

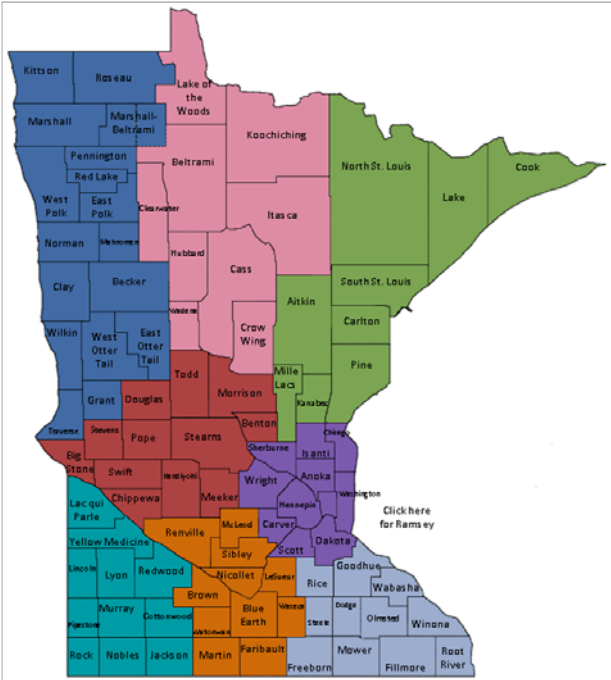
One of Many

SWCDs are local units of government that manage and direct natural resource management programs at the local level. Districts work in both urban and rural settings, with landowners and with other units of government, to carry out a program for the conservation, use, and development of soil, water, and related resources.

One crucial niche districts fill is that of providing soil and water conservation services to owners of private lands. Privately owned lands make up 78 percent of the land surface in Minnesota. Managing these private lands, whether agriculture, forest, lakes, or urban, is key to Minnesota's quality of life.

Minnesotans trust SWCDs to provide needed technology, funding and educational services because they are established in each community, governed by local leaders and focused on conservation of local soil and water resources.

There are 91 SWCDs in Minnesota, providing 100% coverage of the state. There is at least one SWCD in each of the 87 counties, while a few of the larger counties have more than one.



Project Partners

- Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR)
- MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA)
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
- Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services (USFWS)
- Wright County, Minnesota
- Crow River Organization of Waters (CROW)
- Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC)
- Wright County Pheasants Forever

Association of Metropolitan Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Anoka – Carver – Chisago – Dakota
Hennepin – Isanti – Ramsey – Scott
Sherburne – Washington – Wright



Partnering With Blue Thumb - Planting for Clean Water™ is a collaborative program originally developed by Rice Creek Watershed District. The Blue Thumb program aims to encourage homeowners to use native plant gardening, raingardens, and shoreline stabilization to reduce runoff from their home landscape in an effort improve water quality. An easy-to-use website is available for homeowners seeking native plant gardening information, raingarden installation, and shoreland stabilization.



Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

311 Brighton Avenue S. Suite C
Buffalo, MN 55313
(763) 682-1970

<http://www.wrightswcd.org>



Federal, State, and Local Cost Share



When available Federal, State and Local funds are encumbered to enhance areas where erosion and water quality problems have occurred. Funding is priority allocated based upon the best projects to solve the worst problems within Wright County up to a maximum of 75% of total cost. Projects can include but are not limited to: agricultural waste facilities, lakeshore restoration, native buffer establishment, water and sediment control basins, grass waterways, etc...

Education

Junior/Senior Envirothon - Are problem-solving natural resources competitions for students. It teaches them teamwork as students representing their school compete as a five member team. Students are tested on their knowledge of Minnesota's natural resources including: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and a current environmental issue that changes from year to year. The Envirothon teaches the students about the environment and how they can become involved in protecting our natural resources now as students, and later as adults.

Fifth (5th) Grade Educational Field Day -

Established in 1983, this program is designed to increase the knowledge, skills and attitudes of 5th grade students in relation to the importance of caring for the environment in which they live and provide an educational experience in a natural, outdoor setting. Initially begun as a one day event, this event has expanded into six full days (three fall days and three spring days) per school year and enlightens over 50 classes and 1,200 students annually.

Outstanding Cooperator Award - Annually an outstanding Wright County land user, association or organization who promotes conservation activities is selected to receive this statewide recognition promoted by "The Farmer" magazine.



Conservation Projects



Wetland Conservation Act



Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) is administered locally by Local Governmental Units (LGU's) which include county cities and Wright SWCD. Contact us if you have any questions about wetlands or who is the current LGU in your area. Wetland services provided by the District may include the following:

1. Review and approve wetland delineations and determinations
2. Review and approve wetland exemption/no-loss applications
3. Review and approve wetland replacement plan applications
4. Work with DNR to identify and enforce WCA violations.
5. Enforce replacement wetland monitoring requirements, review monitoring reports, and certify replacement plans
6. Serve as a member of the Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP)
7. Approve wildlife pond excavation



Tree Program



Each year, sales begin for the Wright SWCD tree program, which opens the last week of January with the distribution of an informational and ordering packet. All available tree species are considered "bare root" which means they are being sold with the soil removed from their roots. One of the primary advantages of "bare root" tree stock is that these trees have been grown for up to four years and tend to have an extensive, well established root system from being allowed to grow naturally. Plants vary in length according to tree species but are generally between 18 and 24 inches in height. Evergreens are 4 years old but because of a slower growth rate average between 7 and 15 inches in height.



Free Food Plot Seed



SEED TYPE

COVERAGE

Corn	3½ acres/bag
Soybean	5 acres/bag
Sorghum	5 acres/bag
Dove Kandy	5 acres/bag
Winter Survival Wildlife Mix	2 acres/bag
Blizzard Buster Food & Cover Mix	4-5 acres/bag
Rooster Booster Mix	3 acres/bag
Deer Kandy Mix	1 acre/bag
Winter Greens Mix	1 acre/bag



Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)



Noxious & Invasive Weed Management

The Wright CWMA has researched and discovered control methods to provide guidelines for state and local governmental agencies, private landowners, residents, and stakeholders working toward common goals. Partners belonging to the Wright CWMA sign a "Cooperative Agreement" that requests commitment to identification, control, inspection and monitoring of invasive species locations throughout the designated boundaries. Partners recognize the degrading impacts of natural ecosystem function imposed by over abundance of invasive species among aquatic, native, terrestrial and wetland systems.



Water Management



Collection and analysis of lake and stream data providing necessary Best Management Practices (BMP) to improve degrading water quality and quantity of Wright County, Minnesota.