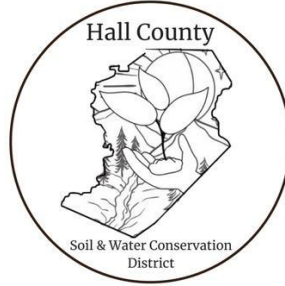


HALL COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FY-2024 ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK



OBJECTIVES

- **SOIL RESOURCES**

- OBJECTIVE I: Control erosion to preserve and protect our soil resources.
- OBJECTIVE II: Use each acre according to its capabilities within a system that provides maximum benefits to land and people
- OBJECTIVE III: Encourage and promote conservation tillage practices.
- OBJECTIVE IV: Assist local units of government in carrying out erosion and sediment control ordinances

- **WATER RESOURCES**

- OBJECTIVE V: Insure an adequate supply of quality water for the future by conservation and wise use of water resources

- **FORESTRY RESOURCES**

- OBJECTIVE VI: Conservation and wise use of forest resources to maintain the forestry resource base

- **WILDLIFE AND RECREATION**

- OBJECTIVE VII: Provide diversified wildlife and outdoor recreation in all resource plans that the District sponsors

- **PUBLIC RELATIONS AND EDUCATION**

- OBJECTIVE VIII: Provide resource conservation instruction to the public through Georgia Association of Conservation Districts (GACD)

- **LEGISLATIVE**

- OBJECTIVE IX: Gain support of public officials in recognizing and meeting soil and water conservation needs

- **FINANCE**

- OBJECTIVE X: Manage District financial resources to meet District goals in an efficient and productive manner and as prescribed by state guidelines

SOIL RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE I: Control erosion to preserve and protect our soil resources

ACTION ITEMS:

1. The District will take the lead in implementing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to develop a long-lasting beneficial program that will reduce erosion from agricultural land and improve water quality in streams and lakes. The District will convene and chair the local work group meetings. The results from these meetings will be used to provide input to the State Technical Committee, State Conservationist, Area Conservationist, and Designated Conservationist on EQIP policy, priority concerns, priority areas, and selection criteria. Work Group Meetings will be held, and a resource assessment submitted to the Area Office for technical review.
2. Develop conservation plans with emphasis on erosion control and water quality and carry out high quality conservation practices. Work towards providing assistance to all landowners/landusers in applying conservation practices in compliance with the Food Security Act of 1985; the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act (FACTA) of 1990; and the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act of 1996, and the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 and 2018 Farm Bill.
3. Sponsor and conduct demonstrations, tours, and field days to acquaint landowners and land-users with methods for protecting natural resources and promote greater participation.
4. Keep local people informed of opportunities available through the soil and water resources programs in District.

GOALS FOR 2023-2024

- a. Assist Individuals and Groups
 - a. Assist Government Agencies Including but Not Limited to
 - i. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - ii. Environmental Protection Division (EPD)
 - iii. City of Gainesville
 - iv. Hall County Board of Commissioners
 - v. Georgia Forestry Commission
 - b. Assist with the review of Erosion and Sediment Control Plans
- c. Encourage Conservation Tillage System Practices, including but not limited to
 - a. Cover Crops
 - b. Conservation Cover
 - c. Cover Crop Rotation
- d. Encourage the following conservation practices, including but not limited to
 - a. Critical Area Planting
 - b. Tree Planting
 - c. Pasture and Hayland Planting
 - d. Heavy Use Area Protection practices
 - e. Waste Utilization
- e. Promote land benefited by applying conservation practices up to 1,000 acres

OBJECTIVE II: Use each acre according to its capabilities within a system that provides maximum benefits to land and people

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Continue to participate in public meetings involving land use decisions and water quality.
2. Encourage RC&D and/or watershed project to help solve streambank erosion and encourage this as a priority concern to be addressed by EQIP.
3. Encourage all landowners and land lessors to plan and carry out conservation practices in compliance with the Food Security Act of 1985; the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act (FACTA) of 1990; and the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act of 1996; the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002; the 2018 Farm Bill; and the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2009.
4. The District will meet the requirements and responsibilities in reviewing erosion and sediment control plans and offer the opportunity for training to meet the requirements of erosion and sedimentation control.

OBJECTIVE III: Encourage and promote conservation tillage practices

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Promote better knowledge and understanding of the use and safety of agricultural chemicals and equipment such as no-till drills, flail mowers, power harrows, rotary plows, and standard tillers for conservation uses.
2. Provide access to equipment such as no-till drills, flail mowers, power harrows, rotary plows, and standard tillers through Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D.

OBJECTIVE IV: Assist local units of government in carrying out erosion and sediment control ordinances

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Review erosion and sediment control plans, as presented to the District by local governments.
2. Assist Hall County and City of Gainesville Engineering Departments, and other local units of government with technical questions and problem areas when requested.
3. Encourage and assist all Hall County issuing authorities to fully implement and perform needed maintenance on all approved plans.

WATER RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE V: Insure an adequate supply of quality water for the future by conservation and wise use of water resources

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Develop or purchase and then distribute educational and informational materials to inform the public of the need to manage and protect water resources.
2. Identify during the EQIP process the best management practices determined to be the most effective, practical means for preventing or reducing problems that impair water quality.
3. Provide technical assistance to the Lanier Watershed Regional Committee on the wise use of the resources in the Chattahoochee River Basin. Include all committees concerned with Lake Lanier, in protecting water quality and reducing the depositing of silt in the Lake.
4. Work with sponsors to carry out needed operation and maintenance (O&M) work on all watershed and RC&D projects.
5. Encourage O&M on all conservation measures installed by landowners.
6. Encourage units of government to assume responsibility for controlling development in flood plains.
7. Work closely with RC&D Council in providing technical assistance to units of government (sponsors) in developing and carrying out RC&D measures.
8. Keep local people informed of opportunities available through the soil and water resources programs in District.
9. Promote animal waste systems where needed and encourage maintenance of systems already established, including the use of pumpout equipment.
10. Encourage County and City Commissioners to incorporate provisions in the zoning regulations to control the rate of stormwater runoff to prevent off-site damages.
11. Seek assistance in stabilizing streambanks within the District.
12. Assist County and State Governments in locating sites and assist in construction of area water reservoirs.
13. Promote the construction of as many farm ponds as possible for water conservation.
14. Assist local governments to address potential water quantity and quality problems within the District.
15. Assist local governments to address wastewater problems within the District. Encourage all landowners/land-users to be aware of the potential of surface and ground water contamination without the use of planned resource management systems.
16. Promote the best management practices determined to be the most effective with practicable means for preventing or reducing the amount of pollution from non-point sources to a level called for by water quality goals.
17. Assist Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GASWCC) with inventory and defining rehabilitation work needed to upgrade floodwater dams to meet the Safe Dams Law.

FORESTRY RESOURCES

OBJECTIVE VI: Conservation and wise use of forest resources to maintain the forestry resource base

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Promote the reforestation of cutover areas.
2. Have GFC representative to participate in one (1) District meeting program.
3. Support the GFC and RC&D in maintaining the forestry resource base.
4. Encourage landowners to put marginal land into timber producing trees.
5. Encourage forest landowners to consider management for wildlife in their woodland management programs.

WILDLIFE AND RECREATION

OBJECTIVE VII: Provide diversified wildlife and outdoor recreation in all resource plans that the District sponsors

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Encourage private landowners to make wildlife management part of their resource plan.
2. Support Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Game and Fish Division in maintaining the wildlife resource base and assist with providing information to landowners on fish and wildlife programs.
3. Assist landowners with pond construction and proper stocking of fish and with programs for new ponds. Provide assistance to landowners with existing ponds to improve management.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND EDUCATION

OBJECTIVE VIII: Provide resource conservation instruction to the public through agency partners and non-profits.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Sponsor and conduct meetings and seminars to inform groups and individuals of particular conservation needs.
2. Provide conservation education materials to schools, such as: videotapes, slide presentations, film programs, resource conservation books, booklets and curriculum guides, etc.
3. Assist Hall County Board of Education in planning and carrying out conservation plans and developing outdoor classrooms on school sites.
4. Arrange and conduct functions like banquets and luncheons to recognize individuals for their contributions to soil and water conservation and promote greater participation.
5. Select place for Affiliate Member Banquet and have date and speaker by June Board Meeting.

6. Have District Annual Review by time of the Affiliate Member Banquet.
7. Have Annual Plan of Work completed by the end of each fiscal year in July.
8. Review progress of Annual Plan of Work bimonthly.
9. Memorandum of Understanding and Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding between the District, the USDA, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will be reviewed in April.
10. Sponsor students to the Natural Resources Conservation Workshop to introduce them at an early age to the concepts of soil and water conservation. Tuition will be paid from district funds and from outside sources. Invite students to Annual Banquet and recognize them.
11. Sponsor land judging teams, Envirothon teams, FFA events, 4-H Clubs and Hall County High Schools.
12. Work with the Extension Service to encourage and promote local Agriculture Field Day(s).
13. Maintain relations and encourage partnerships with the following groups, including but not limited to
 - a) RC&D Councils
 - b) UGA Extension
 - c) Hall County Board of Education
 - d) Farm Bureau
 - e) Georgia Native Plant Society
 - f) Georgia Forestry Commission
 - g) Georgia Association of Conservation Districts
14. Observe Soil and Water Stewardship Week each year and promote soil and water stewardship every day of the year.
15. Purchase, in accordance with State purchasing guidelines, and distribute Soil and Water Stewardship Week materials to inform the public of the need to manage and protect soil and water resources.

LEGISLATIVE

OBJECTIVE IX: Gain support of public officials in recognizing and meeting soil and water conservation needs

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Have State Legislators, Board of County Commissioners, and other selected elected officials at one (1) District meeting to discuss natural resources, etc.
2. Support and promote legislation that is beneficial to soil and water conservation districts in their conservation efforts.
3. Make views of the District Board of Supervisors known to Legislators.
4. Conduct activities to inform county, city, state, and federal officials about District programs.
5. Work closely with GACD to keep local District's informed on state and local legislative needs.
6. Present Annual Plan of Work and Annual Review to County Commissioners.

7. Evaluate the feasibility of a State cost-share program to supplement the EQIP Program to meet conservation needs.

FINANCE

OBJECTIVE X: Manage District financial resources to meet District goals in an efficient and productive manner and as prescribed by state guidelines

1. Send out invitations to support District programs by becoming an Affiliate Member in February.
2. Encourage Hall County Board of Commissioners to budget no less than \$10,000.00 to assist District program.
3. Explore avenues of grant funds available to Districts.
4. Manage and expend funds made available through private, local, state and federal sources in such a way as to promote soil and water conservation and conservation education.
5. Maintain membership in professional organizations and associations that promulgate and promote goals that are similar to those of the districts including but not limited to RC&D, GACD, and NACD.
6. Complete an Annual District Audit to review finances by the end of each fiscal year in July.

District Supervisors

Mike Ray Haynes, Chairman
Edward Eugene Anderson, Treasurer
Thomas Sewell Blackstock, Supervisor
Jane Reynolds Hemmer, Supervisor
Todd Chapman, Supervisor