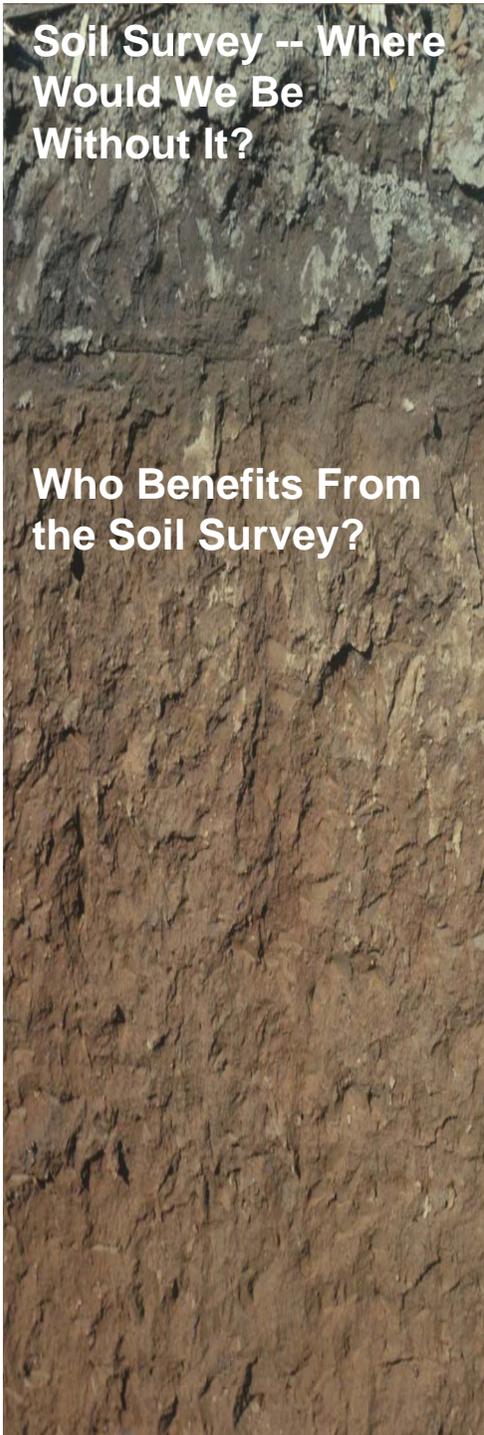




VIRGINIA SOIL SURVEYS

A Foundation for Wise Decision Making



Soil Survey -- Where Would We Be Without It?

Who Benefits From the Soil Survey?

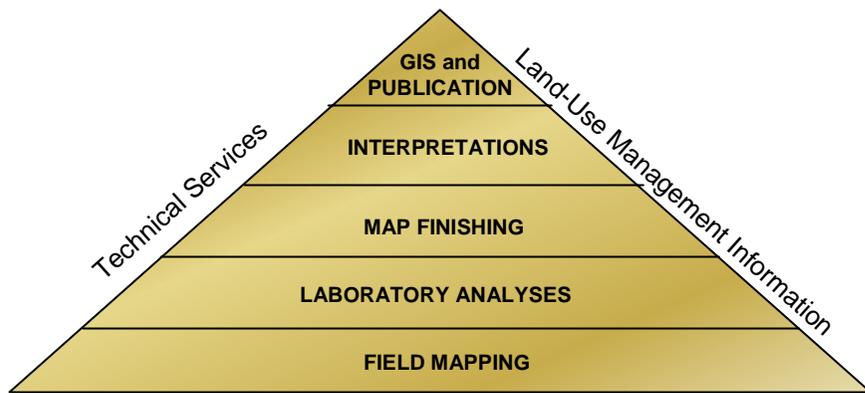
- Virginia's Cooperative Soil Survey is a joint effort of federal, state, and local agencies.
- Soil survey can make a difference to Virginians who make planning and land use decisions.
- A completed Virginia state soil survey is the ticket to developing a geographic information system and providing essential technical services.
- A completed county or city soil survey includes soil maps, soil descriptions, use and management information, and soil properties information such as engineering, physical, and chemical characteristics.
- Many clients have a vested interest in soil survey. Avoiding areas with high shrink-swell soils or not locating onsite sewage disposal systems in wet or slowly draining areas can save both time and money. Homeowners use soils information to avoid other costly mistakes in choosing homesites. Taxpayers save in construction costs for roads, schools, and maintenance. Planners can make educated wise land use decisions.

Clients include:

- private individuals/citizens
- corporations
- developers
- citizens groups
- planning commissions
- soil and water conservation districts
- legislators
- local, state, and federal agencies



Customer's Land-Use Decision



Virginia Cooperative Soil Survey Program



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Richmond, Virginia
May 2005

Uses for Soil Surveys

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- geographic information systems
- shrink-swell soils
- building sites
- highway locations
- recreational development



AGRICULTURE

- precision agriculture
- farmland protection
- watershed protection

FORESTRY

- forest land management planning
- logging equipment use
- biodiversity habitats



CONSERVATION

- wildlife management
- wetlands
- conservation measures
- water quality
- nitrate leaching
- pesticide leaching
- on-site septic systems

DECISION MAKING

- land use planning
- Chesapeake Bay



Mission of the SOIL SURVEY

Virginia's soil scientists take inventory of the Commonwealth's soil resources, record the location of soils, predict soil performance under defined use and management, facilitate the transfer of soils information from one location to another, and contribute to the knowledge, understanding, and proper use of our land resources. They do so in support of the Virginia and National Cooperative Soil Survey Programs.

Partners in SOIL SURVEY

United States Department of Agriculture:
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Forest Service

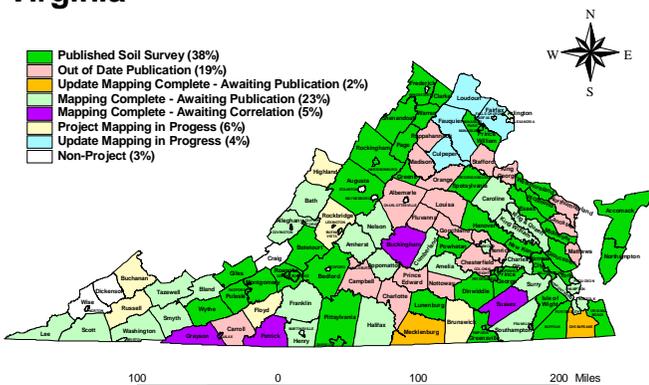
Virginia Department of
Conservation and Recreation

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech, College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences
Virginia State, Agricultural and
Geological Science Departments

Local Units of Government:
Counties, Cities, and
Soil and Water Conservation Districts

STATUS OF SOIL SURVEYS Virginia

- Published Soil Survey (38%)
- Out of Date Publication (19%)
- Update Mapping Complete - Awaiting Publication (2%)
- Mapping Complete - Awaiting Publication (23%)
- Mapping Complete - Awaiting Correlation (5%)
- Project Mapping in Progress (6%)
- Update Mapping in Progress (4%)
- Non-Project (3%)



May 2005

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

For more information contact:

State Soil Scientist
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209
Richmond, VA 23229
(804) 287-1687

<http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Soils/index.html>