



CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Valencia SWCD Mission: To provide education, technical assistance, and recognition to current and future stewards of the land in natural resources conservation.

Valencia SWCD Vision: To provide resource conservation for a quality environment demonstrated thru active leadership, cooperation, and partnerships. .

The Valencia SWCD Financial Assistance Program was established in February 2016 to support the public in the preservation of soil and water, and the natural landscapes that protect and enhance the quality and resilience of these critical community resources.



Goals and Principles: The VSWCD Financial Assistance Program promotes conservation practices which can be used across different landscapes, including rural, urban, wildlife urban interface, rangeland, and agricultural lands located within the Middle Rio Grande Valley's floodplain, uplands, and mesas. Maintaining agricultural lands and open space and incorporating residential and urban areas into conservation initiatives. Thereby improving the total environment and quality of life for all the VSWCD benefitted service area and achieving cost-effectiveness and proper due-diligence of tax-payer dollars.

VSWCD offers three opportunities for assistance towards conservation projects:

- 1) **Standard Conservation Projects:** This is a competitive program that reimburses costs for numerous conservation practices that need of at least moderately detailed planning for project success (e.g., site conservation plans). Awardees are reimbursed for costs at rates of 25-75%. Apply using the ***Standard Conservation Project Application***.
 - Applications are accepted between July 1 and Sept 30, with award notifications expected no later than the end of the year. Projects must be completed by June 15th.
- 2) **Stand-Alone Conservation Practices:** VSWCD reimburses 75% of costs for pre-approved activities that have natural resource conservation merit and require minimal planning: high efficiency toilets, rain barrels/water harvesting tanks, Johnson-Su composting bioreactor kits, hoop houses, and limited amount of native plantings.
 - This annual program opens July 1st and awards are administered on a first-come / first-serve basis. Projects must be completed by the following June 30th. Use the ***Stand-Alone Conservation Practice Application*** to apply and for more information.
- 3) **Soil Testing Program:** VSWCD offers 2 free soils tests per year. Applicants collect the soil samples and drop them off at Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area for testing. Samples can be submitted for testing all year. Complete and attach the ***Soil Testing Application*** when submitting your sample.

Eligibility: Applicants must provide proof of VSWCD mil levy tax assessment and current payment.

For more information and for applications visit: www.valenciaswcd.org

Valencia SWCD office:
Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area
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