

General Information

Conservation districts are one of the last surviving programs of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal.

Energizing communities to conserve natural resources was novel at the time. Today it is vital.

The need for local leadership in natural resources management was one of the most important factors leading to the establishment of conservation districts 80 years ago. Conservation Districts were founded on the philosophy that conservation decisions should be made at the local level, CDs should have positive influence and involvement on natural resource issues, and that CDs could significantly leverage local, state and national funding sources to deliver "on the-ground" conservation projects and management that is beneficial to both the local community and their natural resources.

In 1973, the Nevada State Legislature passed an Act that instituted Conservation Districts in Nevada. The Conservation District of Southern Nevada (CDSN) was formed in 1974 upon consolidation of the Moapa Valley, Las Vegas Valley, and Virgin Valley Conservation Districts.

The CDSN is administered by a seven-member board of supervisors; five members elected to four-year terms, one member appointed to represent county government, and one member appointed to represent the incorporated cities.

We locate grant and matching funds to produce those projects and can provide administrative services for grant funds. Free public education programs directed by the District inform residents about pressing environmental problems. These programs also provide residents with tools for starting conservation practices in their own backyards.

All programs of the Conservation District are offered without regard to gender, race or sexual orientation.

CDSN is funded through grants and donations and operates under NRS Chapter 548 – CONSERVATION.

Our History

Out of the "Dust Bowl" and Great Depression era of the 1930s came an awareness of the need for improved agricultural and land management practices across the United States. To begin to address these issues, President Roosevelt established the Soil Erosion Service in 1933. In 1935 the Service was transferred to the Department of Agriculture and renamed the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

The SCS was very active, not only in Nevada, but across the nation with various programs to improve agricultural practices, water supply, property development, and research. The Department of Agriculture provided funding and encouraged the States to become active participants in these programs. In 1937, the Department sent model legislation for the creation of soil conservation agencies to each state, urging its adoption. That same year the Nevada Legislature enacted a modified version of the law, allowing the creation of local soil conservation districts.

The 1937 act was amended in 1945, 1947, 1951, 1955, 1960, and 1973. These were mainly administrative changes. However, the 1973 legislation changed the names of the soil conservation districts to "conservation districts" and expanded their mandate to include other renewable natural resources such as, "land . . . , water, vegetation, trees, natural landscape and open space." In 1994 the name of the Soil Conservation Service was changed to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to reflect its expanded role of protecting other natural resources.

The Clark County Conservation District was formed in 1974 upon consolidation of the Moapa Valley, Las Vegas Valley, and Virgin Valley Conservation Districts. In 2001 the Clark County Conservation District changed its name to the Conservation District of Southern Nevada.

The NRCS (<http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/>) remains a steadfast partner and supporter of the CDSN.

Our Organization

The Conservation District of Southern Nevada is a local subdivision of the State of Nevada with decades of proven experience developing community based conservation projects for residents, governments, and businesses throughout Clark County.

CDSN is administered by a seven-member Board of Supervisors - five elected at large, one appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to represent Clark County, and one appointed to represent the Incorporated Cities of Clark County.

What We Do

CDs develop and implement programs to protect and conserve soil, water, prime and unique farmland, rangeland, woodland, wildlife, energy and other renewable resources on nonfederal lands. Districts also stabilize local economies and resolve conflicts in land use.

Conservation Districts work for the conservation and proper development of the state's natural resources by taking available technical, financial and educational resources, and coordinating them to meet the needs of landowners and land users. They often work in cooperation with counties, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, as well as other public and private agencies for the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

1. We develop partnerships, working groups, and community connections,
2. We locate and administer grants and matching funds to produce projects,
3. We provide, coordinate, or assist in conducting free public education programs to inform residents, students, and various organizations about important environmental and sustainability issues.

A history of community success!

- Key participant in the Southern Nevada Strong Regional Planning Program
- Leading efforts to coordinate Community Gardening in the Las Vegas Valley
- Provided over **100,000 publications** to residents
- **Reached 24,330 students** through the Stormwater Pollution Poster Contest
- Accomplished over **100 acres of weed removal** at the Valley of Fire
- Distributed **3,700 drought tolerant plants** through Plant Sales
- Installed **14,600 Storm Drain Plaques**
- Conducted outreach programs to local business and industry groups
- Provided the following projects and programs:



CDSN Booth at GreenFest



10th Annual Stormwater Pollution Poster Contest - Partners: CCSD, LVVWD, NDEP



Clark County Wetlands Park Funding & Education Partner: Clark County



Zion Garden Park Agricultural Assistance Program



Storm Drain Marketing Campaign
Partners: all municipalities, SNWA, NDEP



Straw Bale Structure & Demonstration Garden - Partners: CCSD, DAQEM, Mesquite / Overton



Acacia Demonstration Garden
Partners: City of Henderson



Drip Irrigation Educational Guide for residents - Partner: BOR



Conservation District
of Southern Nevada
Serving Clark County

Mission

The CDSN is a locally led and locally elected organization responsible for knowing the resource concerns in our area, identifying possible solutions and initiating programs, positions or policy to address them at our local level. The CDSN is not a land use planning agency.

The mission of the Conservation District of Southern Nevada (CDSN) is to promote resource conservation, preservation and sustainability through education, facilitation and public and private partnerships to benefit the citizens of Clark County, Nevada.

Contact Information

Conservation District of Southern Nevada
7080 La Cienega, Suite 100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119
<http://www.cdsn.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/CDOSN/>
[cgsouthernnevada@gmail.com](mailto:cdsouthernnevada@gmail.com)

Resource Needs Assessment

The CDSN is working on a Resource Needs Assessment which is intended to bring together local producers, local groups, agencies and general public to identify resource concerns.

Urban Gardens

The CDSN managed a grant for the development of the Zion Community Garden and is working on developing resources for other urban community gardens in the Las Vegas area.

Support the Conservation District of Southern Nevada

The CDSN is looking for any individuals or organizations who are interested in donating to, sponsoring, or volunteering for our efforts.