Turtle & Mouse Soil Mates

Caring for the Land, One Step at a Time



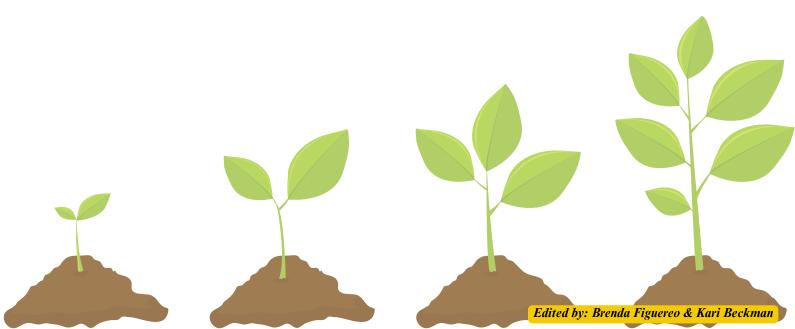




Workshop • Grazing Logic Turtle Mountain Soil Conservation
District

Mouse River Soil Conservation District

Bottineau County Champion Trees



Joint Journey



Since January 2025, the Turtle Mountain and Mouse River Soil Conservation Districts have been working in partnership to enhance conservation efforts and streamline operations across their communities. This collaboration was built on a shared goal, to better serve landowners and the community by combining resources, knowledge, and support.

Over the past few months, both districts have held joint staff trainings, ensuring that team members are aligned on conservation practices, program delivery, and customer service. Financial paperwork and reporting processes have also been coordinated, helping both districts maintain efficiency and meet important deadlines with greater ease.

Regular meetings between staff and board members have created an open line of communication, allowing the districts to share insights, address challenges, and plan future projects together. Whether it's providing guidance on conservation programs or supporting educational outreach, like the new joint logo coloring contest, this partnership is already showing positive results.

As the collaboration continues to grow, both districts remain committed to serving their communities with integrity, innovation, and a shared passion for preserving Bottineau County's natural resources.





Visit our social media:
Turtle Mountain Soil Conservation District
Mouse River Soil Conservation District

Contact us:



Coloring contest

Turtle Mountain Soil Conservation District and Mouse River Soil Conservation District recently hosted a fun and engaging new logo coloring contest for Bottineau, Westhope, and Newburg Schools. A total of 329 students from Pre-K through 6th grade participated, showing their creativity and love for conservation through art. Judging took place on April 25th, with three winners selected from each grade level and from those, one final overall winner was chosen. Congratulations to **Ayda Skoog- Final logo inspiration.** Big thank you to everyone who took part!

Now take a look at the winners list and their art work!

Final Newsletter Logo



Pre K

- 1. Logan Gefron
- 2. Olivia Dolbeare
- 3. Emmeth Kleren

Kindergarten

- 1. Jersey Herbel
- 2. Luella Lee
- 3. Atlas Bedlion

1st Grade

- 1. Henley Herbel
- 2. Eden Huber
- 3. Lyla Cote

2nd Grade

- 1. Bexlev
- 2. Jasper Halvorson
- 3. Mila Cote

3rd Grade

- 1. Charly Clemens
- 2. Sandy
- 3. Chloe McLain

4th Grade

- 1. Ayda Skoog- Final logo winner
- 2. Meadow Berentson
- 3. Naomie

5th Grade

- 1. Joson
- 2. Collins
- 3. Ariana Bullinger

6th Grade

- 1. Zurie Rain Azure
- 2. Brixton Grover
- 3. Ledger Mott



1st Places PreK to 6th grade



2nd Places PreK to 6th grade



3rd Places PreK to 6th grade



Visit our social media:

Workshop

Learn innovations about cover crops and livestock, bale grazing and fencing strategies at the upcoming Field Tour hosted by Turtle Mountain and Mouse River SCD on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. CT. This no-cost event will take place near Antler, North Dakota, with the tour starting at 2653 105th St NW and lunch provided at Antler Memorial Park.

A special rancher panel will feature local experts sharing their experiences and insights:

- Joe Donnelly
- Rob Kramer, NDGLC Mentor
- Kevin Sedivec, North Dakota State University (NDSU)

Whether you're a rancher, conservationist, or land manager, this event is an excellent chance to network, ask questions, and gain valuable knowledge to support regenerative land management.





Turtle Mountain Soil Conservation District

Bottineau, ND





About us

Located in the eastern part of Bottineau County, the Turtle Mountain Soil Conservation District is separated from the Mouse River Soil Conservation District by the mighty Mouse River. Our commitment lies in the preservation and protection of our natural resources. We invite you to join us in our mission to promote sustainable land use practices, ensuring a healthy environment for future generations.

Board meetings





Visit our social media:

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Turtle Mountain Soil Conservation District

Bottineau, ND

Services and rates -2025

	for Services Offered by
Turtle Mountain S	oil Conservation District
Grass Seeding:*	\$ 40.00/acre (\$400.00 Minimum)
	(\$500.00 Minimum Out of District)
No Till Drill Dontals *	
No-Till Drill Rental: *	\$350.00 (0-20 acres) \$20.00/acre (over 20 acres)
	\$20.00/acre (over 20 acres)
Broadcasting/Harrowing:* (In-between tree rows)	\$35.00/hr. plus seed cost
	. transportation fee
(roundtrip) for a	
Machine Tree Planting (Trees included):	\$ 35.00/100ft. (\$200.00 Minimum)
	STATE OF THE PARTY
Hand Plant Trees:	\$ 2.00/each (\$2.50 for container)
	\$ 40.00/bundle
Hand-Planting (District):	\$ 5.00/per tree, plus tree cost
Tree Tubes:	5'-\$5.00/tube\$6.00 tube & stake
	6'\$6.00/tube\$7.00 tube & stake
	\$ 1.50/stake
Weed Barrier Installation:*	\$ 70.00/100ft (\$250.00 Minimum)
Out of District:*	\$ 80.00/100ft (\$350.00 Minimum)
1.50/mile charge if site is not re	eady for trees and weed barrier
Weed Barrier (cut to order):	\$ 2.00/ft.
	(\$175.00/roll)
Ground Staples:	5 for \$10.00/ \$60.00 box
ests.	
Tree Row Cultivation (Tilling):	\$ 85.00/hr. (\$200.00 Minimum)
	(\$300.00 Minimum Out of District)
Site Mowing:	\$ 75.00/hr. (\$200.00 Minimum)
	(\$300.00 Minimum Out of District)
Liquid Plant Skydd:	\$ 25.00/quart
	*Rates are subject to change
	12/18/2024





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Turtle Mountain Soil Conservation District

Bottineau, ND

2025 Tree & Fabric Season

2025 Tree and Fabric season was overall a successful one! This spring started off kind of cool and with beneficial rains. Well, June turned kind of opposite, with warmer temperatures and the lack of rain, causing a lot of concern about another drought year. Through all the many types of weather patterns we had this season, one thing that we could always rely on was our seasonal help! We had two seasonal employees this season on our tree and fabric (weed barrier) crew: Jake Hennings, a Bottineau native, who is attending Valley City State University, majoring in Wildlife. Jake is the type of seasonal employee who wasn't afraid to jump right in, get the work done, and then some! Kyra Beckman, daughter of District Manager Kari Beckman, also a Bottineau native, joined the tree and fabric crew for her third summer. Kyra is also an exceptional worker who never complains and isn't afraid to jump right in and get dirty! Kyra will be attending Minot State University this fall, undecided on her major, but looking forward to playing basketball with the Lady Beavers!

This coming year will be our (Kari Beckman & Linda Tooke) 17th year working for Turtle Mountain SCD, and we sure have enjoyed the ride! Some days are bumpier than others, but we absolutely love working outside, putting conservation in the ground, and the enjoyment we get from seeing our hard work pay off years later. We want to thank all of our producers for another successful tree and fabric season. We appreciate your patience and communication with us throughout the whole process, and we are just as excited as you to watch these trees grow!

Thank you, and we look forward to hopefully many more seasons!

Kari & Linda





2026 Tree & Fabric season is just around the corner... Let us help you plan! Stop by the office, give us a call, or email us and we'll get you started!



Mouse River Soil Conservation District

WESTHOPE, ND

MRSCD Team

About us

The Mouse River Soil Conservation District, based in Westhope, North Dakota, is dedicated to supporting and promoting responsible land use and natural resource conservation in Bottineau County and the surrounding areas. Working closely with landowners, schools, and community partners, the district provides education, technical assistance, and access to programs that help preserve soil health, improve water quality, and encourage sustainable farming practices.



Brenda Figuereo
DISTRICT MANAGER
WESTHOPE



RaeAnn Ellsworth BOARD PRESIDENT-CHAIR NEWBURG



Joe Donnelly CO-CHAIR



Anthony Marthaler SUPERVISOR WESTHOPE



Randy Fyllesvold SUPERVISOR ANTLER



Trevor Hall SUPERVISOR MC HENRY COUNTY

Services and rates -2025

- •Machine Tree Planting (trees included) \$35/100ft (\$200 minimum)
- •Handplant Trees \$2/each tree \$2.50 for a container \$40/bundle
- •Handplanting (District) \$5/tree + tree cost
- Fabric/ Weed barrier installation \$70/100ft (\$250 minimum)
- •Fabric/ Weed barrier (cut to order) \$2/foot \$175/roll
- •Ground staples 5 for \$10 \$60/box
- •Tree Row Cultivation (Tilling) \$85/hour (\$200 minimum)
- •Site mowing \$75/hour (\$200 minimum)
- •\$1.50 per mile charge if site is nor ready for trees and weed barrier/fabric

Board meetings

The MRSCD hosts board meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. Meetings are held at the office located at 104 1st St W, Westhope, ND, and are public. Meeting minutes are also available.

Planting Season 2025: A Community Effort Rooted in Growth

The 2025 planting season was a success thanks to the support of the Turtle Mountain Soil Conservation District and the hard work of Mouse River Soil Conservation team and the seasonal employees, students from Westhope School. Their dedication helped us complete a major conservation effort that brought lasting benefits to the local environment. This spring, we planted 1,136 trees across 14,620 feet, and installed 9,592 feet of weed barrier fabric to protect young seedlings from invasive weeds. A diverse mix of trees was planted, including Juniper, Spruce, Lilac, Oak, Hackberry, Pine, Buffaloberry, Juneberry, Ohio Buckeye, Maple, and others, selected for their environmental value, adaptability, and beauty.

We also hosted a local tree sale on June 18th, where we sold over 800 trees to community members for planting on their own properties, spreading the impact even further and supporting local interest in tree planting. We're proud of what was accomplished this season and grateful to all who helped make it happen. These efforts will have a positive impact for years to come.



We can help you with the assessment, tree order, planting and installing weed barrier!























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The NDSU-North Dakota Forest Service maintains the records for the Champion Tree Program. The "ND Register of Champion Trees" contains the champion trees and the runner-ups. Nominations for the largest tree of each genus and species are accepted throughout the year and are due no later than December 31. The register is updated with the new champions and released shortly after the New Year.

When does the program start?

On May 4, 1984, the ND Society of American Foresters and the ND Tree Farm Committee began a public contest on Arbor Day (the first Friday of May in ND) to find the largest of each native tree species in the state. In 1986, when North Dakota's state centennial emphasis on planting 100 million trees was initiated, the North Dakota Forest Service and Centennial Trees Commission joined as sponsors. The "ND Champion Tree Register" was renamed and expanded to include the first and second native and non-native trees. Since that time, winners and nominators have both received a certificate and have been included in the Register.



Minimum requirements to be a champion tree

A tree is defined as any plant that has achieved one erect perennial woody stem or trunk at least 3inches in diameter at 4-1/2 feet above the ground (breast height); has a definitely formed crown of foliage; and a height of at least 13-feet. To be a champion tree, a tree must meet these minimum requirements. In contrast, shrubs are small woody plants, usually with several perennial stems branching at the base.

What is eligible?

A tree is eligible as long as it is rooted and in relatively good health. Native and naturalized nonnative trees growing in North Dakota are acceptable. Only major species are accepted, NO cultivars or named varieties. Common buckthorn was removed in 2011, as it is considered an undesirable species in North Dakota

How long does a champion tree stay in the register?

A tree stays in the register until it is dethroned by a larger tree, dies, or is removed. When two trees have scores that fall within 5 points of each other, they may be listed as co-champions. Trees are measured not more than every five years.



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If you think you have a champion, fill in the nomination form on Page 56 and mail or email it along with a (jpg) photo to the address at the bottom of the form. Forms are due by December 31 each year. If you have any questions, contact Beth Hill at (701) 220-5986 or Beth.Hill@ndsu.edu.

What is North Dakota's largest tree?

A cottonwood in Steele County with a girth of 360 inches (30 feet), 105 feet tall, and an average crown spread of 108 feet.

Do we have champions trees in Bottineau County?

YES!

1. Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). Located in Turtle Mountain State Forest and owned by North Dakota Parks Recreation the & Department (N 48 86.37' – W 100 26.96'). It was nominated by Cody Clemenson (Bottineau) and Lezlee Johnson (Fargo).

This champion was measured on November, 2017, finding it with a circumference of 7' 1" at 4.5 feet. A heigh of 66 feet and average crown spread of 32.5 inches. It has a total of 15 points.





2. Balsam poplar (Populus balsamifera). Located in Home State Forest, Bottineau County (Sandy Lake-along road by campground) and owned by the North Dakota Forest Service. It was nominated by Richard Gilmore (Bismark).

This champion was measured on October, 2005, having a circumference of 4' at 4.5 feet. A height of 54 feet and average crown spread of 24 feet. It has a total of 10 points.



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