



Tri-County Soil and Water Conservation Districts: Stone-Christian-Taney

www.swcd.mo.gov/stone

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The Parks, Soils, and Water Sales Tax

is a statewide one-tenth-of-one percent sales tax that provides dedicated funding for Missouri state parks and historic sites, along with soil and water conservation efforts.



Half of the revenue from the sales tax is used for preserving soil and protecting water resources of Missouri for future generations.



The majority of the soil and water portion of the tax is used to assist agricultural landowners.



The tax provides incentives to implement soil and water conservation practices.



The portion of the Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax that supports state parks averages \$10 a year per Missourian. Missouri is one of the only states that do not charge entrance fees into its parks and historic sites.



Provides ongoing maintenance and repair for more than 2,000 structures, 2,500 campsites, and 1,000 miles of trails.



The tax enables parks to operate, welcoming nearly 20 million visitors and more than 1 million overnight guests annually.



Since 1984, Missouri farmers have implemented more than 288,000 structural and management conservation practices.



Missouri has stopped more than 193 million tons of soil from eroding.



Provides funding for research and water quality monitoring to identify new methods of soil and water conservation practices that produce the best results.



The tax provides steady, reliable support to promote best management practices.



Educates landowners.



Safeguards water resources.



Retains valuable topsoil.

Musk Thistle Control

- The **KEY**: prevent from going to seed.
- During the summer, after flowering, removing the seed head & pulling or hoeing the entire plant is the only option left if didn't control earlier with herbicide
- Apply chemicals during the rosette stage. Spring Mar.-Apr. & Fall- Sept.-Nov. Plant is a biennial- having two growing seasons

Note: Mowing, itself, does not provide effective control. Buds & flowers will re-develop & the infestation can be greater.

Missouri Noxious Weed Law RSMo Section 263. 190



Equipment Rentals

For your equipment rental needs, reach out to your local SWCD office. Stone & Taney Co. Districts have both a Sprayer and Weed Wiper. The weed wiper is a no-drip method that works great on summer ragweed, Johnson grass, and other summer annuals. You can pull it with a UTV or 4-wheeler. All offices have No-Till Drills and other equipment available.

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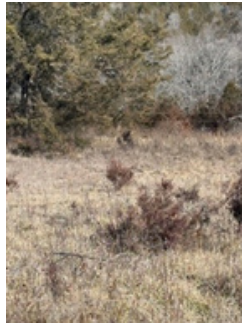
A quote worth quoting, "The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself."
- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Success In The Field

Taney County Spring Development Project



Original Spring Seep



Location of tank and outlet pipe to be installed



Tank filling with water



Back fill of the overflow pipe

The construction part of the practice took 3 days in total. First, we determined the flow rate of the spring and the drop in elevation of where the tank will be placed. The ideal flow rate is around 10 GPM, and we need at least 2 feet of drop from the spring to the tank to be successful. Once we have this information, we can get a design for the contractor to build the development. Contractors will dig out the spring to find the head of it; then, depending on the design, they will capture the water, install a minimum size of 1.25" pipe that flows to the tank, and then finish with an overflow pipe that is larger than the inlet pipe.



During
planning in
Stone Co.

Before

After

500 ft. Length Stabilization



Here is another
project needing
stabilization.



Why Does It Matter?

Erosion sends your topsoil, nutrients, and fertilizer investments downstream. These projects protect water quality while safeguarding your investment. They also restore habitats for Missouri fisheries.

Stabilization projects cap at \$50,000 per stabilization per year. If you have any kind of bank erosion and have an interest in protecting your investment, give us a call.

Land Loss = Loss of Investment

Success in The Field

Christian County Practices



Trenching and pipeline for permanent livestock water tank; paid for through grazing management practice.

Cooperators are reimbursed 75% of the state average cost on most practices. Some practices have additional incentives, and grazing systems have applicable caps on cost-share.



N472 Practice Spotlight Stone County

The N472 Livestock Exclusion (Fence) practice through Soil and Water is used to protect soil and plant resources from grazing by livestock. The practice applies to existing ponds, woodlands, sinkholes, streams, or sensitive areas where vegetation, soil condition, and water quality, needs protection from livestock by fencing out those areas. We most commonly see woods and ponds being fenced out by the exclusion practice. The program allows us to cost-share on fencing. Fencing type can vary depending on your needs and desires. The practice allows you to install permanent high tensile electric wire (HTE), barbed wire, or woven wire depending on your species of livestock & need. Practice pays up to 75% of the state average cost to install the fence.

NEW In the past couple of years, the program has evolved to allow the livestock exclusion practice to fence out ponds. This can be a huge help when installing a grazing system. Now, when we use the N472 fence to exclude a pond from a field, we can use the acres in that field toward our grazing water distribution practice. This allows you as the landowner to receive additional funds for water pipeline & tanks to water your livestock.

The main goal of this practice is to decrease soil erosion and protect sensitive areas. **However, this practice has some other benefits.** Many of our producers tell us they utilize the program to also keep livestock out of the wooded areas to prevent birthing in hard-to-reach spots on the farm and/or to keep away from the perimeter fencing and neighboring animals. In addition, it simply makes daily checking of the livestock much easier when you are not trying to go off in the woods to find them.

2-Wire Electric Exclusion Fence of Pond



If you are interested in this practice and how it can work on your farm, give your local Soil and Water office a call. Now is a great time to reach out now that July has started our new fiscal year. We would be happy to hear from you!

Example of a recently installed barbed wire N472 Livestock Exclusion fence to keep cattle out of the woods.



Cost-Share Procedures:

- Qualified landowners apply through the local SWCD office.
- Technician evaluates the site and recommends cost-share practices.
- Supervisors review and approve cost-share applications
- After practice installation, a technician will certify the practice.
- A claim for payment, accompanied by proof of expenditures, will be created and signed by all parties after installation.
- The payment is forwarded to the Soil and Water program for processing.
- Reimbursement goes directly to the producer's bank account from the state.
- Producers will maintain the practice as outlined in the contract.

Water: A Finite Resource

10 Ways to Conserve Water

1. Don't let the water run while rinsing dishes, and soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
2. Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house or street.
3. Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full.
4. Use the garbage disposal sparingly.
5. Keep a pitcher of water in the fridge instead of running the tap; every drop goes into you and not the drain.
6. Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler; this minimizes evaporation.
7. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk.
8. Shorten your shower routine by a minute or two, and you'll save 150 gallons every month.
9. Water your plants deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.
10. If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a water-efficient model.

Did you know?

Data centers across North America use 800 million gallons of water every day. A quarter of these data centers are used to power AI (artificial intelligence). Picture the University of Arkansas or Missouri University's entire football stadium, fill it up 5 times and that's how much water these centers are using.

H2Ozarks

Less than 1% of the water on Earth is readily available to us. While 71% of the Earth is covered in water, 97% of that is salty, ocean water. This leaves only 3% that is freshwater, and the vast majority of it is locked up in glaciers, ice caps, or deep underground, unavailable to us.

A Change In Faces

Taney County



"Hey y'all, I'm Heather Hurst. Born and raised in the Ozarks. Forsyth High School graduate, class of 2014. Married to my high school sweetheart since 2017. I'm a proud mama of three beautiful children (two sweet girls, ages 8 and 9, and our wild little man who's 5)! I'm a Jesus-loving, Proverbs 31 woman in progress, and I'm also a bit of a coffeeholic. My family and I love to be outside. Some of our hobbies are fishing, farming, four-wheeling, and the occasional porch swing sitting when life allows it. My husband and I have ventured into real estate and own a few rental properties. We also own a small cedar sawmill that we tinker with in our free time. I'm constantly chasing new growth in every area of life and make it a point to see the good in people. Life is too short not to!"

Stone County



Please welcome our new board members: Brian Cutbirth (left) and Angela Foster (right). Our outgoing board members are Latisha Clark, who served from March 2012 to February 2026, and Jerry Youngblood, who served from March 2007 to February 2026. Thank you for all of the dedication over the years. We also want to congratulate Diane Asher for her 10th year as a board member, as well as Tim Schnakenberg's 20th year and Larry Israel's 16th year.

Christian County



"Hello all! My name is Carabelle Wiles. I was born and raised in Kirbyville, MO. I attended Kirbyville Schools and Hollister for my high school years and graduated from Ozarks Technical Community College with my Associate of Arts degree. Being raised on my family's farm and with my education, I have many years of experience in agriculture and business administration. My husband, Matthew, and I live on our generational farm here in Christian County with our farm dogs, Dottie and Millie. Some of my hobbies include gardening, mountain biking, camping, sewing, and most of all, creating a home. Prior to coming to Christian County SWCD in 2026, I was employed with Taney County SWCD. I am excited to be a part of the Christian County team and help landowners in the area protect, preserve, and enjoy their land."

Missouri Women in Agriculture 31st Annual Conference



NORTHWEST CONFERENCE 2026

- Book room by August 20th
- moagwomen.com



MoDNR Photo Contest

The 13th Annual Missouri DNR Photo Contest

Amateur photographers of all ages may enter the Missouri DNR Photo Contest hosted by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The contest offers you the opportunity to capture your favorite moments in Missouri's rich, natural, and cultural resources and share them for all to enjoy. The contest runs April 1 through Sept. 1, each year.

SWMO Grazing School will be October 6-8th

Grazing school will be held in Strafford, MO
Call Webster CO. SWCD at 417-468-4176 ext. 3

Tri-County Soil & Water Conservation District

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PHONE: 417-723-8389: www.swcd.mo.gov/stone

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The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax

Let us know if you wish to be removed from our mailing list or if someone needs added

The Parks, Soils and Water Sales Tax is set to expire in 2028 if not approved by voters on August 4th, 2026

First approved by voters in 1984 as a constitutional amendment, it now appears on the ballot every 10 years to reaffirm the voters' support of the parks system and soil and water conservation efforts.



Missouri State Parks is recognized as one of the top-ranked state park systems in the nation. It depends on funding from the Parks, Soils, and Water Sales tax to operate, maintain, and improve the state park system. Revenue from the sales tax accounts for approximately 75% of the park system's budget.

The cost-share program is administered by the Department of Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Program through Soil and Water Conservation District boards in each of the 114 counties.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Soil and Water Conservation Program
800-361-4827
dnr.mo.gov

Missouri State Parks
800-334-6946
mostateparks.com

**A quote worth quoting,
"But in every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."
- John Muir**