

Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation District  
501 7th Street, PO Box 457  
Nicollet, MN 56074  
507-232-2550

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Permit # 9  
St. Peter, MN 56082



# Nicollet SWCD News

2020

January

## LAWNS TO LEGUMES

### Funding available

Minnesota residents can now apply to be reimbursed for up to \$350 in costs associated with establishing pollinator habitats in their yards. Applications will be accepted until Feb. 28, 2020 and funding decisions and all notifications will be emailed in March for Spring 2020 installations.



Photo credit: BWSR Website

The application is located on the Blue Thumb Partners website:  
[Bluethumb.org/apply-for-lawns-to-legumes-assistance](http://Bluethumb.org/apply-for-lawns-to-legumes-assistance).

### Key Ways to Incorporate Pollinator Habitat into Yards:

- Expand garden beds and plant pollinator habitat ie: native flowers.
- Remove existing lawn (using sod cutters, etc.) and seed a pollinator lawn seed mix that typically include no-mow fescues and flowers.
- Inter-seed flowers into existing lawn and increase mowing height and decrease mowing frequency.
- Convert large areas to prairie vegetation.
- Plant your rain-garden with pollinator-beneficial plants.
- Incorporate flowering shrubs and trees in the landscape such as chokeberry, dogwood, ninebark, hawthorn, cherry, plum, apple, maple and basswood.
- Provide nesting and over-wintering opportunities.
- Eliminate the use of insecticides and fungicides to the extent possible.

### Why Pollinator Beneficial Plantings Are Important:

- Many insects such as bees, butterflies, and moths that support our food and ecological systems are at serious risk.
- Pollinator beneficial plantings also provide water quality, carbon sequestration and other ecosystem benefits.
- Design, installation and management of pollinator plantings provide green industry jobs.
- Improved soil health.

### The Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District

501 7th Street  
PO Box 457  
Nicollet, MN 56074  
Phone: (507) 232-2550

#### District Board

John Kral, Chair  
Tim Braun, Vice Chair  
Bruce Hulke, Secretary  
Robby Gieseke, Treasurer  
Eric Annexstad, Member

#### District Employees

Kevin Ostermann  
*District Manager*

Blake Honetschlager  
*District Technician*

Eric Miller  
*District Technician*

Judy Beetch  
*Administrative Assistant*

#### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday  
8:00am-4:30pm  
*Please call ahead to schedule an appointment.*

#### Natural Resource Conservation Service

Phone: (507) 237-5435 ext. 3

April Sullivan  
*District Conservationist*

Katie Mattila  
*Soil Conservationist*

## Want the local weather?

Through funding provided by Gustavus and the MPCA, we now have three weather stations open to public viewing. Data can be accessed at [www.weatherlink.com](http://www.weatherlink.com) or by downloading the Davis Weather Link app on your mobile phone.

Create a free account and search for the stations named:  
SWCD Office, SWCD Belgrade 109-27-16 and SWCD Oshawa 110-27-24



Scan the above code with your phone camera to get the app!

This newsletter is published by the Nicollet Soil and Water Conservation District, 501 7th St., Nicollet, MN 56074 and USDA NRCS, 112 5th St, Gaylord, MN 56074. For more information regarding this newsletter, contact (507) 232-2550. **USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.**

Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Agenda posted on the website one week prior.



Online version available @ [www.nicolletswcd.org](http://www.nicolletswcd.org)  
Email [info@nicolletswcd.org](mailto:info@nicolletswcd.org) for updates  
"Like us" on the Nicollet Soil & Water Facebook page!

## SEVEN MILE CREEK

It's official, 2019 was the wettest year on record for Nicollet County. It doesn't take a rain gage to convince anyone in the area of that, but the previous record was in 2016 at 42.71 inches and 2019 had over 45 inches. Last year was wet! As a result of all the rain, Seven Mile Creek had excessive flow throughout the year, particularly in March, April, and May. Rainfall broke historic records over those three months and closed area trails, including many at Seven Mile Creek Park. Excessive stormwater from the watershed washed out ravines and flooded trails, overwhelming infrastructure throughout the ravine system.

All of the soil eroding from fields, ravines, and streambanks in the Seven Mile Creek Watershed makes its way into the creek itself and creates significant water quality issues. Some of that soil settles in the creek bed, floodplain, or sandbars within the creek, but many tons of that soil stays suspended in the creek and flows out to the Minnesota River – as can be observed by the creek's brown turbidity during those large flow events. Recent observations by Gustavus' Dr. Laura Triplett and her research team indicate that the majority of the sediment is from erosion in the ravines and downstream part of the creek's watershed in 2019. In response, County staff and partners – including Great River Greening – are hopeful about new opportunities for restoration and erosion prevention in the near future. Stay tuned for some of these new ideas, solutions, and efforts to reduce erosion in the next newsletter. **Brad Gordon, Ph.D, Great River Greening**



Photo taken by Nicollet County park staff

### United States Department of Agriculture Conservation Financial Assistance Programs:

**EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)**  
Continuous Sign-up - Now Accepting Applications for FY 2020 Funds

**CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)**  
Continuous Sign-up—Now Accepting Application for FY 2020  
For more information, contact the NRCS Office at (507) 237-5435 x3

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
112 5th Street, PO Box 868, Gaylord, MN 55334  
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

## MN CREP

2019 was a successful year for landowners in Nicollet County, who sought to enroll their property in the MN CREP program. Ten applications were submitted and funded by the state. Eight of the applications were wetland restorations in the Minnesota River floodplain. The other two applications were upland wetland restorations. In total, around 770 acres were enrolled into the permanent program this year.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019, enrollment in CRP was re-opened. As of the writing of this article, the SWCD has not received information regarding the next CREP sign-up period. Enrollment should be open after the first of the year. If landowners are interested, they should contact Eric Miller, Nicollet/Sibley Farm Bill Technician at the Nicollet SWCD office.



2020 Tree Order Form					Order Number (office use)
Mail Order NICOLLET SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT					Name:
To: 501 7th St., PO Box 457, Nicollet MN 56074					Address:
PHONE: (507) 232-2550					Email Address:
QUALITY NURSING STOCK FOR CONSERVATION					Phone:
<b>CONIFER POTTED</b>					<b>Important Notice</b> Trees are distributed in April. We will notify you of your pickup day.  The cost of trees does not warrant free replacement and the district offers no guarantee of survival.
Species	Size	# of Trees	Cost		
1 Quart Blackhills Spruce	8-12"		x \$3.75/Tree =		
1 Quart Colorado Spruce	8-16"		x \$3.75/Tree =		
1 Quart Red Pine	5-10"		x \$3.75/Tree =		
1 Quart White Pine	5-8"		x \$3.75/Tree =		
1 Quart Ponderosa Pine	6-10"		x \$3.75/Tree =		
1 Quart American Arborvitae	6-12"		x \$3.75/Tree =		
2 Gal. White Pine	18-24"		x \$13.25/Tree =		
2 Gal. American Arborvitae	18-24"		x \$13.25/Tree =		
2 Gal. Blackhills Spruce	24-30"		x \$13.25/Tree =		
2 Gal. Colorado Spruce	24-30"		x \$13.25/Tree =		
<b>BARE ROOT DECIDUOUS 1 Bundle = 10 Trees</b>					<b>Payment due in full on day of order. No refunds on cancelled orders after February 23rd, 2020.</b>  Availability and size are subject to change.
Black Walnut	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
Hackberry	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
Norway Poplar	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
Sugar Maple	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
Red Maple	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
Swamp White Oak	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
Red Oak	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
Bur Oak	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
<b>SMALL TREES 1 Bundle = 10 Trees</b>					
Elderberry	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
Crab, Red Splendor	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
Nanking Cherry	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
American Plum	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
Amur Maple	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
<b>SHRUBS 1 Bundle = 10 Trees</b>					If you would like to be notified of your pickup day by e-mail, please provide that information in the space provided above.
American Hazelnut	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
Common Lilac	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
Serviceberry (Juneberry)	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
Dogwood Redosier	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
Flame Willow	18-24"		x \$14.00/Bundle =		
<b>FABRIC TREE SQUARES &amp; ROLLS</b>					<b>Pickup location will be at the Nicollet SWCD 501 7th Street Nicollet, MN</b>
Price Includes 6"x1"x6" Staples		# of Mats or Feet			
Pre-Cut Tree Squares	3' x 3'		x \$1.65/Square =		
Fabric Roll Mat (whole roll)	300 Feet		x \$110.00/Roll =		
Grow Tubes (4ft Tall)	4 Feet		x \$5.00/Tube =		
			<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		
			<b>SALES TAX (7.375%)</b>		
<i>Please Round Sales Tax Correctly</i>			<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>Make Checks Payable to Nicollet SWCD</b>	