



Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) 2008 Annual Activities Report (January 1, 2008 thru December 31, 2008)

The Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a unit of state government, supported primarily by the City-County Council with some funds from state government. The SWCD was established to provide technical assistance to Marion County residents and land users concerning the proper management of soil, water and other related natural resources. We work closely with local government, community organizations and residents on such items as water quality and drainage issues, soil erosion and sedimentation control, green space and wildlife habitat, conservation planning and education to help create a better quality living environment for everyone in the county.

This 2008 annual report was developed to keep city, county, and federal level legislators, government agency directors, and various community leaders informed of our on-going activities. This is just a snapshot of our activities, anyone with any questions or comments are encouraged to contact our Marion Co. SWCD office at 6960 S. Gray Rd., Suite C, Indianapolis, IN 46237 for more details. Our phone number is 317-786-1776, and our web site is www.marionswcd.org



Shane Otis, Hawthorne at the Crossings, displays newly planted tree from SWCD's new cost share program.



75+ folks attended the Green Site Planning Workshop and Site Tour hosted by the Marion Co. SWCD and Hoosier Heartland RC&D at the Marian College Eco Lab to learn about new green building concepts



30+ folks at SWCD Backyard Conservation Wildlife & Rain Barrel Making Workshop hosted at the Mapleton Fall Creek Neighborhood as part of the Lower Fall Creek Project

I. Natural Resource Technical Requests, Contacts, & Visits with Landusers & Landowners:

Through on-site visits, telephone calls and written recommendations, the district assists landowners with drainage, water management, erosion control, vegetative management options, and other related natural resource topics. These assistance efforts take an estimated amount of hours shown below depending on the type of assistance provided to schedule, inventory available site data, visit the site, plan recommendations, and respond to the request with written comments to the land user or landowner. The Mayors Action Center routes many assistance requests to our office

Township	No. Technical Assists Provided (@1 hr)	No. Site Visits Made (@ 2hrs)	No. Letters or Reports Provided (@ 4hrs)	No. Conservation Plans or Surveys Provided (@ 6 hrs)
Center	11	5	9	
Decatur	4	3	2	1
Franklin	30	19	21	1
Lawrence	26	16	20	1
Perry	13	9	10	
Pike	15	9	12	
Warren	18	8	15	3
Washington	40	26	35	2
Wayne	12	13	11	
Countywide				
TOTAL	169	108	135	8

II. On-Site Development, Erosion Control and Stormwater Reviews, Contacts & Reports

Following state law requirements and through a joint agreement with the City of Indianapolis, the Marion County SWCD assists developers and contractors by reviewing Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) for government sponsored projects and providing compliance inspections for SWPPPs during development for county construction sites with one acre or more of site disturbance. These assistance efforts take an estimated amount of hours shown below depending on the type of assistance provided to schedule, inventory site data, visit the site, make additional follow-up visits as needed, and write review or inspection reports. Most sites need 2-4 visits to close out a review or inspection. At any one time during the last year, the county has had at least 200 of these construction sites that should be inspected. Due to funding and manpower limitations, the district was able to inspect only about 65% of existing sites in 2008.

See appropriate table background information on preceding page

Township	No. Construction Sites Assisted (@ 1 hr)	No Provided Soils or Other Info (@ 1 hr)	No. SWPPP * Reviews Provided (@ 3 hrs)	No. Erosion Plan Inspections Reports (@ 2hrs)	No of Site Inspections Made (@ 2hrs)
Center	23		4	9	13
Decatur	17		1	7	7
Franklin	39	2	1	30	37
Lawrence	24		5	10	9
Perry	17		2	7	5
Pike	30		3	4	21
Warren	10		1	6	8
Washington	34		4	15	21
Wayne	18		1	12	10
TOTAL	212	2	22	100	131

* Note: SWPPP= Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans -

III. State and Federal Cost Share Projects:

The SWCD is always looking for ways to assist landowners via a variety of county, state, and federal cost share funds to assist with the installation of conservation practices in the county. Funds are often limited for the SWCD assistance with funding on land improvement or land protection conservation measures. The projects can take a minimum of 2-4 days to several months depending on the type of activity needed. Most of this support activity on this matter are being provided through our joint- cooperative efforts with the USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assigned to assist the Marion County SWCD. We are working with the State Fair and Indy Art Museum on possible rain garden projects.

Township	No Projects	No. Visits Made	\$ Provided & Source	Type of Projects
Franklin	April & David Camps	2	\$126	WHIP (FED \$)
	David Craig	7	\$2,337	WHIP (FED \$)
Pike	Traders Point Organics Farm	18	\$42,301	EQIP (FED \$)
TOTAL	3 different land units	27	\$45,358	2 programs

IV. Major Natural Resource Projects Summary:

In addition to on-site visits, additional SWCD educational and outreach efforts are needed to help the SWCD program communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with others on conservation needs and solutions for landowners and landusers in the county. The efforts can take a minimum of 2-4 hours to several days depending on the type of activity needed.

Project Summary	Numbers	Date	Comments
2 nd Yr. IDEM Lower Fall Creek Watershed Grant Continued	\$70,900	1/1/08	Assisted by CBBEL
2 nd Yr. ISDA Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant Continued	\$20,000	1/1/08	Assisted by John Ulmer
ISDA CWI Marketing Grant Implemented	\$2,000	1/1/08	Managed by Staff
Continued Affiliate Member Program (Seeking Donations)	1 request	1/1/09	Seeking local support
Conservation Day at the State House (staff on own time)	@ 200+	1/10/08	Helped with Event
Indiana Association of Conservation Districts Conference	3 days	1/14-16/08	Board & Staff attended
Marion Co. SWCD Annual Meeting	@ 75+	2/19/08	Reported SWCD Progress
Central Indiana Stormwater Workshop (w-HHRC&D)	@ 350+	4/12/08	Helped Coordinate Event
Worked with DPW & DMD on new MOU Agreement	MOU	3 & 4/08	MOU w budget approved
Green Site Planning Workshop at Marion College Eco Lab	@ 75+	4/16/08	Helped Coordinate Event
Earth Day in Downtown Indianapolis (visits to booth)	@ 300+	4/26/08	Hosted SWCD Booth
Spring & Fall Tree & Shrub Sales Project (1000+ trees)	100+ people	5/17/08 &	SWCD Sponsored Project
Worked w- Plant-A-Million to cost share on trees for Fall	@170 trees	10/11/08	USFS Funding obtained
Hosted 2 Shoreline Stewards Workshops – in June	40 people	6/12/08	Funded with CWI grant
And 2 nd in August to prepare management plans for lakes	30 people	8/21/08	Many agencies helped
Mapleton Fall Creek Neighborhood Rain Barrel Workshop	30 people	11/20/08	Also covered wildlife issues
Led Indianapolis Southside Landfill Inspection	1 inspection	10/15/07	Done jointly with IDEM
Worked with "Health by Design" organization	24 mtgs	during year	Active on Council & Comm
Assisted Indy Clean Streams, Tree Bd, & Sustain Indy	6+ mtgs	during year	SWCD Bd & Staff involved
Meetings w-Indpls DPW, DMD, Indy Parks, & Bd of Health	10 mtgs	during year	Worked on Resource Items
Conducted IDEM Fall Creek Watershed mtgs (w-CBBEL)	24 mtgs	during year	w-Steering & Work Groups
Continued Lower Fall Creek Watershed website	1 site	during year	Shares info about Fall Crk
Worked w-staff on CWI Central IN Watershed Coordination	10 counties	during year	w- Central IN SWCDs
Continued Central IN Watershed web & blog sites	2 sites	during year	Shares info on watersheds
Worked w-Watershed Grps-Eagle Crk & Upper White Rv.	10 mtgs	during year	Locally Led Efforts
Actively supported Hoosier Heartland RC&D & Committees	26 mtgs	during year	Including Plant-A-Million
Actively supported CILTI, ILPA, ILUC, INCA, ISDA etc	22 mtgs	during year	Large variety of Groups
Maintained current Marion Co. SWCD website	1 site	during year	Shares info about SWCD
Distributed Newsletter on activities & watershed progress	4 times	during year	2,300 on mailing list
Distributed News Releases on Variety of Topics	52	during year	30 Media, 80 Organizations

The Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District working every day ... to help people care for the land & provide a better quality of life in our community.