




CONSERVATION CONNECTION

A report of Minnehaha Conservation District

*A publication of the
Minnehaha Conservation District*

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Sioux Falls, SD 57104

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605-330-4515, ext. 3

 <https://minnehahacd.org>

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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: <https://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 2020

- ▶ 45 acres of trees were machine planted for farmsteads, feedlots, field windbreaks, and wildlife habitats.
- ▶ The survival rate for new plantings was 89%.
- ▶ 85 producers/landowners participated in grass seeding throughout Minnehaha County, seeding alfalfa, cool season grass, native grass and cover crops.
- ▶ We sold 7,895 bare root and potted trees.
- ▶ We continued a partnership with the City of Sioux Falls for dispersal of bio-solids and soil sampling.
- ▶ Outreach and legislative efforts included our website, social media, a booth at the State Fair, Sioux Empire Farm Show, Central Big Sioux River Watershed project, Queen Bee Day, SDSWCS Conference, State technical meetings, and our annual tree flyer.
- ▶ Educational activities included the 27th Annual Sioux Empire Water Festival (area 4th graders), land judging contest for FFA students, Earth Team volunteers, state speech contest, Arbor Day contest, Urban Conservation newsletter, Dewey C. Gevik Outdoor Conservation Learning Area, and various projects with local community groups to enhance habitat.

SERVICES OFFERED BY THE MINNEHAHA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- All varieties of grass seed available (native, crops, traditional lawn, etc.)
- Fabric Installation
- Habitat development through wildlife plot and pollinator seeding
- Native grass seeding, tree rows, waterways, terrace, pastures and yards
- Tree plantings for shelterbelts, windbreaks, and wildlife plantings (machine only)
- No-till drill seeding of soybeans, alfalfa, oats and wheat
- Tilling for tree planting or grass seeding preparation
- Weed control (mechanical and chemical)

MAINTENANCE OF WEED BARRIER

When fabric is not anchored properly, it can be harmful to the tree. Make sure to keep the edges and ends of weed barrier fabric covered with soil. Elements like wind, frost, and rain may cause the fabric to shift. Also, check older plantings as it may be necessary to make the opening around the base of a tree larger, always making sure to be careful not to damage the tree. If the opening is not large enough, the fabric will tighten around the trunk base and cause damage or kill the tree/shrub (this is called girdling).

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

DEWEY C GEVIK OUTDOOR CONSERVATION LEARNING AREA

Located just one-half mile west of Wall Lake, Dewey C Gevik Outdoor Conservation Learning Area showcases natural resources and provides examples of quality conservation practices while also filtering the water flowing into Wall Lake. Open to the public, this interpretive educational experience features wetland restoration, a grassed waterway with a rock weir structure, rock crossings, shelterbelts, native grass plantings, observation decks, and walking trails. Because of the diverse environments provided within the property, over ninety-four bird species were documented by bird watching clubs to date. Additional signage was recently added to the trails and more exciting improvements are planned for the future to keep revitalizing this unique space.



Photo by: Brian Scott

The Minnehaha Conservation District is honored to continue managing and maintaining this area for the public. We look forward to seeing you out enjoying this beautiful natural area near the west side of Sioux Falls and look forward to showing off our new ideas for this amazing space.

SRAM (SEASONAL RIPARIAN AREA MANAGEMENT)

The Big Sioux River Project is encouraging buffers along Minnehaha County streams to improve water quality and decrease erosion through the Seasonal Riparian Area Management (SRAM) program. Landowners who participate receive incentives for improving the environment through altering management of riparian and streambank areas. To learn more about program requirements please see the following application, or contact Watershed Coordinator Barry Berg at **(605) 759-2650**.

Big Sioux River Project

Seasonal Riparian Area Management (SRAM) Project Application

NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: _____ ESTIMATED ACRES: _____

Note: Attach an aerial 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, fill out another form. **Any questions can be directed to the Senior Watershed Coordinator Barry Berg (605) 759-2650**

By signing this form I understand that:

- ▶ This application is subject to the approval of the Big Sioux River (BSR) Watershed Coordinator and the Minnehaha Conservation District (MCD) based on project priorities **(You must obtain prior approval for any work planned in order to be eligible for cost-share).**
- ▶ Marginal pastureland within the 100 year floodplain immediately adjacent to the Big Sioux River and its 303d impaired tributaries will be eligible for the SRAM program. Eligible streams will be determined by the Project Coordinator and South Dakota DENR. Enrolled acres shall not be grazed April 1 through September 30.
- ▶ A minimum buffer width of 20 feet and an average maximum width of 120 feet from top of bank will be used to determine eligible acres of the buffer unless the 100 year floodplain exceeds 120 feet. In cases where the 100 year floodplain exceeds the 120 foot distance, the additional acres immediately adjoining the 120 foot buffer may be enrolled to the extent of the 100 year floodplain.
- ▶ Additional land outside of the 100 year floodplain immediately adjoining the eligible acres offered may be eligible and paid 50% of the per acre rate in order to square up field boundaries. These acres shall only equal a maximum of 25% of the total acres offered.
- ▶ 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 15. Haying cannot begin until after June 15.
- ▶ All invoices and receipts must be submitted to the MCD in order to be eligible for cost-share reimbursement. If applicable, 75% of actual cost for grass planting and trees/fabric will be provided. Alternative water shall be provided if grazing carried out October 1 through March 31.
- ▶ The MCD, BSR Watershed Coordinator, and associated partners will be granted access and allowed to inspect the SRAM acres enrolled on the property listed above throughout the lifespan of the program. Vegetative spot checks to verify program compliance will be conducted at various times during the contract term on land enrolled in the program. A minimum vegetative stand of 4 - 6 inches shall be maintained.
- ▶ Once a contract is signed, I will be responsible for the maintenance of the enrolled acres (10 or 15 years) and will follow the associated Management Plan for the lifespan of the program.

PARTICIPANT: _____ DATE: _____

2021 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 3, 2021. Trees ordered after March 3, 2021 are subject to availability.

NO WARRANTY ON TREES - \$3.85 per tree or (bundle of 25 - same species - \$86.00 - NO WARRANTY ON TREES)

BARE ROOT SHRUBS				BARE ROOT TALL TREES				MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS			
QTY.		HT.	COST	QTY.		HT.	COST	QTY.		PRICE	TOTAL
	Almond, Russian 'Regal'	5'			Aspen, Quaking	45'			WILDFLOWER MIX - Prairie Grass & Wildflower	\$40.00	
	Aronis 'McKenzie'	8'			Buckeye, Ohio	30'			(Covers approximately 1,000 sq. ft.)		
	Buffaloberry	12'			Catalpa, Northern	50'			WEED BARRIER - 4' x 4' Sq. (includes 5 staples)	\$4.50	
	Caragana	14'			Cherry, Black	50'			WEED BARRIER - 6' x 500' roll	\$220.00	
	Cherry, Mongolian	7'			Cottonwood, Northwest	80'			WEED BARRIER - 6' wide	\$0.65/ft.	
	Cherry, Nanking	7'			Cottonwood, Seedless	80'			8" FABRIC STAPLES	\$0.20/ea.	
	Cotoneaster, Peking	8'			Elm, American	50'			8" FABRIC STAPLES - Box of 500	\$67.00	
	Cranberry, American Highbush	10'			Hackberry	55'			TREE SHELTER	\$4.50/ea.	
	Currant, American Black	5'			Honeylocust	50'			STAKES	\$2.00/ea.	
	Dogwood, Red Stemmed	7'			Kentucky Coffee Tree	75'			PLANT PRO-TEC Garlic Sticks 25 sticks	\$28.00	
	Elderberry, Common	15'			Linden, American (Basswood)	60'			(discourages deer & rabbits from browsing trees & shrubs)		
	Hazelnut, American	15'			Linden, Little Leaf	40'			PLANTSKYDD - 1 lb. box powder concentrate	\$29.95	
	Honeysuckle	8'			Maple, Freeman	50'			PLANTSKYDD - 2.2 lb. box powder concentrate	\$49.95	
	Indigo, False	8'			Maple, Silver	60'			PLANTSKYDD - 1 lb. granular	\$12.95	
	Juneberry	15'			Oak, Bur	30'			PLANTSKYDD - 3 lb. granular	\$26.95	
	Lilac, Common	12'			Poplar, White	40'			PLANTSKYDD - 7 lb. granular	\$44.95	
	Lilac, Late	10'			Walnut, Black	50'			PLANTSKYDD - 1 qt. pre-mixed spray	\$21.95	
	Rose, Hansen Hedge	5'			Willow, Golden	40'			PLANTSKYDD - 1.3 gal. pre-mixed spray	\$59.95	
	Seaberry	15'									
	Sumac, Smooth	10'									
	Sumac, Skunkbush	8'		QTY.	BARE ROOT CONIFERS	HT.	COST	Subtotal			
	Willow, Sandbar	10'			Pine, Ponderosa	75'		Sales Tax (4.5%)			
					Red Cedar, Eastern	50'		TOTAL PAYMENT			
					Spruce, Black Hills	50'		METHOD OF PAYMENT: ___ Cash ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Check # _____ Card no.: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date: ___ / ___ / ___ CVC Code: ___ ___ ___			
					Spruce, Colorado Blue	50'					
QTY.	BARE ROOT MEDIUM TREES	HT.	COST	QTY.	APPLE TREES - 4' - 6' upon arrival	HT.	COST				
	Apricot, Manchurian	24'			Cortland	12'	\$ 29.25				
	Cherry, Pin	30'			Frostbite	12'	\$ 34.00				
	Chokecherry	24'			Haralred	12'	\$ 29.50				
	Chokecherry, Amur	25'			Honeycrisp	12'	\$ 33.50				
	Chokecherry, 'Schubert'	24'			Red McIntosh	12'	\$ 34.00				
	Crabapple, Midwest	30'			Sweet Sixteen	12'	\$ 31.50				
	Crabapple, Red Splendor	30'			Zestar!	12'	\$ 35.00				
	Crabapple, Siberian	30'									
	Maple, Amur	20'			LARGE POTTED CONIFERS - Price is \$22.00 per pot						
	Mulberry	24'			15" Black Hills Spruce	50'					
	Olive, Russian	20'			15" Colorado Blue Spruce	50'					
	Pear, Harbin 'McDermand'	15'									
	Plum, Native	18'									
	Plum, 'Prairie Red'	18'									
	Viburnum, (Nannyberry)	30'									
	Willow, Laurel Leaf	40'									

Ht. = maximum height at 20 yrs.

Payment is due at time of order.

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

NEW EMPLOYEES

The Conservation District hired two new employees in 2020, Alina Krone-Hedman and Eric Grootenboer.

Alina is originally from Wisconsin, having moved to South Dakota in 2018 where she worked SDSU Extension as a Youth Program Advisor until coming to work with Minnehaha Conservation District. She started this past March when she took on the role of Urban Conservation Education Coordinator, a new position in partnership with the City of Sioux Falls and NRCS. Her position, funded through a CCG grant, focuses on providing outreach and assistance with urban conservation practices throughout Minnehaha County. Particular areas of emphasis include: Wildlife and Habitat, Urban Agriculture, and Green Infrastructure.

Eric Grootenboer worked for Western Ecosystem Technology as a biological surveyor prior to becoming an employee of Minnehaha Conservation District. He started in August as the new Field Specialist after Hersh Smith Jr. left to pursue opportunities in Iowa. Working to make the transition seamless, Eric immediately jumped full force into his role at the end of the planting season to ensure the quality the community expects. The Conservation District is excited to receive his knowledge and looks forward to the new perspectives he can provide as he continues in his role.

WILDLIFE HABITAT PROGRAM

Thanks to a conservation grant from South Dakota Department of Agriculture/Conservation & Forestry Division, Minnehaha Conservation District has funding to help establish habitat for wildlife and pollinators. The grant supports funding of 60% by landowner, 40% covered by the grant for the grass seed and seeding portion of a native grass planting. As we seek to enroll sensitive land not eligible for other farm programs, we are excited to strengthen habitat for ring-necked pheasants, other bird's in South Dakota, and additional wildlife. Our goal is to enroll 35 acres using this opportunity. Funds are dispersed on a first come, first serve basis for eligible projects.

Please contact John Parker at 605-370-3480 or info@minnehahacd.org for more information on how to apply for the program.

WILDLIFE HABITAT PROGRAM

Minnehaha Conservation District is always looking for ways to partner with organizations to create greater opportunity for conservation. This past year, we were excited to work with the City of Sioux Falls and the Minnehaha County Chapter of Pheasants Forever to plant over fifteen acres of pollinator area and native grasses. Through use of the Wildlife Habitat Grant, the city chose to convert areas within some of their parks to native plantings. Pheasants Forever also generously donated \$500.00 to further assist in a greater establishment of habitat. It was decided five acres would be planted at Legacy Park, located on 12th Street in Sioux Falls, and 10 acres at Arrowhead Park, on River Bluff Road. Both were planted this past fall using a mixture of native grasses and various drought tolerant forbs in the hopes of planting additional park areas in the future. We are excited to see how the areas develop in the coming spring.

Photo by: Alina Krone-Hedman



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Many different practices can be cost shared using this program. Examples include: grassed waterways, WASCOS (Water and Sediment Control Basins), terraces, cover crops, and grazing plans (including fencing, waterers, tanks and pipelines). Applications that include a “system” of practices that address a resource concern are more likely to be funded. For example, if you have a wide open pasture, with a creek as your source of water, NRCS may be able to contract a plan that would cover cross fencing, pipeline and tanks so you can better utilize your pasture, as well as get good clean water to your animals in each paddock they are located. In this instance, the grasses would improve, and the health of your animals would improve as well. These are just some of many benefits to this program that you may need on your farm.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis. You will need to call to arrange to get an application (NRCS-CPA-1200) to sign and date. After calling, you can decide to stop by the office, receive one via emails, or we can mail you one. Once an application is started, we will schedule a time to meet you at your farm to go to the fields and areas of concern.

Please keep in mind that most of our programs are a year out, which allows for assistance in planning the practices that are needed and that you want to implement. This means that applications that are currently offered a contract would not commence until 2022. Additionally, there is a separate source of EQIP funding that is strictly for Animal Waste Systems. If you have open lots for your beef cows (for example) and want to build a barn with a manure storage pit below, we can have you apply for a contract that could help cover some of the building costs. If you have any questions regarding this program, please feel free to contact your local NRCS office. In Minnehaha County that is 605-330-4515 ext 3.

Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS)

This new program through NRCS will take funds out of the EQIP program over the next few years and put them to use for selected CIS projects. Funds will cover projects in certain areas of the county or counties, if chosen. These areas could be small in scale or include larger watersheds that go into other counties.

Information is currently being requested throughout Minnehaha County in regards to sustainable urban farming practices for a hopeful CIS program, named “The Sustainable Urban Agriculture Initiative”. This initiative is hoped to offer a lot of opportunity by exploring all types of agriculture, regardless of scale. Surveys are being emailed to people who indicated interest in sustainable practices in the past, along with posting links to surveys available on social media. Through the information we receive, it is hoped to better understand the practices of greatest interest. If you would like more information, please contact Minnehaha.urbanconservation@gmail.com.

We are also gathering information to see if farmers and ranchers are interested in pursuing a CIS program in southwest Minnehaha County, named “The Soil Moisture Conservation Project”. It is believed this is a timely topic, especially if it continues to be drier than normal. This opportunity would allow the installation of practices to improve and conserve soil moisture, such as: cover crops, tillage management, crop rotations, and other practices that will help improve soil health and conserve water. If you fall within this area, you likely received a postcard in the mail with the office phone number to call. We look forward to hearing from interested individuals, and if you are not in this area but are interested in a program like this, please let us know. It is possible we could expand the project area if there is enough interest, or create a future CIS. Once again, you can reach the office at 605-330-4515 ext 3.

“Unless we practice conservation, those who come after us will have to pay the price of misery, degradation, and failure for the progress and prosperity of our day. -Gifford Pinchot”

FSA CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM SIGNUPS #55 AND #56

FSA is now accepting applications for the General CRP program from January 4th through February 12th, 2021. New CRP offers are being accepted along with re-enrollment offers for those expiring (on Sept. 30, 2021). CRP contracts that were originally enrolled in the SAFE practice and HEL Initiative are being accepted. New offers must be owned or operated for at least 12 months prior to the end of the signup period, but there are exceptions to this requirement. The land itself must be cropland that is planted, or considered planted, to an agricultural commodity four of the six crop years from 2012 to 2017, as well as be physically and legally capable of being farmed. There are other requirements for eligibility that the FSA office can assist you with. There is cost share available to get your cropland seeded to the desired species, according to what you select. All offers will be ranked using the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). You will have an opportunity to influence your EBI score by selecting different options such as cover, and species mix. The offers that score above a statewide threshold will be offered a contract.

Continuous CRP program

Just like the name states, this CRP program has a continuous application period and applications are currently being accepted. This program takes environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices, such as: grassed waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, duck nesting habitat, farmed wetland restoration, etc. The cropland will also need to meet the cropping history along with being physically and legally capable of being farmed. You can contact the FSA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service offices for details on all the practices that can be accepted into the continuous CRP program and to know if the site you have could be eligible for the program. Cost share is available to get these practices installed and there is an annual rental rate that will be calculated for you. You can also go to the www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation site to view the fact sheets.

CRP Grasslands program

This signup period is March 15 - April 23rd, 2021. The program allows you to protect grasslands, rangelands, and pasturelands while maintaining the land as working lands. Grazing and management, such as: mowing, haying, or harvesting is allowed. A grazing plan will be followed for the sites that will continue to be grazed.

In Minnehaha county contact the FSA office for more information at 605-330-4515 ext.2 or the NRCS office at 605-330-4515 ext.3

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE IN 2021

Ever wanted to know more about rain gardens? Are you interested in planting a small backyard vegetable bed but do not know where to start? During the months of February and March, Urban Conservation Education Coordinator Alina Krone-Hedman will be hosting webinars discussing basics you need to know to get started with your gardens.

The topics include:

Thursday, February 4: Rain Gardens 101

Thursday, February 18: Picking Plants (Reviewing the Many Choices for Rain Gardens)

Thursday, March 4: What and When to Plant (Vegetable Garden 101)

Thursday, March 18: Raised Bed Basics

All webinars will be approximately an hour in length, and will take place at 12:00PM noon. To receive a zoom link to a webinar, please email minnehaha.urbanconservation@gmail.com.



Make sure to check the Minnehaha Conservation District website in February & March to learn about availability of grasses and forbs.



Minnehaha Soil Conservation District
2408 E. Benson Road
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-7018

Phone: 605-370-3480

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

We need your feedback!

Natural resources are what we do. To help address the most important issues, we're looking for your thoughts on the environment around Minnehaha and surrounding areas.

Scan the **QR code** or visit www.sdresourceconcerns.org to let us know which natural resource concerns are important to you!

How to scan QR code:

1. On your smartphone, launch your camera or download a free barcode scanner app.
2. Point your phone to scan the code.
3. Connect to the website.

Scan me! ▶



www.sdresourceconcerns.org

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