

HISTORY OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The 1930's Dust Bowl disaster drove the United States Congress to declare soil and water conservation a national policy and priority in 1935; in order to obtain the support of landowners on a local level. Soil and water conservation districts serve as a liaison between federal government and local landowners to address conservation needs. Conservation districts are local units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level. Districts work cooperating landowners and operators to help them manage and protect land and water resources on all private lands and many public lands in the United States.

*Association of Conservation
Districts- (AFCD)*

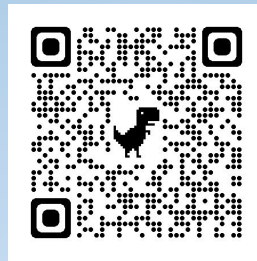
There are 54 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Florida, all organized by local people for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the wise use, management and general conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

The elected five-member, non-partisan board of supervisors, who volunteer their services, manages each soil and water conservation district. Candidates are elected in a general election to a 4-year term. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are non-taxing and are supported by maintaining relationships and partnership with organizations, government agencies, and receive voluntary contributions.

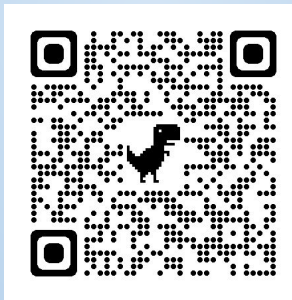
Hillsborough County was created in 1937.

Resources

Teacher Helpful Websites List



Producers Helpful Website List



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For upcoming events!**



facebook.com/HillsboroughSWCD

Website: hillsboroughswcd.com/



Protecting our Natural Resources Through Conservation Management

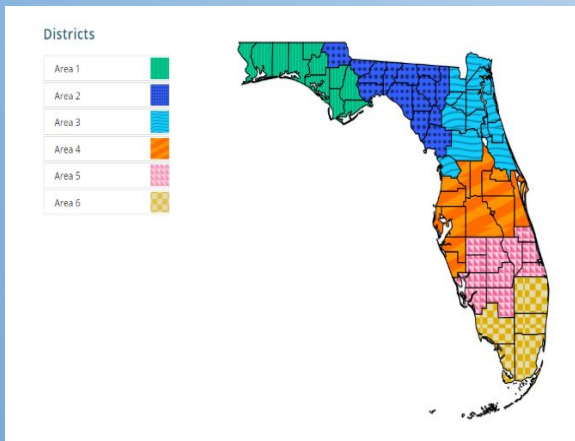
*WE PROVIDE a local voice
guiding the use of federal
financial and technical
assistance to landowners for
conservation planning, the
application of conservation
practices and distribution of
materials to educate students,
landowners, local citizens and
communities about
conservation issues.*

Visit our website at
hillsboroughswcd.com
Follow us on Facebook
Tel: 813.347.6706

HSWCD Mission

- Encourage soil & water conservation in the interest of public health, safety, & welfare
- Implement soil and water conservation on private lands
- Cooperate with other agencies or land owner(s) to implement conservation projects thru Best Management Practices (BMP)
- District is authorized by Florida Statutes 582.20 and 582.21 to help construct, improve, operate, and maintain structures.
- Develop urban and agricultural programs at the local level
- Help meet state environmental objectives at the local level

FLORIDA SWCD DISTRICTS MAP Hillsborough is District 4



Florida Department of
Agriculture and
Consumer Services

Best Management Practices (BMP) program, a BMP is defined by law as a means, a practice or combination of practices determined by the coordinating agencies, based on research, field testing and expert review, to be the most effective and practicable on-location means, including economic and technological considerations, for improving water quality in agricultural and urban discharges. According to Section 373.4595(2)(a), Florida Statutes, BMPs for agricultural discharges must reflect a balance between water quality improvements and agricultural productivity. Categories of Practice include:

- Nutrient management to determine nutrient needs and sources and manage nutrient applications (including manure) to minimize impacts to water resources.
- Irrigation management to address the method and scheduling of irrigation to reduce water and nutrient losses to the environment.
- Water resource protection using buffers, setbacks and swales to reduce or prevent the transport of sediments and nutrients from production areas to water bodies.



Offers many different programs including:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is NRCS' flagship conservation program that helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation.
- Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, a federal emergency recovery program, helps local communities recover after a natural disaster strikes.
- Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) helps landowners restore, enhance and protect forestland resources on private and tribal lands through easements and financial assistance.

HSWCD Goals

- provide assistance to producers in obtaining natural resource management (NRCS) and conservation.
- provide a direct link between the producers to NRCS and FDACS
- promote conservation education and learning opportunities among the youth and adults

Topics may include:

- Soil Erosion • Water Quality
- Water Quantity • Conservation & Environmental Education
- Prime, Unique, & Important Farmlands
- Mining, Land Application of Waste Fish and Wildlife Habitat / Natural Systems
- Forestry • Recreation
- Urban Conservation
- Watershed Engineering
- Soil Characteristics
- Soil Tillage Techniques
- Plant Identification
- Invasive Plant Control • Farm Ponds

**"NATURE IS NOT A PLACE
TO VISIT. IT IS HOME."
-GARY SNYDER**