

Kurt D. Mason



Background

Originally from Georgetown, Kentucky and grew up on a livestock and tobacco farm in central Scott County where the family still maintains the farming interest. My entire working career has been with the USDA, beginning while in college, and I have a background in agricultural and urban landuse planning and water quality initiatives. In 1990 I spent two month in the Republic of India looking at soil and watershed concerns. Throughout my 41 year career with USDA I have been able to assist individuals and the communities (urban & rural) gain a better understanding of their connection and impacts to the slowly renewable natural resources of soil, water, woodland and wildlife.

Employment

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service 1980 – present: District Conservationist serving Jefferson, Oldham and Bullitt counties. Manage USDA's working lands technical and financial assistance programs for USDA as well as their urban conservation technical assistance program. Assist private landowners and communities address water quality concerns, soil health issues and land management strategies for sustained use. Integrated USDA working lands programs into private non-profit and public lands management strategies. Provide assistance in the development of local floodplain, wetland and erosion/sediment control ordinances and the address of water quality initiatives. Provide leadership in urban watershed initiatives, engaging stakeholders through a process of community outreach, education and specific project driven actions to address water quality, stormwater management and habitat concerns. Work closely with Metropolitan Sewer District, local and regional planning authorities, Metro Public Works, Metro Parks, community groups and organizations, consulting firms and NGOs in the development of land use strategies to address water quality and environmental concerns.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service 1977 – 1980: Montgomery, Bath, Menifee, Rowan, Carter, Elliot, Lawrence, Johnson, Magoffin, Harrison, Scott and Bourbon counties. Assisted with USDA Rural Abandoned Mines Program and PL-566 Flood Control Projects in eastern Kentucky and assisted in the development of soil erosion control strategies on farms in the inner Bluegrass Region.

Education

BS Agriculture Education/Agronomy – Morehead State University 1977
MPA University of Louisville - 1993 (Community Planning & Design)

Certifications

Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist - SWCS

Certified Crop Advisor – American Society of Agronomy

Certified Professional Conservation Planner – USDA NRCS

Current Board Affiliations

Louisville/Jefferson County Environmental Trust Oversight Board – Chair

Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest Trustee Board

Land Protection Committee (Louisville Area)

Harrods Creek Watershed Planning Group

Curry Fork Task Force

West Jefferson County Community Task Force

Technical Advisor

Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District Wet Weather Team

Cornerstone 2040 Comprehensive Plan Review

Blackacre State Nature Preserves

Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District Board

Oldham County Soil & Water Conservation District Board

Bullitt County Soil & Water Conservation District Board

Louisville Area Beef Cattle Association

Harrods Creek Watershed Group

Plum Creek Watershed Conservancy District

Past Board Affiliations

Kentucky Environmental Education Council – (Governor Appointment) Vice Chair

Kentucky Biodiversity Council (Governor Appointment)

Harrods Creek Watershed Advisory Board

Louisville Area Regional Water Quality Board (County Judge Appointment)

The Kentucky Association For Environmental Education - Chair

Land Between the Lakes Advisory Council (Governor Appointment)

Kentucky Nature Conservancy Board of Trustees

Beargrass Creek Watershed Task Force – (Mayor Appointment) Chair

Pond Creek Watershed Task Force – (County Judge Appointment)

Beargrass Creek Restoration Task Force (Mayor Appointment)

Beargrass Creek Council - Chair

Kentucky Agri-tourism Advisory Council (Governor Appointment)

Future Fund, Inc Advisory Board

Kentucky Waterways Alliance – Vice Chair

Louisville Leadership Alliance (Mayor Appointment)

Buechel Rotary Club – Vice President

Metro Louisville Bats Organization – President

Russell Neighborhood Tree Advisory Board