

**Tulsa County
Conservation District**

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Tulsa, OK 74133

Tulsa County Conservation District

Annual Report July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

The Tulsa County Conservation District is a local subdivision of state government. The district formed April 12, 1938 to ensure local people are involved in conservation activities.

The main goal of the district is to provide services to land users in protecting and conserving natural resources and to provide a link to state and federal conservation agencies and programs.

A board of five conservation district directors (three elected and two appointed) governs the conservation district.

Our district has cooperator agreements with over 1150 producers in the county. These agreements cover more than 245,000 acres.

The board of directors submits this annual report to inform the public of this past year's conservation accomplishments.

We invite all citizens to become familiar with the activities of the Tulsa County Conservation District and to visit our office and get acquainted with our staff.

We also invite people to attend our monthly board meeting held on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00PM unless otherwise stated.

Our Mission: To provide leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment

Our Charge: Conservation districts are the only local unit of government charged with the responsibility of conserving our natural resources.

Our Purpose: To conserve, protect, restore, and improve Tulsa County's natural resources for the citizens of Tulsa County

Tulsa County Conservation District Board of Directors

- Melissa Gray – Chairman
- Jana Black – Vice-Chair
- Zach Kilburn – Treasurer
- John Beasley – Member
- Tom Tolbert – Member

The Conservation District shares office space with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a federal agency in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The NRCS provides technical and planning assistance to the conservation district and district cooperators, while also administering several USDA technical and cost share programs.

Our office is open Monday- Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.





Pond construction has been one of the conservation practices included in the Conservation Cost Share Program.



Workers collect debris at a previous NRCS' EWP site.

Oklahoma Conservation Cost Share Program

The conservation district administers the Oklahoma Conservation Cost Share Program for Tulsa County. This past year the district received \$20,273.59 CSPY 17. The Board has approved 4 applications for the cost share program.

TCCD also completed CSPY 17, with one project completed, and 98% of \$20,000 allocated. The remaining funds will roll over to CSPY 18.

The Oklahoma Legislature established the program in 1998. It is an annual program requiring funding from the legislature. The conservation district board obtains input from citizens to determine which conservation practices will be included in the program each year. In CSPY 17 and 18, the District funded all possible conservation practices including: Brush management, critical area planting, diversions, ponds, fencing, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, heavy use area protection, pasture and hay planting, pipeline, pumping plant, range planting, nutrient management, pest management, terrace, watering facility, and water wells.

Emergency Watershed Program

Through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, NRCS is not currently involved in any projects.

Providing Equipment and Services to Producers in the District

The Tulsa County Conservation District currently does not have any equipment available to producers in Tulsa County. Our district focuses on outreach education, while also working alongside NRCS to provide financial and technical assistance to local landowners through the Conservation Cost Share Program. We do have some classroom materials that are available to check out with a deposit. Supplies include: books, soil discovery kits, hand lenses, tree books, sample dishes, bug boxes, rocks, macroinvertebrate samples, curb marking kits, and others.

The District sells plat books and also provides access to historical aerial photographs that are used by local landowners and engineering consulting firms. The most recent books available are 2009.



Father and son searching for bugs after TCCD discussed the importance of macroinvertebrates at a Brookside Neighborhood Association event on Crow Creek.



Graham Brannin with the Friends of Blue Thumb visit Crow Creek prior to the Annual Creek Clean Up

Outreach and Education

The District carried out a variety of conservation education activities during the year. Below are some of the schools and organizations we worked with and the number of individuals we reached through our outreach efforts:

- Jenks East Elementary- Conservation Education
- University of Tulsa Earth Day Event
- Collinsville Early Childhood Center School- Natural Resource Day Presentation
- TCC Metro Campus – Sustainability Conference

60	preschool
30	kindergarten
1000	1st Grade
1000	2nd Grade
100	3rd Grade
100	4th Grade
100	5th Grade
50	6th Grade
30	7th Grade
10	8th Grade
13	9th Grade
20	10th Grade
50	11th Grade
30	12th Grade
100	College
40	Teachers
200	Adults
20	Higher Ed Instructor
7360	Grand Total



TCCD and Blue Thumb staff conducting a habitat assessment on Mooser Creek



Fish print materials at a Natural Resource Day.



Tulsa Area volunteers assisting a Blue Thumb fish collections

Outreach and Education Continued

The District carried out 10 conservation education activities during the year. These included:

- ❖ 4 outreach presentations, 1 Fair, 1 adult education workshop, 24th Annual Creek Cleanup on Dirty Butter Creek.
- ❖ Worked with the following groups:
 - City of Tulsa
 - City of Tulsa Environmental Education Committee
 - Jenks Public Schools
 - Metropolitan Environmental Trust
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Oklahoma Blue Thumb
 - Oklahoma Conservation Commission
 - Quik Trip
 - Sustainable Tulsa
 - Tulsa Young Professionals
 - Tulsa Area Conservation Foundation
 - Tulsa Public Schools
 - The University of Tulsa
 - Tulsa regional STEM Alliance
 - New Solutions
 - Covanta
 - Loughridge Outdoor Classroom
 - M.e.t Recycling
 - Home Builders Association of Great Tulsa
 - INCOG
 - Crow Creek Community
 - Philbrook Museum of Art
 - Cox Communications
 - iHeart Radio
 - Tulsa Audubon Society
 - River Parks Authority
 - City of Broken Arrow
 - Educare North Tulsa
 - Tulsa Urban Wilderness Coalition
 - Monarch Initiative of Tulsa
 - Camp Loughridge
- ❖ Set up a booth at local fairs including the Home and Garden Show, EnvioExpo, and Conservation Day at the Capitol.
- ❖ Coordinate Cost Share Programs 17 and 18.
- ❖ 200 hours of volunteer hours were contributed by the Tulsa County Earth Team, with over 60 individuals volunteering during the fiscal year.

USDA Conservation Programs

The Conservation District works closely with the NRCS in carrying out conservation work in the county. The NRCS staff provides technical assistance to the Conservation District and to county land users. The NRCS also administers several federal cost share programs.

Listed below are accomplishments through federal conservation programs in 2016 - 2017:

- ❖ 9 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts were developed for a total of \$41,721 and 15.7 acres in cost-share assistance.
- ❖ 0 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) renewal administered.

Additional NRCS efforts included:

- ❖ Coordinated efforts to host a Seasonal High Tunnel on Farm Demo and Tour with 45 in attendance.
- ❖ Utilizing Earth Team Volunteers for 120 hours of support for Outreach and Education efforts in Tulsa County and across Oklahoma.
- ❖ Provided planning and technical support for land users to install 1 pond through OCC's State Cost Share Program during the year for livestock water.



A cooperators' irrigation project installed through NRCS' EQIP program provides more efficient irrigation for agricultural crops.



NRCS provided funding support to assist agricultural producers in the county to install, "High Tunnel" houses for growing vegetables and berries.

Services and programs provided by the Tulsa County Conservation District and NRCS are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to age, race, color, national origin, religion, gender, marital status or physical disability.