

# Area III: Sedgwick County

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Sedgwick County Conservation District is in Area 3. The board of supervisors has a combined 53 years of experience and logged 98 Earth Team hours in 2022. One of the supervisors maintains and manages the county no-till and four-foot drills and another manages the Stream Bank Trailer. The trailer is used locally and regionally at schools, festivals, and the Sedgwick County Zoo Earth Day.

The district maintains an active website and social media presence. They also maintain a Soil Stories website, funded by Humanities Kansas, which brought people together from all over Sedgwick County to share their stories of, and celebrate, soil both online and in person.

With the help of prompt and professional NRCS technical assistance, and actively involved supervisors, this year the district has increased completed and paid conservation practices by 53% over this time last year.

When the Division of Conservation funded a two-year On-Farm Trial project, the district chose The Milpa Project, which was used to teach soil health concepts. The Milpa farming system has its origins with the Mayan culture and was originally built around the symbiotic relationship between corn, beans, and squash. Sedgwick County chose a seed mix which included 40 different plants. A good water source was key to the success of the project. Greens were found to be the most useful crop grown. The district manager created a document called Salads, Smoothies, and Stir Fries to share with others on how to use the greens and other crops from The Milpa Project. The 2022 Annual meeting program was a panel discussion on the Milpa Project. The project has proven successful outside the initial one-acre plot as milpa projects grew across Sedgwick County. The Extension Master Garden, Friends University, Garden Plain FFA, ICT Farms, health clinics, individual farmers, and high tunnel owners, among others have all tried their own Milpa Projects.

The Sedgwick County Conservation District was chartered in 1945.