

MISSION-DRIVEN PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

📍 Calvert Soil Conservation District



Forming Partnerships around a Shared Mission

The Soil Conservation District (SCD) brings a people-first approach to fostering cross-cutting partnerships at the county and state level, centering principles such as:

- Focusing on what people care about when searching for a common denominator.
- Identifying the movers and shakers in potential partner organizations/departments and building long-lasting, interpersonal relationships with individuals.
- Establishing institutional frameworks and knowledge-retention systems to maintain relationships amidst bureaucratic obstacles, long timelines, and staff turnover.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Collaboration on a network for real-time weather and water data collection

- Joint initiative from the University of Maryland, Maryland Department of Emergency Management, and local jurisdictions
- Various partnering departments – including Calvert SCD, Calvert Public Works, Public Safety, Planning and Zoning, and Parks and Recreation – expressed interest in using different aspects of the data
- This collaboration has been critical to the successful implementation of these projects, adding to the overall capacity of the tool

WORKING ACROSS DEPARTMENTS TO ADDRESS FLOODING

Despite overlapping priorities, Calvert County's mitigation plans have historically operated in silos; Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is managed by the Department of Public Safety, while the Flood Mitigation Plan (FMP) is managed by the Department of Planning and Zoning. However, the county recently adopted the FMP as an annex of the HMP, creating an opportunity for collaboration across departments. Calvert SCD is embracing this as an opportunity to improve collaboration across departments. As governmental and non-governmental partners are brought together around the plans, the SCD is forming new partnerships based on shared priorities, allowing them to pursue new funding sources and ultimately build local capacity around flood mitigation work. These partnerships rest on the understanding that even when a project falls outside an entity's traditional scope, ***each partner can contribute in a different way because the work is driven by a shared mission for protecting the community and environment.***



For additional information on Calvert Soil Conservation District, please visit calvertsoil.org.

For additional ELI resources, please visit www.eli.org/wetlands/building-partnerships.

Strategies for Communicating Flood Risk

Calvert County Communications and Media Relations supports the SCD, Planning and Zoning, and Public Safety with breaking down complex information into bite-sized facts that center what matters most to the target audience. This local partnership employs various strategies to deliver digestible information to the community.

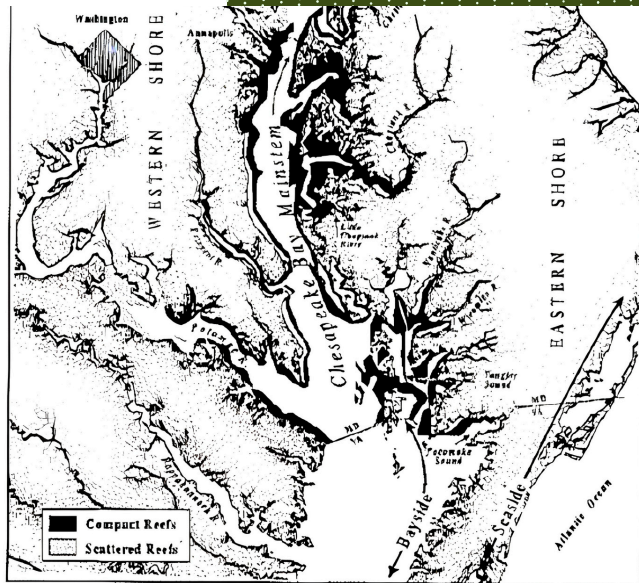
CITIZEN GROUPS

The SCD coordinates with local citizen groups, fostering a whole community approach that elevates the voices of community members and provides insights into how policies impact people on the ground. As trusted members of the community, these citizens can also help conduct local outreach.

ENGAGED IN THE COMMUNITY

In addition to social media posts to ensure the District's voice is heard in the community, the District participates in local activities to engage community members and distribute educational materials.

- ✓ Calvert County Fair
- ✓ Envirothon
- ✓ Maryland Five Star



Source: Calvert SCD 2024 Annual Report

OYSTER REEF RESTORATION

The SCD works with partners including local nonprofits, private individuals and communities, academic institutions, county, state, and federal government departments to coordinate all available resources to meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water, and other natural resources.

The SCD is spearheading an initiative to develop a program to restore oyster reefs along the shoreline. Oyster reefs are ecosystem engineers that are foundational to the shoreline. Benefits include:

- improving water quality
- trapping sediment and filter sediment out of the water column
- extending riparian buffer into the water
- providing essential ecosystem services
- minimizing coastal erosion
- mitigating impacts of storm surge

Simply put, they protect the water against humans and humans against the water.



For additional information on Calvert Soil Conservation District, please visit calvertsoil.org.

For additional ELI resources, please visit www.eli.org/wetlands/building-partnerships.