



CATOOSA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FY 2023 Plan of Work

Major Objectives

- **Natural Resources Conservation** – Promote the conservation of soil, water, forestry, wildlife, and other natural resources.
- **Conservation Education** – Promote conservation education through youth and adult education programs.
- **Public Relations & Information** – Create public awareness of District conservation programs and objectives. Offer outreach to landowners and interested citizens about funding opportunities.
- **Erosion and Sedimentation Program** – Provide technical assistance related to erosion control and sedimentation prevention to citizens and local units of government.

Natural Resource Conservation Action Items

1. Promote natural resources conservation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Farm Service Agency through the District responsibility of implementing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Easement Program and other Farm Bill programs.

The district would like to invite Nick Mooneyham from NRCS and Todd Hice from FSA to a future District Meeting to provide a 3-5 minute overview on each of the following:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Conservation Easement Program
- Other applicable Farm Bill programs

2. Assist landowners with planning and applying conservation Best Management Practices through the sponsorship of Field Days.
3. Host an annual Local Work Group Meeting (time and location to be determined) with agency partners and local farmers to prioritize resources and practices for Farm Bill Program Funding with refreshments (coffee and donuts) provided. The district has allocated \$100 in the budget for this item.
4. Promote the initiatives of the Limestone Valley RC&D, associated with grants awarded by GAEPD under 319.

The district would like to invite Stephen Bontekoe of Limestone Valley RC&D to provide an overview of the 319 Program at a future district meeting.

319 Program funding may potentially be used in conjunction with source water protection area programs as long as a plan is submitted to GAEPD for approval.

5. Promote all programs that benefit and protect wildlife.

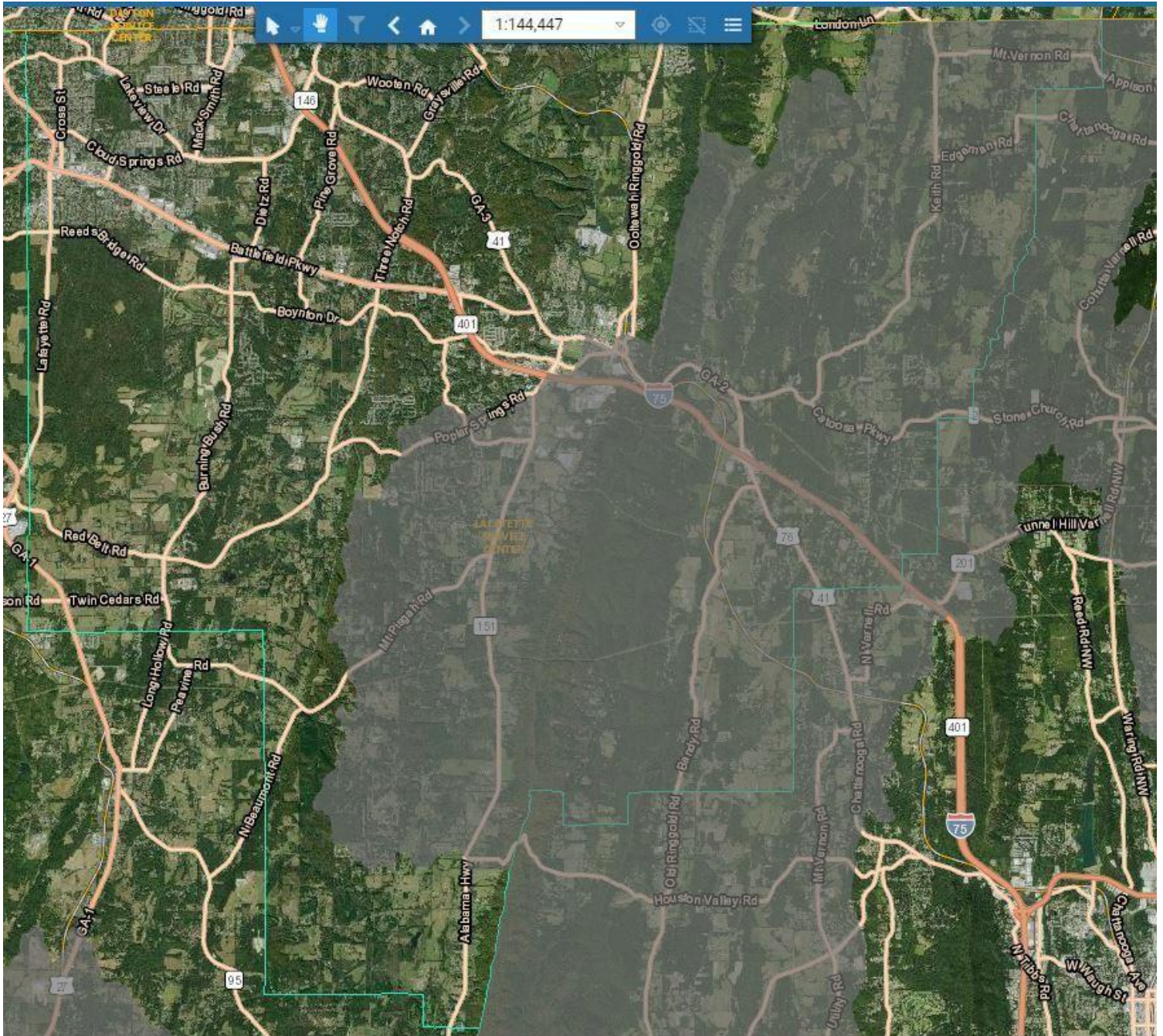
The district will focus on developing partnerships with the following organizations and individuals:

- Ducks Unlimited
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
 - Sarah Baker, Trout Biologist (Jena Leone's contact)
 - Carla Gann, Ag Safety (Ashton Little's contact)
 - Kyle Faulkner (Ashton Little's contact)
- Travis Shraber, Catoosa County
- NDA

The district would like to invite these individuals to future district meetings to determine what kind of support the district could provide.

6. Pursue landowner participation and NRCS-USDA funding for identified projects in the Source Water Protection Area (SWPA), *see map on next page*. Budget: \$150

Source Water Protection Area, Catoosa County



The district would like to have Mr. Mooneyham advise on what programs are available and the scope of NRCS funding for SWPA.

7. Identify viable projects and seek NRCS-USDA funding under the Aquatic Wildlife Pool within the Hellbender Aquatic Salamander Priority Area (the entire District). Budget: \$150.
8. Pursue and seek grants and cost share assistance from public and private sources to fund conservation practices to be identified based on funding available.

The Lindherst Foundation could be a potential source, as they have funded the wetland conservation project across from Heritage Middle School.

Conservation Education Action Items

1. Sponsor high school students to attend the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop (NRCW) at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) in Tifton to introduce them at an early age to the concepts of soil and water conservation. Tuition for each student will be paid from District funds or from outside sources. Budget: \$750 in state funds. High school students may include Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other youth organizations.
2. Promote the 2022 Stewardship Program Theme “Healthy Soil, Healthy Life” by hosting a poster contest for local 4th, 5th, and 6th graders and award winners in Spring 2022. Budget: \$500 in state funds.
3. Award an annual college scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to a graduating senior from a local high school. \$1,000 in state funds budgeted.
4. Coordinate with Catoosa County Parks and Recreation to improve Elsie Holmes Nature Park.
5. Maintain existing pollinator gardens at Ringgold Primary School and assist GACD with installation of a Pollinator Garden at the Georgia Welcome Center.
6. Develop a working relationship with Agricultural Education programs in district secondary schools to infuse natural resource education into their curriculum and programs.
7. Coordinate with USDA-NRCS and UGA Extension to host and conduct a Forage Field Day. \$100 budgeted.
8. Purchase of (1) Enviroscape Model for use in Catoosa County Schools to promote water quality education. \$1,600 budgeted from remaining NACD water grant funds.

Public Relations and Information Action Item

1. Develop and distribute an annual report on the District's accomplishments.
2. Provide oversight of District funds by the annual review of expenditures and income and provide a detailed financial report to the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission at the end of each fiscal year.
3. Work closely with other agencies (local government, USDA-Farm Service Agency, USDA-Rural Development, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, UGA Cooperative Extension,

Georgia Forestry Commission, Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Resource Conservation & Development Councils, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources) **to coordinate conservation program activities in the District.**

Encourage each agency representative to attend district meetings and keep district supervisors informed on the various agency programs in the district.

The district would like to learn about local conservation programs in the county conducted by:

- USDA-Farm Service Agency
- USDA-Rural Development
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- UGA Cooperative Extension
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Resource Conservation & Development Councils
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources

4. Involve and encourage media coverage of workshops, outreach, events, awards and accomplishments through newspaper, radio, website and social media.
5. Prepare press releases on the District's program and activities.
6. Keep locally elected officials fully informed about conservation issues and of ongoing conservation programs and District accomplishments. The following contacts should be maintained and informed:
 - Ringgold Mayor, City Council, and City Manager
 - Fort Oglethorpe Mayor, City Council and City Manager
 - Catoosa County Board of Commissioners, County Manager, County Finance Officer
7. Maintain the district website and Facebook page to highlight District activities and objectives. \$240 budgeted.
8. Hold officer elections every 2 years beginning in December 2014 to elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and a Treasurer. Next election in November 2022.

Erosion and Sedimentation Program Action Item

1. Promote minimum and no-till conservation farming through the use of the no-till drill through the Limestone Valley RC&D.
2. Review erosion and sediment control plans for land disturbance projects within the limits of each Local Issuing Authority (LIA) that fall under the requirements of the erosion and sediment control ordinance of the LIA where there is not a Memorandum of Agreement with the District.

3. Coordinate resources to provide technical assistance through state and local partners to evaluate soil and water resources for proposed development projects.
4. Promote soil and water conservation through the GSWCC Erosion and Sedimentation Certification Program.
5. Provide LIA's with partner resources for technical assistance for their erosion and sedimentation control program and assist with interpretation of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act.
6. Organize, host, and conduct one Erosion and Sediment Re-Certification Class (Level I). \$300 budgeted.