

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District





In the 1910s and 1920s
5.2 million acres of
thick native
grassland was plowed
and transformed into
wheat fields



In the 1930s
droughts left the
ground exposed
850 million tons of
topsoil blew away in
1935 alone

THE DUST BOWL is the worst
man-made ecological disaster in
American history





Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett, a North Carolina native, urged Congress to intervene and the Soil Conservation Service was created in 1935



Dr. Bennett had the idea to create local Soil & Water Conservation Districts. This brought federal assistance and funding to local communities. On August 3, 1937, North Carolina Secretary of State Thad Eure made history when he signed the certificate establishing the Brown Creek Soil Conservation District as the first in the State, the Nation, and the world.

A District, What is it?

- Under NC General Statute 139, soil and water conservation districts are organized as governmental subdivisions of the state, as well as independent political units.
- Districts work closely with county, state and federal governments and both public and private organizations in a non-regulatory capacity to carry out a comprehensive conservation program that protects and improves the county's natural resources while assisting private landowners in using conservation practices. This partnership has been the backbone of highly successful efforts over the past 75 years to address serious problems across the state including soil erosion, flood damage and water quality problems.

Purpose and Function

District law provides authority to districts to meet the needs of landowners and citizens in several ways.

- Deliver state programs administered by the division, including: the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), and Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP).
- Deliver federal Farm Bill conservation programs involving water quality practices, farmland protection, wetlands restoration and wildlife habitat enhancement.
- Assist communities in many areas of natural resource management such as erosion and sediment control, source water protection, stormwater management, floodplain management and flood control, water use efficiency, stream restoration, open spaces and small-plot forestry management.
- Respond to natural disasters by helping local landowners and state and local governments with clean-up efforts and restoration including cropland and drainage system cleanup, repair of conservation best management practices, livestock mortality issues and waste management systems.
- Respond to projects of local interest such as conservation easements, environmental education centers, parks and demonstration farms.
- **We Help People Help the Land !**

Board of Supervisors

- Each district is governed by a five-member board of supervisors. Three supervisors are elected on the general ballot as non-partisan candidates during the regular election of county officers, and two are appointed by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission upon recommendation of the local district board of supervisors.

The Board's Roles

- The board of supervisors meets monthly to establish local soil and water conservation priorities based on the needs of the district.
- The board chairs work groups to address these priorities through the installation and implementation of best management practices that protect and improve the natural resources within the district. The work is accomplished by partnering with local, state and federal agencies; businesses; and non-profit organizations for technical and financial assistance.
- The board is also responsible for reviewing and approving district contracts for ACSP, AgWRAP and CCAP. The Division of Soil and Water Conservation administers ACSP, AgWRAP and CCAP, and holds each local board of supervisors accountable to these state programs.

Jackson Soil and Water District's Conservation Programs

Jackson SWCD

NC Agriculture Cost Share Program

- The NC Ag Cost Share Program (NCACSP) is a reimbursement program that addresses agricultural water quality concerns to help farmers install Best Management Practices on their farm. Reimbursement rates are usually 75%.

Jackson SWCD

NC Ag Cost Share Program

Cost Shared BMPs can include:

- Fencing
- Watering Tanks
- Stream Crossings
 - Ag. Wells
- Critical Area Seeding
- Stock Trails
- Pasture Renovation
- Streambank Stabilization
 - Feed Pads
- and more...

Exclusion Fencing



Watering tank



Conservation Cover



Stream Restoration



Feed/Waste Structure



Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)

- The Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various best management practices (BMPs) on urban, suburban and rural lands not directly involved with agriculture production.

Pics of CCAP Projects



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – USDA farm bill program

- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.
- Eligible individuals are owners of land in agricultural or forest production or persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural or forest production on eligible land and that have a natural resource concern on that land may apply to participate in EQIP.

EQIP Program Focus

- Cropland
- Pastureland
- Confined Animal
- Forestry
- Western Stream Initiative
- Seasonal High Tunnel
- Organic Transition
- Strikeforce Initiative
- Golden Winged Warbler
- Wildlife



Other USDA Farm Bill Programs

- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): a voluntary program that encourages agricultural producers to improve conservation systems by improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities and undertaking additional conservation activities.
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP): The program is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences. EWP is an emergency recovery program.
- Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACEP): Financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing Agricultural Land Easements (ALE). The goal of ALE is to protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land.

Farmland Preservation Program



- The purpose of the Voluntary Preservation Program is to encourage the voluntary preservation and protection of farmland from non-farm development. This is in recognition of the importance of agriculture to the economic, health, social, and scenic benefit of the county.

Summary of Conservation Programs

- 2023-2024 Funding – \$278,075
- Number of Participants – 18
- Acres enrolled in Farmland Preservation - 1,035

District Education Programs

- The district offers many free and voluntary outreach efforts throughout the year. Events attempt to increase awareness of natural resources, environment, and ecosystems while encouraging life-long stewardship.
- Student populations are reached in several ways: environmental science competitions and contests, programs developed to meet the NC Essential Standards, summer programs at local summer camps and libraries, a weeklong summer camp as well as district field days.
- Every effort is made to help students develop the knowledge and skills required to step into future leadership positions in natural resource management.

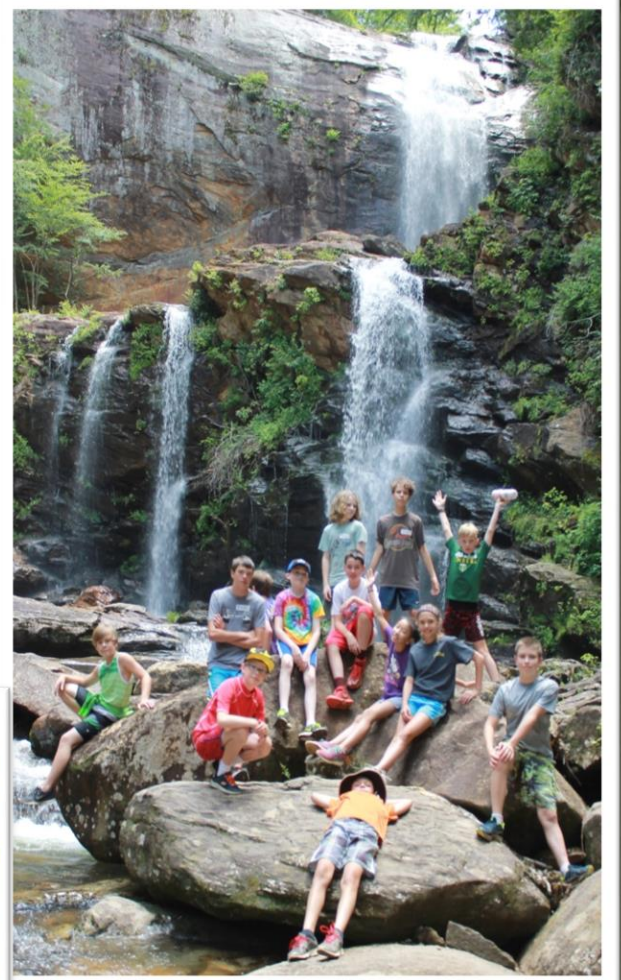
5th Grade Conservation Field Days

- Field Days are an outdoor educational event for fifth graders. The field days take place at East LaPorte Park over two days to accommodate the more than 280 students and volunteers who participate. Professionals from various fields give short programs, enabling the students to learn not only about the subject matter discussed, but also see nature and conservation related occupations in action. The students travel around eight stations which include, forestry, wildlife, soils, air quality, weather, recycling, and pollination.



Camp WILD

- The district received grant funding to create a week long summer camp, Camp WILD (wilderness, investigating, learning, discovery). The camp connects kids to nature while creating lifelong memories through outdoor experiences. Themes vary each day and include: soil science, alternative energy, forestry, wildlife, aquatics, and STEM activities



Contests

- The district annually holds education contests for poster, essay, speech, and computer designed slide shows. Themes rotate yearly and cover important topics like the water cycle, wetlands, soil, and watersheds. Students who participate compete for cash awards and recognition. The district encourages students to display content in the contests that is relevant to the theme by helping them understand key principals of conservation



Envirothon

- The Envirothon is a fun, hands-on, natural science academic competition for teams of middle and high school students. The Envirothon helps develop environmentally aware citizens who are able to assume future leadership roles. Subject areas studied are: Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife and Current Environmental Issues.



Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW)

- The RCW is a week that involves study and hands on participation in a wide range of conservation topics. Students are housed at NC State University campus dormitories under the guidance of live-in counselors (generally district educators). The primary objective of the workshop is to learn about natural resources and their management in today's global environment. Awards and scholarships can be won and are presented to students under several awards programs.



Jackson SWCD Equipment Rental

Made possible by grant funding
from TVA Ag & Forestry Fund and
Duke Power

***TVA Ag & Forestry
Fund***



Jackson SWCD Equipment Rental



Bulk lime
spreader

3 Ton
Capacity

Jackson SWCD Equipment Rental



Conservation
seeder

Lg. & sm.
seed boxes

A Few Other SWCD Duties

- Review erosion plans as needed
- Give technical assistance to landowners as requested (eroding streambanks, roads, steep banks, lawn and gardening, etc.)
- Provide soil testing materials, help read results and give recommendations
- Provide resource materials
- Conservation easements
- Provide aerial photography as needed (1953,1963,1980, and 1988)
- Certify water points for all the fire departments in the county

Jackson SWCD

For more information:
Call Jackson SWCD

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