



When conservation districts were first established in the Dust Bowl era, they mostly worked with farmers and ranchers. But landscapes have changed, and districts have adapted.

Like other types of landscapes, urban and suburban communities face natural resource challenges. Water quality and quantity, air quality, invasive species, habitat degradation, and limited open space all affect land-use management in developed and developing areas.

Districts are helping to address these natural resource issues across the nation. Past research has shown that close to 70 percent of the nation's conservation districts are involved in some form of urban and community conservation. Districts provide landowners with soil testing, training in urban erosion and sediment control measures, assistance in tree-planting and management, and resources on stormwater management.

How does NACD support urban conservation?

1. NACD's Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant Initiative is one of the many ways NACD is advancing conservation in developed or developing areas. Since 2016, NACD has awarded a total of \$3 million in grants to 61 conservation districts in 30 states through this initiative to help urban farmers, community gardens, other local agricultural partnerships implement conservation practices that support local food production.
2. NACD's Urban and Community Resource Policy Group puts on monthly webinars that cover popular urban and suburban topics. You can join the conversation by subscribing to eResource and contacting NACD's Deb Bogar at deb-bogar@nacdnet.org.
3. Interested in learning about urban conservation topics, but don't have the time for more than a few soundbites now and then? Follow NACD and the Urban and Community RPG on Facebook. To receive conservation news in your inbox on a weekly basis, sign up for NACD's Conservation Clip List and eResource on our website: www.nacdnet.org.

