



Grass Roots for Conservation



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www.elkcoswcd.org

Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District

59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN 46517 ~ Phone: (574) 523-2030 – jhess@elkhartcounty.com

Storm Water Alliance Management Program (SWAMP)

Administered by the Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Elkhart County Surveyor.

What is the Storm Water Alliance Management Program?

The Storm Water Alliance Management Program (SWAMP) was established to provide financial assistance to landowners in order to implement conservation practices that reduce non-point source water pollution, especially sediment erosion, into waterways in Elkhart County.

SWAMP is a cost-share program assisting with up to 75% of the total cost of the project. Conservation practices implemented through the program must remain functional on the land for 5 years.

Cost-share is available for the following Conservation practices:

- Blind Inlets:** \$59.00 per square foot
- Cover Crops:** \$30.00 per acre
- Filter Strips:** \$553.00 per acre
- Grassed Waterway:** \$2350.00 per acre
- Exclusion Fencing:** \$1.20 per foot

If you have any questions about the Storm Water Alliance Management Program cost-share in Elkhart County or other conservation practices you want to implement on your land, don't hesitate to contact us!

Elkhart County SWCD

Office Phone: (574) 523-2030;
Email: Jim Hess, District Manager
jhess@elkhartcounty.com
Website: www.elkcoswcd.org

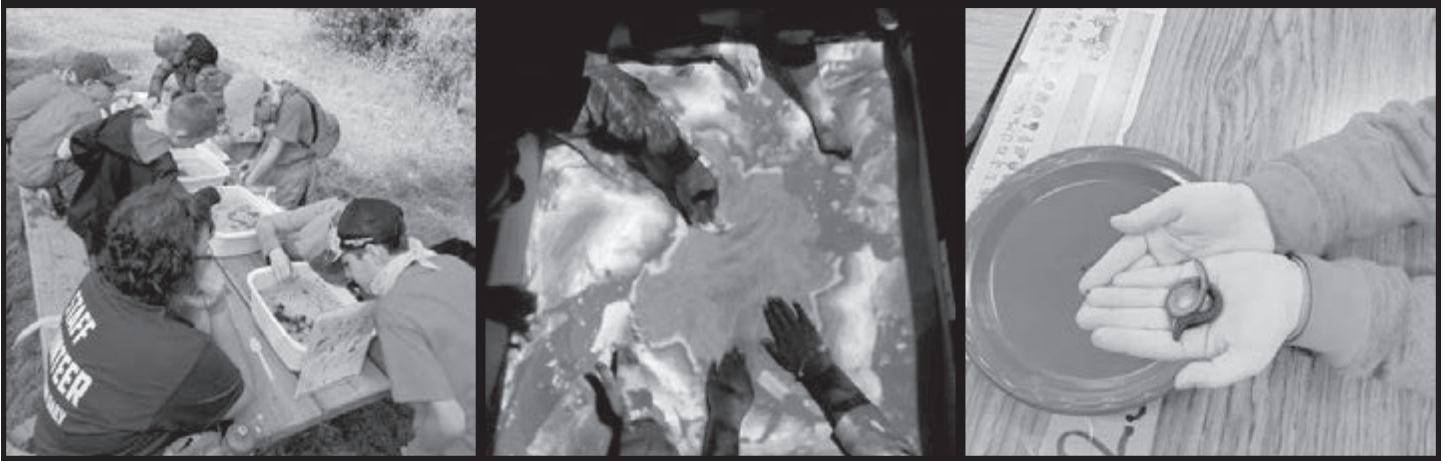
Elkhart County Surveyor

Office Phone: (574) 971-4677;
Email: Phil Barker, County Surveyor
pbarker@elkhartcounty.com
Website: www.elkcosurveyor.org

FREE TEACHING RESOURCES



The Elkhart County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) offers a variety of FREE resources for educators in Elkhart County. There are resources for all ages and grades.



Education Kits

Each natural resource kit includes everything you need to carry out a hands on lesson. Topics include soils, water, forestry, worms, and other topics. Educators are welcome to borrow kits for their setting.

Field Trip Incentive

The Greater Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership offers a Stormwater Field Trip Incentive (SEFTI). The program pays for transportation costs for field trips to approved sites where students will learn about water resources within Elkhart County.

Augmented Reality Sandbox (ARS)

The ARS combine 3D visualization with a hands-on sandbox exhibit to teach earth science concepts such as topography, geography, hydrology, and much more. This is mobile display that can be brought into schools or events. (pictured above)

Conservation Library

The Conservation Library is an online source for lesson plans, PowerPoints and videos related to soil and water conservation. Please use these materials how they best work for you.

Want to know more?

Elkhart County SWCD
59358 County Road 7
Elkhart, IN 46517
www.elkcoswcd.org

JENNA WAIT
574-523-2033
jwait@elkhartcounty.com

Guest Speaker

Do you want a conservationist to come speak to your class or event? We can speak on a variety of topics, provide hands-on experiences, or lead field trips. Any of the education kits listed on our website can be done in house by a conservationist. Contact Jenna if you are interested!

BLOGGING BMP'S

A monthly Blog discussing the Best Management Practices (BMP's) that must be used to aid in erosion and sediment control.

Welcome back to another edition of Blogging BMP's. This may seem difficult to believe, but summer has come to an end and another fall is upon us. Last year I talked about the window of opportunity we have this time of year to get things seeded and I am not going to let that reminder slip by this year, so get out there and seed! Now that that is done, lets get on to something that has been on my mind for a while now, TREES! I know what you are thinking, here comes another tree hugging story about how all trees are sacred and we should save every last one or else our children will die of suffocation and acid rain will come down destroying our planet!!!! Yeah, that's not me or my message so hang in there with me.

As of September 3, the SWCD has received 92 Rule 5 Notices of Intent indicating that 888.39 acres of ground will be disturbed as a result of new construction. That is just shy of 1.4 square miles of land transformation that could be anything from an upgraded press box for a high school softball team to a massive logistics center with parking for more than 2000 vehicles. This is great for Elkhart County economically as we expand to keep up with the growing demand for recreational vehicles, trailers, boats, and all of the components it takes to support these industries. On the agriculture side of things, we are experiencing moderate growth in both poultry and dairy farm operations creating the need for larger facilities outside of town as well.

What does this have to do with trees? Everything! Making room for all of this growth requires the removal of thousands of trees both large and small. I do not have the statistics on how many trees have been removed as a result of the urban growth in the county this year, but I do know we are taking more trees out than we are putting back into the environment. It would be foolish to think that at least 5% of the disturbed acreage wasn't wooded giving us somewhere in the 45-50 acre range of trees removed. At a conservative average of 50 mature trees per acre, we lost somewhere in the 2,500 mature tree range consequently taking away 12.5 million gallons of free stormwater storage. Wow!

This is by no means official data for the county, rather it is something to bring a few important things to light.

1. Mature trees can soak up to 50,000 gallons of stormwater annually making them a very effective BMP in the overall stormwater management toolbox.
2. We are reducing the number of trees in the county in our efforts to keep up with the demand for commodities we produce in both the manufacturing and agricultural industries.
3. People generally care about trees but do not want to fall into the "tree hugger" category.

As we continue to push forward with land development and job creation in the county I only ask that we look for opportunities to maintain our forested areas in the county and replace what we remove when we are constructing new facilities. It just so happens that the SWCD and Michiana Master Gardeners host an annual tree sale (shameless plug) that is an excellent opportunity to get several varieties of trees at a reasonable price and we put the orders together for you making acquisition a breeze. For more information on the tree sale look for our flyers in upcoming Grass Roots newsletters, on our website <https://www.elkcoswcd.org/> and on Facebook. Information is regularly updated on all three formats. For additional information on how trees are one of nature's BMPs, visit <https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-trees-help-reduce-runoff>. This is the part of the article that typically contains some type of pun, but you wood not beleave how difficult thinking one up was. Until next time!



WALDEN'S ROADSHOW



A worm's eye view of
conservation practices in
Elkhart County

Walden and his friends make their first stop at **21919 CR 46 New Paris, IN 46553 on September 22 at 11:00 A.M.** Stephanie McClain Soil Health Specialist, USDA-NRCS and several local Agronomists will be looking at what we can tell from the end of a shovel.

Learn about saving inputs and helping your soil maximize its potential. Feel free to stop in, take a look around, and ask as many questions as you want. We might even have a sack lunch for you, do not expect much from a worm, but there will be something to eat.

This will be an informal, informational hands-on day of learning about the soil. The new buzzword going around is **CARBON**, so if you have questions stop on over.

These field days will also be recorded and available to view on our website at your convenience.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 20 SWCD Board Meeting:** 5:30 PM,
SWCD Office, 59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN
- October 14 Pasture Walk:** Richard Muntz – 1-3 pm
@ 3790 W 050 N, LaGrange, IN –
Topic: Scottish Highland Cattle
- October 18 SWCD Board Meeting:** 5:30 PM,
SWCD Office, 59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN
- November 11 Veteran's Day Holiday:** The SWCD Office
will be closed for the Veteran's Day Holiday
- November 15 SWCD Board Meeting:** 5:30 PM,
SWCD Office, 59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN
- November 25-26 Thanksgiving Day Holiday:**
The SWCD Office will be closed for
the Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 20 SWCD Board Meeting:** 5:30 PM,
SWCD Office, 59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN
- December 24 Christmas Holiday:** The SWCD Office
will be closed for the Christmas Holiday

SWCD - NRCS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORY

59358 County Road 7, Elkhart, IN 46517

Ph. (574) 523-2030

www.elkcoswcd.org

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Lora L. Atkins, Secretary/Treasurer Jenna Wait, Conservationist

NRCS Staff:

Wes Krug, District Conservationist

All programs and services of the Conservation Partnership and the Soil and Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.