

CONSERVATION CONNECTION

A Report of Minnehaha Conservation District

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Conservation Connection

A publication of the
Minnehaha Conservation District
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The Minnehaha Conservation District Board of Supervisors meets on the second Monday of every Month at 3:00 pm. Meeting times are subject to change. Visit our website for exact dates and times: <http://minnehahacd.org>.

All programs and services of the US Department Of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Minnehaha Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Minnehaha Conservation District was created in 1941 to Administer resource conservation within the boundaries of Minnehaha County in southeastern South Dakota. The District is self-governed and has the authority to enter into working agreements with government agencies and private citizens to carry out its purposes

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016

- Eighty-five acres of trees were planted for Farmsteads, feedlots, field windbreaks, and wildlife habitats.
- The survival rate for new plantings was 96%!
- Thirty-eight producers rented the 10 ft. grass drill to plant 1050 acres of grasses.
- Thirty-four producers rented the John Deere no-till drill, planting 2,100 acres to alfalfa, grasses, and cover crops.
- We sold \$23,925.85 in hand plants.
- We continued a partnership with the City of Sioux Falls for dispersal of bio-solids and soil sampling on 1,200 acres.
- We received three Resource Conservation and Forestry Grants. The first funded a seasonal full-time resource technician to assist with easement monitoring, nutrient management planning, and the bio-solids service. The second grant extends funding for the resource technician through June 2016. The third grant funds a continuation of the program for 2016 in which cost-share will be paid to producers for converting sensitive land, currently not eligible for other farm programs, into wildlife habitat. More information about this program is included in this newsletter.
- Outreach and legislative efforts included our website, National AgDay, a booth at the State Fair, Sioux Empire Farm Show, Central Big Sioux River Watershed project and our annual tree flyer.
- Educational activities included the 23rd Annual Sioux Empire Water Festival (2400 4th graders from the surrounding area), land judging contest for FFA students, Earth Team volunteer, and Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Conservation Learning Area.

SOIL CONSERVATION AWARD WINNER 2016



Paul & Carol Heiberger along with sons

Garret and Eli and farm hand Red were selected for the South Dakota Soil Conservation Award for Minnehaha County 2016. Paul & Family Operate a 300 head cow/calf herd, 1000 acres of Crop ground along with 1600 acres of pasture land which entails cross fencing, pasture rotation, feeding site rotation with alternative water. Implementation of conservation practices include grassed water ways, buffer strips along with farmstead and field windbreaks.

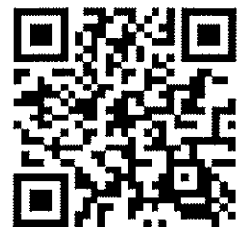
DEWEY C GEVIK OUTDOOR CONSERVATION LEARNING AREA

The Gevik Learning Area makes possible an interpretive educational experience that is open to the public, featuring several conservation practices such as the restoration of a wetland, grassed waterway with a rock weir structure, rock crossings, shelterbelts, native grass plantings, and hiking trails. Located just one-half mile west of Wall Lake, the Learning Area showcases natural resources at their finest while also filtering the water flowing into Wall Lake. Three walking trails offer access to all the diverse environments, and ninety-four species of birds have been documented by bird watching clubs. Observation decks have been constructed so people can relax as they enjoy watching wildlife in their natural habitat.

The Minnehaha Conservation District has been honored to manage and maintain the Learning Area for the public. We would like to further enhance the Learning Area by installing descriptive signs of native grasses and tree species, building bird houses, and distributing informative brochures to build public awareness of this beautiful area just west of Sioux Falls.



Photo credit: Mick Zerr, Sioux Falls, SD



GRANTS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DISTRICT

- Shelterbelt renovation July 1, 2016- December 31, 2017.
- Wildlife Habitat Grant January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2018

Contact John or Hersh at 605-330-4515 Ext. 3

JOB OPPORTUNITIES SPRING OF 2017

Looking for seasonal workers to plant trees and apply tree fabric.

Start end of April through Mid-June or until work is completed.

If interested contact John at 605-330-4515 ext. 3

NEW FOR SPRING 2017 26' GREAT PLAINS GRASS DRILL FOR RENT.

SERVICES OFFERED BY THE MINNEHAHA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- Tree plantings for shelterbelts, windbreaks, and wildlife plantings (machine and hand)
- Fabric installation
- No-till drill seeding of soybeans, alfalfa, oats, and wheat
- Native grass seeding between tree rows, waterways, pastures and yards
- Food plot seeding
- Terrace seeding
- Grass seed available
- Tilling for tree planting or grass seeding preparation
- Weed Control for CRP and pastures
- Controlled drainage system (cost-share may be available)
- Bio-reactor design and information (for filtration nitrates)

WILDLIFE HABITAT PROGRAM

Thanks to a conservation grant from the USDA Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry, the Minnehaha Conservation District has funding to implement a Wildlife Habitat Program as we seek to enroll sensitive land, not eligible for other farm programs, into wildlife habitat for ring-necked pheasants and other birds native to southeastern South Dakota.

Our goal is to enroll 35 acres. This will be done on a first come, first served basis. Please contact John at 605-370-3480 or info@minnehahacd.org for more information or to apply for the program.

MAINTENANCE OF WEED BARRIER

Keep the edges and ends of weed barrier fabric covered with soil as wind, frost, and rain may cause the fabric to shift. When fabric isn't anchored properly, it can be harmful to the tree. Also, check the older plantings as it may be necessary to make the opening around the base of a tree larger. If the opening is not large enough, the fabric will tighten around the trunk base and may cause damage or kill the tree or shrub (this is called girdling). When cutting the opening in the fabric larger for the growth of the tree, care should be taken not to harm the base of the plant!

Some weeds and grasses will emerge adjacent to trees. It is important to walk the tree rows two to three times during the growing season to pull weeds and grasses growing near the trees. If weeds grow tall enough to compete for light and fall over fabric and trees, some type of weed control would be necessary.

WINDBREAK RENOVATION

As windbreaks and shelterbelts age, it is wise to evaluate the overall condition of the windbreak to see if it still meets the objective of why it was originally planted. Many things can happen to a windbreak as it ages. The density can be reduced due to dead or unhealthy trees. Sod-forming grasses can become a problem as they take water and nutrients away from the trees. Shrubs or small trees can start growing in the understory, creating various problems.

Most windbreaks are planted to provide protection from cold winter and hot summer winds, to provide adequate snow distribution, to provide wind erosion control, to provide habitat for wildlife, or to provide a screen from neighbors or heavily traveled roads. If any of these objectives are no longer being met or only partially met, then it may be time to think about renovation of that windbreak.

There are three basic techniques of windbreak renovation as it involves tree removal and replacement. The first method is to remove the entire windbreak and replant it. The second method is to remove one or more complete rows of the windbreak. The third method is to thin or remove individual trees. These last two methods may or may not involve replanting trees to replace the trees removed.

Renovation technique 1 exposes the entire area needing protection, but does allow for repositioning of the windbreak to a better location. Technique 2 can thin an over-crowded windbreak and stimulate growth and increase vigor of the remaining trees. Growth in the middle and upper levels of the windbreak is given a chance to increase. Technique 3 helps strengthen remaining trees by removing dying or unhealthy trees.

One universal problem in most windbreaks needing renovation is the presence of sod-forming grasses. A general rule is that if 50 percent or more of the windbreak's undergrowth is made up of sod-forming grasses or broadleaved weeds, chemical weed control is needed. Mechanical weed control often times is not feasible as the tree crowns are close to each other and/or the tree roots can be disturbed.

If you need assistance with evaluating your windbreak or shelterbelt for renovation, please contact our local conservation district office located at the USDA Service Center in Sioux Falls.

Big Sioux River Watershed

Seasonal Riparian Area Management (SRAM) Project Application

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Farm # _____ Tract # _____ Legal Description: _____ Estimated Acres: _____

Note: Attach an air photo or similar map and indicate which acres of land are to be enrolled. If there is more than one tract of land to be enrolled, **please fill out another form.**

By signing this form I understand that:

- This application is subject to the approval of the Big Sioux (BS) Watershed Coordinator and the Moody County Conservation District (MCCD) based on project priorities **(You must get prior approval for any and all work planned in order to be eligible for cost-share)**
- Marginal pastureland within the 100 year floodplain immediately adjacent to Skunk Creek will be eligible for the SRAM program. Enrolled acres shall not be grazed April 1 through September 30.
- Payment is \$60-75/eligible per acre and 50 - 75% of actual cost for additional approved supporting practices if applicable. Alternative water shall be provided if grazing is carried out October 1 through March 31.
- Haying will be allowed through the summer months and bales should be removed before inclement winter weather prevents removal which at no time shall be later than November 15th. Haying cannot begin until after June 1st.
- **For more info contact Barry Berg or Matt Johnson at 605-759-2650**

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

2017 ORDER FORM

Minnehaha Conservation District
 2408 E. Benson Road
 Sioux Falls, SD 57104-7018
 PHONE: 605-330-4515, ext. 3
 EMAIL: info@minnehahacd.org

Date _____
 Customer _____
 Billing Address _____
 City, State & Zip _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____



Please Note: Bare Root and Machine Planting Orders are due by March 8, 2017. Trees ordered after March 8, 2017 are subject to availability.

\$3.85 per tree or (bundle of 25 - same species - \$86.00)

QTY.	BARE ROOT SHRUBS	HT.	COST	QTY.	BARE ROOT TALL TREES (cont.)	HT.	COST	QTY.	MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS	PRICE	TOTAL
	Almond, Russian 'Regal'	5'			Maple, Silver	60'			WILDFLOWER MIX - Prairie Grass & Wildflower (Covers approximately 1,000 sq. ft.)	\$30.00	
	Aronis 'McKenzie'	8'			Oak, Bur	30'			FLAGS (100 per bundle)	\$15.00	
	Buffaloberry	12'			Poplar, White	40'			WEED BARRIER - 4' x 4' Sq. (includes 5 staples)	\$4.50	
	Caragana	14'			Walnut, Black	50'			WEED BARRIER - 6' x 500' roll	\$220.00	
	Cherry, Mongolian	7'			Willow, Golden	40'			WEED BARRIER - 6' wide	\$0.65/ft.	
	Cherry, Nanking	7'			BARE ROOT CONIFERS				8" FABRIC STAPLES	\$0.20/ea.	
	Chokecherry	24'			Fir, Balsam	30'			8" FABRIC STAPLES - Box of 500	\$67.00	
	Chokecherry, 'Schubert'	24'			Pine, Austrian	50'			TREE SHELTER	\$4.50/ea.	
	Cotoneaster, Peking	8'			Pine, Ponderosa	75'			STAKES	\$2.00/ea.	
	Cranberry, American Highbush	10'			Red Cedar, Eastern	50'			PLANT PRO-TEC Garlic Sticks (discourages deer & rabbits from browsing trees & shrubs)		
	Currant, American Black	6'			Spruce, Black Hills	50'			25 sticks	\$28.00	
	Dogwood, Red Stemmed	7'			Spruce, Colorado Blue	50'			1 lb. granular	\$12.95	
	Elderberry, Common	15'			Spruce, Meyer	50'			3 lb. granular	\$26.95	
	Plum, Native	18'			LARGE POTTED CONIFERS - Price is \$20.00 per pot				7 lb. granular	\$44.95	
	Plum, 'Prairie Red'	18'			15' Black Hills Spruce	50'			PLANTSKYDD - 1 qt. pre-mixed spray	\$21.95	
	Rose, Hansen Hedge	5'			15' Colorado Blue Spruce	50'			PLANTSKYDD - 1.3 gal. pre-mixed spray	\$59.95	
	Viburnum, Nannyberry	30'							Subtotal		
	BARE ROOT MEDIUM TREES			# OF PACKS	TREE PACKS	PRICE PER PACK			Sales Tax (4.5%)		
	Cherry, Pin	30'			Fast Pack 25 trees/5 of each	\$ 86.00			TOTAL PAYMENT		
	Chokecherry, Amur	25'			<small>RINEMARK * FREEMAN MAPLE * HYBRID MALE COTONWOOD * REDOSIER DOGWOOD * LAUREL LEAF WILLOW</small>	\$ 86.00			METHOD OF PAYMENT: ___ Cash ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Check # ___ Card no.: _____ Exp. Date: ____ / ____ CVC Code: ____		
	Crabapple, Midwest	30'			Grandma's Jam Pack 25 trees/5 of each	\$ 86.00					
	Crabapple, Red Splendor	30'			<small>NANKIN CHERRY * AMERICAN PLUM * CHOCHECHERRY * MONGOLIAN CHERRY * AMERICAN BLACK CURRANT * SEVERELY</small>	\$ 86.00					
	Crabapple, Siberian	30'			Tough-as-Nails 25 trees/5 of each	\$ 86.00					
	Maple, Amur	20'			<small>BUFFALOBERRY * HONEYLOCUST * BUR OAK * RUSSIAN OLIVE * HANSEN HEDGE ROSE</small>	\$ 86.00					
	Mulberry	24'			Wildlife Pack 25 trees/5 of each	\$ 86.00					
	Olive, Russian	20'			<small>PIN CHERRY * BUFFALOBERRY * BUR OAK * HANSEN HEDGE ROSE * SKUNKTUSH SUMAC</small>	\$ 30.00					
	Pear, Harbin 'McDermid'	15'			Fruit & Nut Pack 10 trees/2 of each	\$ 30.00					
	Willow, Laurel Leaf	40'			<small>MULBERRY * GOLDEN CURRANT * JUNE BERRY * APRICOT * BLACK WALNUT</small>	\$ 30.00					
	BARE ROOT TALL TREES				Shade Tree Pack 10 trees/2 of each	\$ 30.00					
	Ash, Green	50'			<small>LITTLE LEAF LINDEN * HACKBERRY * SILVER MAPLE * MANCHURIAN ASH * BUR OAK</small>						
	Ash, Manchurian	50'									
	Aspen, Quaking	45'									
	Buckeye, Ohio	30'									
	Catalpa, Northern	50'									
	Cherry, Black	50'									
	Cottonwood, Northwest	80'									
	Cottonwood, Seedless	80'									
	Hackberry	55'									
	Hackberry, Prairie Harvest	55'									
	Honeylocust	50'									
	Kentucky Coffee Tree	75'									
	Linden, American (Basswood)	60'									
	Linden, Little Leaf	40'									

Payment is due at time of order.

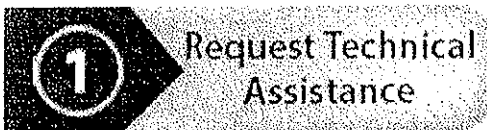
VIEW TREE SPECIES AT:
<http://www.minnehahacd.org>
 We design shelterbelts!
 Call 605-330-4515, ext. 3
 or email: info@minnehahacd.org

Have you heard of the NRCS Client Gateway?

Conservation Client Gateway is an NRCS website that provides secure access to conservation plans, practice implementation schedules, financial applications and contracts, documents and payment information. Instead of driving to your field office multiple times, Conservation Client Gateway enables you to request assistance, sign documents and interact with NRCS field staff online. NRCS staff will still be available in field offices to work with you face-to-face - this online tool just provides another option.

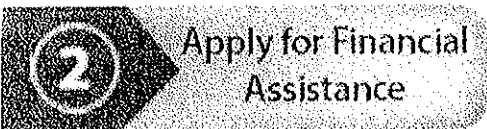
Check it out at:

www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway



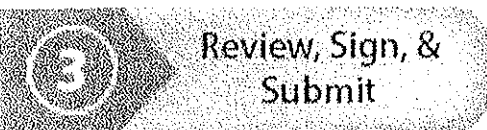
Client Gateway & Conservation Technical Assistance

Request technical assistance or advice for your conservation needs. Access technical information, such as the Web Soil Survey, the National Plants Database, and the National Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications to learn more about soils, plants, and conservation practices.



Client Gateway & Financial Assistance

Apply for conservation program financial assistance. Manage your applications, contracts, conservation plans and the associated documents through Conservation Client Gateway. Report practice completion and installation, and request information and modifications to your conservation plans and contracts.



Client Gateway & NRCS Documents

View, sign, and submit documents related to your conservation request. View and track the status of your requests for technical and financial assistance. View aerial maps of your property where you have requested technical or financial assistance.



Track Your Payments

View and track the status of your financial assistance conservation program payments for completed conservation practices in your existing contracts.

MAINTAINING HEALTHY TREES

It is important as an owner of a tree to be aware of the basic needs of that tree. Providing proper environmental conditions for your tree increases the likelihood that the tree will survive and thrive to grow to maturity and old age.

Selecting the right tree to plant on a site is your first consideration. Some of the things to consider are hardiness, moisture requirements, and insect and disease resistance. Make sure the tree is labeled for the hardiness zone for the planting site. If the planting site is either naturally dry or wet, select a tree species that will thrive under the conditions at the site. Make sure the tree selected has specific resistance to insects or diseases that are a problem at the planting site.

Knowing the soil type at the planting site will enhance the survivability of the tree. Each soil type has suitability for certain tree species. Some tree species may not survive and grow on certain soil types. It is, therefore, important to know the soil type on the planting site.

The way in which a tree is planted can affect the tree's survival. You should not let tree roots get dry before, during, or after the planting process. A tree's root crown, which is a swelling on the main stem where the stem ends and the root starts, should be planted no more than one inch below the soil surface after the soil settles around the tree. The hole for the tree should be two to three times wider than the root ball to provide for proper root growth.

The proper amount of water after the tree is planted is important for survival of the tree. The site around the tree should be thoroughly watered after planting. The soil should be checked regularly for moisture content. If there is little rainfall, the tree should have a deep watering about every two weeks. If you are not sure of the moisture content of the soil dig down long side of the tree about 4 inches. If the soil is moist at this depth, watering is not needed. If the soil is very wet or water logged at this depth, the soil is being over watered.

Trees need oxygen in the soil pores for survival. Water logged soil has little oxygen in its pores. It is important to avoid using water that is high in salts when watering your tree.

It is not recommended to fertilize a tree the first planting season. Trees do not normally need nutrients added to the soil to remain healthy. Too high of a fertility content in the soil can increase the tree's susceptibility to certain kinds of insects and diseases. You may have heard the saying, "You scratch my back and I'll scratch your back." If you take proper care of a tree, that tree will provide many benefits to you.

WINTER TREE PROBLEMS

Winter brings unique problems that can cause damage to trees.

Sunscald is an injury caused by sunlight reflecting off of the snow causing the tree's bark to split. Thin barked trees such as young maples often show sunscald injury on their southwest side. Protective tree trunk wraps can be used to help reduce this type of injury.

Winter burn is an injury caused when strong winter winds or when sunlight reflects off of the snow causing conifer (evergreen) needles to lose moisture and turn reddish-brown. This is a problem that is found especially in pines. Most trees usually come out of this type of injury when they begin to grow again in the spring. There are various products that can be sprayed onto the conifer trees in autumn that helps prevent the moisture loss. We have such products for sale at our district office in Sioux Falls.

Branch breakage can result due to heavy snows. It is important to remove these branches and limbs in the spring before the tree breaks dormancy. Spring pruning helps the breakage wound to heal quickly.

Paying attention to these potential problems can help maintain the health of your trees.

CRP FOR SHELTERBELTS

If you are interested in planting trees this spring and wondering if you would qualify for financial assistance, you need to contact Farm Service Agency (FSA), as some of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practices available for possible assistance are CP5 Field Windbreak Establishment, CP16A Shelterbelt Establishment, CP17A Living Snow Fence and CP22 Riparian Buffer. Please stop in at the USDA Service Center in Sioux Falls and talk to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) or call to see if you would qualify.



Minnehaha Soil Conservation District
2408 E. Benson Road
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-7018
Phone: 605-370-3480

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Sioux Falls, SD

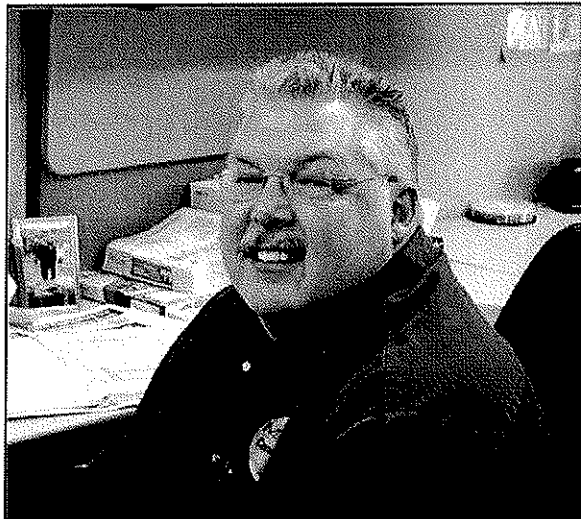
Check out our website: <http://minnehahacd.org>

*****ECRWSS****

LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

THANK YOU to our crew
for a job well done, and to
all our customers for a
good year! Be sure to stay
on top of what's going on
by following our website at
<http://minnehahacd.org>.

*John Parker,
District Manager*



To view **TREE SPECIES** or **DOWNLOAD AN ORDER FORM** visit our
WEBSITE AT: <http://www.minnehahacd.org>