Mission Statement

Protect the natural resources of Haywood County through education, conservation and preservation.
About the District
589 Raccoon Road, Suite 203
Waynesville, NC 28786
828-452-2741 ext. 3

Board of Supervisors Meeting
held the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Scan the QR code to access our website

Check out our Facebook page at facebook.com/HCSWC

Board of Supervisors
Bill Yarborough, Chairman
Charles Boyd, Vice Chairman
James Ferguson, Treasurer
Robert Cathey, Secretary
Will Morrow, Member
Timothy Garrett, Associate Supervisor
Jennifer Best, Associate Supervisor
District Staff
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District Director and NC Ag Cost-Share Technician
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Farmland Preservation Program Coordinator
Ryan.Manning@haywoodcountync.gov

Dana Miller
Education Coordinator
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Administrative Assistant II
Sheila.Mode@haywoodcountync.gov

Natural Resource Conservation Service Staff

John Ottinger
Supervisory Soil Conservationist
John.Ottinger@usda.gov

Brandon Young
Soil Technician
Brandon.Young2@usda.gov
Conservation Programs

The District and NRCS works with landowners to provide technical guidance, develop conservation plans, provide financial assistance and install best management practices.

Examples of Best Management Practices

- Reduced Till or No-Till
- Cover Crops
- Livestock Watering Systems

Financial assistance provided in 2020-2021 = $81,431

State-Funded Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NC Agricultural Cost Share</td>
<td>$63,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impaired &amp; Impacted Streams</td>
<td>$8,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Farming Pilot Program Grant</td>
<td>$1,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$81,431</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
NRCS Conservation Programs

Program Highlights
8 new EQIP contracts totaling $185,430 on 248 acres

15 active contracts totaling $765,056 on 490 acres

Federally-Funded Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>11 contracts completed</th>
<th>$149,877</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation applied on</td>
<td>496 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$149,877</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The purpose of the Farmland Preservation program is to protect farmland in Haywood County from development. Agriculture is not only a $78 billion industry in North Carolina, but also critical to meeting the needs of a growing population. The District executes this goal in various ways:

- **Voluntary Agricultural Districts (VAD)**
- **Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts (EVAD)**
- **Term Easements**
- **Permanent Easements**

### County Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VAD Acres</td>
<td>12,609.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVAD Acres</td>
<td>239.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,849.7 acres</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Conservation Easements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Easements</td>
<td>759.8 acres</td>
<td>$2,301,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanent Easements</td>
<td>1240 acres</td>
<td>$9,323,202</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,999.8 acres</td>
<td>$11,624,202</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Environmental Education Program
The District provides environmental education to the citizens of Haywood County through various programs including classroom programs and outreach events such as Conservation Field Days. Our education program also works with many regional and state partners to strengthen environmental education for all.

What we do:
- K-12 Classroom Programs
- Adult Programs
- Conservation Field Days
- FFA Land Judging Competition
- NC Envirothon
- Conservation Contests
- Professional Development for educators
- Monthly newsletters

Highlights
- 1,766 students and adults reached through in-person and virtual programs
- Ennis Marcus, 6th grader at Waynesville Middle School, won the State Essay Contest themed “We All Live in a Watershed”
- 3 new programs started in 2020-2021
New Programs

At-Home Adventure Kits

This program was created as a way to safely reach students and their families who were learning remotely during the pandemic. The kits are similar to a subscription box service. Participants receive a kit each month with the materials and instructions needed to complete five to eight hands-on environmental education activities. Examples of the activities include making recycled paper, outdoor scavenger hunt, and building a stream table. There were 36 participants who received a kit each month from October 2020 to June 2021. The kits were provided at no cost to the participants.

EcoCamp Crates

Similar to At-Home Adventure Kits, this program was created to provide a summer camp experience for youth in Haywood County who were unable to attend in-person camps because of the pandemic. 72 participants received a crate filled with enough science education activities to fill 3-4 hours for 5 days. Along with the activities, participants received access to live, virtual programs each day of “camp” featuring different resource experts. Through county funding and a generous grant from The Nature Conservancy Fund, the crates were provided free of charge to participants.

Earth Day Extravaganza

Developed in partnership with Haywood County Public Library, Earth Day Extravaganza allowed folks to safely celebrate Earth Day 2021. The event included month-long activities such as a pop-up story walk in downtown Canton, an Earth Day Egg Hunt in town parks, and a stream clean up program. Along with the month long events, the library published a new virtual program each day the week of Earth Day. These programs were created by regional partners including the District, Haywood County Solid Waste, Haywood Waterways and Balsam Mountain Trust.
New Staff

Welcome Brandon Young!

Brandon is a native of WNC hailing from Madison County. He received a B.S. in Agricultural Science from NC State University and was the Soil Conservationist for Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District for 6 years before coming to Haywood County. Brandon is currently working as the Soil Conservation Technician position for NRCS. He recently got married to his beautiful wife Janna and currently lives in Canton with their big dog named Little Sister. In his free time, Brandon enjoys spending time in the great outdoors deer hunting, turkey hunting, trout fishing, hiking, and saltwater fishing (when he gets the chance). Brandon is excited to be working here in the Haywood Soil and Water office, partnering with the Soil and Water Districts in NRCS Team 2 to help get conservation on the ground.

Our Partners

NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Division of Soil and Water Conservation
NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission
NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Area 1 Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Southwest District Employee Association
National Association of Soil & Water Districts
Southeast District Employee Association
National Association of Soil & Water Districts
Southwestern NC Resource Conservation & Development
Mountain Research Station
NC Cooperative Extension
USDA Farm Services Agency
Haywood Waterways Association