

“God saw everything that he had made, and indeed it was very good.” Genesis 1:31



Your habits can help healthy habitats in your community



Develop Habits for Habitats

What is a habit?

What is habitat?

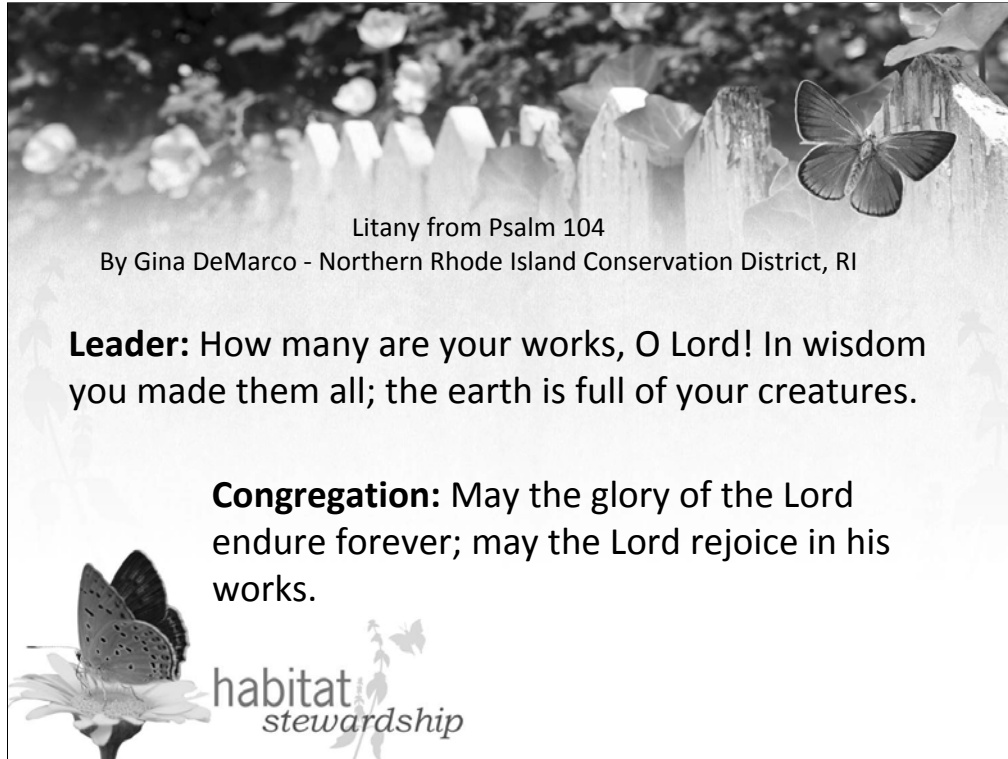
habitat: Environment where a plant or animal naturally grows and lives.

habit: an action or pattern of behavior that is repeated so often that it becomes typical of somebody, although he or she may be unaware of it.



Where is Your habitat?


Your own backyard, that strip of grass and trees along the sidewalk... these are all habitats. EVERY living thing, including YOU, plays an important part in keeping their habitat healthy.



Litany from Psalm 104
By Gina DeMarco - Northern Rhode Island Conservation District, RI

Leader: How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

Congregation: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.



habitat
stewardship

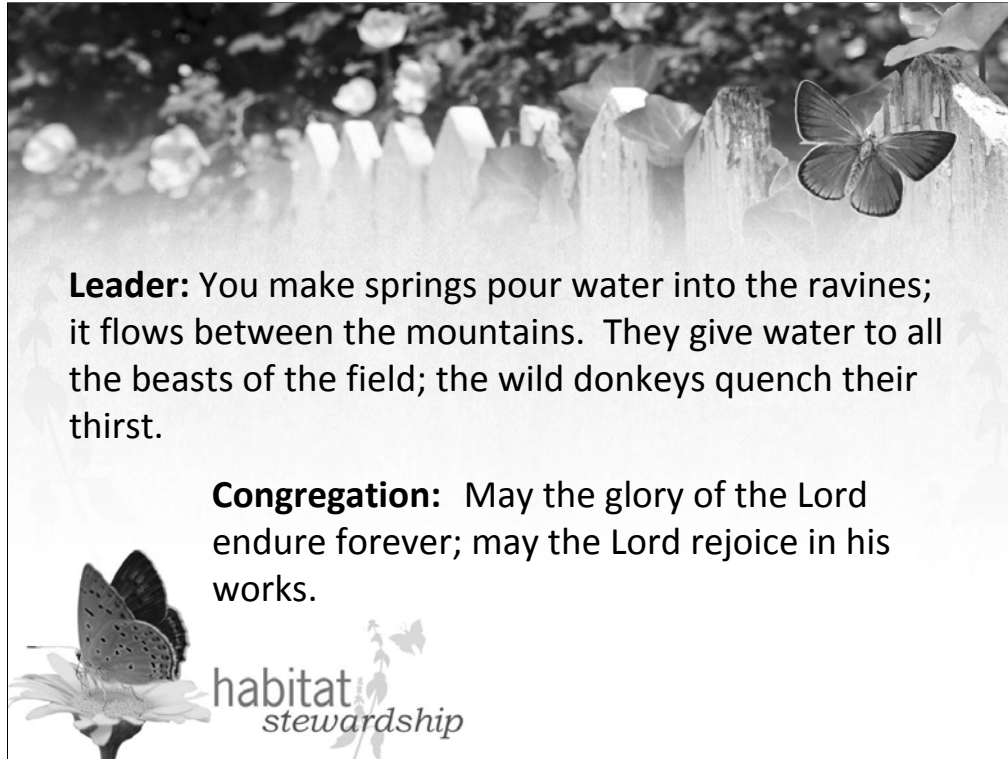
Leader: How many are your works, O Lord!
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of your creatures.

Congregation: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.



Leader: There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number – living things both large and small.

Congregation: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.

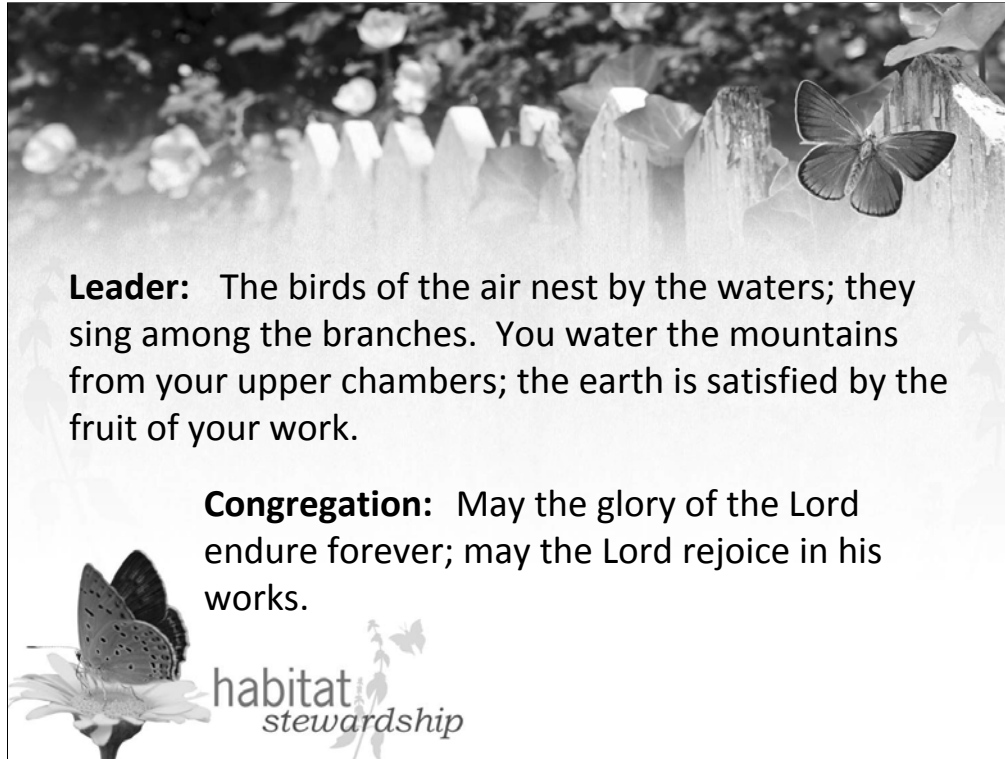


Leader: You make springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains. They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

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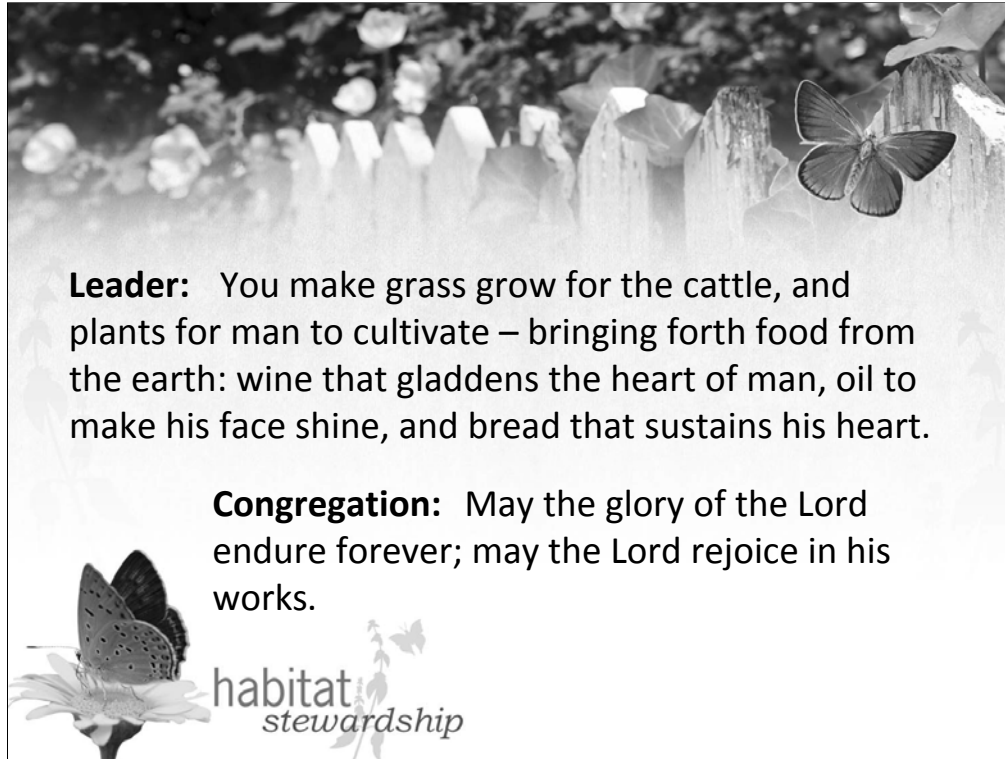


Leader: The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches. You water the mountains from your upper chambers; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of your work.

Congregation: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.


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Leader: You make grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate – bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart.

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 habitat
stewardship

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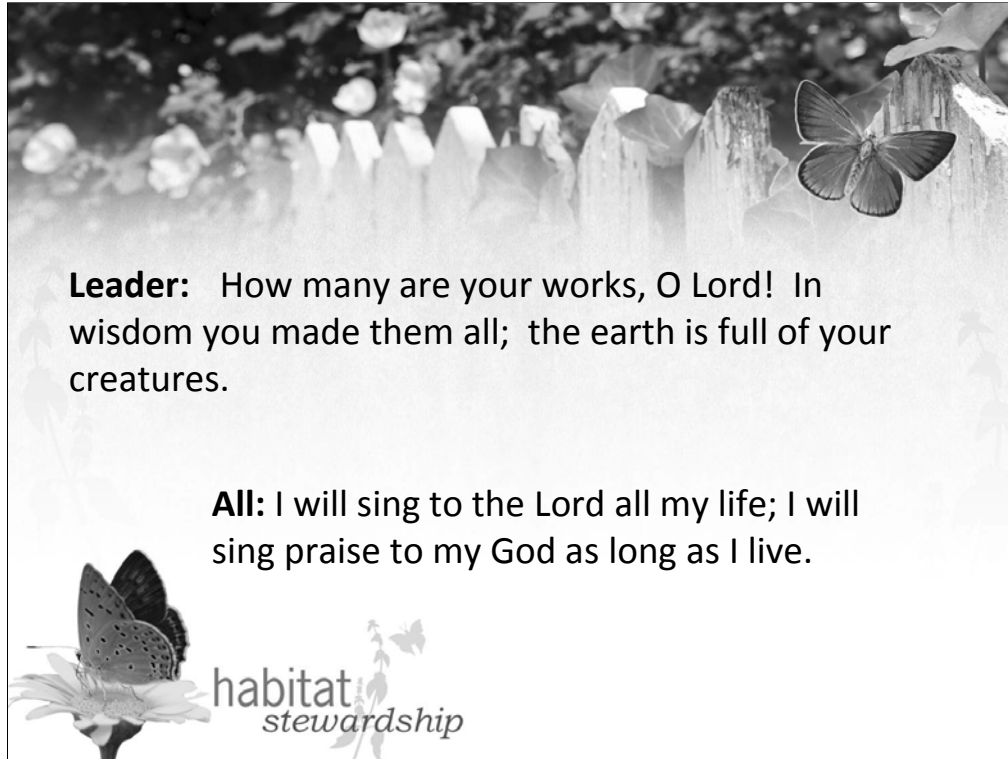
Leader: The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God. The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens.

Congregation: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.

 habitat
stewardship

Leader: The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God. The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens.

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Leader: How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

All: I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

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All: I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.



“Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them singing, “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” Revelation 5:13



Remember, EVERY living thing plays a part in a healthy habitat. Plants do their part;
they remove carbon dioxide from the air, they release oxygen into the air, they provide food, shelter and a place to raise their young for animals, including YOU.



Animals and Insects do Their Part

Animals also do their part to keep our habitats healthy, for example:

Butterflies, bees, flies and beetles pollinate flowers,

Birds eat the seeds then drop them in the soil so there is more fruit for other animals to eat, including YOU,

Earthworms eat dead plant material and their castings (worm waste) provide nutrients for the soil so more plants can grow.

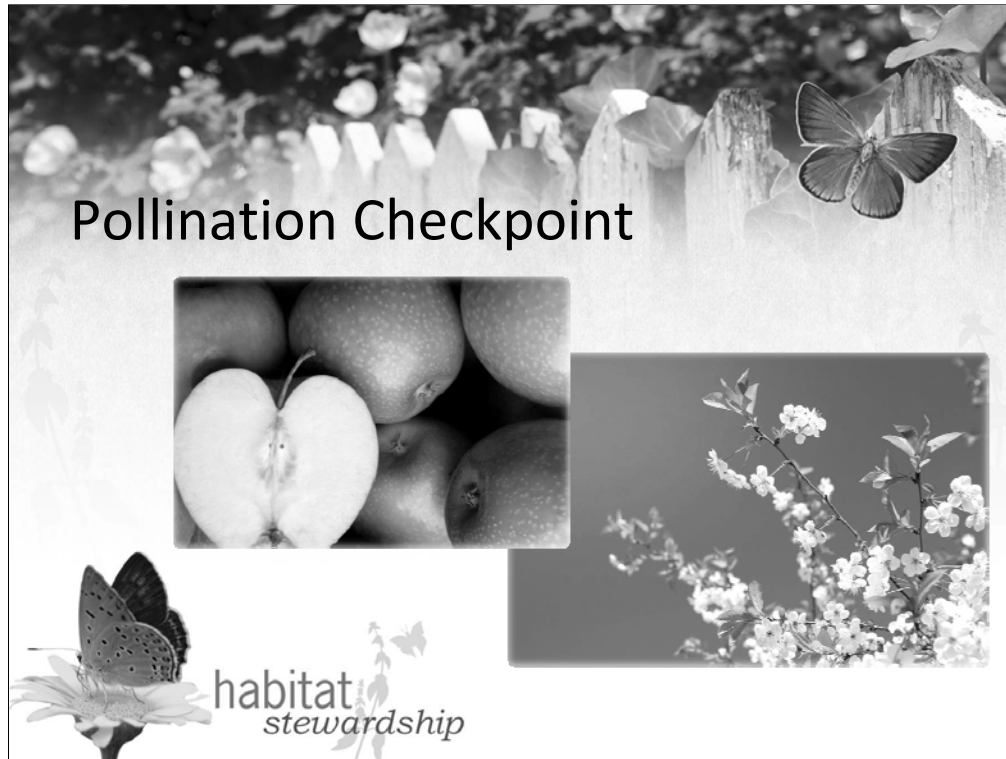


Pollinator Intervention

When pollinating insects start shrinking in number many plants either produce less seed or no seed at all. When pollinating animals start disappearing –plants start disappearing. So, we need to protect pollinating insects right? Right! Yes !

There are roughly 200,000 varieties of animal pollinators in the wild, most of which are insects.

Insects:bees, wasps and occasionally ants, beetles, moths and butterflies, and flies. Also vertebrates such as birds and bats, particularly, hummingbirds, sunbirds, and fruit bats.



Pollination Checkpoint

If a flower on an apple tree doesn't get pollinated the flower withers and dies without growing into an apple. If you cut an apple in half horizontally you will see the seeds in the middle. If the flower got plenty of pollen the apple will have ten seeds. If the flower only got partially pollinated there will be fewer seeds and the apple will be small and not shaped well. Remember, fewer seeds means fewer new plants and trees and FOOD in the future! Creatures that pollinate are important to everyone.

Photo ideas: scroll items in one at a time and leave on slide:

Apple flower - apple cut in half horizontally or just an apple



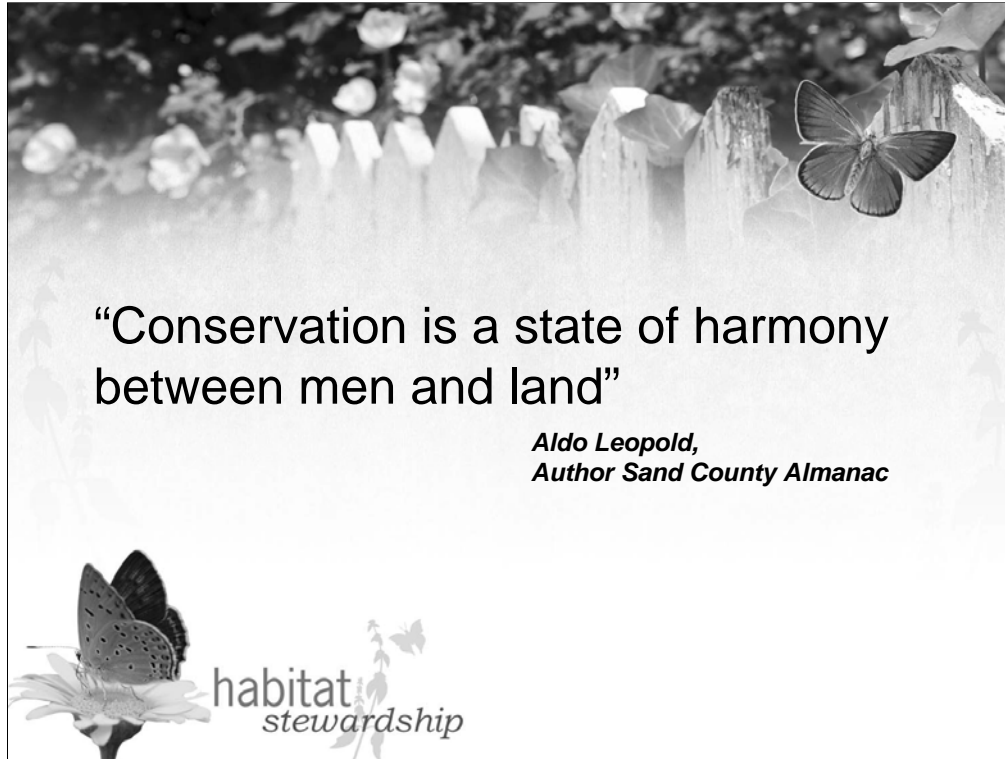
Do you do your part?

What **habits** do you have that affect your **habitats**?

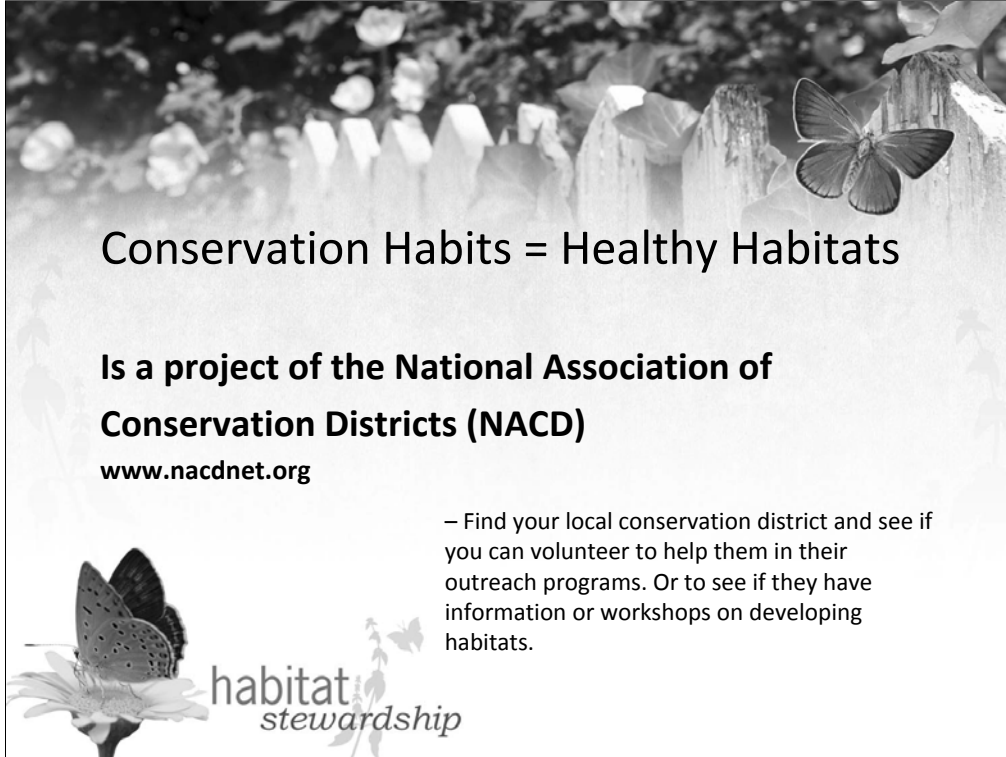


The Habitats in Your Community Depends On You

Remember: people, plants and animals all need each other and we all need clean air, water and soil in our habitat!



"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land", Aldo Leopold, author Sand County Almanac.



Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats

**Is a project of the National Association of
Conservation Districts (NACD)**

www.nacdnet.org

– Find your local conservation district and see if you can volunteer to help them in their outreach programs. Or to see if they have information or workshops on developing habitats.

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Your local conservation district helps people who own land to take care of their soil.