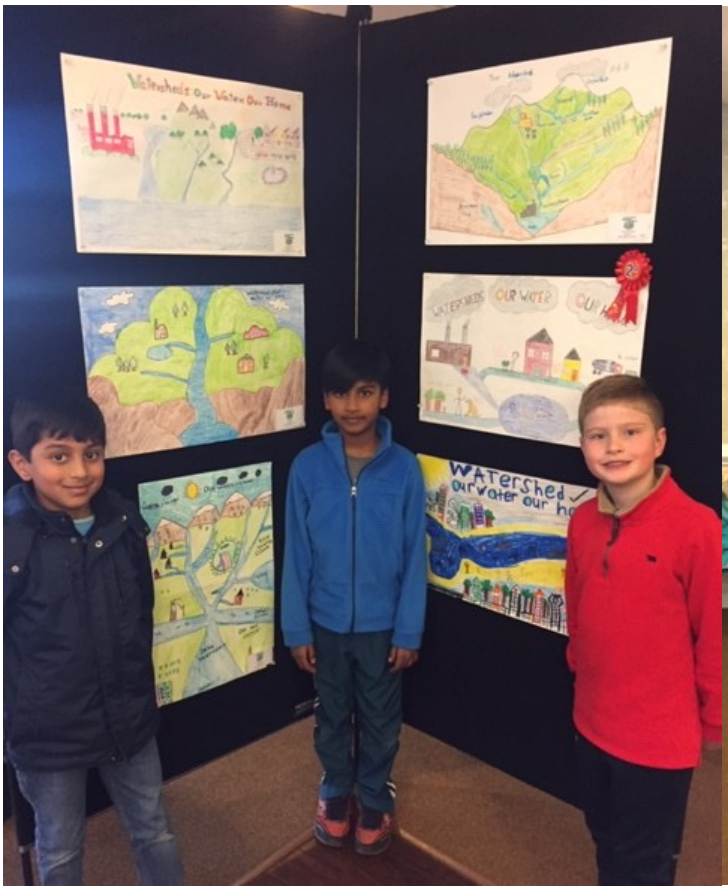
Henricopolis Happenings

A publication of the Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District *Summer 2019*

Poster Contest Winners In The Community



Classroom winners of the 2018 Conservation Poster Contest got extra recognition this year by having their posters displayed for public enjoyment at Our Lady of Hope Healthcare Center. Henricopolis received 577 Posters from schools around the county. Each of the 48 classrooms visited was represented by a poster in the exhibit.

County winners of the contest had their posters advance to the state competition: Tani Shah (Grades K-1), Snigdha Anem (Grades 2-3), Nikhita Saravanan (Grades 4-6) and Rithanya Saravanan (Grades 10-12) Snigdha's poster placed first in her age group at the state level. Her poster was sent to the national competition.

To learn more about the 2019 Conservation Poster Contest, go to page 11.

Agricultural Incentive Programs

The Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice (BMP) Cost Share Program is currently open for sign up. All applications will be accepted and approval will be made during monthly Board meetings in accordance with the primary and secondary considerations that have been approved by the District Board.

The focus for this year's programs is on practices that improve water quality and lessen the impact on groundwater through leaching.
These practices include:

Small Grain Cover Crop (Wheat, Barley or Rye): Protects the soil over the winter months when erosion is likely to occur. This practice is also effective in reducing the loss of nutrients through leaching into the groundwater.

Continuous No-till Systems: Provides less tillage, allowing organic matter to improve the soil quality. This also reduces the soil being exposed to the rainy periods when there is a potential for runoff and soil loss. To qualify, crops planned in a five year rotation must be planted using no-till. Two years of a small grain cover crop must be included in the system.

The farming practices mentioned above lessen the leaching of nitrogen into the groundwater. These BMPs will also reduce the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous available to leave the crop field through runoff.

Funding amounts are ranked based on primary and secondary considerations of the state of Virginia and the District in which you live. These concerns are set forth at the beginning of the sign-up period.

To receive financial support, you must have a **current** Nutrient Management Plan. This plan must include all the acres on the farm in which you are applying for assistance. Financial assistance is provided on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, marital status, or handicap.

Please call Charles Lively at the District Office (804) 501-5176 to discuss your options and/or schedule a visit.

HAWQS Happenings

New Volunteer Training & Recertification

Seven new volunteers were trained this spring and 14 out of 17 volunteers were recertified. Currently, 19 streams in Henrico County are being monitored for basic water quality conditions.

James Beckley, leading the Coliscan plating procedure at HAWQS Training on March 16, 2019.

Macro Invertebrate Identifying

On May 23, 2019, the HAWQS Team carried out macro-invertebrate identifying at Jordan's Branch near Libbie Mill Library and there was a slight improvement in water quality, based on the species found. Certain species are pollution sensitive or pollution tolerant and can indicate whether the stream is healthy or unhealthy.

Stream Cleanups

Thanks to amazing volunteers, Keep Henrico Beautiful (Megan Brown) and Henricopolis Director (James Beckley), our first HAWQS Stream Cleanup on April 27,, 2019 was a success! Fifteen bags of trash, each weighing about 25 pounds were collected, including a HGtv system, metal piping and a large coil spring. Hughe thanks to volunteers for dedicating a Saturday morning to help reduce pollution at Jordan Branch!

Possible Source of Pollution Discovered

Jordan's Branch is a very urbanized stream which means it quickly receives stormwater runoff and pollutants from impervious surfaces. The past 2 years, E. coli bacteria levels have been consistently high and thanks to dedicated volunteers, Mary and Max, a main source of pollution has possibly been discovered. After noticing certain smells in the stream, the volunteers contacted agencies, including DEQ and the Henrico Public Works Department to track down the and potentially stop the pollution source.

Congratulations to our 2019 Envirothon Team!

Congrats to our 2019 Envirothon Team from Highland Springs High School. Here they are at the state competition at Mary Washington University on May 19-20. To get there, the team had to place in the top three at our local and regional competitions!

Thanks to our Community Partner

Henricopolis spearheaded a storm drain markers project as the Virginia Recycling Association 2019 Conference Community Service project. 16 storm drains were marked- 2 at the Virginia Crossing Hotel and Conference Center and 14 at Henrico County Western General Government Complex.

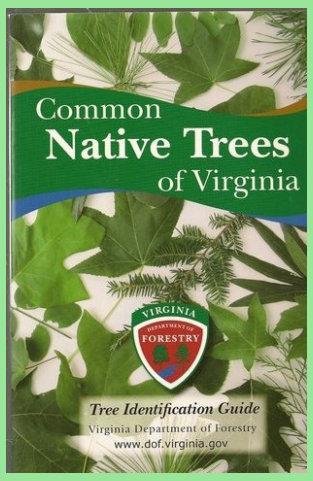
Watershed Education Support

Thank you to the Chesapeake Bay license plate program for funding support of the Henricopolis watershed education program. And a special thanks to Henrico County teachers for inviting us into their classrooms every year!

Come see our soil tunnel on July 13

Dorey Park Farmers Market

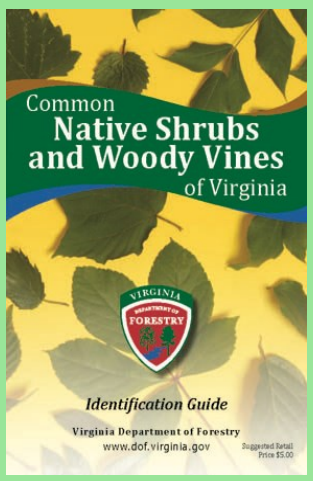
Saturdays, June—October
9am-1pm



Virginia's Native Trees

This Virginia Department of Forestry publication describes native tree species found in Virginia's forests. The 100 page book includes non-technical descriptions, with images of leaves, twigs, flowers and fruit.

Purchase your copy for only $3 in the Henricopolis SWCD office or visit: www.dof.virginia.gov



Virginia's Native Shrubs

This new publication from the Virginia Department of Forestry publication is designed to help in the quick and correct identification of the most common native shrubs and woody vines growing in Virginia.

Purchase your copy for only $3 in the Henricopolis SWCD office or visit: www.dof.virginia.gov

Virginia Conservation Assistance Program

Presented by Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Henricopolis is able to assist homeowners on best management practices for urban conservation. With rapid urbanization happening in Henrico County, it is more important than ever to acknowledge the impact that increased stormwater runoff has on our local watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay. Excess stormwater runoff can lead to streambank erosion and flooding in urban and suburban areas. The Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) is an urban cost-share program that financially assists homeowners with installing urban BMP's to help capture and infiltrate stormwater runoff. For more information, visit the website: http://henrico.us/services/virginia-conservation-assistance-program/.

Eligible Practices:

- Conservation Landscaping
- Permeable Pavers
- Dry Wells
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Stormwater Conveyance
- Constructed Wetlands
- Bioretention
- Rain Gardens
- Infiltration
- Green Roofs

Henrico Environmental Educators' Network

presents

2019 K-5 Summer Workshop

Tuesday, August 13, 2019
9:30am—3:00pm
Henrico Human Services Building
8600 Dixon Powers Drive

Learn about the local agencies that can help with your environmental education needs!
Participate in lessons and activities that you can use in your class or troop.
Meet staff who present FREE on-site programs and get resources to take home.
Henrico teachers will receive Continuing Education points.

Keep Henrico Beautiful

Ag In The Classroom

Junior Master Gardeners

Central Virginia Waste Management Authority

Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District

Don't Guess… Get A Soil Test!

Although fertilizer can be very helpful in establishing happy, healthy plants, it poses a risk if not used properly. Excess fertilizer and chemicals wash away with rainwater and pollute our local streams and waterways. The first guideline of responsible fertilizer application is to take a soil sample and have it analyzed to determine fertilizer needs.

Henricopolis SWCD has established a soil test incentive program to offset the cost of soil analysis for Henrico County residents. Henricopolis will provide two coupons per household to Henrico County residents to cover the $10.00 processing fee for a standard soil test (not including postage). Soil test kits are available in the Henrico Extension Office or in county libraries.

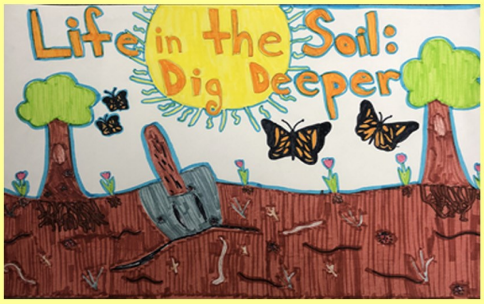
Coupons are available by email or in-person
Email requests to
soiltestvouchers@henrico.us
Include your name, physical address and
number of coupons requested

2019
Henricopolis SWCD
Conservation Poster Contest

Henricopolis Soil & Water Conservation District invites all Henrico County students to share their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resources through art and help inform others about important conservation issues.

This year's contest theme, **"Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper"** explores the importance of healthy soil for plants, animals and humans.

Resources for teachers are available at www.vaswcd.org and Henricopolis staff would love to visit your class to help your students get started! Poster pickup from Henrico County schools is available on October 11. To schedule a visit for your class contact Lindy Durham at dur24@henrico.us or 501-5175.



Age Categories by Grade
K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12

Each student receives a certificate and a sprout pencil

Each classroom winner receives a Grow Kit and is included in the community exhibit at Our Lady of Hope.

Each age category winner receives a Terrarium Kit and advances to the state contest

50-gallon Rain Barrels Available

Call or Email to pickup for $85

804-501-5289
hef001@henrico.us

Diverter automatically passes excess water through the downspout when the barrel is full to reduce flooding.

Works on standard 2"x3" and 3"x4" rectangular downspouts. Water capture rate is reduced on 3"x4" downspouts.
Round diverter an available accessory

For winter storage, the diverter is easily removed from the downspout to prevent ice damming. Winter hole cover is included.

includes:

EarthMinded RS50 is an attractive and easy to install rain barrel with best-in-class features:

- 50 gal. capacity
- Diverter system reduces overflows
- Reversible "Planter Lid" is decorative & functional
- Barrels nest for efficient transportation & storage
- Durable drum grade HDPE resin
- 10 Year UV resistance

Grow herbs or annuals in the Planter Lid

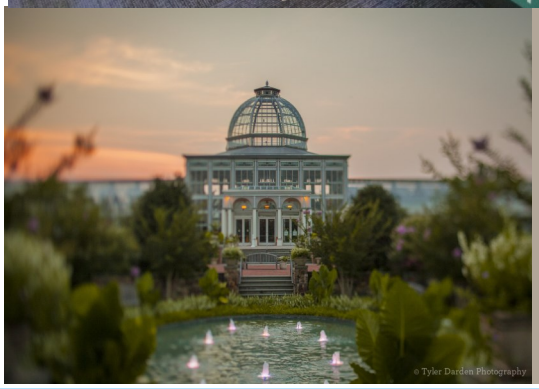
Mid-height spigot for use with a watering can

Interchangeable Spigot and drain both have garden hose threaded outlets.

Bay Watershed In Science Education *(BWISE)*

Henricopolis is pleased to be a partner in the BWISE project spearheaded by the Maymont Foundation and funded by NOAA.

Henricopolis Education Staff has participated in several Henrico County School events this spring to promote the BWISE program. The photo to the left is our exhibit at the first annual STEAM conference held on April 15 at the Science Museum of Virginia.



Flowers After 5

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

Thursday evenings throughout the summer from 5pm-9pm
Family activities in the Children's Garden from 5-6pm.
Henricopolis will host activities on Jul 18, Aug 1, Aug 15 and Aug 30

Henricopolis Soil and Water Conservation District is located in the
Henrico County Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive, Henrico, VA 23228
Henricopolis SWCD: (804) 501-5175
www.henrico.us/henricopolis

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