



CATOOSA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT FY 2025 Plan of Work

On October 3, 1951 the Catoosa County Conservation District was organized and is a legal subdivision of the Georgia State Government. The Conservation District meetings are held on the second Friday of each month in Ringgold unless publicized otherwise.

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS:

Frank Keith Bonnell
2269 Three Notch
Road, Ringgold, GA 30736

Mark Vaughn
150 Tennessee St.
Ringgold, GA 30736

Roger O. Bowman, Jr., Chair
360 Bowman Springs Road
Ringgold, GA 30736

Marjorie "Betts" Berry
546 Tom Hunt Road
Chickamauga, GA 30707

Charles Lancaster, Treasurer
72 Haven Drive
Ringgold, GA 30736

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.
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. 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.

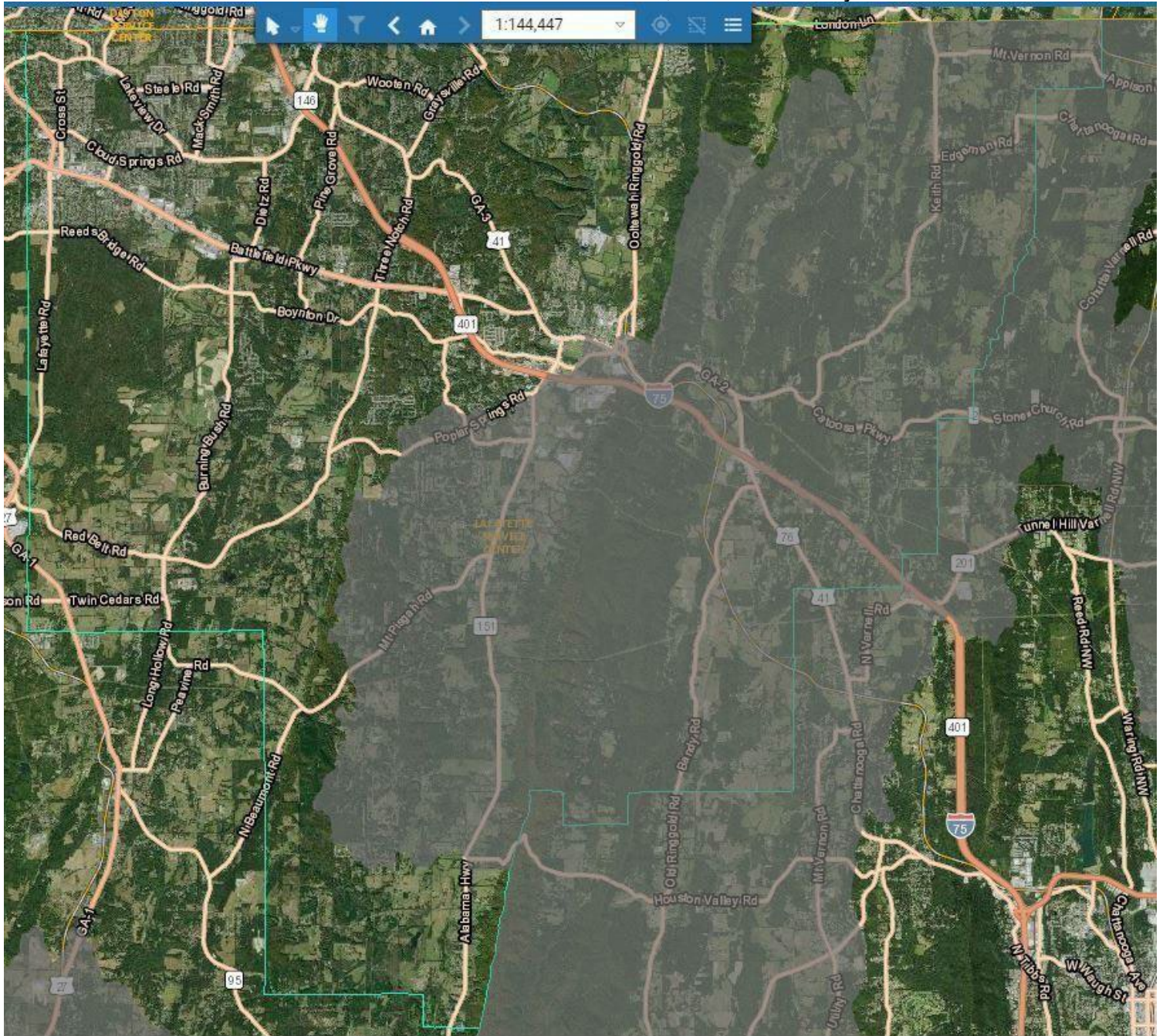
The district will focus on developing partnerships with the following organizations and individuals:

- Ducks Unlimited
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
 - Sarah Baker, Trout Biologist
 - Carla Gann, Ag Safety
 - Kyle Faulkner
- Travis Shrader, Catoosa County
- National Deer Association

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 fNRCS personnel advise on what programs are available and the scope of NRCS funding for the 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.

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, 4-H, and other youth organizations.
2. Promote the annual Stewardship Program Theme by hosting a poster contest for local 4th, 5th, and 6th graders and award winners. 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 support for existing pollinator gardens at Ringgold Primary School.
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. Promotion of Enviroscape Model for use in Catoosa County Schools to promote water quality education. Purchased in 2022 from 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.

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.

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 Sedimentation Control Initial Certification or Re-Certification Class. \$300 budgeted.

Catoosa County Conservation District - Annual Budget for FY 2025

FY 2025 State Allotment Starting Balance = \$4,553.00

<u>Item</u>	<u>District Funds</u>	<u>State Allocated Funds</u>
<i>20% of State Allotment Allocated for Incidentals</i>	-	\$910.00
<i>Annual Poster Contest & Conservation Awards Event</i>	\$250.00	\$250.00
<i>CCCD College Scholarship</i>	-	\$1,000.00
<i>Dues (NACD & RC&D)</i>	-	\$300.00
<i>Dues (GACD)</i>	-	\$625.00
<i>Sponsorship to NRCW (estimated 3 students)</i>	-	\$825.00
<i>Student NRCW Bus Fee (\$40 per student)</i>	-	\$160.00
<i>Supervisor Expenses for Non-Local Meetings</i>	-	\$483.00
<i>Postage</i>	\$50.00	-
<i>Office Supplies</i>	\$100.00	-
<i>Sponsorship of E&S Certification Course</i>	\$300.00	-
<i>District Website Maintenance</i>	\$240.00	-
<i>Forage Field Day Sponsorship</i>	\$100.00	-
<i>Grant Proposal - Source Water Protection Area</i>	\$150.00	-
<i>Grant Proposal - Aquatic Wildlife Pool</i>	\$150.00	-
<i>Host Local Work Group Meeting</i>	\$100.00	-
<i>Unbudgeted Expenses</i>	\$200.00	-
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>\$1,640.00</i>	<i>\$4,553.00</i>
<i>Budgeted Income</i>	<i>\$625.00*</i>	<i>\$4,553.00</i>
<i>Net</i>	<i>\$(1,015.00)</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>

**Estimated Income from IA Certification Course*