

# Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District



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*Winter Newsletter*

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## Social Media

Walsh County All About Soil

walshcountysoil

[www.walshcounty1938.com](http://www.walshcounty1938.com)

## Highlights of 2024

In 2024 we were selected for a \$5.75 million dollar conservation grant, \$50,000 dollars in community forestry grants, and over \$20,000 dollars in education grants. We planted 250 acres of grass and over 8,000 trees. We hosted the annual banquet in Grafton, the area 1 meeting in Park River, the Soil Health Tour throughout Walsh County, 2 Arbor Walks one in Grafton and one in Park River. We also hosted the first annual Water Festival in Grafton, Eco Ed at Park River Bible Camp, and also was part of Envirothon near Cavalier. We were featured in 2 front page interviews in the Grand Forks Herald, a soil segment on Valley News Live, and our podcast reached over 3000 listeners.

## Park River Watershed

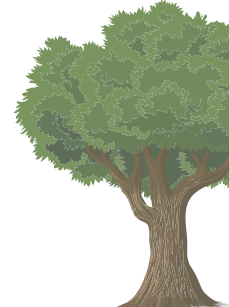


Our 319 Watershed Program offers qualifying landowners, within the Park River watershed, a 60% cost assistance for a wide variety of conservation practices, that help to protect our water bodies. Contact Josh at 701-284-7363 to learn more.

## Lee & Diane Reiersen Family - 2024 Achievement Award Winner



The Lee and Diane Reiersen family have been selected as the 2024 Walsh County Three Rivers Conservation Districts conservation award recipient for their continued dedication toward conservation. The Reiersen family began their conservation journey in the early 2000s, after purchasing land that had previously been used for pasture. They enrolled the land in the Forest Stewardship program with hopes of converting it into a forest in the years to follow the purchase. In 2007, the family worked extensively with the Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) on a Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) contract and over 8,700 trees were planted. Lee, Diane, and their sons, Sam and Joey, have continued to support conservation by handplanting 200 to 400 trees every year. These plantings have greatly increased wildlife activity in the area, with many of the trees providing food and shelter for animals of all sizes. With nearly 2,000 trees planted in 2024 alone, the new shelterbelts cover almost 6 acres of land and are one of Walsh County's first Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) tree installations in 15 years. The Reiersen family plans to continue their efforts to improve the land and foster a welcoming environment for wildlife. Thank you to the Reiersen family for their incredible conservation efforts!



*Planting For A Better Tomorrow*



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# ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER



Dust Storm 2024

## Tree, Grass, and Fabric Recap

Despite the heavy rain this past spring, the soil conservation team machine-planted 8,000+ trees in Walsh, Pembina, Grand Forks, and Nelson counties. Several hundred acres of natural prairie grasses were also planted this year. If you're interested in grass planting give us a call. The SCD crew has laid fabric around the county as well. We laid **thousands** of feet of fabric this past year.



## How to Care for New Trees

Thank you to everyone that pre-ordered trees for 2025! Trees are a long-term commitment, so it's important to care for them properly throughout the summer. Below is a list of things to know about keeping your trees healthy!

- Young trees love water! Be sure to water them often and to work with the weather. However, as they get older, they will need less water.
- If deer and other animals are hurting your trees, consider tubes and stakes. Call the WCTRSCD if you are interested!
- If you have fabric, widen the holes around the trees annually. Otherwise, the fabric will girdle the tree.
- Having two fruit tree's in a yard ensures cross-pollination between the species. If you only have one fruit tree, consider getting another (of any variety) to ensure cross-pollination.

## Services Available

- Tree Planting
- Grass Seeding
- Fabric Installment
- Soil Testing
- Land & Habitat Restoration
- Education & Outreach

## Wild Cheese Rice Soup

- 1 package (6.2 ounces) fast-cooking long grain and wild rice mix
- 4 cups 2% milk
- 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of potato soup, undiluted
- 8 ounces Velveeta, cubed
- 1/2 pound bacon strips, cooked and crumbled

In a large saucepan, prepare rice mix according to package directions. Add the milk, soup and cheese. Cook and stir until cheese is melted. Garnish with bacon and, if desired, minced fresh chives and oyster crackers.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the Walsh County Three Rivers Soil Conservation District is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.