

# Conservation and Natural Resources Summary

	Actual FY 10	Original Budget FY 11	Adjusted Budget FY 11	Recomm Budget FY 12	% Change From Orig. FY 11	% Change From Adj. FY 11
Extension Office of Carroll County	\$451,829	\$452,600	\$452,600	\$451,900	-0.15%	-0.15%
Gypsy Moth	7,860	30,000	30,000	30,000	0.00%	0.00%
Soil Conservation	340,378	337,900	337,900	343,400	1.63%	1.63%
Weed Control	26,312	29,700	29,700	29,700	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Total Conservation and Natural Resources</b>	<b>\$826,379</b>	<b>\$850,200</b>	<b>\$850,200</b>	<b>\$855,000</b>	<b>0.56%</b>	<b>0.56%</b>

## Mission and Goals

The common mission of these budgets is the protection and conservation of the County's natural resources.

### Goals include:

- Support Carroll County's agriculture industry
- Protect and take actions to preserve the county and state's valuable natural resources
- Promote public awareness and education to maintain and improve residents' well-being and the quality and quantity of natural resources
- Control and eliminate threats to our natural resources

## Highlights, Changes and Useful Information

- The agencies under Conservation and Natural Resources are primarily State agencies that have a funding partnership with the County. These agencies are not bound together by any formal structure and are grouped together for presentation purposes.
- As these are primarily State agencies, they have been affected by State cuts over the past few years, including hiring freezes, furloughs, and other reductions in aid and support.
- With 95 projects completed, the Carroll County Soil Conservation district had more Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) Program projects completed in FY 10 than any other County. The next closest County was Somerset at 57. Carroll's payment amount for these projects exceeded \$700,000 and was the fourth highest in the State.
- Forecasted State and private property spraying revenues of \$24K in FY 11 for Weed Control will effectively cover 80% of the expenses associated with this budget. Additionally, Weed Control does not bill the County for spraying County right-of-way along roads. During the 2010 spraying season, the in-kind value of spraying County right-of-way, or the estimated amount the County would have paid to a private contractor, was \$26K.

## Budget Changes

- The Soil Conservation budget is higher due to required retirement contributions for these employees. The six County funded employees at the Soil Conservation District are enrolled in the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, and they do not receive County pension benefits.
- FY 11 was the second consecutive year that spraying was not conducted in the County. While the population is expected to rebound and spraying could be necessary in FY 12, the budget has been reduced to an amount that allowed spraying the last time it was necessary, which was FY 09.