

## What is a Soil and Water Conservation District?

Across the United States, nearly 3000 conservation districts – almost one in every county – are helping local people to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and related natural resources.

Conservation Districts were originally formed during the days of the Dust Bowl to combat the severe erosion problems caused by intense farming practices. They are local units of state government, established to carry out programs for conservation (the wise use of natural resources) for current and future generations.

Conservation Districts are organized by local people to address local natural resource concerns. The Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District is governed by a five member board of 3 elected and 2 appointed Supervisors who volunteer their time and expertise.

The local five-member board of supervisors make all decisions regarding the District's programs and activities. These programs provide technical assistance, information, and education to assist people in the county to properly manage their natural resources.

Though all Soil & Water Conservation Districts are committed to conservation, each has its own special goals and objectives. Locally led Soil & Water Conservation Districts are uniquely qualified to mold themselves to meet the local needs of their communities.

### Mission Statement

Assist Marion County land users in conserving soil, water and related natural resources by providing technical, financial and educational services.

The Soil and Water Conservation District offers assistance in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Division of Soil Conservation by providing sound, solution based support that will contribute to the environmental enhancement of the community and region.

The SWCD also works closely with elected officials, community leaders, other local and state offices including the Indianapolis Department of Public Works & Department of Metropolitan Development, the Marion County Health Department, the Marion County Cooperative Extension Service and the IDNR Divisions of Forestry, Fish and Wildlife, and Water.

### Contact us for assistance and more information:

Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District  
6960 S. Gray Road, Suite C  
Indianapolis, IN 46237

Phone (317) 786-1776

FAX (317) 786-1757

Website: [marionswcd.org](http://marionswcd.org)

E-mail: [marilyn-hughes@iaswcd.org](mailto:marilyn-hughes@iaswcd.org)

(The SWCD monthly meetings are open to the public. Contact the office for times and location.)

## The Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District

*Working for You and Your Land*



For 40 years, the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District has been faithfully providing the Indianapolis community with technical, financial and educational assistance for their conservation needs. The District and its employees continue to be strongly committed to conservation and the wise use of the natural resources of the county including proper land use and protection of our surface and ground water. Our support is given through technical and educational assistance, erosion control monitoring and cost-share programs when available.



## Technical Services Provided by Your Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

*Most Services are provided without cost  
to the public*



### Greenspace Management

- ◆ Soils Information
- ◆ Composting Information
- ◆ Workshops
- ◆ Backyard Conservation Information Leaflets

### Tree/Shrub Planting

- ◆ Assistance in Choosing Plants
- ◆ Native Species Lists
- ◆ Planting Instructions
- ◆ Plant Maintenance Info
- ◆ Tree & Shrub Sales

### Conservation Education

- ◆ Teacher Resources Assistance
- ◆ Conservation Educational Materials

### Informational Efforts

- ◆ Weekly News Releases
- ◆ Quarterly Newsletter
- ◆ Informative Website
- ◆ Instructional Fact Sheets
- ◆ Workshops on Various Topics
- ◆ Annual Activities Report
- ◆ Annual Meeting

### Erosion and Sediment Control

- ◆ Consultation for Builders and Developers
- ◆ Streambank Stabilization Info
- ◆ Streamside Buffer Suggestions
- ◆ Field Days & Workshops
- ◆ Demonstration Sites

### Storm and Water Management

- ◆ Soils Information
- ◆ Problem Evaluation
- ◆ Information Concerning
  - Flooding & Drainage
  - Wet Crawl Spaces
  - Wet Basement
  - Bio Swales

### Water Quality

- ◆ Pond Pro Workshops
- ◆ Soils Information
- ◆ Watershed Information
- ◆ Water Quality Protection Assistance
- ◆ Information Concerning
  - Rain Gardens
  - Rain Barrels
  - Landscape Planting for Pond Area
  - Pond Management
  - Fish Stocking

### Conservation Planning

- ◆ Best Land Management Practices
- ◆ Buffer Installation Information
- ◆ Erosion Control
  - Agricultural
  - Urban
- ◆ Non-Point Source Pollution Control

### Wetland Conservation

- ◆ General Information

### Historical Aerial Photos

- ◆ 1941, 1956, 1962, 1970, 1987
- ◆ Computer Printouts for 1997 & 2002
- ◆ By appointment (24 hour notice)
  - Please provide street address
  - Fee charged, includes copies
- ◆ Wetland Inventory maps
- ◆ Flood Plain maps

*The district prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)*