

Our member conservation districts

All across the United States, conservation districts help local communities use natural resources wisely.

Conservation districts were born out of necessity in the 1930s Dust Bowl when America's topsoil rapidly eroded. At that time, Congress declared soil and water conservation a national policy priority, leading to the birth of conservation districts.

Conservation districts are independent units of state government, responsible for carrying out natural resources stewardship programs at the local level.

Among other things, conservation districts help:

- Implement farm, ranch, community and forestland conservation practices to protect soil productivity, water quality and quantity, air quality and wildlife habitat;
- Help farmers and ranchers comply with federal and state regulatory requirements;
- Aid landowners in their efforts to secure financial assistance to implement conservation practices;
- Assist communities and homeowners to plant trees and other land cover and address impacts of too much or too little water;
- Monitor and control soil erosion and protect water and air quality during construction;
- Reach out to schools and communities to teach the value of protecting natural resources.



**National Association of
Conservation Districts**

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**America's Voice for
Natural Resource
Conservation**



Who we are

The National Association of Conservation Districts' mission is to serve conservation districts by providing national leadership and a unified voice for natural resource conservation. Our 3,000 member conservation districts and our individual members help local people protect and conserve America's land, water, forests, wildlife and related natural resources. Our work results in clean air, clean water, healthy habitat and productive soil.

NACD was founded by conservation district leaders in 1946 on the philosophy that conservation decisions should be made at the local level by local people who have the best understanding of the area's resource needs. Today the Association is guided and governed by local leaders from all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and major U.S. territories.

As a national voice for conservation districts, NACD supports a voluntary, incentive-driven natural resource conservation approach that benefits all citizens.

What we do

Just as the work of a conservation district varies, NACD's activities reflect current issues and priorities. Among other things, the Association:

- Provides national leadership and a unified voice for natural resource conservation;
- Provides tools, information and educational materials to conservation districts and state associations to help them accomplish their respective missions;
- Ensures conservation districts' needs are included in national policy making and regulation setting;
- Fosters local, state and federal partnerships with like-minded organizations to achieve a balanced approach to natural resource use and management;
- Serves as a reliable source of credible information regarding natural resource challenges and opportunities in everything from rural to urban settings;
- Collects and disseminates real-life examples of conservation districts' work to foster a better understanding of natural resource priorities and projects; and
- Advances and promotes conservation districts' objectives and results on the national scene.

Join our efforts!

NACD believes natural resources are most effectively managed at the local level. You can be a resource to your conservation district just as it can be a resource to you.

Utilize the resources available through NACD and your local conservation district, implement conservation practices on your farm or ranch or in your backyard, foster relationships with your state and federal lawmakers or join in local education efforts.

Working together, speaking with one voice, NACD is America's Voice for Natural Resource Conservation.

For more information, visit our website at www.nacdnet.org or call us at (202) 547-6223.

