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## Reasons to say **YES!** to Maryland Conservation Districts

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### Not just for farmers anymore!

Early conservation efforts were aimed chiefly at farmers, the principle stewards of the land. Today we realize that development activities in our cities and suburbs - not just farmlands can contribute to erosion and sedimentation problems in our waterways.

2

### Conservation delivery infrastructure!

Conservation Districts are the only conservation and natural resource agency with a local presence in every county, statewide. This geographic coverage helps to promote the broadest possible impact in terms of natural resource protection.

3

### Technical know-how!

Conservation District staff help landowners develop comprehensive conservation plans featuring a range of best management practices to prevent soil erosion, manage animal wastes, control runoff from fields, and protect water quality. Districts are at the heart of Maryland's conservation partnership.

4

### Track record, track record!

Maryland's Conservation Districts have a proven 85+ year track record in addressing the needs of the communities they serve and getting conservation on the ground to stop erosion, mitigate flooding, protect water quality, maintain habitat for wildlife and help farmers build more resilient operations.

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CLEAN WATER, HEALTHY SOILS.



5

## Cost-effective, multipurpose tools!



Conservation districts are non-taxing, non-regulatory sub-units of state government. By preventing soil, nutrients and other pollutants from entering waterways, districts reduce the need for costly remedial actions. Districts are considered the multipurpose tool in the toolbox for getting conservation on the ground.

6

## Trusted resources!



Farmers believe in conservation districts, viewing them as a trusted source for assistance on matters of conservation. Nearly 90% of Maryland's land is privately owned, and this requires a strong reputation combined with a sense of trust and cooperation to make a meaningful environmental impact.

7

## One stop access to state and federal programs!



Districts assist with federal and state program delivery at the local level. Districts serve as a one-stop shop for farmers, landowners, and homeowners seeking a range of financial and technical assistance services to meet both production and environmental stewardship needs.

8

## Citizen oriented, locally led!



Districts were created by state law in the 1930s to involve local citizens in conservation planning, erosion, and sediment control programs. Districts function independently through a five-member Board of Directors who utilize their local knowledge to address homegrown natural resource concerns.

9

## Voluntary, incentive based solutions!



Nobody wants more regulations and most people want to be good environmental stewards and will practice conservation if they know that effective, affordable techniques are available. Maryland conservation districts help to educate a consortium of constituents to promote a system of voluntary, incentive based solutions to environmental issues.

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## Educating for the future!



Educating our youth on the importance of conservation is vital to protecting the future of Maryland's natural resources for generations to follow. Districts sponsor a number of programs to help instill a sense of environmental stewardship and love for agriculture in the citizens of tomorrow.