

**Tulsa County
Conservation District**

5401 S Sheridan Road, Suite 201
Tulsa, OK 74145

Tulsa County Conservation District

Annual Report July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

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
- Scott VanLoo – Vice-Chair
- Roy Foster – Treasurer
- Michelle Barnett – Member
- Craig Thurmond – 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 the NRCS' Collinsville 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 \$10,000 CSPY 13. The Board has approved 5 applications for the cost share program, with 5 projects completed. Actual obligated funds from CSPY 13 were \$10,000.

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.

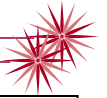
Emergency Watershed Program

Through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, NRCS has submitted 1 EWP Project for funding in Collinsville.

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.



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



TCCD volunteers assisting with the installation of rain garden signage at Remington Elementary.

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:

- Beggs
- Cascia Hall
- Central High School
- Henrietta
- Jenks East Elementary
- Lynn Wood Elementary
- Memorial High School
- Oklahoma Union
- OSU-Tulsa
- OU-Tulsa
- Owasso High School
- Regent's Preparatory School
- Remington Elementary
- Sapulpa High School
- Schuller
- Tulsa Community College – Northeast Campus
- Tulsa Technology Center - Lemley
- Twin Hills
- University of Tulsa
- Will Rogers College High

0	preschool
202	1st Grade
335	2nd Grade
797	3rd Grade
657	4th Grade
459	5th Grade
371	6th Grade
174	7th Grade
125	8th Grade
90	9th Grade
133	10th Grade
460	11th Grade
510	12th Grade
91	College
74	Teachers
45,965	Adults
16	Higher Ed Instructor
50,460	Grand Total



Volunteers assisted with a macroinvertebrate collection, while Ch 2 was filming, at a Brookside Neighborhood Association event.



Fish print materials at a Natural Resource Day.



Rain barrel workshop at Grogg's Green Barn.

Outreach and Education Continued

The District carried out 60 conservation education activities during the year. These included:

- ❖ 2 outreach presentations, 20 Natural Resource Days, 11 Fairs, 4 adult education workshops, 6 outdoor classroom visits, 14 biological collections, Conservation Day at the Capitol, 1 display, Land Judging Contest at TCC Northeast, 1 permanent site visit, and our 18th annual Creek Cleanup on Vensel Creek.
- ❖ Worked with the following groups:
 - All Souls Unitarian Church
 - Brookside Neighborhood Association
 - City of Broken Arrow Parks Department
 - City of Tulsa
 - Greater Tulsa Home and Garden Show
 - Grogg's Green Barn
 - Indian Nation Council of Governments
 - Land Legacy
 - Metropolitan Environmental Trust
 - Oklahoma Blue Thumb
 - OSU Extension
 - Prince of Peace Church
 - Public Service Company of Oklahoma
 - St. John's Hospital
 - Statewide Blue Thumb
 - Sustainable Tulsa
 - Trinity Broadcasting Network
 - Tulsa Area Conservation Foundation
 - Tulsa County 4-H
 - Tulsa Farm Show
 - Tulsa Garden Center
 - Tulsa Urban Family Farmers
 - Tulsa Zoo
 - Volunteer Central of Greater Tulsa
- ❖ Set up a booth at local fairs including the Home and Garden Show, Tulsa County Free Fair, TU Community Service Fair, Tulsa Technology Service Fair, Will Rogers Career Fair, and Tulsa Farm Show
- ❖ Coordinate Cost Share Program 13
- ❖ Assisted the following districts with Natural Resource Days: Okmulgee CCD – 3 and Ottawa CCD – 1.
- ❖ 1864 hours of volunteer hours were contributed by the Tulsa County Earth Team, with over 150 individuals volunteering during the fiscal year.



Owasso 2012 team at the State Envirothon contest at OSU Botanic Gardens.



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 3, 2012 at OSU Botanic Gardens. The district sponsored Owasso High School, which placed first in the Forestry portion of the contest, and Second Overall.

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 2011-2012:

- ❖ 3 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts were developed for a total of \$43,892 in cost-share assistance.
- ❖ 2 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contract were administered for a total of \$25,109

Additional NRCS efforts included:

- ❖ Assisting the Tulsa Community College (TCC) NE Campus, to conduct an Annual Land Judging Contest in Oklahoma.
- ❖ Providing funding support for the installation of 4 high tunnel houses in Tulsa County
- ❖ Planning and developing an Information and Outreach Exhibit for the Greater Tulsa Home and Garden Show.
- ❖ Utilizing Earth Team Volunteers for 1864 hours of support for Outreach and Education efforts in Tulsa County and across Oklahoma.
- ❖ Provided planning and technical support for land users to install 3 ponds through OCC's State Costshare Program