Soil & Water Conservation District Programs

Soil & Water Conservation: To provide and assist in delivering programs that prevent erosion from urban development and of tillable soil that can threaten our agricultural economy and the sustainability of our surface water supplies.

- **Partners for Conservation Program:** Provides technical and financial assistance(cost-share) to landowners to address erosion issues. Local SWCD administers program with funds provided by the State of Illinois through the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
 - Practices on agricultural land include: Grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures, water & sediment control basins, filter strips, nutrient management, etc.
 - Practices not specific to agricultural land include: Streambank stabilization and restoration, well sealing, rain gardens, and special projects (non-traditional practices such as urban stormwater basin retro-fitting).
- Vegetative Filter Strip Certification Program: Provides for tax incentives (a reduction in the assessed value to cropland certified as meeting the requirements of the law to 1/6 of its value) for the development of vegetative filter strips. SWCD assists with certification process.
- **Natural Resource Information (NRI) Reports:** Provides natural resource information to officials of the local governing body and other decision makers. The NRI report intends to present the most current natural resource information available in an understandable format. It contains a description of the present conditions and resources available and their potential impact on each other.
- Soil Erosion & Sediment Control: Expertise provided to agencies (Illinois EPA, United States Army Corps of Engineers) and local governments (County and Municipal Government) as part of a cooperative agreement.

Educational Programs: Programming for students and adults on natural resource and agricultural related topics.

- Classroom Presentations K-12
- Natural Resource Tour
- Teacher Workshops/In-services
- Community Presentations (ex. Native plants, rain gardens, soil & water conservation, pond events (pond shocking demonstration, pond seminar), etc)
- Student Contests/Special Events
- Envirothon Competition
- Educational Resources, Cirriculum, kits
- Displays/Activities at Libraries and Schools
- Interactive activities at local county fairs

Community Assistance: Assistance provided to local developers, elected officials, municipal & county government, state/federal natural resource agencies, local organizations/community groups, watershed groups, residents on a variety of agricultural and natural resource topics as needed.

Resources:

- Conservation Sales: Fish, trees, rain barrels, composters, soil test kits, and water test kits.
- Used Oil Collection annual event
- Maps: soil, floodplain, topographic, wetland (NWI) & historic aerials.
- Informational brochures & materials: Local Watershed Plans, program information, pond management resources, soil information, seed material, rain gardens, backyard conservation, etc.

Contact Information for your local office:

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