

Tulsa County  
Conservation District

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# Tulsa County Conservation District

*Annual Report July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019*

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 1175 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 through community partnerships to help people conserve, protect, restore, and enhance Tulsa County's natural resources and environment for its residents and visitors.

**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

- Vacant – 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.*



## ***Oklahoma Conservation Cost Share Program***

The conservation district administers the Oklahoma Conservation Cost Share Program for Tulsa County. This past year the district received \$10,00 for CSPY 19. The Board approved four applications for the cost share program.

TCCD also completed CSPY 18, with eleven projects completed, and 98% of \$44,844.20 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 18 and 19, the District approved 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 in Tulsa County.

### ***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. However, Producers do have the ability to rent equipment from surrounding counties. Our district focuses on outreach education, while also working alongside NRCS to provide financial and technical assistance to local landowners through the State 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 and others.

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



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.



NRCS did not have any EWP's in Tulsa County, but due to torrential spring rains, Tulsa and surrounding areas had massive flooding.



Cheryl Cheadle with Blue Thumb helps volunteers identify macroinvertebrates found in Crow Creek on International Coastal Waters Cleanup



Graham Brannin with the Friends of Blue Thumb and the Crow Creek Community talk about the importance of the Crow Creek Demonstration Meadow @ the Crow Creek Sign Dedication Ceremony

## *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
- Ray Herral Nature Park
- OSU Extension County Free Fair
- Tulsa Home & Garden Show
- The M.e.t's Enviro Expo
- Cox Communications
- Tulsa Area Farmers Markets
- Crow Creek Community

|      |                             |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 60   | <b>preschool</b>            |
| 30   | <b>kindergarten</b>         |
| 1000 | <b>1st Grade</b>            |
| 1000 | <b>2nd Grade</b>            |
| 250  | <b>3rd Grade</b>            |
| 100  | <b>4th Grade</b>            |
| 100  | <b>5th Grade</b>            |
| 30   | <b>6th Grade</b>            |
| 30   | <b>7th Grade</b>            |
| 20   | <b>8th Grade</b>            |
| 10   | <b>9th Grade</b>            |
| 10   | <b>10th Grade</b>           |
| 10   | <b>11th Grade</b>           |
| 10   | <b>12th Grade</b>           |
| 10   | <b>College</b>              |
| 40   | <b>Teachers</b>             |
| 200  | <b>Adults</b>               |
| 0    | <b>Higher Ed Instructor</b> |
| 2910 | <b>Grand Total</b>          |





Tulsa Boy Scout volunteers help pick up trash in Crow Creek @ Zinc Park



TCCD sets up a soil health booth at the Tulsa Home and Garden Show



TCCD and Blue Thumb assist with registration for the International Coastal Waters Cleanup @ Crow Creek and Zinc Park

### *Outreach and Education Continued*

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

- ❖ 2 outreach presentations, 2 Fairs, 3 adult education evnts, 5 environment related festivals, 28th Annual Creek Cleanup on Coal Creek, 5 other creek cleanups.
- ❖ Worked with the following groups:
  - Tulsa area Boy Scouts
  - City of Broken Arrow
  - City of Tulsa
  - Cox Communications
  - Crow Creek Community
  - Global Gardens
  - Langston University
  - Master Gardeners
  - Metropolitan Environmental Trust
  - Monarch Initiative of Tulsa
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - Oklahoma Blue Thumb
  - Oklahoma Conservation Commission
  - Oxley Nature Center
  - River Parks Authority
  - Sustainable Tulsa
  - The University of Tulsa
  - Tulsa Area Conservation Foundation
  - Tulsa Audubon Society
  - Tulsa Public Schools
  - Tulsa regional STEM Alliance
  - Tulsa Urban Wilderness Coalition
  - Tulsa Young Professionals
  - Tulsa Zoo
  - Up With Trees
  - Wild Birds Unlimited
  - A New Leaf
  - Grogg's Green Barn
- ❖ Set up a booth at local fairs including the Home and Garden Show, EnvioExpo, and Sustainable Tulsa Meetings.
- ❖ Coordinate Cost Share Programs 18 and 19.
- ❖ 200 hours of volunteer hours were contributed by the Tulsa County Earth Team, with over 50 individuals volunteering during the fiscal year.



An irrigation project can be installed through NRCS' EQIP program, which provides more efficient irrigation for crop production



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

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.

### *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 2018 - 2019:

- ❖ 2 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts were developed
- ❖ \$7,933 Spent in 2019 39 acres
- ❖ Practices included Herbaceous Weed Control, Prescribed Grazing and Seasonal High Tunnels
- ❖ 4 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) renewal administered.

Additional NRCS efforts included:

- ❖ Utilizing Earth Team Volunteers for 200 hours of support for Outreach and Education efforts in Tulsa County and across Oklahoma.
- ❖ Provided planning and technical support for land users to plant Bermuda sprigs, clear brush, and spray for invasive plant species through OCC's State Cost Share Program during the year for livestock water.