



## How can I get involved?

**People are the key** to conservation district success, whether serving as officials on district boards of directors or volunteering in a river cleanup.

**What can you do? Volunteer.** Districts need help with everything from planting seedlings in wetland restoration projects to filing in the office. Contact your district to let them know you are willing to help.

**Practice good stewardship at home.** You can improve your corner of the world by composting food scraps and lawn clippings in your backyard, conserving green areas in your urban neighborhood or implementing best management practices on your farm. Ask your district for assistance.



## Lancaster Soil and Water Conservation District

 Stewards of our environment

 Conserving our natural resources

 Local people solving local problems

How can we help you?

## Why are conservation districts important?

Conservation districts engage people with voluntary actions that keep our air, water, soil, habitats, and farmland healthy for all.

Districts are community-based hubs of natural resource expertise and funding.

They're staffed and led by locals who understand the needs of landscapes and fellow community-members that they serve.



### Lancaster Soil & Water Conservation District

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## Examples of district services include:

- Habitat restoration and enhancement
- Livestock and nutrient management
- Soil, forest, and rangeland health
- Natural disaster preparedness and recovery
- Irrigation water management
- Stormwater management
- Environmental education
- Urban agriculture

## Districts are here to help!

The services the conservation district provides are customized to suit the needs of local communities, properties, and the environment.

Districts can create tailored plans for your property to help you reach your land use and conservation goals.

We offer grants and either free or low-cost services to help you to take actions that benefit our water, soil, air, landscapes, and habitats.

Districts have technical expertise in project planning, permitting, and construction. We can lend our knowledge to ensure your projects are successful and properly executed.

We offer educational programs for all ages that focus on conservation topics, agriculture, and best practices.



# 12 Conservation Districts can help you

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**Cost-share programs** that help landowners pay for eligible conservation projects.



Assistance with **livestock and nutrient management** including with manure storage, heavy use areas, and fencing.



Local source of information about **farm bill programs** and other financial assistance available for conservation work.



Help with **water conservation** with some districts offering incentives for irrigation management and system efficiency upgrades.



**Support forest health** through forest planning and some offer on-site assessments of wildfire risk.



Solutions for **managing waterfront property** such as planting riparian buffers along streambanks to reduce erosion.



**Preserve farmland** by connecting you to resources for estate planning, agricultural easements, and market opportunities.



Offer **soil health services** including information on soil testing and erosion control. Some even offer low-cost rentals of no-till drills.



Help save energy on your farm by assessing ways to **improve efficiency**, and some help with equipment upgrades.



Help with **noxious weed management** and many host annual native plant sales.



**Educate** local citizens on conservation issues including stormwater pollutants, agriculture careers, youth education programs, and erosion issues.



Foster **cooperation and collaboration between conservation districts and other partners** (state and federal agencies, tribes, local government, non-governmental organizations) to bring funding and expertise to the local community.

## Why reach out to the district?

**Conservation districts are trusted partners.** We do not enforce compliance or impose penalties, but instead work collaboratively with people to help them responsibly and efficiently manage their land.

**We have a personal investment and interest in improving the quality of life in our community.** Because we are a local office, staff have deep, first-hand knowledge of the natural resource issues and challenges faced by our fellow community members.

**Districts are repositories of natural resource expertise, knowledge, education, and dedication.** Staff offer expertise in fields such as soil resource management, conservation biology, forest and ecological engineering, and more.