

# District?

Conservation districts are local governmental subdivisions established under state law to carry out a program for the conservation, use and development of soil, water, and related resources.

Districts work with land managers, local government agencies and others interested in addressing a broad spectrum of resource concerns: erosion control, flood prevention, water conservation and use, wetlands, ground water, water quality and quantity, non-point source pollution, forest land protection, wildlife, recreation, waste water management and community development. Such work varies according to the needs and resources of the districts.



Each district has a governing body of local people, elected or appointed. They share their talents, experience and knowledge of community needs and resources to guide districts in setting goals and priorities for carrying out resource programs. They work in cooperation with—and in some states, under the direction of—a state conservation agency through which state funding and other assistance is provided.

## **RICHLAND COUNTY**

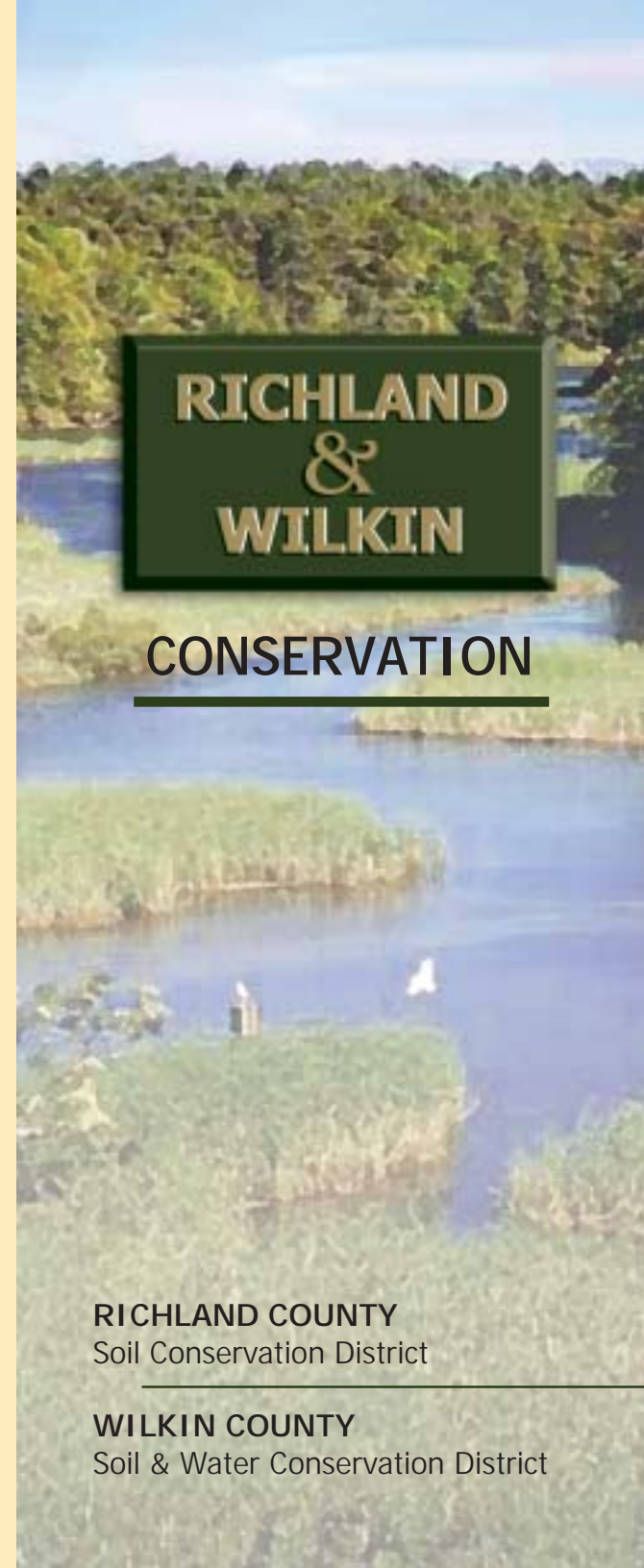
Soil Conservation District  
1687 Bypass Road  
Wahpeton, ND 58075  
701-642-5997

## **WILKIN COUNTY**

Soil & Water Conservation District  
1150 Highway 75 North  
Breckenridge, MN 56520  
218-643-2933

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Richland Soil Conservation District and Wilkin Soil & Water Conservation District prohibit discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.



**RICHLAND COUNTY**  
Soil Conservation District

**WILKIN COUNTY**  
Soil & Water Conservation District

# What is a Conservation

The 1930's brought an ecological disaster known as the "Dust Bowl". Huge black dust storms blotted out the sun and swallowed the countryside.



Photo courtesy USDA NRCS

While testifying on Capitol Hill on April 2, 1935, soil scientist, Hugh Bennett, threw back the room's curtains to reveal a sky blackened by dust. Congress immediately declared soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. Since about three-fourths of the land in the U. S. is privately owned, Congress realized that only active support from landowners would guarantee the success of conservation on private land. The idea for soil and water conservation districts was born.

Today, there are nearly 3000 conservation districts—one in almost every county. Now expanded to serve all the conservation needs of our nation, districts educate and help local citizens conserve land, water, forests, wildlife, and other natural resources.

## Local Conservation District Services:

### TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Design layout & plant windbreaks, shelter belts, living snowfences, wildlife plantings

### WEED CONTROL

- Weed Badger (Wilkin only)
- Chemical weed control
- Tree fabric
- Tubex stakes

### DRILL PROGRAMS

(Wilkin only)

- JD 15-ft. no-till drill
- Truax 15 ft. grass drill

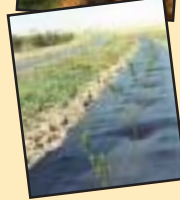
### GRASS SEED PROGRAM

(Wilkin only)

- Native grass seed sales

### WEED MOWING PROGRAM

(Wilkin only)



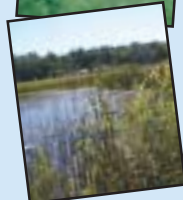
## Conservation Education Programs:

- Richland Achievement Award
- Wilkin Outstanding Conservationist Award
- Soil & Water Stewardship Week
- Ladies' Night
- It's in Your Hands Thank You Program
- NDSCS Lab Presentations
- Envirothon
- Poster Contest
- Conservation Leadership School
- Arbor Month Activities
- Paint the Town Project
- Tom Gibson Lyceums
- Rural Beautification and Conservation Award
- Ag in the Classroom
- Eco-ed — 7th Grade Tour
- Fair Booths / Parades / Farm Shows
- Quarterly Newsletters



## Providing Assistance with MN State Programs:

- Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve (RIM)
- State Cost / Share
- State Revolving Fund (SRF)
- Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)



## Providing Assistance with Federal Programs:

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP)
- Conservation Security Program (CSP)
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- 319 Program
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)
- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

## Other Services:

- Rainfall Monitors
- Observation Well Monitoring Program
- Septic System Design Inspection
- Special Watershed Projects
- Water Quality Monitoring
  - Ottertail River
  - Bois de Sioux River
  - Whiskey Creek
  - Wild Rice River
  - Antelope Creek



Some photos courtesy: USDA NRCS