

# EDGEWOOD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1

## **COST SHARE PROGRAM**

The 2023-2024 Cost Share Assistance Application opens April 17, 2023.

Application forms can be downloaded from our website, picked up at the District Office mailed, or emailed.

Visit our website at

[www.eswcd.org](http://www.eswcd.org) for more information or to download the application and guidelines.

## **COST SHARE APPLICATION OPEN**

The Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District (District) will be accepting applications for their 2023-2024 Cost Share Assistance Program beginning April 17, 2023, and close on May 26, 2023.

Applications within city limits are not eligible.

**\*\*All applicants must provide a copy of their current COUNTY TAX BILL and submit with their application. This can be obtained through your county assessor's office.**

**RAINWATER HARVESTING PROJECTS ON NEW CONSTRUCTION OR WHERE MANDATED BY THE COUNTY WILL NOT BE APPROVED.**

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*Rainwater harvesting: An efficient way to  
conserve.*

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## **WHAT IS A CONSERVATION DISTRICT?**

Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) are independent subdivisions of state government, governed by boards of supervisors, local landowners, and residents who are either elected or appointed. SWCDs conserve and develop the natural resources of the state, provide for flood control, preserve wildlife, and protect the tax base. This work promotes the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of New Mexico. SWCDs coordinate assistance from all available sources — public and private, local, state and federal — in an effort to develop locally driven solutions to natural resource concerns. The Edgewood SWCD is one of 47 districts in the State of New Mexico.

## CREATION OF SWCDS

Following national recognition that wise soil and water conservation use serve as national policy, Hugh Hammond Bennett, known as the father of soil & water conservation districts, understood the need for assistance at the local level. Bennett advised Franklin Roosevelt on soil health and the fact “Americans in the nation’s midsection had farmed too much, too fast” (Egan, 2006, p.134). Bennett steadfastly educated leaders that the land could not withstand this type of assault, that the grasslands had been “hammered and left without cover” and that “dusters” were not an act of God but man and would continue to get worse (Egan, 2006, p.134).

As a result of Bennett’s steadfast effort and Roosevelt’s leadership, in 1936 a Standard State District Act, also referred to as “District Law,” was developed at the federal government level by the United States Department of Agriculture or USDA (previously called Soil Conservation Service) which encouraged the citizens of local governments to organize conservation districts as political subdivisions of state government.

President Roosevelt wrote to each state governor, urging each to approve legislation that would create Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

All 50 states have since passed what is known as “District Law” and established soil and water conservation districts.

The Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) covers 513,860 acres in portions of southern Santa Fe, eastern Bernalillo, and northern Tarrant counties. This includes 23,686 acres of the Chilili Land Grant and 26,325 acres of the Pueblo of Isleta. The Edgewood SWCD consists of approximately 18,000 acres of irrigated cropland, 200 acres of dry cropland, 70,000 acres of urban land, and close to 425,660 acres of rangeland. A referendum for the formation of the District was carried by popular vote of landowners, as provided in the New Mexico Soil & Water Conservation District Law. The Certificate of Organization was issued on September 27, 1941 and has been helping landowners ever since.

## HOW ARE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS FUNDED?

Through a resolution, districts may hold referendums to vote for a mill levy for the property owners of the district. A mill levy is one mill of one third of the property's net taxable value (i.e. property valued at \$100,000.00 would be assessed 33.33 per year mill levy). The mill levy is assessed at the county tax assessor's office and provided to the District on a quarterly basis.

Other sources of funding for the Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation include grant programs that the District is able to obtain, cooperative funds with other agencies, and in-kind contributions.



*Soil conservation pioneer and Soil Erosion Service director Hugh Hammond Bennett (right).*

## NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ACCEPTING HEALTHY SOIL PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATIONS



The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) is now accepting Healthy Soil Program grant applications from Individual Applicants and Eligible Entities.

The grant-application period for Individual Applicants closes at 12 p.m. (noon) on Friday, April 21, 2023. Individual Applicants include individuals, businesses, and nonprofits directly engaged in farming, ranching, and other forms of land management. On-the-ground projects to improve soil health must occur between August 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024, with each project costing no more than \$22,000.

The grant application period for Eligible Entities opened April 11, 2023 and closes May 17, 2023. Register for the Eligible Entities webinar on April 18 to see the steps for completing the online application.

For more information or to apply visit - [Healthy Soil Program \(nmsu.edu\)](https://www.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil)



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 7

Elections for all local governmental entities will be held November 7, 2023. You may receive a more detailed election calendar from the New Mexico Secretary of State. <https://www.sos.nm.gov/>

#### **IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES:**

Candidate Filing Day: August 29, 2023

Write-In Candidate Filing Day: September 5, 2023

Registration Closes: October 10, 2023

Absentee Voting Begins: October 10, 2023

Early In-Person Voting Begins: October 21, 2023

Election Day: November 7, 2023



Earth Day is an annual celebration that honors the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations.

Earth Day falls on April 22. The day was chosen by the original event's organizer, Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, for simple reasons. Earth Day was an event focused on college students, and April 22 did not interfere with Spring Break, final exams, major religious holidays, and was late enough in spring to anticipate decent weather for outdoor activities.

It was first held on April 22, 1970, and now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EARTHDAY.ORG (formerly Earth Day Network) in more than 193 countries.

What can you do for Earth Day 2023?

- ✚ Plant a tree.
- ✚ Plant a garden.
- ✚ Plant native plants to restore wildlife habitat.
- ✚ Plant sunflowers or other pollinators.
- ✚ Pick up litter in your community.

## **HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING FUND ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

The Healthy Food Financing Fund (HFFF) is offering \$400,000 in competitive grants, between \$20,000 and \$100,000 each, to strengthen the local food system supply chain capacity and increase market opportunities for farmers and agricultural producers, manufacturers, and food enterprises. Directly supports the capacity of small- and mid-scale food and agricultural enterprises to grow, raise, process, aggregate, transport, and distribute local, culturally preferred foods to meet current and increasing demand.

For more information, see the flyer below.

- [English language flyer](#)
- [Spanish language flyer](#)

The application period runs April 11, 2023, and will close on April 25, 2023.

## NATIVE GRASS & FLOWER SEED SALES



*Blue Grama Grass*

The Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District (District) offers a variety of native cool season and warm season grass seed and wildflower seeds.

Grass prices range between \$8 - \$38 per pound and wildflower seed sell for \$5 per ounce.

The District offers curb-side service for grass seed by appointment only. All curb-side sales must be paid for in advance by credit card.

For the full list, visit our website at [www.eswcd.org](http://www.eswcd.org).



*Arriba Western Wheatgrass*

### EDGEWOOD SWCD

2506 Route 66  
PO Box 3450  
Moriarty, NM 87035  
505-832-1111  
[www.eswcd.org](http://www.eswcd.org)

### DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS & STAFF

David King ~ Chair  
Lewis Fisher ~ Vice Chair  
Bill King ~ Secretary / Treasurer  
Mark Anaya ~ Member  
Juan Sanchez ~ Member  
Bill Williams ~ Member  
Jim Frost ~ Member  
Brenda Smythe ~ District Manager  
Kelly Smith ~ District Technician  
Karlyn Bates ~ Administrative Assistant

### OUR MISSION

**The mission of the Edgewood Soil & Water Conservation District is to protect, restore, enhance, and promote the wise use of natural resources. This will be achieved through development of projects, education of public, the cooperation of landowners/users, agencies, and other political subdivisions of the state.**