POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation News

1680 Franklin Street North, Glenwood
(320) 634-5327
WWW.POPESWCD.ORG

Fall 2026

2026 Outstanding Conservationist

Pope SWCD is proud to recognize the City of Glenwood as our 2026 Outstanding Conservationist. Glenwood has demonstrated a long-term commitment to conservation and continues to invest in projects that protect local natural resources.

Over the years, the City of Glenwood has implemented a wide range of conservation practices with Pope SWCD assistance, including:

- **70 acres of native grass**
- **1,219 trees planted**
- **100 acres of buckthorn control**
- **3 wells sealed**
- **1 earthen embankment**
- **2 stormwater ponds**
- **15 rock check dams in 3 ravines**
- **3 acres of no-till**

These efforts reduce an estimated **790 tons of sediment and 516 pounds of phosphorus each year**, improving water quality and strengthening long-term environmental health. The City's ongoing Stormwater Assessment will help guide future conservation projects.



Pictured left: Kieth Nygaard (Pope SWCD Chair), Holly Kovarik (Pope SWCD Manager), Dave Iverson (City Administrator), Neil Haynes (Commissioner), Colin Cihlar (Commissioner), Sherri Kazda-Meyer (Mayor), Brent Cochran (Commissioner), Troy Nelson (City Attorney), & Jeremiah Day (Public Works Director/New City Administrator).







Congratulations to the City of Glenwood!
Pope SWCD is proud to honor their continued dedication to protecting the natural resources that make our community a great place to live, work, and visit.

Fall Projects Underway! *Conservation on the ground*

Fall is one of the busiest seasons for Pope SWCD and our federal partners! Among many things, we are also out doing site inspections of projects that have been completed over the years, and were out assisting the newest conservation projects get built! This fall Pope SWCD has approximately 37 new projects, 70+ new practices being implemented! These practices all have a unique job to help protect our natural resources and improve water quality right here in Pope County!

These projects vary from erosion control practices, cover crops, well sealings, and more!

As you wrap up harvest, if you notice any concerns in your fields or are thinking about your next conservation project, give us a call. 320-634-5327





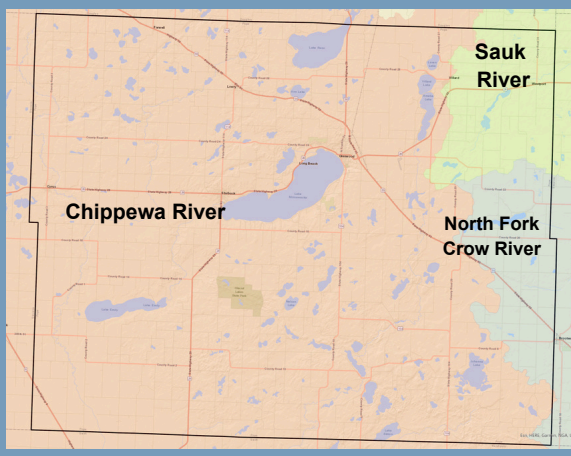
International Legislators Forum

In September, Holly Kovarik, Pope SWCD Manager, and Sheila Vanney, MASWCD Assistant Director, had the opportunity to speak at the International Legislators Forum. Their presentation highlighted Comprehensive Watershed Management and the collaborative work being done to improve water quality and natural resources across the state.



Holly Kovarik (Pope SWCD); Sheila Vanney (Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts)

The forum brought together legislators from Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Canada. What an honor to have local conservation leaders representing Minnesota and sharing the important watershed work happening here.



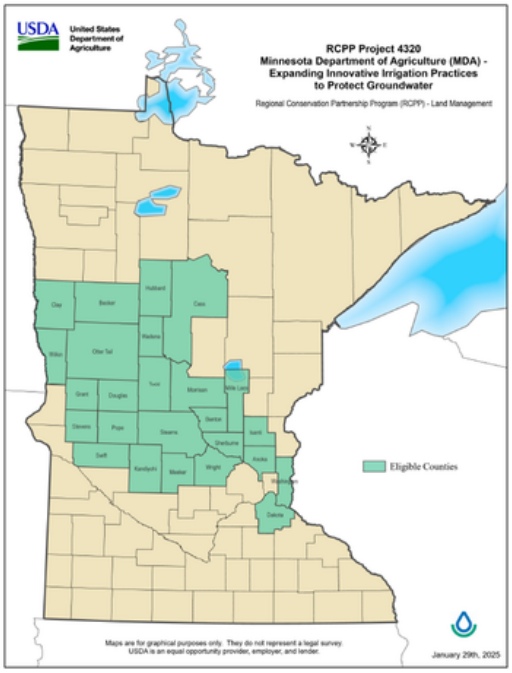
Understanding Priority Areas:

Pope County sits within three different watersheds: the Chippewa River Watershed, the North Fork Crow, and the Sauk River Watershed. Each watershed follows a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, which identifies local goals, priority areas, and the conservation practices that make the biggest impact.

Priority areas are locations where conservation work provides the greatest benefit to water quality. **Because these areas have been scientifically identified in watershed plans, landowners within them may qualify for cost-share funding for certain conservation projects.**

We encourage you to check if your property falls within a priority area. Stop in our office and chat with us for more information!

RCPP Irrigation Cost Share Program Coming Soon



Financial assistance for irrigation improvements will soon be available through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) within the 25 shaded counties on the map (left). Accepted irrigators will also receive a discount to participate in the Minnesota State Farm Business Management Program which provides an annual financial analysis of their operation.

Financial assistance may be available for practices such as; soil moisture sensors, irrigation water managment, remote data access and operation control, upgraded sprinklers or panels, fertigation retrofits, pump upgrades, and more.

These practices can help improve water use efficiency, conserve resources, and support long-term farm productivity. Stay tuned for additional program details and application information. **Inquire today as the next signup is coming in early 2027. Deadline is expected to be mid February 2027**. Our staff need time to complete your plan and be prepared for the signup.

Follow us on Facebook or contact the Pope SWCD office at 320-634-5327 to learn more.

POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

USDA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

IRRIGATORS CLINIC



JANUARY 26, 2027

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

FOXWOOD EVENT CENTER

530 W. Christenson Ave. Appleton, MN 56208

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Nitrogen Management Practices for Irrigated Corn
- Irrigation Management in Sandy Soils
- Financial Assistance for Irrigation Systems
- Irrigation Economics
- Producer Panel

Scan QR Code, or visit our website to register!
www.popeswcd.org
or call 320-634-5327
Register by 1/19/27 to ensure your FREE meal!

The annual Irrigators Clinic brings together SWCDs, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and the University of Minnesota to share the latest in irrigation practices, water management, and research.

Funding has been provided by Minnesota Department of Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC), and the Clean Water Fund.

New Acres, New Adventures: Experience Walk-In Access

If you're looking for new hunting opportunities, consider exploring Minnesota's Walk-In Access (WIA) program. Established in 2010, WIA is the only program that opens private land for public hunting. Pope County has 4 sites, totaling 291 acres, open to the public.



To use these areas, hunters must purchase a $3 Walk-In Access Validation. In addition to hunting, visitors may also enjoy bird watching and nature photography. WIA sites are open annually from September through May.

Landowners who enroll their property receive payment, often added on top of existing program payments. Participation is a beneficial option for both wildlife and land stewards.

The 2026 season began with challenging news: the program was required to reduce enrollment by 8,000 acres. However, in September 2026, the program received a major boost, receiving $2.1 million from USDA-NRCS, ensuring continued availability and support for the next three years.

We anticipate opening a new enrollment period in early 2027. Please follow our Facebook page for future updates.

If you'd like more information about the Walk-In Access program or are interested in enrolling your land, feel free to contact our office and ask for Nicole.

Thank You, Tom!



Tom Talle is retiring from Pope SWCD Board of Supervisors.

From 2011-2026, Tom served on the Pope SWCD Board of Supervisors, helping guide conservation efforts across Pope County.

We are grateful for his 16 years of dedication, and commitment to protecting our natural resources.

Thank you, Tom, for your years of service and the impact you've made on conservation in our community. Best wishes in your retirement from Pope SWCD Staff & Board!

Conservation Cookbook



Ingredients

- 2-3 lb venison roast
- 1 packet onion soup mix
- 1 cup beef broth
- 4 potatoes, quartered
- 4 carrots, chopped



Directions:

- Place venison roast in a slow cooker.
- Add potatoes & carrots around the roast.
- Sprinkle onion soup mix over the top
- Pour in beef broth.
- Cook on low 8-10 hours, until the meat is tender.
- Shred or slice and serve with the vegetables.

Conservation Connection: Locally harvested venison provides lean protein while supporting Minnesota's outdoors & wildlife management efforts

2027 SALES PROGRAM ORDER FORM

POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1680 Franklin St North, Glenwood, MN 56334
PHONE: (320) 634-5327
www.popeswcd.org
FOLLOW POPE SWCD ON FACEBOOK!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Email: _____

Day Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Order early for the best selection of trees. We can have shortages of some varieties.
You will be notified in April of pick-up dates for trees, tree products, and for grass seed orders.
Prices are subject to change.

Special orders available upon request, call now to secure your order! No project to big or small!

ITEM	PRICE	#ORDERED	AMOUNT
SHRUBS ***(All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees***			
Buffaloberry	$54.00		
Chokeberry, black	$54.00		
Hazlenut	$54.00		
Hi Bush Cranberry	$54.00		
Juneberry	$54.00		
Common Lilac	$54.00		
Cotoneaster	$54.00		
Redosier Dogwood	$54.00		
Sand Cherry	$54.00		
Villosa Lilac	$54.00		
LARGE TREES ***(All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees***			
Siouxland Cottonwood	$54.00		
Hackberry	$54.00		
Bur Oak	$54.00		
Silver Maple	$54.00		
Sugar Maple	$54.00		
American Linden Basswood	$54.00		
SMALL TREES ***(All Bare Root) priced per bundle of 25 Trees***			
American Plum	$54.00		
Common Chokecherry	$54.00		
Red Splendor Crab	$54.00		
EVERGREENS ***priced per bundle of 25 Trees***			
Black Hills Spruce	$54.00		
Colorado Blue Spruce	$54.00		
American Arborvitae (White Cedar)	$54.00		
Red Pine (Norway Pine)	$54.00		
		# Trees Ordered:	
		Page Total: $	

**Conservation Grade Trees Must Be Ordered in Minimum Quantities of 25 unless otherwise noted.

See Reverse Side for Tax.

2027 SALES PROGRAM ORDER FORM

POPE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Last Name: _____

ITEM	PRICE	#ORDERED	AMOUNT
POTTED EVERGREENS (*other varieties of evergreens available upon request)*			
Black Hills Spruce	$16.50 each		
TREE CARE (Plant Skydd Repellent)			
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 200-300 1' seedlings) 1 lb powder	$25.00		
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 400-600 1' seedlings) 2.2 lb powder	$37.00		
Plantskydd (deer/rabbit) Repellent (treats 100 1' seedlings) 1 liter premixed	$20.00		
TREE CARE			
Tree Shelters 5' height (biodegradeable)	$4.00 each		
Wood Stakes 5' height	***Call for Pricing***		
Bulk Roll of Weed Fabric 500'	$200.00 per roll		
Staples/1000 per box (Anchor Pins)	$80.00 per box		
SERVICES -- *All Services have a $150.00 one time service charge*			
Custom Installed Weed Fabric (fabric included in price)	$0.60 per foot		
Custom Tree Planting ($100 minimum charge)	$0.75 per tree		
Custom Cultivation	***Call for Pricing***		
Custom Grass Seeding ATV	***Call for Pricing***		
Custom Grass Seeding No-till Drill	***Call for Pricing***		
EQUIPMENT RENTALS *(Delivery charges do apply)*			
Tree Planter (minimum charge of $100.00)	$100.00 per day		
No-Till Drill (minimum charge of $100.00)	$12.00 per acre		
Packer (minimum charge of $100.00)	$2.50 per acre		
Rainbarrels	$75.00 each		
Raingauge	$30.22 each		
CUSTOM GRASS SEED MIXES *(priced per acre)*			
Custom mixes available upon request suited to meet program requirements. Call for a quote 320-634-5327			

*Planning and Design service with on-site visit. (FREE)
Trees sold are for conservation purposes only.
SWCD cannot guarantee survival rate of trees.
*SWCD reserves the right to substitute sizes or cancel species due to availability.
*A **25% down payment** is required on all orders at the time of the order.
All orders after March 1st 2027 must be paid in full at the time of the order. All balances due by April 1st, 2027. Orders cancelled after February 1st, 2027 will be charged a 25% cancellation fee.

Total This Side :	
Total Front Side :	
Subtotal :	
7.375% Sales Tax :	
Total Order Cost :	
Paid :	
Balance :	

Pope SWCD prohibits discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, and where applicable (including gender identity and expression), marital status, parental status, religion, sexual oreintation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

Connecting Students with Conservation

Pope SWCD & Stevens SWCD partner each fall to host Waterfest for 6th graders and Conservation Day for 5th graders. Students from Minnewaska, Glacial Hills, Hancock, Morris, BBE, St. Mary's and Chokio-Alberta schools attending both events.





Waterfest was held at the Pope County Fairgrounds. This year we welcomed over 300 students to hands-on stations about water quality, water cycles and other fun water knowledge!



Conservation Day brought 254 students to Scandia Woods Environmental Learning Lab center to explore habitats, grasslands, wildlife, soils, and other natural resources.

These annual events continue to connect local youth with conservation through engaging, outdoor learning.



Tree Open House

Wednesday, December 16th | 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Now is the perfect time to start planning for spring planting. Visit our office to meet with our technicians and create your tree planting plan.
Getting your order in now helps guarantee availability.

Don't wait until spring to place your order — supplies are limited, and we cannot guarantee all species will be available later. Planning ahead is the best way to secure your trees for 2027.

The 2027 tree order form is included in this newsletter.

See you at our open house!

1680 N. Franklin St. Glenwood, MN

Coffee, Cider, & Cookies are provided!

POPE SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1680 Franklin St. North
Glenwood, MN 56334

Pope SWCD and USDA prohibits discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age , disability and where applicable sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

In this Issue:

- Outstanding Conservationist
- Conservation on the Ground
- Irrigation Updates
- Walk-In Access
- Tree Orders
- Conservation Education
- Open House



POPE SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Pope SWCD Staff:
Katie Disrud, Holly Kovarik, Wesley Siira, Mason Stewart, Kimberly DeMorett, Nicole Brede

Follow us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/popeswcd

IMPORTANT DATES

The public is welcome to join!

NOVEMBER
- 17th 8:00 A.M Board Meeting

DECEMBER
- 15th 8:00 A.M Board Meeting
- 16th Tree Open House



Board Of Supervisors:
Tom Talle, Randy Mitteness, Keith Nygaard, Randy Pederson, D. Gary Reents