

**Tulsa County  
Conservation District**

5401 S Sheridan Road, Suite 201  
Tulsa, OK 74145

# *Tulsa County Conservation District*

*Annual Report July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014*

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**

- 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 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 \$12,000 CSPY 15. The Board has approved 3 applications for the cost share program, with 1 projects completed, 1 cancelled, and 1 ongoing. Actual obligated funds from CSPY 14 were \$6881.63

TCCD also completed CSPY 14, with 4 projects completed with 100% allocation of \$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. In CSPY 14 and 15, 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.

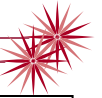
## *Providing Equipment and Services to Producers in the District*

The Tulsa County Conservation District 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.

## *Government Shutdown*

October 1 through October 16, 2014 the TCCD and NRCS offices were closed due to the government shutdown. During this time no services were available from NRCS staff and TCCD staff worked from home, while attempting to conduct as much business as possible.



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



Broken Arrow High School students during a macroinvertebrate collection on their Blue Thumb Monitoring site, Adams Creek.

## *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:

- Bishop Kelley High School
- Broken Arrow Senior High School
- Central High School
- Eliot Elementary School
- Jenks East Elementary
- Oklahoma State University
- Riverfield Country Day School
- San Miguel Catholic Middle School
- Tulsa Community College Northeast Campus
- University of Oklahoma - Tulsa
- University of Tulsa

0	<b>preschool</b>
2	<b>1st Grade</b>
11	<b>2nd Grade</b>
613	<b>3rd Grade</b>
264	<b>4th Grade</b>
130	<b>5th Grade</b>
5	<b>6th Grade</b>
10	<b>7th Grade</b>
13	<b>8th Grade</b>
26	<b>9th Grade</b>
49	<b>10th Grade</b>
195	<b>11th Grade</b>
171	<b>12th Grade</b>
362	<b>College</b>
35	<b>Teachers</b>
40,247	<b>Adults</b>
23	<b>Higher Ed Instructor</b>
<b>42,158</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>

## *Outreach and Education Continued*

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

- ❖ ?? outreach presentations, ?? Natural Resource Days, ?? Fairs, ?? adult education workshops, ?? outdoor classroom visits, ?? biological collections, 1 display, Blue Thumb 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event at the Oklahoma Aquarium, ?? permanent site visit, and our 20<sup>th</sup> annual Creek Cleanup on Mingo Creek.
- ❖ Worked with the following groups:
  - All Souls Unitarian Church
  - Broken Arrow Public Schools
  - Brookside Neighborhood Association
  - City of Tulsa
  - City of Tulsa Environmental Education Committee
  - Girl Scouts of America
  - Green Country Sustainability Forum
  - Indian Nations Council of Governments
  - Jenks Public Schools
  - Metropolitan Environmental Trust
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - Oklahoma Blue Thumb
  - Oklahoma Conservation Commission
  - Oklahoma Green Building Council
  - Resource Conservation and Development Council
  - St John's Hospital
  - Sustainable Tulsa
  - Tulsa Area Conservation Foundation
  - Tulsa Home Builders Association
  - Tulsa Public Schools
  - Whole Foods
- ❖ Set up a booth at local fairs including the Home and Garden Show, Tulsa State Fair, TU Community Service Fair, and Tulsa Farm Show
- ❖ Coordinate Cost Share Programs 14 and 15
- ❖ 1157 hours of volunteer hours were contributed by the Tulsa County Earth Team, with over 125 individuals volunteering during the fiscal year.
- ❖ TCCD CPS chaired the Competition Committee for the 2014 Green Country Low Impact Development Design Contest



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



Fish print materials at a Natural Resource Day.



University of Tulsa volunteers assisting a Blue Thumb fish collections

### *CPS Blue Thumb Internship*

The TCCD Board allowed Conservation Program Specialist, Scott Grant, to complete a Master's Degree internship with Oklahoma Blue Thumb. The goal of the internship was to look through historical Blue Thumb data for Tulsa County that goes back to 1993. The goal was to identify trends, if any, found in the data and present these findings at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Blue Thumb event on November 9, 2013.

Another result of this internship was the creation of a "Creek Summary" for Coal, Crow, Flat Rock, Fred, Haikey, Mooser, Nickel, Polecat, and Posey Creeks. These creek summaries include information about the monthly monitoring averages, bioinventories of fish and macroinvertebrates found in the streams, and the volunteer written data interpretations.

### *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 2013-2014:

- ❖ 8 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts were developed for a total of \$60,000 in cost-share assistance.
- ❖ 2 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts were administered for a total of \$116,124 in cost-share assistance.

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 1 high tunnel house in Tulsa County
- ❖ Utilizing Earth Team Volunteers for 1157 hours of support for Outreach and Education efforts in Tulsa County and across Oklahoma.
- ❖ Provided planning and technical support for land users to install 4 ponds through OCC's State Costshare Program during the drought 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.