



Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) 2010 Annual Activities Report (October 1, 2009 thru September 30, 2010)

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 2010 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



Helped Install Rain Garden & Rain Barrel at Marion Co. Fairgrounds w-RC&D grant



Utilized SWCD Display at Earth Day & Other Events



Assisted with RC&D Green Site Planning Workshops & Other Technical Sessions

I. 2010 Major Natural Resource Projects Summary

In addition to on-site visits, additional SWCD educational and outreach efforts were completed 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
• Fall tree & shrub sale	386 trees	10/11/09	83 cost shared w-\$4,980
• Indianapolis South Side Landfill Inspection	1 review	10/15	Done jointly w-IDEM
• Helped host "Gardening for Life Workshop" at Clowes Hall	1025+	11/3	National speaker provided
• Work with-DPW & DMD on MOU & NPDES Report	3 items	11/30	MOU, budget, and report
• Indiana Association of Conservation Districts Conference	3 days	1/11 -13/10	Board & Staff attended
• Conservation Day at the State House (staff on personal time)	75+	1/26	Informed state legislators
• Central Indiana Stormwater Workshop (w-HHRC&D & others)	400+	2/10-11	Helped coordinate event
• Central Indiana Rain Garden Workshop at St. Fairgrounds	70+	2/16	National speaker provided
• Marion Co. SWCD Annual Meeting w- Annual Report	80+	2/16	Reported accomplishments
• State Museum Green Conference	50+	3/20	State level outreach
• Helped plan & install Co Fairgrounds Rain Garden & Barrel	1 prj	6/24	w-\$8,000 HH-RC&D grant
• Marion Co SWCD Strategic Planning Retreat with Partners	16	4/16	SWCD, City & St agencies
• Earth Day at City Market Downtown	200+	4/22	Hosted SWCD booth
• Indianapolis Earth Day at White River State Park	400+	4/24	Hosted SWCD booth
• Spring tree, shrub, & rain barrel Sale (sold 47 rain barrels)	278 trees	5/15	42 cost shared w-\$2,520
• 2010 CWI Presentations Project (up to 50 talks w-grant)	\$7,000	Initiated 5/24	w-2 City agencies & 3 Gps
• SWCD Bd. proactively requested clarification Rule 5 from City	1 ltr	6/21	to DPW & DCE
• SWCD Bd. supported consideration of Tall Grass Ordinance	1 ltr	6/22	to DPW, DCE, & MCHD
• Attended Pleasant Run Watershed organization meeting	35+	6/22	Watershed Group formed
• Green Site Planning Workshop with Hoosier Heartland RC&D	75+	7/29	Helped coordinate event
• Attended NRCS Urban Conservation Standards Meeting	14+	9/15	Prioritized standards
• Affiliate Member Program (and other Donations)	\$1,680	during year	Seeking local \$ support
• Continued Lower Fall Creek & Indy Watershed websites	2 sites	during year	Watershed info shared
• Work with Eagle Creek, & Upper White River Watershed	10 mtgs	during year	Assisted locally led efforts
• Actively support Hoosier Heartland RC&D & Committees	26 mtgs	during year	Including Plant A Million
• Assists Indy Clean Streams Team, Tree Bd., & SustainIndy	10 mtgs	during year	SWCD Bd & Staff involved
• Mtgs. w-Indpls DPW, DMD, Indy Parks, & Bd. of Health	10 mtgs	during year	Worked on joint issues
• Maintain Marion Co. SWCD website w- avg. monthly hits of-	9,225	during year	Shares info about SWCD
• Distributes newsletter on activities & watershed programs	4 / yr	during year	2,100+ on mailing list
• Distributes news releases on variety of conservation topics	45 / yr	during year	35 media+250 others

**TOTAL CONSERVATION INVESTMENT LEVERAGED THROUGH THE SWCD-
EACH CITY/COUNTY TAX DOLLAR IS MATCHED BY \$1.25 FROM OTHER SOURCES**

II. Natural Resource Technical Requests, Contacts, & Visits with Landusers

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	# Technical Assists Provided (@1 hr)	# Site Visits Made (@ 2hrs)	# Letters or Reports Provided (@ 4hrs)	# Conservation Plans or Surveys Provided (@ 6 hrs)
Center	9	6	3	1
Decatur	1	1	1	0
Franklin	12	11	2	4
Lawrence	25	17	8	0
Perry	21	17	6	2
Pike	5	2	0	0
Warren	16	12	3	1
Washington	14	11	8	0
Wayne	17	14	3	0
TOTAL	120	91	34	8

III. 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 conduct inspections during the construction process. At any one time during the last year, the county has had at least 100 of these construction sites that should be inspected. Due to funding and manpower limitations, the district was able to inspect only about 80% of the sites in past 12 months before the project was completed.

Township	# Construction Sites Assisted (@1 hr)	# Provided Soils or Other Info (@ 1 hr)	# SWPPP * Reviews Provided (@ 3 hrs)	# Erosion Plan Inspections Reports (@ 2hrs)	# of Site Inspections Made (@ 2hrs)
Center	81	0	12	8	51
Decatur	6	1	1	1	2
Franklin	54	3	0	21	47
Lawrence	25	1	1	6	17
Perry	38	0	1	4	46
Pike	36	1	2	8	70
Warren	16	0	0	3	12
Washington	58	0	5	13	51
Wayne	25	1	5	7	15
TOTAL	339	7	27	71	311

* Note: SWPPP= Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans –

IV. State and Federal Cost Share Projects- SWCD brought into county additional \$80,082:

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.

Participating Townships	# Projects	# Visits Made	\$ Provided & Source	Type of Projects
Franklin	April & David Camps	4	\$126	WHIP (FED \$)
	David Craig	4	\$2,334	WHIP (FED \$)
Pike	Traders Point Organics	18	\$7,377	EQUIP (FED \$)
	Traders Point Organics	9	\$27,940	CSP (FED \$)
	Traders Point Organics (Sutphin)	9	\$42,305	EQUIP (FED\$)
TOTAL	4 different land units	44	\$80,082	3 programs

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.