

## **OHF FINAL REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Project Number: 011-121

Recipient: Cass County Soil Conservation District

Award Amount: \$50,000

Total Project Costs: \$93,362.78

Total OHF Funds Received: \$46,681.39



**Goal of Project:** 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. The major directive was aimed at developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands.

**Work Accomplished:** 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. The project was advertised on the district website and in the quarterly newsletter. The project was well received and in total had 24 participants. Each site was completed within project guidelines. Signage was placed on the most visible portion of each site explaining the Outdoor Heritage Fund's role in the project.

**Project Results:** This project proved to be a success as we exceeded our original footage goal of 65,000 linear feet per year with less funds than anticipated. Each project will be continually monitored for 5 years and the participants will be required to maintain 70% survivability of the trees planted. This will ensure that the habitat will remain suitable for the lifespan of the practice. Applying 46 acres of trees in Cass County is a significant amount of habitat. We plan to continue and enhance this program in the coming years.

**Value to North Dakota:** Developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands is very important to ensure a bright future for hunting and recreation in North Dakota. Habitat creation and enhancement is the only way to ensure we can maintain populations of bird and game species for the future. The more we enhance and create wildlife habitats, the more opportunities we are creating for residents to enjoy the North Dakota Outdoors. By providing programs like the Cass County Windbreak & Wildlife Planting Initiative we are ensuring a bright future for hunting and recreation in North Dakota.