

4136 - Cass County Windbreak & Wildlife Planting Initiative Phase II

Application Details

Funding Opportunity:	3515-Outdoor Heritage Fund September 2020 - Round 17	Initial Submit Date:	Aug 20, 2020 2:44 PM
Funding Opportunity Due Date:	Sep 2, 2020 5:00 PM	Initially Submitted By:	Eric Dahl
Program Area:	Outdoor Heritage Fund	Last Submit Date:	
Status:	Under Review	Last Submitted By:	
Stage:	Final Application		

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*:	Yes
Type:	External User
Name:	Mr. Eric Middle Name Salutation First Name
	Dahl Last Name
Title:	Soil & Water Resources Manager
Email*:	eric.dahl@nd.nacdnet.net
Address*:	1665 43rd St S, Suite 103
	Fargo North Dakota City State/Province
	58103 Postal Code/Zip
Phone*:	701-282-2157 3 Phone Ext. ### ### ####

Organization Information

Status*:	Approved
Name*:	Cass County Soil Conservation District
Organization Type*:	County Government
Tax Id:	
Organization Website::	
Address*:	1665 43rd St S, Suite 103
	Fargo North Dakota City State/Province
	58103 Postal Code/Zip
Phone*:	701-282-2157 3 ### ### #### Ext.
Fax::	### ### ####

Fax: ###-###-####

Benefactor:

Comments:

Vendor ID:

PeopleSoft

Supplier ID:

Comments::

Location Code:

**SAM.gov Entity
ID:**

**SAM.gov
Name:**

**SAM.gov Entity
ID Expiration
Date:**

State Issued ID:

Category #:

Year Begin:

Year Closed:

NCES#:

Budget

Objective of Grant

Objective of Grant:

The Cass County Windbreak and Wildlife Planting Initiative is intended to provide financial assistance to residents of Cass County for establishment of windbreak, wildlife and riparian tree plantings.

Summary

Grant Request:	\$50,000.00
Matching Funds:	\$50,000.00
Total Project Costs:	\$100,000.00
You must have at least 25% match	
Percentage of Match:	50.0%

Project Expenses

Project Expense Description	OHF Request	Match Share (Cash)	Match		Other Project Sponsor's Share	Total Each Project Expense
			Share (In-Kind)	Match Share (Indirect)		
Cass County Windbreak & Wildlife Planting Initiative	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$100,000.00
	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$100,000.00

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative:

The program will financially assist landowners with the planting of trees by providing 75% cost share towards the planting of trees, the landowner will be responsible for 25% matching funds. We are asking for 50% contribution from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Cass County SCD will be providing the additional 25% in match funds for the project.

Bid Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
No files attached.				

Match Funding

Match Amount	Funding Source	Match Type
\$25,000.00	Producer Match	Cash
\$25,000.00	Cass County SCD	Cash
\$50,000.00		

In-Kind

In-Kind Total:

Description

Directives

- Major Directive*: Directive C
Choose One
- Additional Directive: Directive B
Choose All That Apply
- Type of Agency*: Political Subdivision
Choose One

Abstract/Executive Summary

Abstract/Executive Summary*:

The Cass County Windbreak and Wildlife Planting Initiative is intended to provide financial assistance to residents of Cass County for establishment of windbreak, wildlife and riparian tree plantings. Trees play a valuable role in Cass County as they reduce wind velocity, wind erosion and provide valuable wildlife habitats.

Land use within Cass County is dominated by intensive row crop agriculture with corn, soybeans and spring wheat being the primary crops. Extensive tillage and flat, open terrain contributes to wind erosion of the soil. Planting trees has long been a valuable practice to control wind erosion. The area was once dominated by large field windbreaks established in the 1950?s. These windbreaks, many of which are nearing the end of their lifespan, are becoming fewer and far between. This program is designed to help promote the planting of trees in Cass County for field windbreaks and wildlife habitat establishment.

Long recognizing the benefits that trees provide in terms of wind reduction and wildlife habitat, planting trees is not a new concept in Cass County. However, costly replacement and re-establishment of trees makes it a large investment to local landowners. With fewer and fewer programs available to assist financially in the planting of trees, this program will be extremely valuable in helping establish trees in Cass County.

Project Duration**Project Duration*:**

2 years

Narrative

Narrative

Briefly summarize your organization's history, mission, current programs and activities. Include an overview of your organizational structure, including board, staff and volunteer involvement.

Organization Information*:

The Cass County Soil Conservation District is a governmental subdivision of the State of North Dakota organized under law to exercise public powers in the conservation of soil and water resources. This provides a means for all interested parties to work together in the conservation of natural resources.

Originally formed in 1937 as four separate Districts, they were combined over the ensuing years until 1974, when the present day District was formed to cover the entire county. It is governed by a 5 member Board that control and supervise the activities of the District. Board members include Curt Knutson, Warren Solberg, Brad Kellerman, Terry Hoffmann, and Brooks Whitmore. The District board and employees develop a plan of work to ensure district organization has a well-developed plan to carry out local projects for improvement of soil and water resources.

The staff of the SCD consists of: Jeffrey Miller ? Director, Eric Dahl ? Soil & Water Resource Manager, Tony Peterson - District Technician, Amy Cole ? Office Manager. The staff is knowledgeable in tree planting and plants roughly 250,000 feet of trees annually. The District operates 2 No-Till grass drills, 2 tree planters, and mulch fabric machine. The staff is also experienced in grant administration.

In addition to full time staff, the District hires 2-4 seasonal employees for tree planting and fabric application.

Describe the proposed project identifying how the project will meet the specific directive(s) of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program.

Identify project goals, strategies and benefits and your timetable for implementation. Include information about the need for the project and whether there is urgency for funding. Indicate if this is a new project or if it is replacing funding that is no longer available to your organization. Identify any innovative features or processes of your project.

Note: if your proposal provides funding to an individual, the names of the recipients must be reported to the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund. These names will be disclosed upon request.

If your project involves an extenuating circumstance to exempted activities please explain.

Purpose of Grant*:

The goal of The Cass County Windbreak and Wildlife Planting Initiative is to assist Cass County landowners with the planting of trees for field windbreak and wildlife habitat establishment. The program will financially assist landowners with the planting of trees by providing 75% cost share towards the planting of trees, the landowner will be responsible for 25% matching funds. Cumulatively over the two-year project, The Cass County Windbreak & Wildlife Planting Initiative successfully planted 142,710 linear feet of trees creating roughly 46 acres of wildlife habitat totaling 21,786 trees planted. We are looking to build on these successes with the help of the Outdoor Heritage Fund in Phase II.

The following are the provisions that were put in place under the original program:

The Cass County Soil Conservation District has implemented a cost-sharing program for landowners wishing to plant field windbreaks, riparian tree plantings, or wildlife plantings. The funding will be available on a first-come, first served basis. The program will provide successful applicants with a 75% cost share, up to \$7,500. All plantings must meet NRCS Standards and Specifications for soil suitability and tree species to qualify. The planting plan must be designed by the Cass County SCD.

Contract Conditions:

- ? Tree planting plans must be designed by the Cass County SCD
- ? Cost share contract must be signed and returned to the Cass County SCD prior to the tree planting
- ? All site preparation is the responsibility of the landowner and needs to be completed prior to planting
- ? Weed barrier or a weed control plan must be in place for all tree plantings. Failure to control weeds will result in repayment of cost-share dollars
- ? Livestock must be kept out of trees until they are large enough to not be damaged
- ? All future maintenance is the responsibility of the landowner
- ? Cass County SCD will cost-share on trees, machine tree planting, fabric barrier, and fabric barrier application. The cost-share will be based on actual costs incurred, and will be reimbursed after planting is complete and submission of receipts and an IRS W-9 form.
- ? It is the landowner's responsibility to ensure there are no underground utilities by contacting the OneCall service.
- ? The trees must be maintained for a period of 5 years, with at least 70% survival at the end of 5 years. Acts of God will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Please list the counties that would be impacted by this project:

Counties*: Cass

Is This Project Part of a Yes

Comprehensive Conservation

Plan?*

If Yes, Please Provide Copy of Long Range Plan 2019.pdf

Plan:

Does Your Project Involve an Extenuating Circumstance?* No

Please Explain:

Provide a description of how you will manage and oversee the project to ensure it is carried out on schedule and in a manner that best ensures its objectives will be met. Include a brief background and work experience for those managing the project.

Management of Project*:

The project will be administered by the Cass County Soil Conservation District using our well-established planning process and implementation schedule. All participants are required to sign a written contract and place a down payment. The contract assures the trees are properly maintained and implemented according to our standards and specifications. Our staff is knowledgeable and well trained with years of experience working with landowners to plant trees.

Indicate how the project will be funded or sustained in future years. Include information on the sustainability of this project after OHF funds have been expended and whether the sustainability will be in the form of ongoing management or additional funding from a different source.

Sustainability*:

This project will be sustained as long as interest remains strong. The Cass County Soil Conservation District will budget funds to help assist landowners with the planting of trees.

Indicate how the project will be affected if less funding is available than that requested.

Partial Funding*:

The overall footage goal may be reduced if partial funding is granted.

If you are a successful recipient of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars, how would you recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnership? * There must be signage at the location of the project acknowledging OHF funding when appropriate. If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be.

Partnership Recognition*:

Recognition of the OHF grant would be multi-faceted. The local newspaper, the SCD quarterly newsletter, and SCD website would all have information about the partnership. In addition, at all tree planting locations, signage would advertise the partnership to the public.

Do you have any supporting documents, such as maps or letters of support that you would like to provide? If so, please provide them in a single file.

Supporting Documents*: No

If Yes, Please Provide Copies in a Single File:

Awarding of Grants - Review the appropriate sample contract for your organization. Sample Contract

Can You Meet All the Provisions of the Sample Contract?* Yes

If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be:

Provisions Unable to Meet:

Tasks

Tasks

Task	Start Date	Completion Date
Tree Planting 2021	04/30/2021	06/30/2021
Tree Planting 2022	04/30/2022	06/30/2022

Description of Tasks

Please Describe Tasks:

The project will involve the planning, and full implementation of tree planting for windbreak and wildlife habitats in Cass County. Outdoor Heritage Fund's financial contribution will be for the implementation of the project only. All staffing and administrative costs will be absorbed by Cass County Soil Conservation.

Deliverables

Deliverables

Deliverable	Quantity	Unit of Measurement, if applicable
Linear Feet of Trees 2021	65000.000	Linear Feet
Linear Feet of Trees 2022	65000.000	Linear Feet

Certification

Certification

Certification: Yes

Name: Eric Dahl
First Name Last Name

Title: Soil & Water Resource Manager
Title

Date: 08/20/2020

Internal Application Number

#/ID:

Industrial Commission Action

Industrial Commission Action

Date of Commission meeting*:

**Did the Commission approve
funding?***

**If Yes, what is the approved
funding level?:**

Are there any contingencies?*

**If Yes, what are the
contingencies?:**

Minutes:

CASS COUNTY SOIL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

LONG RANGE PLAN

Updated: December 2019

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the Cass County Soil Conservation District is a governmental subdivision of the State of North Dakota organized under law to exercise public powers in the conservation of soil and water resources, and to carry out the powers conferred upon the District Supervisors under the provisions of North Dakota Laws, the Supervisors hereby adopt this Long Range Plan for prevention and control of soil erosion, soil and water conservation and land use covering all land within the Cass County Soil Conservation District at a meeting dated_____.

Chairman

Curtis E. Knutson

Member

D. Kelly

Member

B. S. / W. J.

Member

Bradley Telleman

Member

Terry Hoffman

PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to provide long range considerations to be used for the development of annual plans of work, which will result in the wise use of resources within Cass County. The plan was developed to provide guidance to the following:

Cass County Soil Conservation District
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Farm Service Agency
Cooperative Extension Service
North Dakota State Soil Conservation Committee
North Dakota State Health Department
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Cass County Commission
Cass County Park Board
North Cass Water Resource Board
Maple River Water Resource Board
South East Cass Water Resource Board
Rush River Water Resource Board
State Water Commission
River Keepers

All township boards within Cass County and all other agencies and groups interested in the conservation of soil, water and related resources within the Cass County Soil Conservation District.

This plan is intended to coordinate conservation efforts within the District and to avoid duplication of conservation activities for increased efficiency and accomplishments.

FORWARD

The Cass County Soil Conservation District Long Range Plan is a guide to assist the District Supervisors and other interested parties with the overall conservation of natural resources within the county. This Long Range Plan was prepared by the Board of Supervisors with assistance from numerous individuals, groups, local, state and federal agencies. Special assistance and input were provided by personnel from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cass County Extension Service, Farm Service Agency and the North Dakota Department of Game and Fish.

Section I deals with the responsibilities, purpose, authorization and overall operation of the District programs by the governing body.

Section II gives a general description of the county.

Section III outlines the land use and ownership pattern existing in the county.

Section IV identifies the resources in the county that effect or are affected by conservation activities.

Section V identifies conservation needs including erosion and sediment control, water resource management and prime and important agricultural land retention.

Section VI outlines the policies, goals and objectives as adopted by the District board. These statements provide direction for development of resources within the District and are listed in priority order.

SECTION I

**RESPONSIBILITIES, PURPOSE,
AUTHORIZATION AND OVERALL
OPERATION**

RESPONSIBILITIES, PURPOSE, AUTHORIZATION AND OVERALL OPERATION

The Cass County Soil Conservation District is a legal subdivision of the State of North Dakota. Cass County was originally organized into four soil conservation Districts authorized by the North Dakota Soil Conservation District Law enacted in 1937 and as later amended.

- The Southeast Cass District was organized February 24, 1944
- The Rush River Cass District on February 25, 1944
- The Northwest Cass District on December 2, 1946.
- The Maple River Cass District on December 3, 1946

The Maple River and Northwest Cass Districts were combined to form the West Cass District. The Southeast Cass and Rush River Districts were combined to form the East Cass District. The East and West Cass Districts were combined to form the present Cass County Soil Conservation District on October 22, 1974.

The Cass County District includes all land area within Cass County. The District was organized by a vote of the people within the District and is managed by a board of five Supervisors; of these, three are elected and two appointed.

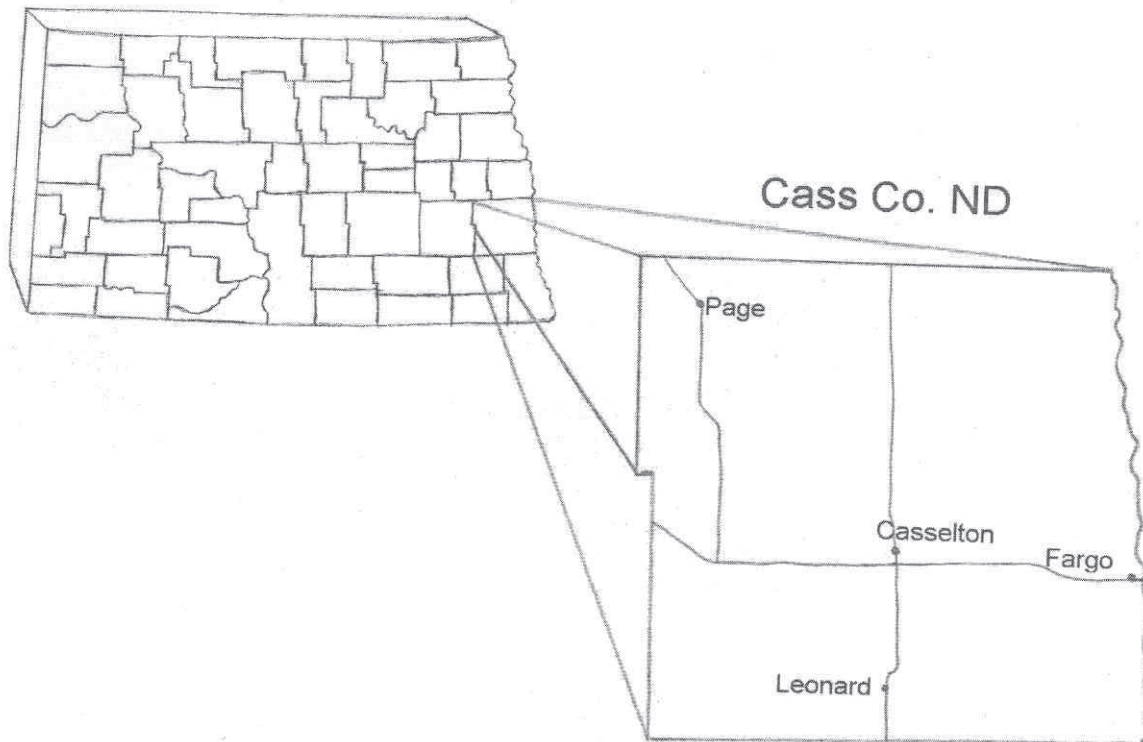
The Cass County Soil Conservation District is responsible for carrying out programs of soil and water conservation on all lands within the District boundaries. This provides a means for all interested parties to work together in the conservation of natural resources.

SECTION II

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Cass County is located in the southeastern portion of the state of North Dakota. Fargo, the largest city in North Dakota, is located in Cass County, as are the towns of Casselton, Page, Leonard and numerous smaller communities. Cass County borders Traill, Steele, Barnes, Ransom and Richland counties in North Dakota and Clay and Norman Counties in Minnesota. The 2010 Census showed the population of Cass County to be 149,778. Of this population, 87.72% (131,379) were in towns of 2,500 or greater, and 7.19% (10,788) were rural and farm population. In 2015, the population was estimated to have grown to 171,512.



TOPOGRAPHY

The eastern half of the District is in the Red River Valley and is nearly level. The land slopes to the north and east with slopes ranging from a few inches per mile near the Red River to a few feet per mile in the western portion of the valley. The beach lines left by the receding ancient Lake Agassiz are located west of the valley. They form a rather sharp demarcation line between the flat land of the valley and the undulating to rolling land predominant in the western part of the District. Natural drainage is provided by Buffalo Creek, Swan Creek, the Maple, Elm, Rush, Sheyenne, Wild Rice and Red Rivers, and the natural tributaries of these creeks and rivers.

CLIMATE

The District has a sub-humid climate characterized by long cold winters and short cool summers. The onsets of winter generally occur around the middle of November and below freezing temperatures prevail until April. The average length of the growing season is 128 days. This period extends from May 17 through September 22. Temperature extremes include a low temperature of 42 degrees below zero and a high temperature of 107 degrees. The average annual precipitation is from 19 to 21 inches. Normally 65 to 70% of this total or about 13 to 14 inches, falls as rain during the period of April 1st to August 31st. An average of 30 inches of snow falls in the area during the winter months. Occasionally snowfall is accompanied by strong winds resulting in blizzard conditions. Prevailing winds in the District are from the north-northwest.

SECTION III

LAND USE AND OWNERSHIP

LAND USE AND OWNERSHIP

The District has a total area of 1,131,520 acres. Of this total, cropland accounts for 1,044,517 acres: 2% is in pasture and hayland, 10% rangeland, and the remaining acres are in urban build-up, rural transportation, railroads, small water areas and sewage lagoons.

According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture Report, there are 968 farm operators in the District.

Approximately 20% of the land is owner operated. There has been a decline in the livestock numbers in the District with the majority of the operations being cash grain enterprises.

Irrigation is currently being used on approximately 9,292 acres. Many landowners are becoming interested in irrigation and are investigating the feasibility of installing systems.

Principal crops being raised are soybeans, wheat, corn, barley, sugarbeets, sunflowers, dry edible beans and oats. Other crops grown include alfalfa: flax, durum and summer fallow.

2012 Census of Agriculture, ND State and County Data, Volume 1 Chapter 2: County Level Data

SECTION IV

RESOURCES

RESOURCES

SOILS

The soils in the District were derived from glacial drift. This material was weathered in place where it was left by the retreating ice in the till plain. Melt water also transported and deposited some of the material to the beds of glacial lakes, deltas, or on terraces along glacial streams. It was then sorted to create shoreline deposits, and continues to add to deposits on the flood plains of existing water courses. These soils may be classified into four main groups: till soils, lacustrine soils, lake and river terrace soils and river floodplain soils.

The soils in the eastern part of the District are very deep, heavy textured soils that are dominated by clays. They are nearly level to gently sloping and their surface drainage ranges from good to very poor. Centrally located in the District are medium to light textured upland soils found in deltas, shoreline beach deposits, and terraces. The soils of the western part of the District range from very deep, medium textured permeable upland and terrace. (See General Soils Map in Soil Survey book)

The soils of the District were mapped by detailed soil surveys in two parts. The first part, the Tri-County Soil Survey, primarily deals with the beach line and delta area of the District and was completed in 1958. The remainder of the District is included in the Soil Survey of Cass County and was completed in 1982. These two surveys were combined into one survey area in 2005. Any further inquiry about soils should be directed to these publications or to the Web Soil Survey (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>).

WATER

The water concerns in Cass County are drainage of the surface water and water quality. The flat topography of the Red River Valley creates a situation of very slow natural water flow. The practice of constructing drainage ditches to speed the rate of flow has greatly influenced the agricultural production of Cass County. The majority of the large legal drains were constructed during the period of 1900 through 1920. During the 1950's and 1960's, countless group drains were built with federal conservation cost-sharing funds as well as innumerable individual field

drains.

Tile drainage is becoming a common choice of field drainage. Tile is a series of pipes that are placed underground in problem areas of the field, such as: heavy saline areas and wet depressions, not including wetlands. The discharge water shall be monitored to protect natural resources downstream of the discharge.

The construction and maintenance of field drains continue today. The regulation of drainage through a permit system administered by the North Dakota State Water Commission, as well as Swampbuster Provisions has reduced construction of field drains.

Maintenance of these drains is of primary concern at the present time. Silt deposition of these drains by wind and water erosion restricts the water flow and can render drainage ditches useless. Reconstruction is a costly cure to this problem and prevention of wind erosion is the ultimate drain management practice.

Another drain management problem can be the inappropriate discharge of water into the natural and man-made drainage ways of the county. In many instances, the water flow has caused high amounts of erosion and siltation of the streams and rivers. Critical Treatment Areas, including waterways and drop structures, have been used to solve such problems, but many sites needing treatment remain.

Irrigation of field crops through the use of ground water by center pivot systems is practiced primarily in the Page, N.D. area. Some irrigation is being done by pumping river water through center-pivot systems but the majority of irrigation is aquifer water. For further information regarding ground water contact the NDSU Extension Service, State Water Commission, and State Health Department.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife in the District includes deer, Hungarian partridge, pheasant, ducks, geese and many non-game species of birds and mammals, and fish in the rivers, creeks and reservoirs. Moose have also been spotted within the District but are not considered substantial species in the area. Small numbers of coyotes are in the district, including in urban areas. The coyotes are drawn to the abundance of prey in the area. Furbearing animals include red fox, raccoon, mink, beaver and river otter. Key habitat for deer is the riparian and woodland areas along the rivers and streams, the field and farmstead windbreaks scattered throughout the county, the wildlife management areas, CRP and standing crops. Key habitat for upland birds is the undisturbed grass areas throughout the county, CRP and cropland. Migratory water fowl benefit from temporary and permanent wetlands, primarily in the western half of the county.

MINERALS

Gravel is the primary mineral found in the District. Natural gas and oil exploration has been

conducted but the abundance and potential for these items are unknown at this time. (See Surface Mining Report sent out by the State Soil Conservation Committee)

RECREATION

Many opportunities for recreation exist in the District. There are numerous golf courses and city parks within the cities and towns of the county. The rivers and reservoirs in the county provide opportunities for fishing. Hunting takes place throughout the rural area.

SECTION V

RESOURCE NEEDS

RESOURCE NEEDS

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

The loss of valuable topsoil through the process of wind and water erosion is a major concern to the people of Cass County. Erosion has many detrimental effects. Soil health and productivity are jeopardized by sustained erosion. Transported topsoil damages areas by covering existing vegetation, plugging field and legal surface water drains, and lowering water quality. Human safety can also be affected due to blocked vision on rural roads. Removal of field windbreaks is resulting in larger field sizes, thus resulting in a greater potential for wind erosion.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1. Surface Water & Flooding

One of the water resource management concerns in the District is the safe and equitable disposal of seasonal surface water. A very large portion of the District is characterized by nearly level to level topography with little or no land slope. The soils in this area are predominantly heavy textured and have very low permeability. Therefore, when stream channels are blocked by ice and snow in the spring, snow melt water remains on the surface of fields for extended periods. Also, if heavy precipitation occurs during the growing season the numbers of field drains are inadequate to remove the water. In either case, the agricultural production of the area is affected due to shortened growing season or crop damages. Seasonal flooding in cities and building sites also occurs in the District.

2. Water Quality

Maintaining good water quality is a concern of the District. Ground water and surface water contamination from point and non-point sources should be identified. Alternatives will be given and measures will be taken to correct the problems.

PRIME AND IMPORTANT FARMLAND RETENTION

The majority of the District is either Prime Agricultural Land, Additional Farmland of State Wide Importance or Additional Farmland of Local Importance. Due to the food and fiber production capability of this land, potential conversion of these soils must be well planned to avoid taking areas out of production.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

It is imperative that the public has an understanding of the conservation needs and conservation projects accomplished within the District. Such an understanding is needed to support a well-rounded conservation program.

WILDLIFE RESOURCE NEEDS

The kind and abundance of wildlife within Cass County largely depends on the amount and distribution of food, cover, shelter, and water. Wildlife needs are steadily increasing due to declining wildlife habitat. Some reasons for this decline in habitat include: urban sprawl, declining farmsteads and loss of multi-row field windbreaks.

1. Urban Sprawl: With the increased growth of Fargo and West Fargo, habitat along the Red River, Sheyenne River and Rose Coulee is steadily deteriorating, thus forcing wildlife out of the riparian corridor.
2. Declining Farmsteads: Abandoned farmsteads, along with associated farmstead windbreaks are being converted to cropland.
3. Loss of Multi-Row field windbreaks: Numerous field windbreaks are being removed because of disease, maturity and intensified high residue cropping rotation. Wildlife habitat can be created or improved by planting appropriate vegetation, by maintaining the existing plant cover, or by promoting the natural establishment of desirable plants.

RECREATION RESOURCE NEEDS

Recreational needs will continue to grow within the county due to an increasing population. Because of limited access, there is a need to establish parks and greenways along the Red River, Sheyenne River and rural communities within the county.

POLICIES, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE

POLICY:

Agricultural land capabilities, potential and limitations are dependent on the soils and soil related resources. Conservation plans and soil surveys identify these capabilities and limitations and therefore should be the basis for wise agriculture land use.

GOAL:

To provide for new planning or the revision of existing plans.

CROPLAND OBJECTIVES

1. Encourages all operators to use the published soil surveys, including the Web Soil Survey, as a basis for determining potential cropland usage. Also, to provide educational opportunities in the use of the soil surveys.
2. Encourage operators to plant field windbreaks to provide adequate protection for cropland and to renovate existing field windbreaks as needed.
3. Encourage all operators to seed marginal and sub-marginal cropland to permanent vegetation. Encourage all operators to use the best suited conservation practices available to decrease non-point source pollution and increase water quality.

RETENTION OF PRIME AND IMPORTANT FARMLAND

POLICY:

Encroachment of agricultural land should be monitored for efficient use during urban expansion.

GOAL:

To provide soils information on prime and important farmland to city and township planners for the use in making development and/or zoning decisions.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Encourage land developers to use published soils information for the location of

development areas.

2. Assist developers to efficiently use all space within the boundaries of development.
3. Assist city and township planners in developing their zoning ordinances as requested.

GRASSLAND OBJECTIVES

1. Encourage all operators who use pastures to maintain the grasses for sustained land protection as well as sustained production.
2. Encourage livestock operators to establish sufficient pastures to carry their planned livestock amounts.

OTHER LAND OBJECTIVES:

1. Encourage operators to plan and establish farmstead/feedlot windbreaks to provide adequate protection for headquarters areas.
2. Encourage all operators to use the best suited conservation practices available to decrease non-point pollution and increase water quality.

WATER MANAGEMENT:

POLICY:

The Cass County Soil Conservation District, through the Cooperative Working Agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, will provide technical assistance, within capability, to all individuals and/or groups with special emphasis on small projects for the Water Resource Districts in the county for wise water management.

GOAL:

To insure equitable surface and ground water management within the bounds of the North Dakota Rules and Regulations governing water.

OBJECTIVES:

- Assist individuals and/or groups to develop and maintain field, group and legal drains for safe water disposal.
- Encourage all irrigators to operate their systems at the highest efficiency possible.
- Assist individuals and/or groups to plan and establish a Critical Area Treatment for non-erosive surface water management.
- Promote and encourage the installation of conservation buffers.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

POLICY:

The Cass County Soil Conservation District supports educational and informational programs that convey a basic understanding of the need to for natural resource conservation.

GOAL:

Develop educational and informational programs through various parts of the District's programs.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Meet with local news media and outline an informational program to be carried regularly for the widest distribution possible.
2. Meet with school administrations to discuss the possibility of outdoor classrooms and conservation education curriculum.
3. Coordinate informational programs with all cooperating agencies.
4. Sponsor meetings on subjects of immediate importance to local people.
5. Discuss District happenings with commissioners, planning boards and other local groups.
6. Develop educational programs to be used with groups such as 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, wildlife clubs, and community service clubs.
7. Keep Cass County residents informed on District activities.

RECREATION AND WILDLIFE

POLICY:

Assist the citizens of Cass County in the preservation of our soils, water, recreation, and wildlife resources; thereby, ensuring the quality of the environment and economic base of the county.

GOAL:

To provide information and technical assistance to all parties interested in establishing, improving or maintaining recreation and wildlife areas.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote recreation and wildlife development during normal follow-up meetings with operators, groups and organizations.
2. Assist N.D. Game & Fish Department to promote their Habitat Establishment Programs.
3. Make tree stock available to park boards, youth organizations and interested groups for recreation and wildlife development.

CONSERVATION RESEARCH

POLICY:

The District supports research projects for the advancement of conservation technology.

GOAL:

To provide additional knowledge and up-to-date technical information to all land owners and operators within the District for increased protection of the soil and related resources of the District.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote high residue crop research.
2. Keep informed of new conservation technology.
3. Support research concerning new tree species for conservation purposes.
4. Support research efforts related to bank stability such as bioengineering.

URBAN, INDUSTRIAL AND NEWLY DEVELOPED AREAS

POLICY:

Support natural resource protection on all urban, industrial and newly developed areas.

GOAL:

To insure adequate protection of resources in these areas through the use and promotion of soil, water, and related resource protection techniques.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Educate landowners, residents, and organizational partners of local resource issues and mitigation techniques.
2. Inform developers, landowners and residents of the potential and limitations of our soils and other resource issues effecting development areas.
3. Support the efficient use of agricultural land as it is converted to urban and commercial use.
4. Support programs and services aimed at improving the quality of life for inhabitants of our area.