

# clean water & productive soil



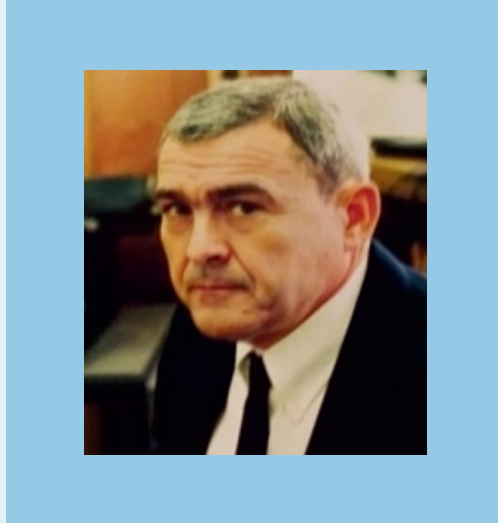
2022 - 2023

# Henricopolis Annual Report



2022 - 2023 Poster Contest Wnner Norah O., Tuckahoe Middle School (Grades 7-9 category)

# In Memoriam



**Robert Ayden Brewster, II**  
**1942 - 2022**

Robert Ayden Brewster, II passed away on November 11, 2022. A champion of the environment, he was elected in 1990 to the Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District Board and served until 2016.

Bob graduated from the University of Richmond with a BA degree in History and played right field for the Richmond Baseball Team. He was a loyal fan of all Spider sports.

He spent his career at Phillip Morris, retiring after 25 years in 1999, and then became a Henrico County substitute teacher.

Bob's sense of humor and laughter endeared him to the directors and staff of Henricopolis. He was beloved and will be missed.

# OUR IMPACT

## Education

Classroom Programs: **4,171** Henrico students

Poster Contest: **633** student entries

Scout Programs: **51** scouts



## Agricultural Programs

Cost Share Funding to Henrico Farmers: **\$460,847**

Cost Share Acreage: **5,467** acres in Henrico

Henrico Farms Assisted: **72**

## Neighborhood Conservation

Cost Share Funding to Homeowners: **\$10,000**

Free Soil Test Vouchers Distributed: **720**

Site Visits: **56**



## Conservation Easements

Total Acres Protected in Henrico: **727**

## Community Outreach

Community Event Participation: **14** events

Free Trees Distributed: **2,000**

Newsletter Distribution: **2,641** readers

Volunteer Hours: **582**

Stream Cleanups: **15**



# ABOUT US



## Vision

Clean waters, productive soil.



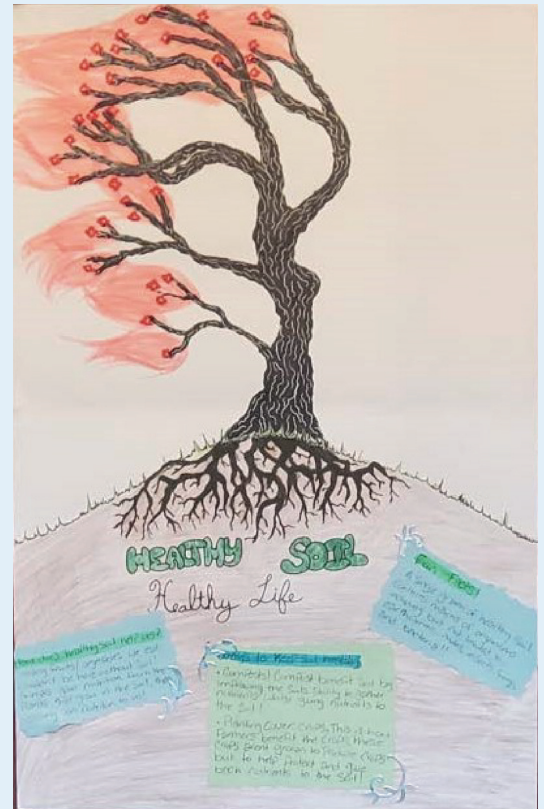
## Mission

To educate and guide Henrico County citizens in the sustainable use of our natural resources.



## History

Following the environmental devastation of the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, President Roosevelt recommended the Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Act be signed into law by all state governors. This act gave states a guide to creating conservation districts as subdivisions of state government. In 1940, Henrico, Chesterfield, and Prince George counties formed the James River Soil and Water Conservation District. In 1975, due to rapidly growing population, the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board realigned boundaries and created the Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District coterminous with the borders of Henrico.



*Lilith F, Varina High School  
Grades 10 - 12 Poster Contest Winner*



*Kangan K., Twin Hickory Elementary School  
Grades K - 1 Poster Contest Winner*



*Samaira V., River's Edge Elementary School  
Grades 2 - 3 Poster Contest Winner*

# ABOUT US



## Staff

The District employs a staff to conduct operations and implement programs:

**Charlie Lively, District Manager**  
**Lindy Durham, Education Specialist**  
**Stacey Sovick, Conservation Specialist**

The District office is located in the Henrico County Human Services Building:  
8600 Dixon Powers Drive, Henrico, VA 23228  
(804) 501-5175  
[www.henrico.us/henricopolis](http://www.henrico.us/henricopolis)



## Board of Directors

Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District is governed by a five-member volunteer Board of Directors, each of whom serves a four-year term. Three are elected, and two are appointed by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board. One of the appointed Directors is always the Henrico County Extension Agent. The Board appoints non-voting Associate Directors at its discretion.



**Anne-Marie J. Leake**  
2022-2023 Chair  
Area III Chair  
Elected

**Herb Dunford**  
Vice Chair  
Appointed

**Claiborne Ewing**  
Treasurer  
Elected

**Nicole Anderson Ellis**  
Elected

**Ed Olsen**  
Appointed  
(Henrico Extension)

Associate Directors: Leon P. App; James Beckley; Joyce Davis; Terri Higgins; Steve Yob

The Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the Henrico Human Services Building 2nd floor board room. The public is welcome to attend.

# PARTNERSHIPS

Henricopolis conducts its work through partnerships with and/or funding from local, state, and federal governments and their agencies, and other organizations, including but not limited to:

- Henrico County
- Henrico County Public Schools
- Virginia and Henrico Cooperative Extension
- Henrico Master Gardeners
- Keep Henrico Beautiful
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Virginia Department of Forestry
- Capital Region Land Conservancy
- Middle James Roundtable
- Commonwealth Girl Scout Council



## Varina Grove

Henricopolis received a \$21,105 grant from the **Virginia Department of Forestry's Trees for Clean Water** program to replace a sun-baked grass quad at **Varina High School** with a forest classroom. Throughout the school year the students at the brand new **Center for Environmental Studies and Sustainability** designed, studied, and helped plant 10 native trees and conservation landscaping that will grow and prosper as the Center does.



## Cornerstone Community Farm

Henricopolis remains deeply proud of our partnership with **Henrico County, Henrico County Public Schools, Fairfield Middle School**, and other allies in the world of urban agriculture for the ongoing success of Cornerstone Community Farm. Cornerstone's harvest continues to be sold at local markets, including Dorey Park Farmers Market and the 25th Street Market.

**Additional partnerships and grants are highlighted throughout this annual report.**

# EDUCATION



## Classroom Programs



Henricopolis delivered SOL-based classroom programs to **4,171 Henrico students** in the 22-23 school year.

**Living In Your Watershed** provide 4th graders with an exploration of the importance of Henrico County's watersheds and how to protect them.

**I ♥ SOIL!** is designed especially for 3rd graders and studies the importance of soil to plants and animals.

**Who Polluted the River?** engages students in an interactive story to learn how many of our rivers have become polluted as populations have grown and land uses have changed.

**Weathering-Erosion-Deposition** is our program for 5th graders, examining these three forces of nature that result in new land formations.

**The Incredible Journey** is an interactive activity in which students pretend to be water molecules as they simulate the movement of water through the water cycle.

**The Scientific Method** introduces students to the practice of proving or disproving a hypothesis by performing an experiment. Students can investigate how soil holds water or the quality of the water in a nearby stream.



# EDUCATION

## Scholarships

Henricopolis has established an academic scholarship for Henrico students through an endowment with the **Colonial Agricultural Educational Foundation**. In the 2022 - 2023 school year we awarded scholarships to **Alexander L.** of J.R.Tucker High School; **Ryan M.** of Mills E. Godwin High School; and **Marley R.** of Mills E. Godwin High School.



## Scout Programs

Our Education Specialist serves as the Soil and Water Conservation District liaison for the Commonwealth Girl Scout Council, delivering the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts scout patches as well as several Girl Scout badges to area troops. Henricopolis was honored with the **Outstanding Community Partner** recognition for 2022 by the **Commonwealth Girl Scout Council**.





# EDUCATION

## Youth Conservation Leadership Institute



Youth Conservation Leadership Institute is a recognition program for students in grades 9 - 12 that focuses on volunteer service and environmental stewardship. In 2022-2023, **Maggie Walker Governors' School** student **Nikhita S.** represented Henricopolis in YCLI. Nikhita researched and created a native plant garden in Crump Park with the help of Henrico Recreation and Parks staff.

## Conservation Camp



The **Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts** sponsors a week-long summer conservation camp at Virginia Tech for high school students that provides hands-on learning about Virginia's natural resources from conservation professionals and Tech faculty. In 2023, the Henricopolis Board funded the registration fees for three Henrico students: **Lily N. (Varina High School)**, **Lydia C. (Glen Allen High School)** and **Gabriel I. (Glen Allen High School)**.

## Envirothon



The **Virginia Dominion Energy Envirothon** is a team-based natural resources competition for high school students where they learn stewardship and management concepts and work to solve real-world environmental problems. In 2023 Henricopolis fielded two teams: **Highland Springs Team** coached by Dawn Sherwood and **Glen Allen Team** coached by Andrew Hall. Both teams advanced to the state competition. A \$1,000 grant was received from the **Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Education Foundation** to support the Henricopolis Envirothon program.

# AGRICULTURE



## Conservation and Nutrient Management Planning

Henricopolis provides conservation planning services to local landowners to assist them in meeting the requirements of the **Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act**. The District also provides the service of assisting with writing nutrient management plans for Henrico agricultural producers to avoid unnecessary nutrient applications and minimize adverse environmental effects.



## Best Management Practices Cost-Share and Tax Credit Program

Conservation districts receive funding from the **Department of Conservation and Recreation** for distribution to local agricultural producers and landowners. The program provides incentives to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) in their agricultural operation to improve the water quality of the state's streams and rivers and the Chesapeake Bay by reducing the amount of water-borne sediments, nutrients, and other pollutants resulting from agricultural operations. In 2022-2023, Henricopolis administered the distribution of \$460,847 for agricultural cost-share practices, including continuous no-till planting and small grain cover crops.

# NEIGHBORHOODS



## Homeowner Help

Technical assistance to Henrico residents is a fundamental component of our work. Inquiries about pond management, stream stabilization, erosion, drainage problems, and soil and watershed protection all receive attention from our staff. Many of these inquiries are addressed via e-mail or phone call, while others involve a site visit and analysis or research.



## Virginia Conservation Assistance Program

The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) is available to all homeowners as well as commercial and public land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This program, **funded by the state budget**, provides financial incentives for eleven Best Management Practices (BMPs) to help non-agricultural landowners reduce their stormwater footprint and improve water quality in support of the state's **Watershed Improvement Plan (WIP)**. Those practices include rainwater harvesting, bioretention systems, rain gardens, conservation landscaping, permeable paving, impervious surface removal, vegetated stormwater conveyances, constructed wetlands, dry wells, infiltration basins, and green roofs. **Henricopolis is one of the 13 districts currently participating in the program** out of the 47 conservation districts in Virginia. In 2022-2023, Henricopolis distributed \$10,000 to Henrico County homeowners and completed one VCAP practice.



# NEIGHBORHOODS

## Soil Testing Program

Henricopolis offers a soil test incentive program that provides payment vouchers to Henrico citizens to cover the cost of soil analysis. The goal is for the homeowner to use the results to reduce the amount of nutrients entering the Chesapeake Bay through over-fertilization. From July 2022 to June 2023, we issued 720 vouchers valued at \$7,200 to Middle James River Watershed residents for soil testing. This program is financed by a \$3,000 grant from the **Department of Environmental Quality through the Middle James Roundtable**, a collaborative effort among various stakeholders.

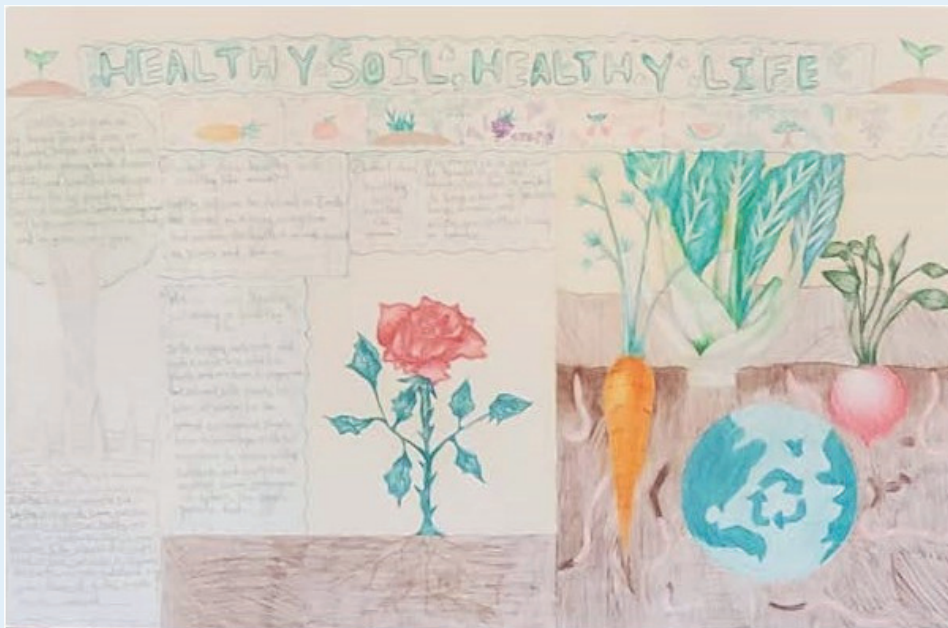
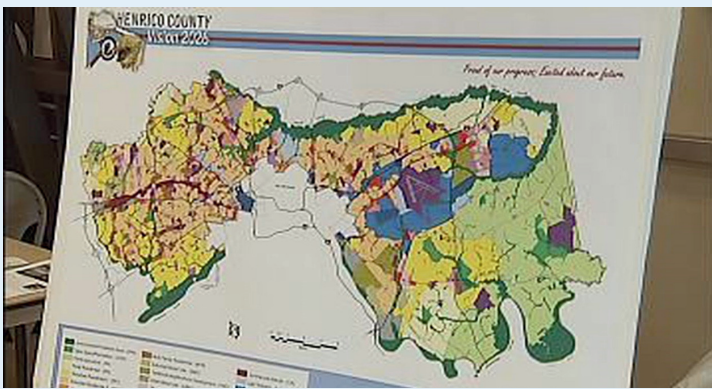


## Other Resources

Henricopolis maintains a variety of conservation reference materials, technical sheets, and brochures in the District office, including current and historical aerial photos of Henrico County; the Henrico County Soil Survey, produced by the **Natural Resources Conservation Service**; and various maps related to topography, wetlands, and hydrologic information. These materials are available to both the public and private sector for review, and our staff is available to help with interpretation of data.

# EASEMENTS

Henricopolis is a leader among conservation districts statewide with our Conservation Easement program. We partner with the **Capital Region Land Conservancy and Henrico County** to help landowners voluntarily preserve forest and farmland, thereby protecting fertile soils, clean water, clean air, habitat, and scenic beauty in both the James River and Chickahominy watersheds. As of FY 22 - 23, a total of 727.08 total acres have been preserved in Henrico County through this program.



Vicky Y.  
Pemberton Elementary  
Grade 4 -6 Poster Contest Winner

# OUTREACH

## Henrico Area Water Quality Samplers

The Henrico Area Water Quality Samplers (HAWQS) Team our citizen water monitoring program. HAWQS volunteers perform a variety of water quality tests that measure the overall health of the county's waterways. Volunteers are trained to monitor a basic suite of parameters that include temperature, turbidity, and e. coli bacteria. Supplemental training and projects are offered throughout the year, such as benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring and stream clean-up events, often in partnership with **Keep Henrico Beautiful**. Under the guidance of Conservation Specialist Stacey Sovick, **twelve county sites are being monitored** by eleven volunteers. The data from the HAWQS program is used to raise community awareness and address pollution concerns.



# OUTREACH



## Appreciation Celebration



In 2023 our annual Assemblage returned from the pandemic hiatus under a new name, the Appreciation Celebration. Held at Fairfield Recreation Center on April 18 and led by Chair Anne-Marie Leake, we celebrated conservation accomplishments by recognizing our HAWQS volunteers, VCAP recipients; Envirothon teams from Highland Springs High and Glen Allen High Schools; Youth Conservation Leadership Institute students; and Conservation Poster Contest winners. We also honored county leaders **Frank Thornton** (Board of Supervisors, Fairfield District) and **Alicia Atkins** (School Board, Varina District) in gratitude for their support and service.



## Community Events

Henricopolis participated in the following community events in 2022 - 23:

- Henricopolis Tree Seedling Giveaway
- Henrico Master Gardeners' Pollinator Festival
- Henrico Extension Bug Bizarre
- Henrico Energy Fair
- Henrico 4H Farm Graze
- J. Sargent Reynolds STEMFest
- Dorey Park Farmers' Market Conservation Day
- State Fair of Virginia
- NBC Call 12
- VCAP Talk at an HOA meeting
- Virginia Master Naturalist Macroinvertebrate Stream Event
- DEQ TMDL Public Meeting
- Back to School Night at Glen Allen High
- Capital Region Land Conservancy Conservation Games
- Macroinvertebrate Monitoring events





Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District  
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