



Napa County Resource Conservation District
Annual Report 2020-2021



3	Our Mission / Our Story
4	Letter from Napa RCD
5	Culture of Conservation
6	What's New
7	Fire Recovery
8	Empowering Students
9	Keeping Napa Clean
10	Stream Watch
11	Fiscal Year Financials
13	Board, Staff & Contact Info



Dedicated To Our Mission Since 1945

Our Mission

To support and empower everyone in Napa County to conserve, protect, and restore natural resources and sustainably manage working lands.

Our Story

Napa County Resource Conservation District (Napa RCD) was established in 1945 as a special district of the State of California to help farmers and ranchers in Napa County tackle erosion and other problems on their land. A lot has changed in the past 75 years, and so have we. As natural resource issues change, we continue to evolve.

Today, we help our community achieve shared goals like climate resiliency, water security, and environmental literacy. We do this by providing technical assistance, environmental monitoring, education, collaboration support, and funding assistance on issues ranging from fisheries to forest health, soil management, water conservation and quality, and more.

We are governed by a locally-appointed Board of Directors. Our leaders are also your neighbors — they live in Napa County and understand what the local resource needs and concerns are. Our team consists of conservation scientists and outreach and administrative professionals who are skilled at developing, implementing, and monitoring many types of projects. Napa RCD works at many scales — from the individual landowner to entire watersheds.



951 students increased their awareness of nature and conservation actions



1,275 hours of volunteer service coordinated for community stewardship



\$4 raised for every \$1 in property tax provided to Napa RCD

A Letter from Napa RCD

Dear Friends,

With everything going on in the world this past year, we strengthened our commitment to fostering a shared culture of conservation in Napa County. We aimed to achieve crucial conservation goals while enhancing personal well-being and community connectivity.

In so many ways, in so many places we worked with community members to take actions to steward our forests, conserve the monarch butterfly, salmon, and other wildlife, to keep precious topsoil on the land, plant oaks, clean trash from streams, and utilize water and energy responsibly. And the result was not only positive environmental outcomes, but also smiles and new friendships and deepened connections to our home.

Looking forward we are committed to expanding our focus on forest health, from urban areas to farmlands and wild spaces. A healthy forest is a fire-resilient forest, and it provides us with many other benefits. Forests catch and clean the water that we drink and use for agriculture. They sequester carbon and provide us with the air we breathe. They improve our health and wellbeing and provide a home for the animals and plants that we love. We have tremendous opportunities around us to learn, imagine, discover, and rediscover practices to steward our plant communities as we face a grave challenge.

We look forward to another great year and we welcome your participation!

Lucas Patzek
Executive Director



Jon Kanagy
President, Board of Directors



Inspiring a Shared and Inclusive Culture of Conservation

Achieving our vision of Napa County as a model of sustainability requires that we build greater representation and leadership by underrepresented communities in conservation work. While we have a lot of work ahead of us, we wanted to share some of the steps we are making in this direction.

In Our Programs

What have we been working on?

Provided environmental education experiences to students at nontraditional schools in need of a supportive, alternative educational program in order to progress academically and socially.

Expanded our Spanish-language education programming for farmworkers, including presenting on soil health and its connection to sustainable farming practices at regional conferences.

Provided customized training on soil health and water conservation in Spanish to vineyard crews.

Where are we headed?

Working with partners to design and offer nature programs that better meet the significant wellness needs of our community.

Collaborating with Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation and other partners to establish Spanish education programming for farmworkers in Napa County and the greater North Coast region.

In Our Organization

What have we been working on?

Participated in our state association's Justice, Equity,

Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (JEDI) –led by RCD staff who are members of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities - to deal with systemic issues preventing full participation in conservation work.

Formed a Governance Committee of our Board of Directors to critically examine ways to embed Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) into our organizational culture.

Where are we headed?

Developing strategies to increase BIPOC participation on our Board of Directors, and will begin a recruitment process guided by JEDI principles in 2022.



“Hispanic farm workers are the backbone of agriculture in Napa County and they deserve appreciation. By providing education in Spanish, we can give them an opportunity to learn new skills and take on leadership positions.”

Miguel Garcia, PhD

Napa RCD Sustainable Ag Program Manager

What's New?

Working with Growers to Improve Monarch Habitat

In 2021, Napa RCD began a targeted initiative to help monarch and other pollinator populations recover in Napa County.

We are designing 2.5 acres of habitat plantings for 17 growers, sourcing and buying plants, and devising maintenance plans. Interest from the vineyard industry and other residents has been tremendous, and we are seeking funds to scale up our impacts.

So far, this work has been funded by the California Wildlife Conservation Board, US Forest Service, and Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission.

“We are designing 2.5 acres of habitat plantings for 17 growers...”



Supporting Fire Recovery, and Working Towards Resiliency

By the Numbers

316 hours of assistance provided to CalFire and Napa County Office of Emergency Services during 2020 Fires

185 fire-impacted landowners received site visits or other help from Napa RCD and NRCS staff

45 fire-impacted landowners received assistance with applications to the USDA's Emergency Forestry Restoration Program

Highlights

Napa RCD provided locally-based, site-specific, and timely technical assistance to fire-impacted landowners and managers through site visits and connections to financial assistance, including USDA NRCS and Farm Services Agency programs.

In an effort to provide a unified, uncomplicated source of information for those affected by wildfires, Napa RCD collaborated with the NRCS, Napa County Farm Bureau, Napa Valley Grapegrowers Association, UC Cooperative Extension, and local governments.

Looking Ahead

Napa RCD is developing its Forestry Program to support on-the-ground projects and educate landowners on forest health practices. We are striving to learn from California's indigenous peoples, who managed our forests for tens of thousands of years before colonization. We are



supporting current stewards of the land with planning and implementing forest management practices, like strategic and regular thinning, that support wildlife, enhance carbon sequestration, curb climate change, and reduce extreme fire behavior.

“We are striving to learn from California’s indigenous peoples, who managed our forests for tens of thousands of years before colonization.”

“Late in the 2020 fire season, I reached out to Napa RCD for Geographic Information System-trained staff to help map the Glass Fire, which burned across the Napa Valley into Sonoma County. Amanda Benton was assigned to the Situation Unit of the Glass Incident Command Post. Thanks in part to Amanda’s help, the Situation Unit was able to staff their GIS trailer and begin to produce critical maps for fire fighters on the ground during the entirety of the incident.”

Tom Knecht

CalFire Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit

Empowering Students to Make a Difference

By the Numbers

306 students engaged in actions restoring Napa River Salmonids

3,000 student hours spent connecting to ways to act in support of salmon recovery

3 on-campus projects

Highlights

Despite significant disruptions to schooling, high school students and teachers enthusiastically participated in a year of activities that engaged students in the recovery of keystone species in their community. After completing the program, students reported an increased ability to make an environmental difference by working with others, and knowledge of conservation actions, concepts, and issues.

With an intent towards greater equity and inclusion, staff worked closely with all continuation schools in the County to meet the demand for nature-based education among Napa County's resilient student base.

We partnered with Suscol Intertribal Council to design curriculum acknowledging Patwin, Onastis, and Miwok indigenous communities, whose land we occupy, inviting students to explore the intersectionality of native people and natural resources.

Looking Ahead

We are developing exciting new field-based opportunities to show students how they can engage in direct action to improve forest health and wildfire resiliency. We are showcasing conservation careers to prepare them for green jobs in the future. As our program has shifted towards building teacher and student agency, we are working with new partners to integrate nature-based wellness activities next year.



"It's nice to know more about the environment and animals that live in my community, and to do something about the issues regarding it."

Salmon to Sanctuary Student

Keeping Napa Clean

By the Numbers

409 volunteers mobilized

2,040 pounds of litter kept out of our local waterways

950 hours of volunteer service

Highlights

With safety measures in place, we were able to bring back the Earth Day Napa Community Cleanup and a record number of community members showed up to help. Not only did the event have a great turnout, we also used the opportunity to engage with a number of new corporate and nonprofit groups.



Napa RCD reaped the rewards of our Napa Youth Stewardship Council (NYSC) during Earth Day Napa this year. A former NYSC member and Napa RCD Intern Yvette Diaz Samayoa returned to Napa RCD as a volunteer site captain!

Napa RCD began partnering with The Hero Foundation, a local nonprofit focused on getting community members involved in local volunteer projects. They are now set to host their own cleanups, with Napa RCD's support.

Looking Ahead

Historically, cleanup efforts have focused on the waterways located in Napa and American Canyon. As we look to serve a larger portion of our community, we hope to expand into highway and dump site cleanups, as both contribute extensively to waterway pollution.

We are seeking partnerships to develop community art projects that tell the story of trash and ocean pollution in multidisciplinary ways.

“My mom actually said to me ‘It’s pretty cool that you used to be one of those students and now you’re leading volunteers.’ She made me tear up a little because I would have never thought that I would eventually be in that position and I am so grateful for the opportunity and all that Napa RCD has done for me.”

Yvette Diaz Samayoa

Napa RCD Intern, Former NYSC Member & Earth Day Napa Cleanup Site Captain

Community Science in Action: Stream Watch

By the Numbers

10 volunteers provided weekly observations

28 sites monitored in the Napa River Watershed

960 observations recorded

Highlights

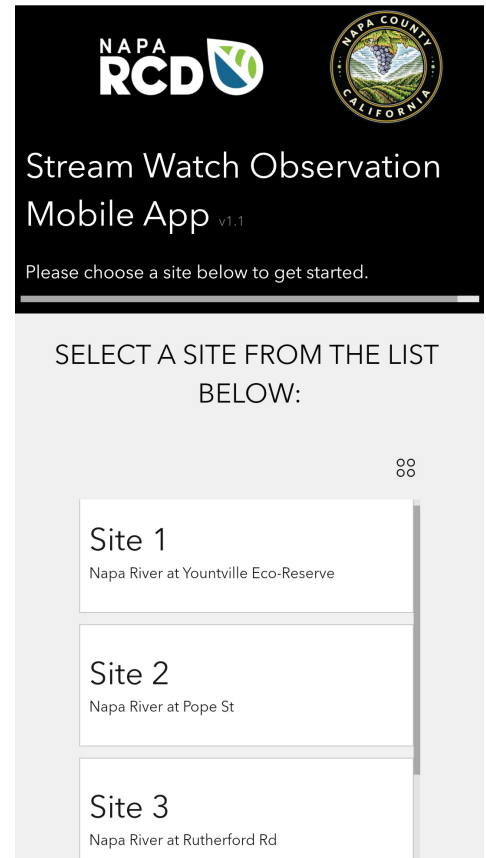
Stream Watch is a community science program that is designed to give us better information about when streams around our watershed are flowing or dry. Napa RCD and Napa County launched a new ArcGIS-based platform for the program that provides a more streamlined experience for our volunteers, and has allowed our staff to keep a more precise eye on which sites are being monitored on a regular basis.

We grew our dedicated volunteer base while still providing a flexible platform that anyone can use to make just one or a handful of observations at any site.

Looking Ahead

As Stream Watch gains momentum and volunteers, Napa RCD and Napa County will work together to determine priority sites within the watershed to add to the project. Long term, volunteers will greatly contribute to our understanding of the response of local streams to rain events, drought conditions, and more.

“We grew our dedicated volunteer base while still providing a flexible platform that anyone can use...”



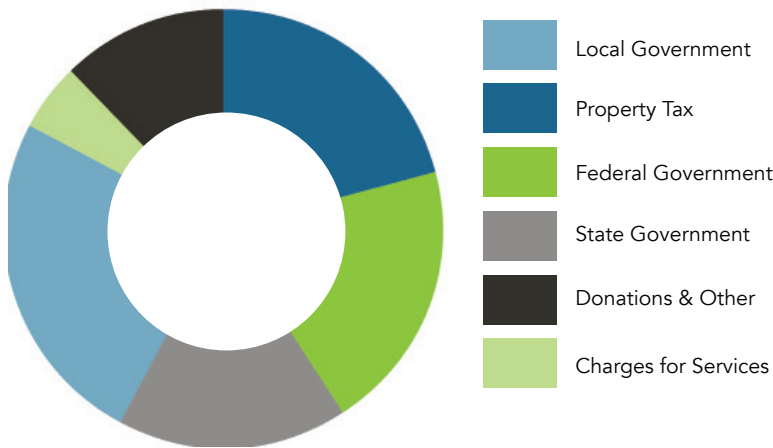
“Observing nearby streams throughout the year is a fun and easy way to get outside and make a difference in local water science. Uploading a photo and description weekly helps us understand watershed conditions and plan future conservation efforts. I definitely recommend finding your nearest site and exploring our local streams through Stream Watch!”

Krista Van der Velde

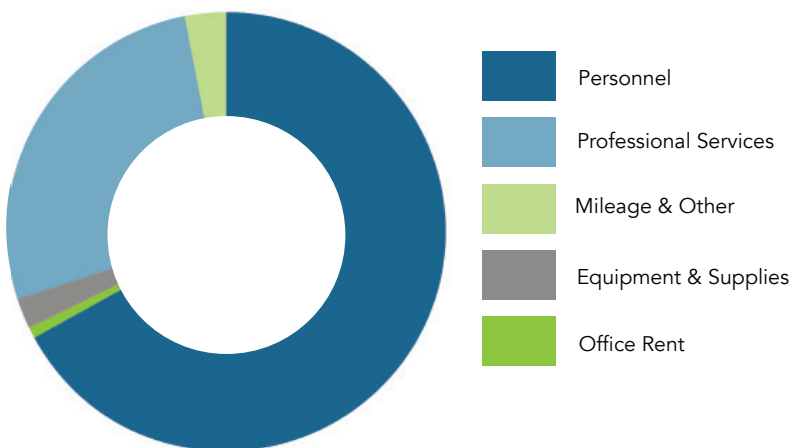
Stream Watcher and Former County Intern

Fiscal Year Financials

Napa County Resource Conservation District is a special district of the State of California and, as a government entity, is an exempt organization under the provisions of IRC §115. Contributions to the district are deductible under the provisions of IRC §170(c)(10). The financial data for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, are presented below.



Revenues	
Local Government	\$484,304
Property Tax	\$402,290
Federal Government	\$391,031
State Government	\$334,144
Donations & Other	\$240,344
Charges for Services	\$105,789
Total Revenues	\$1,958,532



Expenditures	
Personnel	\$1,268,439
Professional Services	\$502,265
Mileage & Other	\$60,935
Equipment & Supplies	\$29,229
Office Rent	\$26,000
Total Expenditures	\$1,886,868

For every \$1 Napa RCD receives in property taxes, Napa RCD raises almost \$4 for local conservation.

Invest in Napa RCD today!

Donations by check are preferred. Please mail checks to:

Donation by credit card may be provided at NapaRCD.org/Donate.

Napa County Resource Conservation District
 1303 Jefferson Street, Suite 500B
 Napa, CA 94559





1303 Jefferson St., Suite 500B, Napa, CA 94559
NapaRCD.org 707-690-3110

Board of Directors

Jon Kanagy, President
Gretchen Stranzl McCann, Vice President
Bruce Barge
Ashley Anderson Bennett
Rainer Hoenicke, PhD
Jim Lincoln
Bill Pramuk

Associate Directors

Bryan Avila
Bruce Barge
Dennis Bowker
John Henshaw
Zen Hunter-Ishikawa
Joseph Nordlinger
Matthew Reid
Margaret Woodbury
Pierre Washington
Bob Zlomke

Staff

Lucas Patzek, PhD, Executive Director
Danielle Ashton, Program Assistant
Amanda Benton, Forestry Program Manager
Bill Birmingham, Conservation Project Manager
Paul Blank, Environmental Scientist
Miguel Garcia, PhD, Sustainable Agriculture Program Manager
Frances Knapczyk, PhD, Program Director
Jonathan Koehler, Senior Biologist
Ashley Kvittek, Community Engagement Project Manager
Anna Mattinson, Office Manager
Eric McKee, Education Project Manager
Martin Perales, PhD, Environmental Scientist
Ruby Stahel, Conservation Project Manager

USDA-NRCS Staff

Evelyn Denzin, District Conservationist
Chip Bouril, Soil Conservationist
Liz Colby, PE, Agricultural Engineer
Erika Valek, Soil Conservationist
Kristan Flynn, Rangeland Conservation Planner

Photo Credits

Napa RCD Staff
Napa County Ag Commissioner's Office
Andrew Lincoln