginia and public and private grant foundations. The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Assistance also comes from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other partners.

Words from our Partners

"The staff at Soil and Water makes it very easy to cooperate. I have been honored to work with them on so many projects over the past years that have been truly collaborative efforts."
-- Charles Smith, Natural Resources Branch Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority; 2012 Cooperator of the Year

"NVSWCD is instrumental in furthering the efforts of Fairfax County Public School's (FCPS) Get2Green project. Staff members help schools with field trips where kids learn first hand about macroinvertebrates in local streams. They act as speakers and technical experts as our student action teams design, develop and implement innovative storm water management projects. They help us with our teacher professional development and outreach to communities through partnering to run environmental education and rain barrel workshops and are a huge support to the regional showcase our students participate in. at George Mason University. Overall, NVSWCD is a key partner in our goal to graduate environmental stewards from FCPS."
-- Elaine Tholen, Get2Green, Fairfax County Public Schools

"NVSWCD brings a creative influence to Fairfax County Restoration Project partnerships that truly exemplifies soil and water conservation districts' rich and storied past. Conservation districts were originally created in response to the country's biggest man-made environmental catastrophe -- the Dust Bowl -- and our own NVSWCD is solving problems every day right in front of us in a living tribute to that rich history. Our parents' generation took action to practice conservation methods and we enjoy the fruits of their labor still today. Each generation must take up the mantle to pass on to the next. It is our duty. And thankfully we have an organization that is here to help us do that in NVSWCD."
-- Amy Gould, Fairfax County Restoration Project

Awards

During FY 2012-13, the Conservation District both gave and earned several notable awards. The McCormick Horse Farm in Great Falls received the 2013 **Virginia Clean Water Farm Award**. Given by the Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, the award recognizes their efforts to reduce nutrient pollution.

NVSWCD annually bestows its Cooperator of the Year award to recognize excellence in partnership. **Friends of Accotink Creek** was named Cooperator of the Year in 2013 for their civic engagement in the restoration of Wakefield Run. In 2012, the award was given to **Charles Smith**, Natural Resources Branch Manager with the Fairfax County Park Authority for his facilitation of NVSWCD rain garden and stream restoration projects on parkland. **Chuck Craft** was also presented a special appreciation award for his partnership in organizing the annual Land Conservation Awards program.

The Conservation District's Seedling Sale was recognized with a **Friends of Trees Award** in 2013, given by the Fairfax County Tree Commission.

NVSWCD's District Administrator **Diane Hoffman** was honored for her 30 years of service to the Conservation District and the community. She received recognition from the Virginia House of Delegates, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax County Stormwater Management, the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the NVSWCD Board of Directors. Hoffman now continues to serve as an Associate Director.

Associate Director Harry Glasgow received the **Conservationist of the Year** award in 2013 from the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust for his dedication and efforts on behalf of the environment, and a commendation from the Virginia General Assembly.

Director John Peterson was honored by National Association of Conservation Districts with the **Distinguished Service Award** in 2013, recognizing significant contributions to the conservation and proper management of our nation's natural resources.

Director Jean Packard received recognition on her **90th birthday** in March 2013 from current and former chairs of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and many others. The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust also renamed their lifetime achievement award in her honor.

Conservation Currents
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