

2018 MAWD Program of the Year

Valley Creek Watershed Restoration and Stabilization Program

Valley Creek is believed to be in the world's top 10% of streams for trout production. In response to resident water quality concerns, the Valley Branch Watershed District collaborated with stakeholders, including staff from the Department of Natural Resources, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Washington Conservation District, Metropolitan Council, Science Museum, and the cities of Afton and Woodbury, and citizens and landowner representatives to develop protection strategies, including a goal of reducing siltation in the creek and protecting critical trout habitat. Valley Branch Watershed District then completed an inventory and prioritized actively eroding areas on Valley Creek and adjacent ravines. So far, the District has successfully partnered with private landowners and agencies to implement six projects by leveraging a variety of funding sources. The District's monitoring indicates that the projects have increased the number and variety of fish and macroinvertebrate populations as well as improved water quality trends.



From left: Anthony Haider, Manager; Emily Javens, MAWD Executive Director; Jill Lucas, VBWD Board President; Lincoln Fetcher, VBWD Manager; John Hanson, Barr Engineering-Vice President; Jeff Brower, District Inspector.