

McHENRY-LAKE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



1648 S. Eastwood Dr. Woodstock, Illinois 60098 (815) 338-0444 ext. 3 www.mchenryswcd.org

Getting to Know Your McHenry-Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District

Our history and mission statement:

The McHenry County SWCD was formed in 1947 under the "Soil and Water Conservation Districts Act" of 1937. This act specifically states that it is "in the public interest to provide (a) for the conservation of soil, soil resources, water and water resources in the State, (b) for the control and prevention of soil erosion, (c) for the prevention of air and water pollution, and (d) for the prevention of erosion, floodwater and sediment damages, and thereby to conserve natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors, conserve wildlife and forests ..."

The Act goes on to indicate that the State finds "that rapid shifts in land use from agricultural to nonagricultural uses, ... have accelerated the process of soil erosion and sediment deposition resulting in pollution of the waters of the State." It is the SWCD's charge through this Act to assist in conserving and protecting the land, water, air and other resources of the State.

On November 8, 2011, the McHenry County SWCD and the Lake County SWCD merged and were renamed the McHenry-Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Programs:

To accomplish our mission we partner with Federal, state, county, and private sectors, including many local environmental groups. Through these partnerships we bring in additional dollars to the county. Some of the many services we provide include:

- Providing local farmers and landowners with technical assistance which protect and improve soil & water quality.
- Implementation of the State of Illinois' Partners for Conservation Cost Share program which provides dollars to agricultural producers and landowners to establish conservation practices. These practices include cover crops, pollinator plantings, conservation tillage, and others. Cover crops are prioritized as they improve soil health, reduce soil erosion and nutrient runoff while protecting water quality and quantity. Overtime cover crops can be a cost-effective solution for farmers by reducing input costs and increasing profits.
- Assisting Municipal and County Departments of Planning and Development with natural resource information for zoning changes, and with the implementation of the wetland provisions and erosion & sediment control requirements of the McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance.

- Assisting the McHenry County Highway Department with Erosion & Sediment Control Plan reviews and inspections to ensure compliance with Federal, State and County laws.
- Assisting individuals with resource planning for their home and properties, including assessing a property's capabilities and limitations prior to purchasing.
- Providing fish stocking and native trees to all residents of the county at reasonable prices through our annual fish and tree sales.
- Providing adult and youth educational programming in soil and water quality. We are the coordinator of the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon Competition. This is a high school competition where teams of 5 compete in the areas of Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife, and a Current Topic. Winners move on to the state and eventually nationals where they compete against teams from all over the US, Canada, and China for scholarships.

Staff:

We have 2 full-time staff members and 1 part-time staff member. Our 2 full-time staff certifications include: McHenry County Certified Wetland Specialists, Certified Professional in Erosion Sediment Control In Training (CPESC-IT), USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service - Certified Planner Apprentice, and Designated Erosion Control Inspectors (DECI).

Location:

We are co-located with the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA), 1648 S. Eastwood Dr., Woodstock, IL. Because of this co-location we are often confused with our Federal Partners. However, we have no role in Federal agricultural program compliance or programming. All wetland and highly erodible compliance (HEL) are conducted at a state NRCS/FSA level. We are happy to assist with questions and steer you through the process and to the right contacts.

Additionally, we own a storage facility at 2222 Dean St., Woodstock, IL. This site is utilized for tree/fish sales, Boy Scout Troop meetings, 4-H meetings, 4-H Just Wing It bee hives, Soil Judging Contests, Youth Groundwater Festivals, building contractor meetings, and more!

Our efforts help protect prime farm soil, add to McHenry and Lake County's quality of life, and protect our water supplies.

Feel free to contact us for more information:

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