



**Tulsa County
Conservation District**

5401 S Sheridan Road, Suite 201
Tulsa, OK 74145

Tulsa County Conservation District

Annual Report July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

The Tulsa County Conservation District is a local subdivision of state government. The district was 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 third 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



- John Beasley – Chairman (Right seated)
- Scott VanLoo – Vice-Chair (Left standing)
- Michael Patton – Treasurer (Middle seated)
- Roy Foster – Member (Right standing)
- Craig Thurmond – Member (Left seated)



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.



Debris removal from EWP project at Collinsville supervised by NRCS.



Mrs. Kathy Pursley accepting her award with OACD and Chesapeake Energy representatives.

Oklahoma Conservation Cost Share Program

The conservation district administers the Oklahoma Conservation Cost Share Program for Tulsa County. This past year the district received \$23,863 for CSPY 11B and \$10,250 for CSPY 12. The Board has approved 13 applications for the cost share program, with 9 projects completed and 4 applications cancelled by the applicant. Actual obligated funds from CSPY 11B were \$16,199.62 and \$0 from CSPY 12. Of the total funds received by the district for each cost-share program year, 67.6% of funds from 11B were distributed to landowners, while 0% of funds from 12 were distributed.

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. This year, the District funded all possible conservation practices including: Critical area planting, diversions, ponds, fencing, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, obstruction removal, pasture and hay planting, range planting, stream bank and shoreline protection, nutrient management, and terracing.

Emergency Watershed Program

Through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, NRCS has submitted 1 EWP Project for funding in Tulsa County. Currently, the field office is awaiting funding support for project completion.

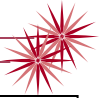
Providing Equipment and Services to Producers in the District

The Tulsa County Conservation District has some tree planting bars 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.

Conservation Educator Award

Kathy Pursley, an AP Environmental Science and Aquatics teacher from Bixby High School, was awarded the Conservation Educator of the Year Award for Congressional District #1.



Tree cookie activity with Oklahoma Union students at a Natural Resource Day.



TCCD volunteers assisting with the construction of a rain garden at Ray Harral Park in Broken Arrow



Cheryl Cheadle and Scott Grant accept a Tulsa Business Journal Blue/Green Award for the work of Oklahoma Blue Thumb in Tulsa.

Outreach and Education

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

- Bixby High School
- Broken Arrow Homeschooled
- Cascia Hall Preparatory School
- Catoosa High School
- Holland Hall Elementary
- Jenks East Elementary
- Kendall Whittier Elementary
- Lynn Wood Elementary
- Memorial High School
- Morris
- Oklahoma Union
- Owasso High School
- Regent's Preparatory School
- Remington Elementary
- Rosa Parks Elementary
- Schuller
- Tulsa Community College NE Campus
- Twin Hills
- Union High School
- University of Tulsa

15	preschool
90	1st Grade
84	2nd Grade
887	3rd Grade
792	4th Grade
248	5th Grade
1	6th Grade
2	7th Grade
2	8th Grade
15	9th Grade
24	10th Grade
292	11th Grade
384	12th Grade
286	College
117	Teachers
1172200	Adults
1	Higher Ed Instructor
1175425	Grand Total



A group of boy scouts learns about reptiles at the Brookside Neighborhood Association's Zink Park Work Day in October 2010.



A child making fish prints during a Natural Resource Day.



TCCD Conservation Program Specialist, Scott Grant, at the 2011 Conservation Day at the Capitol display

Outreach and Education Continued

The District carried out over 50 conservation education activities during the year. These included:

- ❖ 8 outreach presentations, 10 Natural Resource Days, 9 Fairs, 4 adult education workshops, 7 outdoor classroom visits, 3 biological collections, Conservation Day at the Capitol, 1 display, Land Judging Contest, State Envirothon Contest at Keystone SP, and our 17th annual Creek Cleanup on Coal Creek.
- ❖ Worked with the following groups:
 - Broken Arrow Homeschooled Group
 - Brookside Neighborhood Association
 - City of Broken Arrow Parks Department
 - City of Tulsa
 - Home and Garden Show
 - Homebuilders Association of Greater Tulsa
 - Indian Nation Council of Governments
 - Metropolitan Environmental Trust
 - Oklahoma Blue Thumb
 - OSU Extension
 - Ray Harral Park
 - Reverb
 - St. John's Hospital
 - Statewide Blue Thumb
 - Sustainable Tulsa
 - Tulsa Area Conservation Foundation
 - Tulsa County 4-H
 - Tulsa Farm Show
 - Tulsa State Fair
 - Tulsa Zoo
 - Volunteer Central of Greater Tulsa
- ❖ Set up a booth at local fairs including the Home and Garden Show, Tulsa State Fair, Tulsa County Free Fair, TU Community Service Fair, Tulsa Technology Service Fair, and Tulsa Farm Show
- ❖ Provided news releases to the Tulsa World newspaper and 5 Earth Team newsletters to help keep volunteers and landowners informed of available conservation programs and assistance.
- ❖ Assisted the following districts with Natural Resource Days: Okmulgee County Conservation District with 3, Nowata County Conservation District with 1, and Craig County Conservation District with 1
- ❖ 2163.5 hours of volunteer hours were contributed by the Tulsa County Earth Team, with over 200 individuals volunteering during the fiscal year.



Students competing in the aquatics portion of the State Envirothon contest.



Prescribed Burning is used to control Eastern Redcedars in Tulsa County.



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.

Oklahoma Envirothon

The Oklahoma Envirothon took place on April 5, 2011 at Keystone State Park located in western Tulsa County. The Tulsa County Conservation District offered one staff member to serve as a walking leader at the event. The district also sponsored two teams: Tulsa Memorial and Owasso. Tulsa Memorial won 1st Place in the Special Topic Presentation and Owasso won 1st Place in the Wildlife portion. Owasso finished 2nd overall and Tulsa Memorial 3rd.

Envirothon is a team based program and each team must be sponsored by its local conservation district. Teams are made up of five members. All members must attend the same high school or educational organization, such as science club, environmental club, FFA team, 4-H team or home-schooled team, and be in grades 9 – 12. Teams are formed in the fall and they begin studying resource materials to learn the fundamentals of natural resources management in five areas of study: aquatic ecology, forestry, soils/land use, wildlife and a special topic.

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 2010-2011:

- ❖ 6 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Contracts were developed for a total of \$114,744 in cost-share assistance.
- ❖ 1 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contract was developed for a total of \$50,231.

Additional NRCS efforts included:

- ❖ Assisting the Tulsa Community College (TCC) NE Campus, to conduct an Annual Land Judging Contest in Oklahoma.
- ❖ Developing an Information and Outreach Exhibit at the 2010 Tulsa State Fair in cooperation with the Tulsa County Conservation District.
- ❖ Planning and developing for an Information and Outreach Exhibit for the Greater Tulsa Home and Garden Show.
- ❖ Utilizing Earth Team Volunteers for 2163.5 hours of support for Outreach and Education efforts in Tulsa County and across Oklahoma.