



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS: CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITIES AND LANDOWNERS ABOUT WATER

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

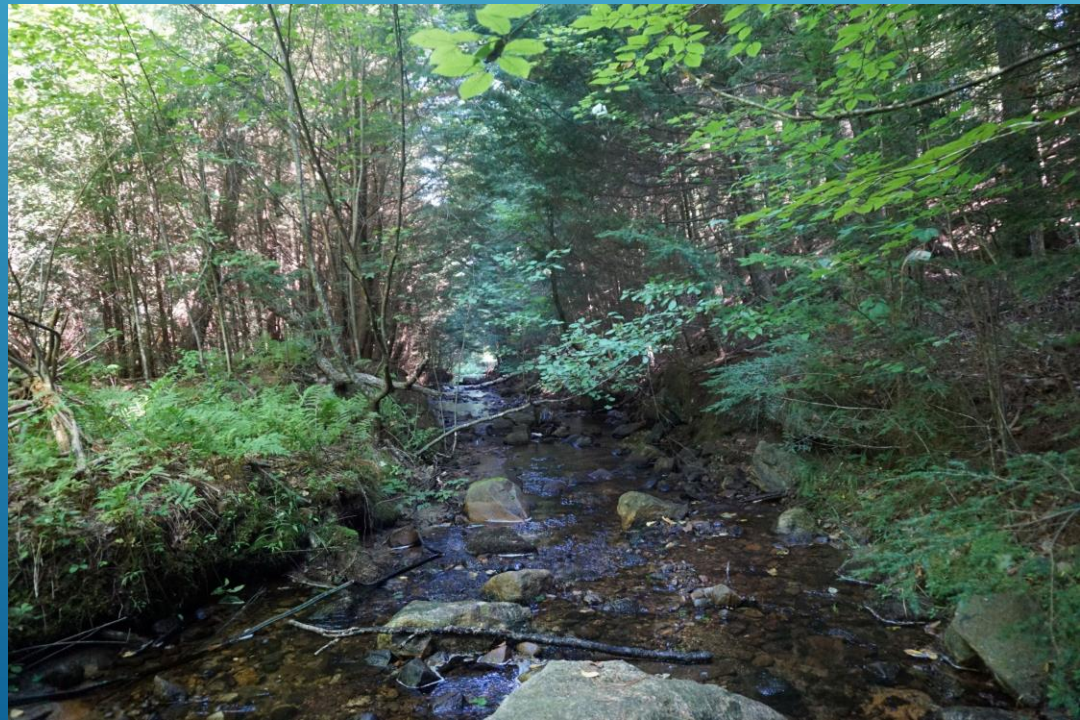
- ▶ Conservation districts were created to avert another Dust Bowl through locally-led soil and water conservation efforts. In NH, conservation districts were established as a political subdivision of the State led by a volunteer Board of Supervisors (farmers, foresters, teachers, natural resource professionals, and folks that love the outdoors).
- ▶ Each NH County has a District committed to conservation of natural resources since the 1940's.
- ▶ Conservation districts serve a unique role as a (non-regulatory) matchmaker working in partnership with federal, state and local agencies and conservation organizations. Districts have great networks and long-term relationships with towns and landowners. They work neighbor to neighbor to put projects on the ground.
- ▶ Local conservation districts work on projects to protect water quality and improve aquatic habitat throughout New Hampshire.

**RESTORING STREAMS
GUNSTOCK RIVER-
GEOMORPHOLOGY
STUDY**



**STREAMBANK
RESTORATION
DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT**

**WOOD IN STREAM
DEMONSTRATION
PROJECT**





STREAM WORKSHOPS FOR COMMUNITIES AND PRACTITIONERS

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO WATER

VOLUNTEER DAY AT WETLAND BOARDWALK - GUNSTOCK MOUNTAIN RESORT





Photographs of Bohanan Dairy Farm

FARMS, FOOD, AND WATER QUALITY





CONSERVING WATER THROUGH NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Merrimack County Conservation District works with local farms to prevent nutrients from entering waterbodies, such as milk house waste systems. MCCD finds funds to help farmers implement sound yet expensive conservation practices.



CONSERVING WATER THROUGH PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

Merrimack County Conservation District works with local farms and gardeners in reducing their pesticide use through Integrated Pest Management. Coming in 2019/2020: an organic lawn care program in urban areas.



CONSERVING WATER QUALITY THROUGH IMPROVED SOIL HEALTH

Check out State-Wide Soil
Health Opportunities at
NHSoilHealth.Org



FORESTRY AND WATER QUALITY

Merrimack County and Cheshire County offer skidder bridge rentals for forestry projects. These projects were funded through a Mooseplate Grant.





At the Grafton County Farm Soil Health Demonstration site a short day corn was planted in treatments 1 and 2 to compare yield to full-season corn. After an earlier harvest, two different cover crop mixes were drilled and manure applied. The goal in this multi-year project is to provide information to farmers to improve soil health, and reduce erosion and compaction, with no risk to the farmers.

Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the **Regional Conservation Partnership Program** (RCPP) is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrate the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation. NH conservation.

Conservation Districts in NH are involved in several RCPP projects:

- Long Island Sound Watershed – The NH Association of Conservation Districts partners in this multi-state project involving Coös, Grafton, Sullivan and Cheshire Counties. Conservation Districts and Project Agronomist, Bill Fosher, have been assisting landowners in the watershed with resource assessments and conservation planning, and landowner education through workshops.
- Upper Valley Land Trust Farmland Conservation Project – This project targets farms competing for Agriculture Land Easements, that don't rank well in the state-wide funding pool because of percentages of agriculture soil ratings for prime and state-wide soils, percentage of woodland on the farm, and other criteria. This pool will benefit applicants by creating a funding source with modified criteria. Grafton and Sullivan County Conservation Districts are partners providing landowner education and information on conservation practices that benefit water quality on farms.

SALWAY AERWAY AWMP-075-AG-4

Great for pasture renovation and relief from compaction on smaller acreages. An aerator improves soil health by breaking up compaction, reducing run-off, and increasing soil moisture retention. An aerator can be used throughout the growing season. Salford recommends 45-75HP tractor with hydraulics, Cultivation width 7.5', Weight 2150 lbs.

(This project is supported by funds from the sale of the Conservation License Plate (Moose Plate) through the NH State Conservation Committee Grant Program.)

KASCO ECO DRILL KED-72

Excellent for planting pastures, food plots, waterways, mine reclamation. The KED-72 is 6' wide and capable of planting 9 rows, with 8" spacing. KASCO recommends a 35hp+ tractor, with sufficient lift capacity to handle approximately 1600 lbs on back.



Dawn Biologic crimper-roller no-till corn planter

In March 2018 GCCD hosted an all-day Farmer Information Meeting where we discussed soil health, cover crop mixes, GCCD soil health equipment available for rent, the crimper-roller no-till corn planter, and the state-wide program to retrofit corn planters to a no-till planter.



Hayland and Pasture Rejuvenation Workshop with Bill Fosher, Grazing Specialist, Tom Ebert, NRCS District Conservationist and Steve Turaj, UNHCE Dairy, Livestock & Forage Crops Field Specialist, at the Grafton County Farm on July 30, 2018. County Farm Manager Donnie Kimball demonstrated GCCD AerWay.



GCCD's Wood In Streams workshop introduced the conservation practice to improve aquatic habitat and water quality. Tom Ebert, NRCS District Conservationist, Kelly Boland, NRCS Biologist, and Ryan Harvey, contractor, spent time discussing the value of the practice, planning, and how the work was accomplished. The workshop was held at Indian Woods in Orford, owned by Bruce and Sarah Schwaegler.

QUESTIONS?

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