

West Virginia Conservation Districts

2020 Supervisors Directory



Directory Guide

Section	Page(s)
What are Conservation Districts?	2
Conservation District Mission and District Map	3
Capitol Conservation District	4
Eastern Panhandle Conservation District	5
Elk Conservation District	6
Greenbrier Valley Conservation District	7
Guyan Conservation District	8 and 9
Little Kanawha Conservation District	10
Monongahela Conservation District	11
Northern Panhandle Conservation District	12
Potomac Valley Conservation District	13
Southern Conservation District	14
Tygarts Valley Conservation District	15
Upper Ohio Conservation District	16
West Fork Conservation District	17
Western Conservation District	18

What are Conservation Districts?

Conservation districts in West Virginia were organized in the 1930s and '40s in response to devastating soil erosion conditions, which existed in the United States during the late 1920s and '30s.

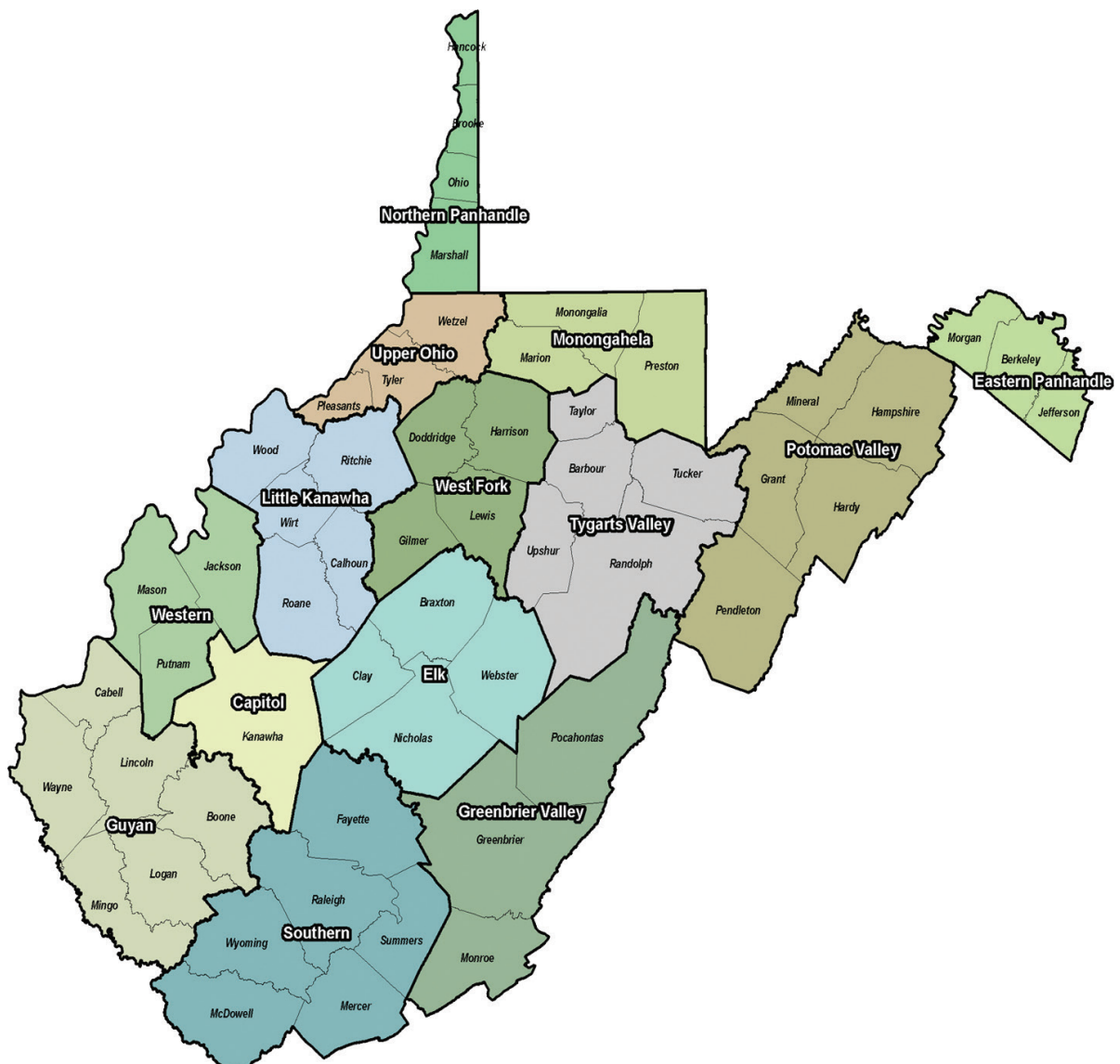
Since about three-fourths of the continental United States was privately owned, Congress realized that only active, voluntary support from landowners would guarantee the success of conservation work on private land. In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent a letter to all state governors recommending enactment of soil conservation district legislation. The proposed act suggested establishing districts as local units of government, established by the people, and governed by the people through elected supervisors.

West Virginia's enabling act, the Soil Conservation Districts Act (West Virginia Code §19-21A), was passed in 1939. Today, West Virginia has 14 conservation districts, each consisting of one to six counties. As set forth in Chapter 19-21A-8(8) of the West Virginia Code, West Virginia's 14 soil conservation districts are to preserve natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, protect the tax base, protect public lands and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of the State.

Conservation districts operate under the guidance of the West Virginia State Conservation Committee. With support from the West Virginia Conservation Agency, the conservation districts develop and implement local conservation programs based upon established resource priorities. Conservation district supervisors are elected by the voters and serve on local boards that develop and implement programs to protect and conserve soil, water, woodland and other renewable natural resources.

Conservation District Mission

The mission of the Conservation Districts is to provide local self-government leadership and initiative in the development and conservation of soil, water and related resources. A balanced planning, education and management program that protects, restores and improves those resources will be accomplished in co-operation with landowners, government agencies and private organizations.



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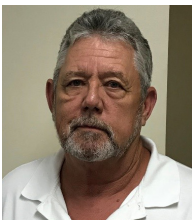


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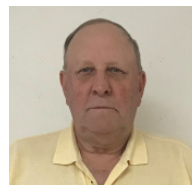
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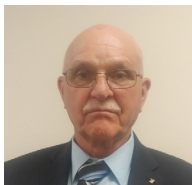
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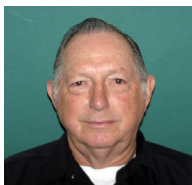
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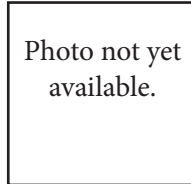
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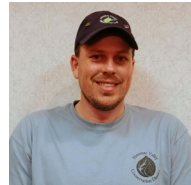
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