



## Our YEAR IN REVIEW

2019

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# Carlton County Soil & Water Conservation District

*Assisting landowners in protecting and  
enhancing the natural resources of Carlton County*

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## Statement of Intent

This document is to serve as a concise summary of the efforts and progress our district has made towards conservation within Carlton County over the past year.

## Strategic Areas of Focus

- Agricultural Conservation Practices
- Forestry Planning and Implementation
- Urban Conservation Practices
- Watershed Planning

## Metrics for the Year

- 670  $\frac{1}{2}$  tons of sediment saved
- 15 miles of streambank restored
- 656 tons of phosphorus saved
- 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles of streams reconnected

# Unlocking The Land's Potential

## Agriculture Conservation Practices:

Primary focus is placed on encouraging producers to meet the standards for certification with the MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program through MDA. Other efforts are focused on remedying issues of erosion and water pollution through best management practice installations to improve water quality and soil health.

### *Total Impact:*

- 46 acres improved
- ~5 1/2 tons per year of suspendible solids reduced
- 22 tons per year of soil saved
- 10 lbs per year of phosphorus saved

### *Practices Completed:*

- 1 producer certified under the agriculture water quality program (MAWQCP)
- Prescribed grazing (*improved soil health, forage production, & water infiltration*)
- Heavy equipment ford crossing (*reduced TSS & stream damage*)
- Hay storage heavy use pad (*minimized rutting & soil damage*)
- Roof runoff control structure (*reduced nutrient pollution and preserved water quality*)

## Forestry Planning Implementation:

Efforts are predominantly geared towards enrolling landowners in forestry stewardship plans and conservation practice plans followed by implementation of practices outlined in the plans. Resulting in longstanding beacons of habitat, soil stability, and water protection for decades to come. Within all this we aim to educate, energize, and enable forest landowners to achieve healthy diverse forests.

### *Plan Enrollments:*

- 12 Forest Stewardship (823 acres)
- 34 conservation practice plans (394 acres)

### *Landowner Assistance:*

- 14 maintenance inspections
- 14 practices installed (60 acres)
- Liaison for 2 forestry associations

### *Practices Completed:*

- 2 forest stand improvements (2.5 acres)
- 1 young forest stand established (17 acres)
- 4 tree/shrub establishments (32 acres)
- 4 riparian buffers managed (15 acres , 54 tons of soil saved)

# Unlocking The Land's Potential

## Urban Conservation Practices:

A new initiative targeted at addressing conservation issues unique to high development areas. Particularly focused on stormwater pollution, pollinator habitat, and native plants. Efforts seek to implement green infrastructure through collaboration with municipalities and community partners, greater public education, and residential lot improvements through practice installations.

### *Assistance & Collaboration:*

- 4 municipalities
- 1 public library
- 1 Community group (OACC)

### *Education Initiatives:*

- 31 school presentations
- 1 student competition hosted (*video/media*)
- 1 volunteer program created (*adopt a drain*) — 1 drain adopted

### *Grants Acquired:*

- Lawns to Legumes - \$40,000

### *Practices Completed:*

- 2 shoreline stabilizations (170 ft | 16lbs per year of phosphorus reduced)

## Watershed Planning:

Comprised of having an active hand in the conservation planning process of our water resources and completing restoration projects. Paired alongside outreach to local residents about their watershed or notable water resource.

### *Projects:*

- Skunk Creek Redesign:**
- 1873 ft shoreline restored
  - 280 tons per year of soil saved
  - 13 miles of trout stream reconnected
  - 226 tons per year of sediment reduced
  - 322lbs per year of phosphorus saved

- Stony Brook Culvert:**
- 3 culverts replaced
  - 2 miles of trout stream reconnected
  - 363 tons of gravel & sediment recovered
  - 308 tons of phosphorus reduced

### *Planning Assistance:*

- St. Louis 1W1P
- St. Louis WRAPS Cycle 2
- Kettle River WRAPS
- Upper Mississippi Grand Rapids WRAPS
- Skunk Creek & Big Sandy watersheds (319 program)

### *Community Assistance:*

- Stormwater grant for City of Cromwell
- Lake associations (Net Lake, Hanging Horn Area Lakes, and Big Sandy Area Lakes)



# Progress By The Numbers

## Efforts Towards Conservation

Collaborations & Partnerships

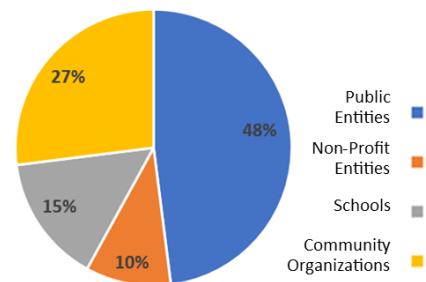


Fig. 1: Summarizes our involvement of who we worked with through the year whether that be projects, engagement activities, planning, etc. Values are given as a percent of the 34 entities we worked with. Note, not all of these are new partnerships.

Outreach Activities

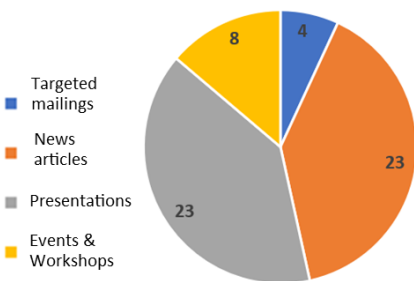


Fig. 2: Provides the distribution of our total outreach efforts over the year. Note that “News articles” include only those submitted by our staff including press releases, columns, and articles. “Presentations” include those given at schools, community events, meetings, and those in part with our conservation programming.

Engagement Totals

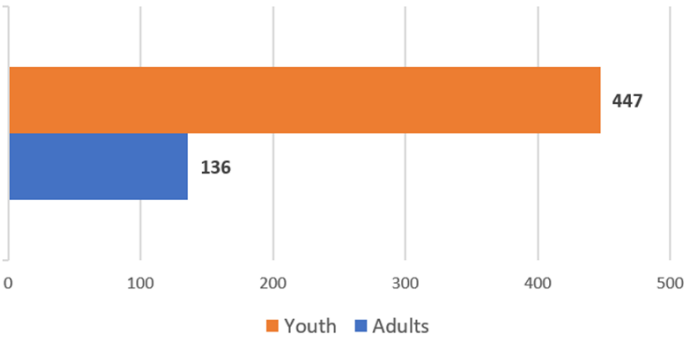
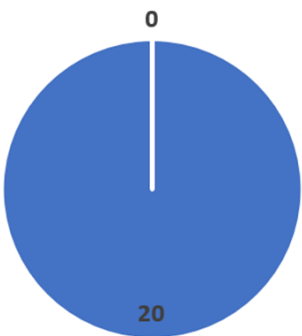


Fig. 3: Showcases our involvement between youth and adult individuals. Youth engagement is the result of classroom presentations, program events, and our student media competition. Adult engagement strictly refers to private land users who we have engaged as result from hosting events, participating in community events, and working with landowners.

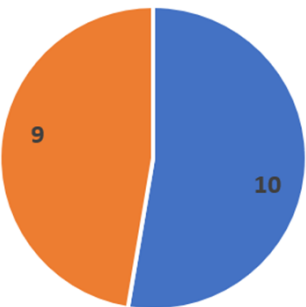
# Progress By The Numbers

## Where & Who We Are Assisting

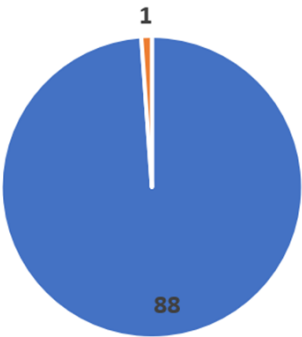
Agriculture



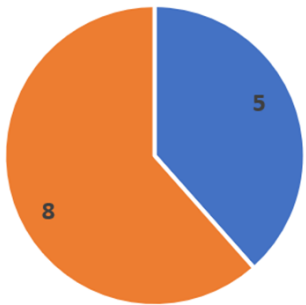
Urban



Forestry



Watershed



■ Private Assistance ■ Public Assistance

Fig. 4: Displays of our efforts between private and public entities within our focus areas of agriculture, urban, forestry, and watershed assistance. “Private Assistance” consists of landowners and community groups while “Public Assistance” consists of state agencies, other SWCDs, and other counties. Each value represents one individual or group. Values equal a total of 141 entities assisted with 123 being private and 18 being public.

# Progress By The Numbers

## Budget & Expenditures

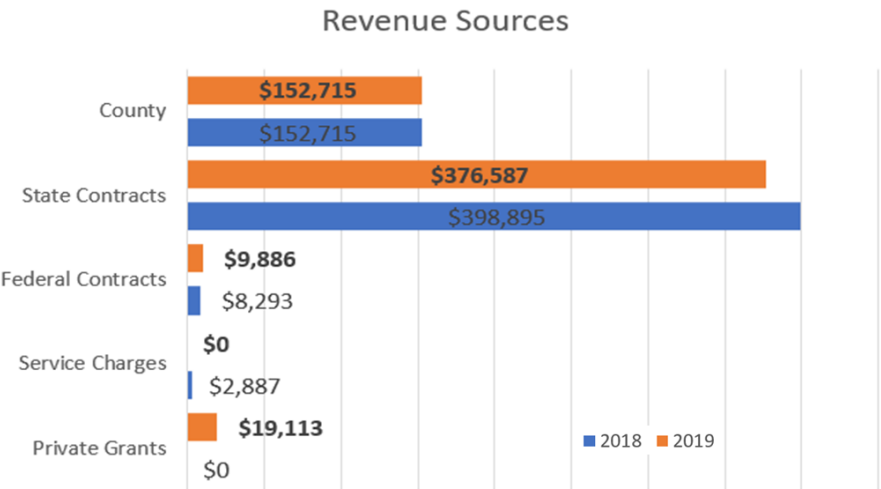


Fig. 5: Review of our revenue sources for operation compared between 2018 and 2019. For 2019, the percent towards operations is as follows: County (27%); State contracts (70%); Federal contracts (1%); service charges (1%); private grants (0%). Operating cost totals in turn were \$568,160 for 2019 and \$558,301 for 2018.

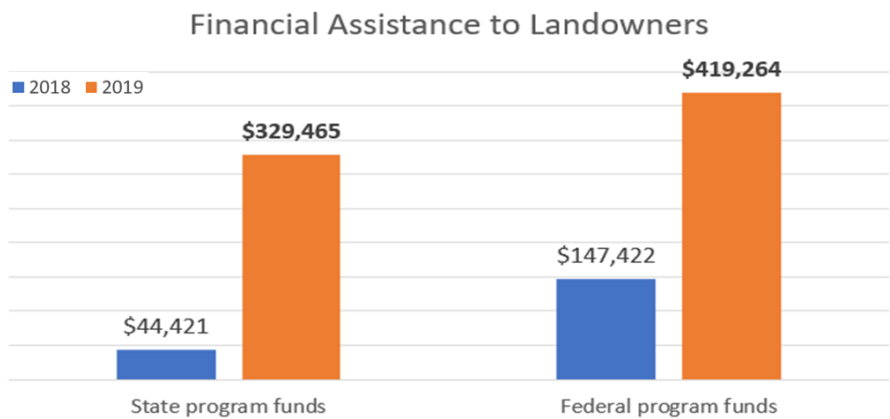


Fig. 6: Summary of our funding assistance provided to landowners compared between years 2019 and 2018. The increases were 742% (\$285,044) from State program funds and 284% (\$271,842) from Federal program funds. Providing a total of \$748,729 for 2019 as compared to \$191,843 for 2018.

# Our Conservation Team

## SWCD Staff:

District Supervisor:	Brad Matlack	ext. 3	brad.matlack@carltonswcd.org
Office Administrator:	Julie Radovich	ext. *	julie.radovich@carltonswcd.org
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Education Outreach Coordinator	Chris Gass	ext. 5	chris.gass@carltonswcd.org
Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist	Jacob Granfors	—	jgranfors@pheasantsforever.org

## Board Supervisors:

District 1	Barb Dahl	bdhal@carltonswcd.org
District 2	Russell Kurhajetz	rkurhajetz@carltonswcd.org
District 3	Bob Fox	bfox@carltonswcd.org
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