

Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)

There are 97 soil and water conservation districts making a difference in your community. No matter how big or small, each of the 102 counties has the services of a SWCD. From educating homeowners on practical utilization of water to helping rural landowners save soil and improve water quality; it takes everyone working together to protect our soil and water! Without these vital resources our communities cannot thrive!



We Need Your Help

SWCDs are an important link to deliver state and federal source funds that directly benefit the local and state economy. The economic benefit the SWCDs provide is far greater than the amount of money that is appropriated for their use by the General Assembly.

Please support legislation that includes funding for the SWCDs



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Conservation is a Full Time Job

So far, 2014 has been too cold for excessive, damaging runoff that can lead to the conditions pictured at right. With the wet part of spring just beginning, however, washed out areas may become more common and complaints of clogged ditches and flooding will likely become more prevalent.

In McHenry County, the McHenry-Lake Soil and Water Conservation District worked with a site developer to help repair a large gully that threatened utility service to the homeowners.

While the site has been restored, the soil that was there before the gully was formed is gone! Where did it go?

In the background is a drainage way. The eroded soil along with the nutrients it contained was carried away from the site and ended up somewhere down stream either in a stream, a wetland, a lake or somewhere else where it was not needed and most likely not wanted. Rain storms, that are seemingly becoming more intense and occurring on a more frequent basis, are causing tremendous damage to our streams, lakes and rivers that will have lasting effects for years to come.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts work with landowners, developers, municipal and county government and state and



Gully caused by excessive runoff. Notice the high voltage utility box on right side.



Later in the fall, the same gully has been filled and stabilized with ryegrass.

federal agencies to prevent erosion from stormwater runoff.

We need to make sure that the SWCDs have the needed resources to be able to continue to offer the necessary assistance to help stop soil erosion.



Soil and Water Conservation Districts Provide Many Kinds of Services and Assistance.

- The 97 SWCDs are continually involved in implementing the most up-to-date conservation practices to maximize use of available resources while also protecting these essential environmental resources.
- SWCDs provide educational assistance to urban and rural decision makers so that they can make wise choices that will protect people and property in the future
- Through education and the various programs they administer, and the technical assistance they provide, SWCD's encourage the protection, conservation and wise use of our environmental resources to assure sustainability for future generations.



NOTE: SWCDs DO NOT have taxing authority and must rely on state source funding to employ staff to administer programs.

The Governor's 2015 budget provides level funding for the SWCDs. Your support in maintaining the Governor's recommended appropriation as a minimum is appreciated.

THANK YOU!

PROTECT & CONSERVE

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Districts' Spotlight

Kane-DuPage SWCD:

The practices depicted are indicative of those for which standards have been developed in the Illinois Urban Manual (IUM). SWCD employees assist engineering firms by educating engineers and designers on best management practice standards and with meeting NPDES permit requirements for construction areas. The practice standards contained in the IUM are



Aqua-Barriers in the Fox River at Batavia help assure an accessible construction site while protecting the river from construction site erosion.



Bank Stabilization at Orchard Valley Golf Course. SWCD employees were responsible for performing construction reviews on the completed practices.

developed to meet national criteria for standard design and are available to all Illinois citizens and entities. The Kane-DuPage SWCD staff, as well as staff from other urbanizing SWCDs, have played an important role in assisting with the development of the IUM and will continue to be involved as more standards are considered for addition in the future.



The field adjacent to this stream has been enrolled in CREP and is now protected from over bank flooding and erosion.

Illinois and Kaskaskia River Basins: The 66 SWCDs that are wholly or partially contained within the Illinois and Kaskaskia River drainage basins are involved in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The Program assists landowners by paying part of the cost of taking the land out of crop production and converting it to grass or tree cover that significantly reduces soil erosion and downstream flood damages.



This structure is used to control water levels in a wetland that was added for enhance wildlife benefits for this landowner's CREP enrollment.

The SWCDs assist the IDNR and IEPA by enrolling cropland acres adjacent to water bodies. These acres

can be enrolled in a permanent easement that will protect the adjacent stream, lake or river from sedimentation and nutrient loading. To date, nearly 150,000 acres have been enrolled in CREP.



This badly eroded field next to a stream is typical of land that is being enrolled in CREP.

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YOUR LAND, YOUR WATER, YOUR ILLINOIS

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SOIL &
WATER

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