

Celebrating
50 Years
of Conservation



MARION COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation in the Neighborhood

VOL. 44, NO. 3



SUMMER, 2023

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Major Project Updates

By John Hazlett, District Manager

This April our district was thrilled to receive official approval from US EPA and IDEM for our recently updated Lower Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan, a two year plus process! The next step will be to apply for implementation funds through IDEM's competitive 319 grant program this fall. Read the approved plan update at this [link](#).

District Manager John Hazlett is leading the water subcommittee for the 2024 NBA All Star Game Host Committee's Sustainability Committee. Stay tuned for more project updates as we work to green the 2024 All Star Game and showcase Indy's sustainability efforts!

Speaking of water, our district recently contributed to a [piece in the Indy Star](#) about rain barrels.

Thanks to our state legislature and the various conservation partners who made the substantial increase to Clean Water Indiana fund possible in the recent legislative session. Our district is excited to put together an application for the 2024 Clean Water Indiana competitive grants and is considering applying for funds for an invasive plant technician to conduct resident invasive plant surveys as well as serve as a coordinator for the local Circle City CISMA. Please [let us know](#) if you are potentially interested in an invasives



survey so we can show local support for this position in the grant application.

Read About Our Farmstead Field Trip!

Read about the Indiana Growers Trip to Rough Draft Farmstead in Kentucky with Jesse Frost, organized by the Marion County SWCD and IASWCD's Urban Soil Health.

Read it on
Our BLOG

Successful Spring Workshops

This past Spring has kept our district and partners busy with multiple workshops teaching residents on water quality and how their actions can help improve local water resources. Below is a summary of recent workshop highlights



April 13th Brendonwood HOA Stream Workshop-several residents turned out for an early evening workshop at this beautiful neighborhood bordering Fall Creek. The residents even gave a tour of their local native nursery where trees and shrubs are growing for future projects.



April 15th Stream Steward Workshop-held with Friends of White River at Oliver's Woods property owned and operated by Central Indiana Land Trust.



May 9th Rain Barrel Workshop-held across from the Parks Alliance HQ building in the Riverside neighborhood with Reconnecting to Our Waterways (ROW), residents took home free rain barrels to install at their homes.

June 17th Stream Steward Workshop -this workshop was the final one held for our second year of the Stream Stewards program funded by Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. Held at Spirit Lake in Broad Ripple, it was a beautiful morning that paid a fitting tribute to the late Mary Durkin.

Support
Urban
Conservation
Become a
SWCD Affiliate
Member!

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

Thank You & Best Wishes Alena!

After nearly three years serving the district as Urban Conservationist, Alena Jones is taking a new position with Indiana Conservation Voters working on conservation advocacy in the state.

We can't thank Alena enough for her contributions to the City of Indianapolis' construction site erosion and sediment control program. From reviewing SWPPPs to countless site inspections and quick delivery of succinct reports, Alena helped improve the program in countless ways, especially during the transition from IDEM Rule 5 to the current Construction Stormwater General Permit. In 2021 and 2022 alone, Alena conducted over 900 site inspections and reviewed 59 SWPPPs. We will miss Alena and are thankful for her service. We're glad she's staying in the Hoosier state!



Soil Health Focus With Kevin Allison

Workshops

Thanks to everyone who came out for spring workshops at the SWCD Demonstration Garden! I want to keep the up momentum with more workshops. Its beneficial to see the garden change and progress through the season. These garden tours are focused on soil health, no-till vegetables, cover crops, mulching, crop rotation, compost, fertility, and native plantings for beneficial insects and pollinators. Join us! All are welcome.



Upcoming Session: **July 11:** 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

[Register Here](#)

Library Presentations

Join me for presentations on Soil Health, Cover Crops, and No-Till Gardening in Partnership with the Indianapolis Public Library.

Glendale Branch

Friday, July 14, 2023, 2:00 PM

[REGISTER](#)

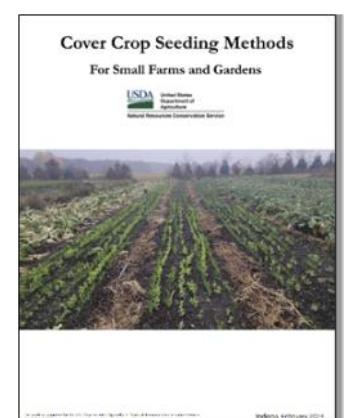
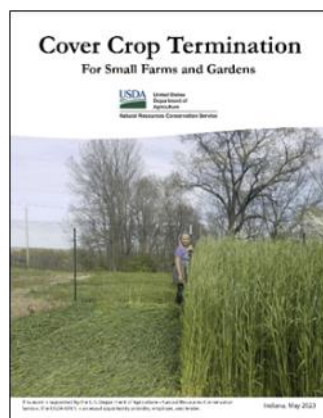
Beech Grove Branch

Monday, August 14, 2023, 6:00 PM

[REGISTER](#)

New Resources

Check out these [new PDF guides](#) on cover crop seeding methods and termination. Find them on our Soil Health Guide webpage under the cover crop section. Let us know if you have any feedback or questions!





Alena Jones moderates a session at the MS4 Partnership Meeting



Pond weeds & algae blooms—common summer pond problems

Check our Blog for current topics and SWCD activities:

[BLOG POSTS](#)

Annual MS4 Partnership Meeting

A Success!

By Alena Jones, Urban Conservationist

In mid-May, the District, with representatives from both staff and board, attended the Indiana MS4 Partnership Annual Meeting. This yearly conference provides education and networking opportunities to stormwater professionals in Indiana. The District's urban conservationist, Alena Jones, moderated a session on how MS4s and SWCDs across the state can and do work together. The session included a case study on how the City of Indianapolis MS4 works with the Marion County Health Department, the Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District, and the City of Indianapolis Department of Business and Neighborhood Services to ensure compliance with the city's

MS4 permit. IDEM's stormwater specialist Rob Beck described the survey results covering how SWCDs across the state assist municipalities and state agencies with stormwater compliance. Elkhart County SWCD provided examples of how their District has become a linchpin of conservation cooperation in their area.

The District's time at the annual meeting was an excellent opportunity to connect with colleagues while learning about innovations and initiatives to improve stormwater care and compliance across the state.

Alena serves on the board of the MS4 Partnership, which plans events throughout the year.

Save the Date! Pond Management Workshop - September 7th

The Marion County SWCD is planning a pond management workshop for the evening of Thursday, September 7th. This workshop will cover many topics that pond owners, management companies and HOAs deal with on a regular basis. We will have expert advice on erosion control, excessive pond weeds and algae control, nuisance wildlife issues, water quality, fish stocking and management.

You will be able to bring samples of your problem pond weeds for identification and treatment recommendations. In addition, you will be able to order fish for pond stocking from Clear Creek Fish Hatchery with a part of the proceeds from the sale going to our SWCD to further promote and provide conservation assistance to Marion County residents.

Watch our website and your email for further information.

Find Summer Fun on the New DNR App

Looking for summer fun close to home? Our Indiana State Parks make great destinations for the whole family. Now you can use your smartphone to find the perfect spot. The upgraded, free smartphone app of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is available now to help you maximize your enjoyment of the outdoor recreation the DNR offers in the Hoosier state.

Although there are many options in app stores about DNR recreation, the information in the DNR app comes straight from the source. The app is available to iPhone and Android users and is also formatted for use on tablets like iPad and Galaxy Tab. Returning users will notice that the app has been completely rebuilt on a new platform for better device compatibility, featuring a new interface, better maps, more content, and the ability to receive notifications.

“Our DNR team is continuously looking for ways to improve our guests’ experience at our properties across the state,” said Dan Bortner, DNR director. “With this new app, finding a campsite, a trail, or your new favorite fishing hole is now even easier while you’re on the go. Whether you’re new or seasoned in outdoor recreation, this is an app you’ll definitely want to download.”

This is the third major rewrite of the app, which was first launched in 2010. To install, search the app store for Indiana DNR, where you’ll see the DNR logo in the icon.



More details on how to install are at on.IN.gov/dnr-apps.

“We are thrilled to partner with the Department of Natural Resources to provide a new channel of communication for their customers across the state,” said Andrew Hoff, general manager of Tyler Indiana. “DNR’s innovative implementation of the MyCivic platform is one of the first in the nation and will allow the agency to keep outdoor enthusiasts updated with the latest information and important alerts.”

While downloading this app, you may also be interested in downloading the [Indiana State Nature Passport](#) from Visit Indiana, which allows users to collect check-ins at DNR properties to exchange for prizes.



MARION COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER
—CONSERVATION DISTRICT—

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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.

Stop That Dirt!

It's summer and construction sites are in full swing! Controlling erosion while the soil is bare is very important. Helping developers keep sediment on site is an important aspect of our work at the Soil & Water Conservation District.

Our website contains information for developers on how to stay in compliance and our shirt pocket field guide can be used as a quick reference of erosion control practices for those working on construction sites. More detailed information can be found in the Indiana Storm Water Quality Manual.

The public can help us by letting us know when they see off site erosion problems such as a lot of sediment being tracked onto the public roads or sediment washing into ditches or streams. Catching these problems early can help minimize the most prevalent pollutant problem in Indiana's surface waters by volume.



Sediment clogs drainageways, pollutes surface water and is detrimental to wildlife.

Join our Stop That Dirt Erosion Watch Campaign! Visit our Website for more information.



Follow us on
Facebook!



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