



Red River and Lake Agassiz Resource Conservation & Development Councils

North Dakota Rural Living Handbook



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Living in the countryside is an aspiration of many people that is motivated by the beautiful North Dakota landscape, yet many are unaware of all the topics that need to be considered before moving to the country. The *North Dakota Rural Living Handbook* was designed to introduce current and prospective landowners to various available resources for managing rural property. The guide is a twenty-eight page, full-color document that contains information on a wide range of topics, such as soil health, rural utilities, zoning, water quality, mosquito control, landscaping, outdoor recreation, and much, much more! It is done in a factual way that does not encourage or discourage rural living.

The project was initiated by the Grand Forks County and Cass County Soil Conservation Districts in eastern North Dakota. The original intent was to develop a handbook for only Grand Forks and Cass Counties but was expanded to a statewide publication after initial reviews. There were many contributing partners including federal, state, county and city governments, private companies and non-governmental organizations.

The handbook also contains a grid-lined worksheet for citizens to plan how they want to develop their property. There is a pocket inside the back cover so that counties can add local information, such as statistics, ordinances, and other contact information. Agency contact information is included in each chapter, as well as web-sites for additional information.

After chapters were written, technical reviews for each chapter were completed by specialists from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the North Dakota Extension Service. The final edit of text was completed by NRCS, the layout and graphic arts were completed by North Dakota Extension Service. The Red River RC&D, Lake Agassiz RC&D, Dakota West RC&D and Upper Dakota RC&D also purchased additional copies for counties in their RC&D areas. All funds raised were used to print 15,200 copies which were distributed statewide. The document is available on the Grand Forks Soil Conservation District web site at: <http://gfsd.org>

