

Celebrating
50 Years
of Conservation



MARION COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation in the Neighborhood

VOL. 43, NO. 4



AUTUMN, 2022

SWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Heather Buck,
Secretary
Maggie Goeglein,
Vice Chair
Tyler Gough,
Treasurer
Brian Neilson
Olivia Speckman,
Chairperson

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

Paula Baldwin
Rick Bein
Marvin Brethauer
Robert Eddleman
Mark Kautz
Robert Kleinops
Beth Mason
Scott Minor
Mark Mongin
Dennis Slaughter
Henry Wallis
Blake Wilson

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Events 2

CISMA 3
Conference

Soil Health 4

SWCD Demo 5
Garden

SWPPP Updates 6

Crown Vetch 7

Sump Pumps 8

Construction Program Reminders

By Alena Jones, Urban Conservationist

As we ease into fall, it's an excellent time to complete temporary or permanent seeding before the winter wet and cold make stabilization difficult. Heading into winter, it's critical for erosion prevention to make sure that any areas that will be inactive over the winter are stabilized with mulch and seed and that robust perimeter protection is installed on all areas. Once it is too cold to seed, areas that will be inactive for 7+ days must be mulched and have perimeter protection well-maintained to prevent a mess in the spring rain!

Our Shirt Pocket Guide has received an update! This guide offers a visual checklist of how various erosion prevention measures should look on the construction site, as well as some basic CSGP compliance information.



You can find the most recent version on our website in the resource links on the construction page or by clicking here (<https://marionswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/IWLA-Shirt-Pocket-Field-Guide-NEW.pdf>).



These next couple of weeks are our last chance to seed and mulch before the end of fall seeding dates!

Don't forget to clean the storm drains in your yards this fall!

Keeping drains clear of debris is important to minimize flooding during the fall & winter. Homeowners are responsible for keeping storm inlets cleared of leaves & trash.



Upcoming Events

Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy

Learn valuable watershed planning skills through the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy, whose graduates include our District Manager John Hazlett and Urban Conservationist Alena Jones. The 17th annual Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy enrollment deadline is coming up on November 4th and more information about this great program including workshop dates and session information is available at this link:

[Watershed Academy](#)

2022 Stream Steward Workshops

Our Stream Steward workshops with partner organization Friends of White River are back by popular demand! Funded by a grant through the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, upcoming workshops are being held on Fall Creek on Saturday 10/22 and White River on Saturday 11/5. These workshops are free and registration is filling up quickly- learn more and make sure to register at this link:

[Stream Steward Workshops](#)



Circle City CISMA Weed Wrangle® Events

The [Circle City CISMA](#) is hosting two invasive species removal events this fall. Loppers, herbicide, snacks and water will be furnished. A limited number of gloves are available so please bring your own in possible. Long pants and closed-toed shoes are recommended. Please contact Brenda Howard (Brenda.howard@indy.gov) with questions.

Saturday 10/29, 9:00 a.m. to noon at Garfield Park Art Center,
2432 Conservatory Dr, Indianapolis working along Bean Creek. Please park in the Art Center parking lot.



Cover Crop Program from Ducks Unlimited

Ducks Unlimited, Archer-Daniels-Midland Company (ADM), and Farmers Business Network (FBN) received a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant to promote cover crops in Indiana and Michigan. Interested farmers can enroll in the program to receive \$10 per acre per year for 4 years (up to \$40/acre). The program is targeting acres new to cover crops, and farms in the Western Lake Erie

Basin, but any Indiana farmer can participate, including current and past EQIP and CSP participants.

[Contact Jerod Chew](#), Marion County District Conservationist for more information.

Support
Urban
Conservation
Become a
SWCD Affiliate
Member!

[Click Here to see details on our website.](#)

Summer Event Highlight

SICIM 2022 Indiana CISMA Conference

Our District Manager John Hazlett attended a local field day at Eagle Creek Park on August 18th as part of the 2022 Indiana CISMA Conference presented by [SICIM](#). Various CISMA partners including the City of Indianapolis Office of Land Stewardship and their contractor Eco Logic presented the invasives species eradication efforts at the park, which include addressing Asian Bush Honeysuckle, Autumn Olive, Multiflora Rose and other common local invasives. Eco Logic staff led a demonstration on proper chemical treatment of various species.



GIVING
INVASIVES
THE BOOT!



Creation Care Event— This Saturday, October 8th



Weekend of Creation Care and Stewardship for the Earth

Saturday October 8, 2022 North United Methodist Church Hosts Weekend of Creation Care and Stewardship for the Earth, with the support of the Hamilton Series, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The keynote speaker will be Tim Eberhart, with North's Green Team hosting environmental and ecojustice presentations prior to the main event.

Please RSVP by sending an email to events@northchurchindy.com with the count. Childcare will be offered.

Soil Health Update

By Kevin Allison

Soil Health Specialist

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Earlier in the year, a workshop called “Get the Dirt” was held in Lafayette, Indiana with informational presentations on urban agriculture, heavy metals, and strategies to grow food when needing to consider soil contamination. I was excited to see Marion County growers in attendance. Now you’ll be able to have these presentations as an online resource as they are coming to eOrganic in Fall of 2022. Check out the presentation themes and register [HERE](#).

It feels like it is time get together Marion County growers for a workshop and networking. I’ll send information through this mailing list once the date



and place are determined, but I’d look forward to discussion about crop rotations and how everyone is transitioning and flipping from crop to crop with soil health in mind. We can work through challenges and opportunities in adding conservation practices to our rotations and have some lunch! Stay tuned.

Conservation Practices

Speaking of crop rotation, planning out crop sequences with a high diversity of vegetables can be time consuming and tricky, especially when adding cover crops to the mix. But that extra effort can

be very beneficial as good rotations can have a positive impact on production. Growers often plan successions of crops based on a variety of factors including markets, customer needs, crop disease management, and building soil health.

On the following page are a few snapshots from the SWCD demonstration garden that show 3 beds throughout the year. My goal was to produce a lot of food and to get all three beds planted to cover crops by the end of the season. ✓



Seeding cover crop with push seeder

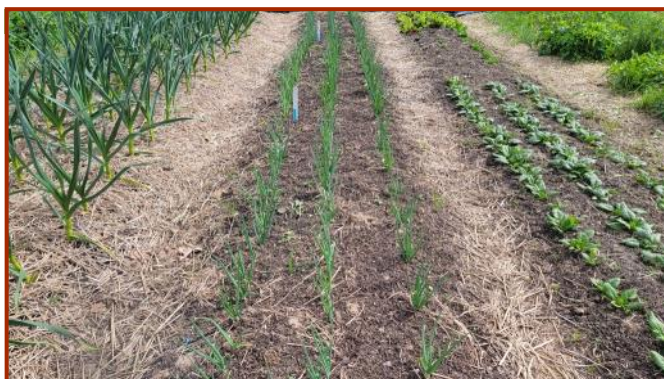


Sweet potato harvest

For a more information on our Soil Health Program visit:

<https://marionswcd.org/soil-health-initiative/>

Through the Season at our Test Garden



May 8

Left: Garlic and straw mulch

Middle: Onions and leaf mulch

Right : Spinach



June 25

Left: Garlic almost ready for harvest

Middle: Onions almost ready for harvest

Right: Spinach harvested and tarped



July 9

Left: Garlic harvested

Middle: Onions harvested and sown to buckwheat cover crop

Right: Untarped and planted to beets with push seeder.



August 24

Left: New planting of oats and peas cover crop

Middle: Buckwheat cover crop cut at flower

Right: Beets ready for harvest



September 16

Left: Good growth of an oats and field peas cover crop

Middle: Raked cut buckwheat into the walkways and planted oats and field peas with a push seeder.

Right: Beets harvested and broadcasted an overwintering cover crop of cereal rye and crimson clover.

Shirt Pocket Deep Dive #1

Using & Updating Your SWPPP

By Alena Jones
Urban Conservationist

The Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, or SWPPP, is the plan that helps you think through protective measures, phasing, and how to keep your site in compliance with the Construction Storm-water General Permit. It provides specifications for various best management practices as well as a site plan that provides preemptive solutions for potential erosion challenges on your site. However, a SWPPP is only a starting point. Often, once work has actually begun onsite, you realize that there is an issue not addressed by best management practices on the plan - or that in field conditions, a particular management practice may not perform as expected. Sometimes, given the specific phase of your project, you may no longer need a particular measure. In these instances, it is perfectly acceptable and indeed encouraged to redline your SWPPP - that is, note that a best management practice/BMP was altered. However, there is a right way to redline your plans. It is often not necessary to go back to the designer for simple alterations or removals. However, it is essential to note on the onsite plans what was placed, replaced, substituted or removed and what, if anything, it was replaced with. In addition, include who authorized the change and the date it was made. This can be as simple as notes made with a Sharpie and highlighter directly on the plans. An inspector

simply needs to be able to read the notes and be able to use them to field-verify the new conditions. The SWCD is always available to provide technical assistance if you are unsure whether the SWPPP alterations require a formal redlining update from the designer, or whether simple field notes will suffice.

Phasing is another key aspect of using your SWPPP. Not all management practices will be required at all phases of the project. There are generally sequencing notes on the SWPPP that provide guidance as to the order of measure installation and what triggers installing various measures. However, this sequence should always be assessed and, if necessary, adjusted in the Storm Water Quality Control Plan. Depending on the particular site conditions, sequencing may need to be adjusted to prevent damage to erosion control measures prior to significant land disturbance. If something seems like an odd order or like it may not work, don't be afraid to speak up and ask for a change!



For a more information on controlling erosion on construction sites visit our website:

<https://marionswcd.org/construction/>



Invasive Highlight — *Crown Vetch*

There are many plants which have been brought to the United States in the hope that they would help to solve problems or provide benefits for landowners. Unfortunately some of these plants have become a nuisance as they take over large areas and displace valuable native vegetation. Such is the story of Crown Vetch.

Crown Vetch (*Coronilla vfaria*) is a legume that came from southern Europe in the 1950's. It was widely recommended and used for erosion control especially on steep slopes which were difficult to protect. But it was quickly found to spread into adjacent natural areas. It spreads by seed and by rhizomes. It is especially bad when it invades dunes and native prairies. The problem with this plant is that it shades out and smothers all native vegetation.

Crown Vetch prefers open sunny areas. It was planted widely along highway rights-of-way so it is very common in all Indiana counties. It is tolerant to very cold and hot weather, to drought and to periods of heavy precipitation so it will grow anywhere. Control is achieved with 2-4-D amine foliar spray in the spring or with Glyphosate or Triclopyr in the summer. Always follow label directions when using herbicides.



WETLAND EASEMENT COMPENSATION RATES ANTICIPATED TO INCREASE

The anticipated 2023 Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARC) rates for Indiana have been released and its good news for Indiana residents considering enrolling eligible land into the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program's Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation (NRCS). GARC rates are the per acre compensation ranges a landowner will receive in return for enrolling his or her land into ACEP-WRE.

The GARC rates from Indiana NRCS are anticipated to raise significantly for this year to match the rising cost of the fair market value of land. While applications are accepted continuously throughout the year, work with Jerod Chew, our NRCS District Conservationist, to have your application in by Nov. 15 to be eligible for this round of funding. Call (317) 745-2555 to talk to Jerod about this opportunity.





MARION COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
—CONSERVATION DISTRICT—

1200 S. Madison Ave., Suite 200
Indianapolis, IN 46225

Phone: 317-786-1776

Find us on the web: www.marionswcd.org

The Mission of the Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District is to assist Marion County land users in conserving soil, water, and related natural resources by providing technical, financial and educational services.

**** PLEASE NOTE****

SWCD staff work in the office, remotely, and in the field.

To reach us, email marioncountyswcd@iaswcd.org, utilize our website's 'Contact' tab, or call 317-786-1776 to leave a message when staff members are not in the office.

Proper Sump Pump Discharge

By Julie Farr
Resource Conservationist

Unfortunately, many homes in Marion County have been built in soil types with a seasonally high groundwater table. These homes usually have sump pumps to pump groundwater from crawlspaces and basements. Problems arise in the autumn when the groundwater rises, and sump pumps start unloading a large quantity of water. Where should this water go?

First off, you will want to outlet the water far enough away from the house so that the water is not recirculated back to the crawlspace or basement – at least 10 feet away from your foundation. It is illegal to pipe the water to the curb or sidewalk as it can cause traffic or pedestrian hazards in the winter when the water freezes. You will also want to be sure that you do not take the water where it will drain and stand on neighboring properties.

Proper outlets for sump pump water include backyard drainage swales, roadside ditches, creeks, or, if permission is granted, water can be drained to a storm sewer. As many of your neighbors may also have



Discharging sump pumps to the curb is illegal & creates a safety hazard.

sump pumps, working with them to install drainage tiles can help solve many problems with one joint project by providing an outlet for the block. Our website contains [fact sheets](#) on improving surface and subsurface drainage around your home which may help to decrease the amount of water entering your crawl space. Contact the SWCD for assistance in coordinating a neighborhood group project.



Follow us on
Facebook!



SWCD Staff

John Hazlett,
District Manager

Kevin Allison,
Urban Soil Health
Specialist

Alena Jones, Urban
Conservationist

Julie Farr,
Resource
Conservationist, PT

Jerod Chew,
NRCS District
Conservationist

