



## NORTH CAROLINA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

### Who we are:

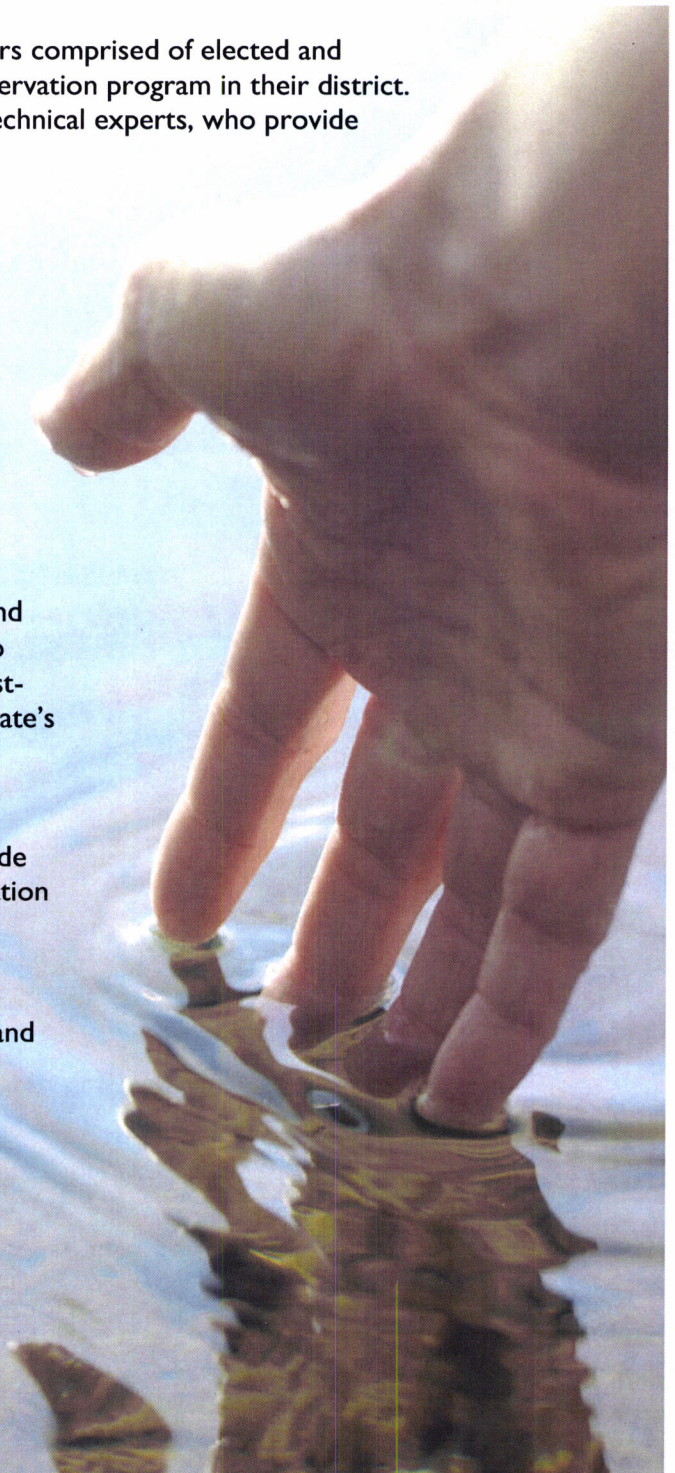
Soil and water conservation districts are governmental subdivisions of the state, established and organized under N.C. General Statute 139. District boundaries follow county lines. The state has 95 single-county districts and one multi-county district in the northeast portion of the state.

Each soil and water conservation district has a Board of Supervisors comprised of elected and appointed officials who set a course for the natural resource conservation program in their district. Soil and water conservation districts also employ staff, including technical experts, who provide support to develop and implement conservation programs.

Local districts bring together technical experts and private landowners to plan and implement sound conservation practices, provide comprehensive conservation leadership to communities, and are the primary vehicle through which voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs are delivered on both agricultural and non-agricultural lands. To accomplish their conservation mission, districts work to leverage financial assistance from local, state and federal sources.

### What we can do:

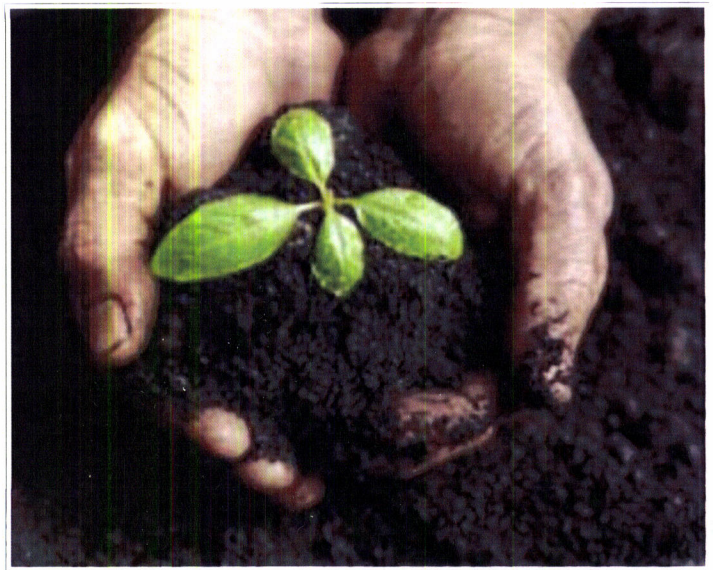
- Secure and leverage resources from governmental agencies and private sources to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and communities for conservation practices. Cost-share programs include Federal Farm Bill Programs and the state's N.C. Agriculture Cost Share and Community Conservation Assistance Programs.
- Obtain and administer grants for local projects that achieve natural resource conservation priorities. Grant sources include Clean Water Management Trust Fund, EPA 319, N.C. Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation and others.
- Conduct outreach and education programs for all age levels. Programs include classroom presentations and environmental field days, poster, essay and speech competitions (local, area and state levels), Envirothon, continuing adult education and landowner training.
- Coordinate land conservation activities. Authorities include owning land, holding conservation easements and monitoring conservation easements.





Protecting natural resources through partnerships...

Your local soil and water conservation district strives to develop working relationships with nonprofit organizations, land trusts, corporations and other government agencies with an interest in protecting our natural resources. Districts are diverse in the programs they offer and in their local conservation priorities.

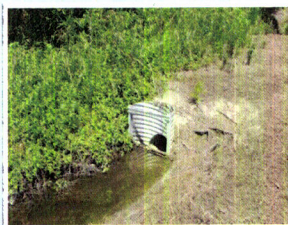


*Do you have a project idea related to conservation?  
Are you looking for local support or partnership in the community?*

Contact your local soil and water conservation district today to see how we can help!  
Please visit [www.ncaswcd.org](http://www.ncaswcd.org) for a listing of local district offices...



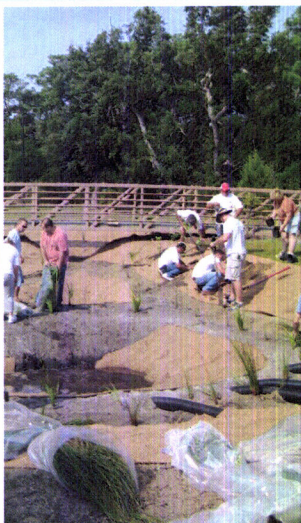
Long-term no-till



Water control structure



Marsh sill



Bioretention area



Rain garden



Biovator

YOUR SWCD NAME  
YOUR SWCD ADDRESS—LINE 1  
YOUR SWCD ADDRESS—LINE 2  
PHONE NUMBER  
WEB ADDRESS / EMAIL ADDRESS

“One of the best, and certainly the most promising, of the devices yet invented by man for dealing democratically and effectively with maladjustment in land use, as well as for carrying forward positive programs of desirable conservation, and for maintaining the work, is the soil conservation district.”

*Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett, the father of the soil conservation movement*



## TO LEARN MORE

Contact your local soil and water conservation district or visit:

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/>

[costshareprograms/CCAP/index.html](http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/CCAP/index.html)

A complete list of districts is available online through the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation:

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/>

[findyourdistrict.html](http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/findyourdistrict.html)

or by calling (919) 733-2302.

Photos courtesy of the New Hanover and Catawba Soil and Water Conservation Districts and USDA, NRCS.

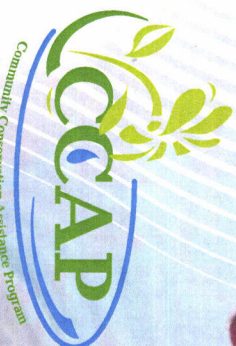
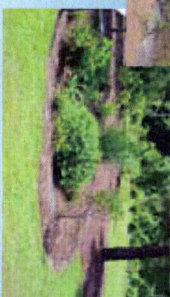


**NORTH CAROLINA  
SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION**

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## North Carolina Community Conservation Assistance Program



A Program of the  
N.C. Division of Soil  
and Water Conservation

*Working Together To Improve Water Quality  
For Future Generations.*



## COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is CCAP?

A voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various best management practices (BMPs) on urban, suburban and rural lands, not directly involved in agricultural production.

CCAP consists of educational, technical and financial assistance provided to landowners by local soil and water conservation districts.

### Who is eligible?

Eligible landowners may include: homeowners, businesses, schools, parks, churches, and community groups. Essentially, all private and publicly owned lands are eligible for the program.

### Why is this program important?

As North Carolina's land use is changing and rapidly becoming more urbanized, CCAP can educate landowners on water quality and stormwater management, as well as retrofit practices to treat polluted stormwater runoff and ultimately improve the water quality of our state's waterways.

### How does CCAP work?

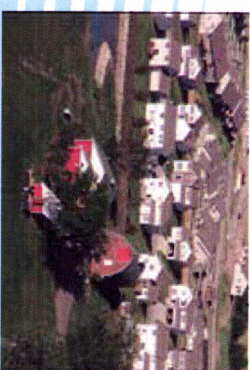
Interested landowners submit applications to their local soil and water conservation districts. Applications will be ranked based on local water quality priorities. If eligible, a conservation plan is prepared for the applicant to install the BMP (a landscaper may be used). The landowner may be reimbursed up to 75 percent of the pre-established average cost of the BMP.

### What best management practices are approved for CCAP?

Many best management practices are eligible. This brochure explains several approved BMPs. For more information, contact your local soil and water conservation district.

## COMMUNITY CONSERVATION MISSION

Soil and water conservation districts providing natural resource management through technical, educational and financial assistance on urban, suburban and rural lands for the benefit of all the people of North Carolina.



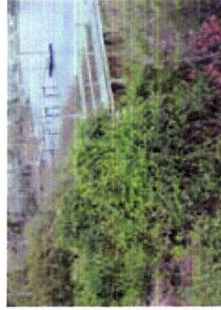


# Approved Community Conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs)



## RIPARIAN BUFFERS

Riparian buffers are areas of native trees and shrubs located adjacent to a body of water. These buffers serve as a barrier to nonpoint source pollution from stormwater. Buffers also filter runoff, control flooding, protect property from erosion and provide essential wildlife habitat.



## BACKYARD RAIN GARDENS

Backyard rain gardens, also known as bioretention areas in larger scale settings, are small depressions in the landscape that are used to collect stormwater runoff for a short period of time. They typically hold water less than 48 hours. Rain gardens are placed between stormwater runoff sources such as roofs and driveways and the nearby receiving waters such as storm drains or creeks. Rain gardens can include a variety of trees, shrubs and perennial plants that provide habitat and help treat runoff.



## BACKYARD WETLANDS

Backyard wetlands, known as stormwater wetlands on a larger scale, are constructed to mimic the functions of natural wetlands. They are intended to hold water and are planted in naturally wet areas. Backyard wetlands temporarily store, filter and clean stormwater runoff using plants that thrive in wet conditions. Wetlands also provide wildlife habitat, flood water storage and they replenish groundwater.

## STREAMBANK AND SHORELINE PROTECTION

Streambank and shoreline protection is the use of vegetation to stabilize and prevent erosion of the banks of streams, lakes or other waterways. This BMP restores the natural function of the stream and improves water quality. Erosion leads to sediment build up, loss of habitat, flooding, loss of property and poor water quality. This practice prevents erosion, restores wildlife habitat, reduces flooding and filters polluted runoff.

## CISTERNS

Cisterns are storage tanks designed for collecting rainwater for use in watering lawns, gardens, landscape or indoor plants. Cisterns are intended to reduce stormwater runoff, encourage runoff infiltration and conserve water.



## PET WASTE RECEPTACLES

Pet waste receptacles are designed to encourage pet owners to pick up after their animals. When maintained properly, this practice reduces harmful bacteria from entering waterways. This BMP is not intended for use by individual homeowners.



## IMPERVIOUS SURFACE CONVERSION

Impervious surface, are land covers such as driveways and roads that do not allow percolation of rainwater into the ground or vegetation. This BMP allows for removal of impervious surfaces and conversion to a more permeable surface. This practice must be combined with vegetation establishment or permeable pavement installation.

## PERMEABLE PAVEMENT

Permeable pavement is an alternative to conventional concrete and asphalt paving. It allows runoff to soak back into the ground instead of running off. Permeable pavement can be used for driveways, walkways and low flow parking lots. These materials reduce runoff, decrease flooding, filter pollutants and recharge groundwater. This BMP is only eligible as a component of impervious surface conversion.



*Other eligible BMPs include grassed swales, abandoned well closures, critical area plantings, diversions, marsh sills, stream restoration and structural stormwater conveyance. For more information, contact your local soil and water conservation district.*