

# CLINTON COUNTY CONSERVATION CONNECTION



## Upcoming Event June 24th: Building Soil Resiliency in a Changing Climate

The Clinton and Boone County Soil and Water Conservation Districts' will host a workshop focusing on building soil resiliency in a changing climate. The half day workshop is being held at Mohler Farms located at 7015 N. Caldwell Rd., Lebanon, IN on Thursday, June 24th. Registration begins at 7:45 AM and includes coffee and doughnuts. The program will begin at 8:30 AM and end at 12:00 PM.

Changes in our climate patterns are predicted to include: warmer winters with low snow packs and early peak stream flows. Warmer, drier summers will result in summer stream flows decreasing. As our climate trends towards these newer patterns we may begin to experience the effects which may include longer growing seasons with decreased summer water resources; possible yield reductions; crops viable to the region may change; possible yield reductions in forage crops and lower growth rates and milk production in livestock. At this workshop, growers will look at ways to mitigate the

impacts of these trends by building the health and resiliency into our soils and learn ways to adapt to a changing climate.



Soybeans planted into cereal rye.  
Photo credit USDA, NRCS

The workshop will be facilitated by Jeffrey Dukes, Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University and Director

of the Purdue Climate Change

Research Center, Stephanie McLain, Soil Health Specialist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service and William Tripp, Soil Scientist, USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Services. The event will conclude with a panel of local growers who will speak on their experiences and strategies for improving soil health.

Reservations are required prior to June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. Please contact the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District at 765-659-1223 extension 3, email [clinton-swcd@iaswcd.org](mailto:clinton-swcd@iaswcd.org) or visit Eventbrite at <https://tinyurl.com/4a75skw> to register. This program is sponsored by the Browns Wonder Sugar Creek Watershed Stewardship Initiative. Information on potential cost-share availability for soil-health practices will be included in the program discussion.

**USDA** United States Department of Agriculture

### Notice to Service Center Visitors

**This service center is now open to limited visitors by appointment only.**

**If you have not yet been vaccinated, please wear a mask and maintain social distancing.**

Call to make an appointment: 765-659-1223  
FSA: extension 2 NRCS: extension 3  
SWCD: extension 3

More information is available online at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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### Special points of interest

- Learn more about conservation programs and cost-share opportunities.
- Hoosier Riverwatch Workshop August 27th Register soon!
- Pollinator Week—Pollinator Diversity Matters!

# Browns Wonder Sugar Creek Cost-Share Program

## Browns Wonder-Sugar Creek Stewardship Initiative: Phase I

The targeted, eligible areas will be the Tier 1-High Priority Critical Land Areas (CLA's). If you find your acres within the Tier 1 areas (Red) and are interested in one or more of the practices below in the Available Practices, then contact the Boone or Clinton County SWCD office to set up an appointment. If you are interested in these practices and are NOT located in the Tier 1 areas, you may still contact our office for information on other programs that you may be eligible for!

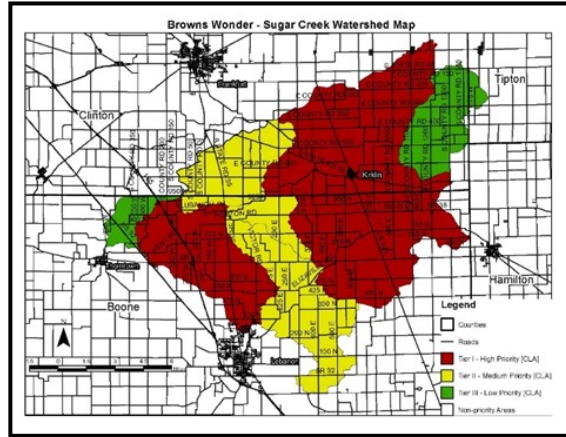
Some Available

Practices

- Fencing
- Heavy Use Protection Area
- Forage and Biomass Planting
- Livestock Watering Facilities
- Waste Facility Closure
- Underground Outlet
- Grassed Waterway
- Cover Crops
- Filter Strip
- Denitrification Bioreactor
- Conservation Cover
- Residue and Tillage Management
- Riparian Forested Buffer
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- Streambank Stabilization
- Rain Garden

*This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States*

*Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement 37907 to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The contents of this document do not reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.*



Whether you are considering converting your farm management to more conservation friendly practices, or installing a rain garden in your yard; you may be eligible for cost-share programs in your area! These cost-share programs are volunteer incentive based programs that can reimburse up to 75% of the total cost.

The cost-share program is available from now until the fall of 2022. The Tier 1 (Red) Critical Land Areas referenced in the map above are eligible for cost-share on numerous practices such as the practices listed on the left side of the page.

### Grassed Waterways

The Browns Wonder-Sugar Creek (BWSC) cost-share program offers eligible producers financial assistance for several practices, one of which is grassed waterways. A grassed waterway is a graded channel that is constructed and seeded to grass or other suitable vegetation to stabilize the banks and convey water to a stable outlet. If there is an area where gully erosion is an issue, usually in areas between hills

and other low-lying areas, it may be time to contact your local USDA Service Center and apply for a conservation program such as the BWSC program to get financial and technical assistance.

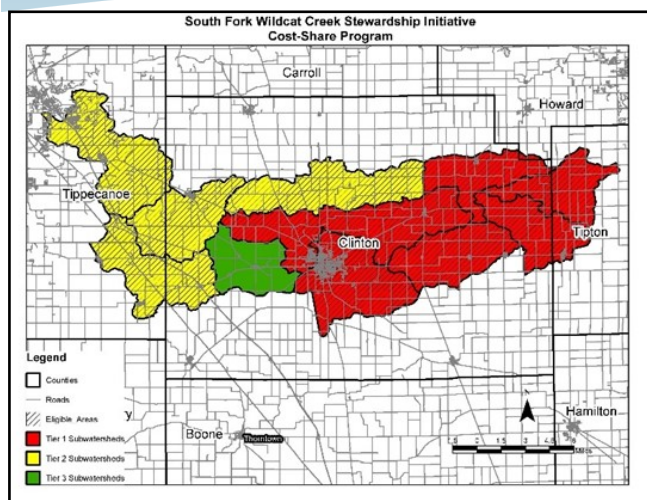


*Gully erosion, shown in the example above, can be addressed through grass or permanent vegetation established via grassed waterways. This erosion not only impacts soil health, but it also impacts your yield potential and local water quality.*

If you are interested in helping to remediate this potential source of pollution by installing this or other conservation practices within the watershed, and on your land, contact the Clinton County or Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District for more information! Remember, even if you are not located in this watershed, this is only one of many available programs!



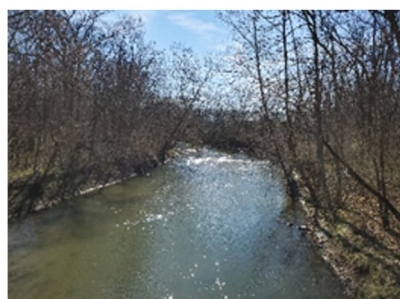
# South Fork Wildcat Creek Cost-Share Program



Limited funding

Expires February 2022

Deadline to apply 8/30/2021



## The South Fork Wildcat Creek Cost-Share Program is now available in Tier 2 areas!

This cost-share program originally has only been available to the Tier 1 Critical Land Areas (CLA's) which are displayed in red, but now those who own or operate on acres located in the yellow, Tier 2, are eligible as well! A few of the eligible best management practices (BMP's) are listed on the left side of the page under "Some Available Practices".

## South Fork Wildcat Creek Extension

Due to COVID-19, Clinton County Soil and Water requested and was approved for an extension of the cost-share program until February of 2022. This means that there will be one additional, final year of cost-share offered to local landowners within the watershed in the Tier 1 and 2 CLA's.

There may be limited funding available so apply quickly for assistance in implementing conservation friendly practices! All interested parties must have an application sent in by August 30<sup>th</sup> if they wish to enroll in this program. Please contact Clinton County SWCD and check out our website at <https://www.clintonswcd.org/> for more information!



## Rainscaping Program

In partnership with Purdue Extension, Clinton County SWCD is preparing a rainscaping program to teach local landowners not only why rainscaping is important, but will also provide advanced training in rain garden planning, installation, and maintenance! Be on the lookout for this event in the summer/fall of 2021!

## What is Rainscaping and why is it important?

While rainscaping may look like traditional landscaping from a distance, it actually is designed to retain water runoff to allow for water to infiltrate into the plants and soil. This prevents pollutants such as fertilizers, pet waste, oil, and more from reaching local waterways. Not only that but it adds aesthetic value as well!

Rainscaping practices range from simple practices, such as installing rain barrels and directing downspouts to lawns and gardens, to more complex practices such as constructing bioretention areas such as rain gardens.

For funding opportunities for rain gardens or other conservation practices, check with your local NRCS and SWCD office to see what programs are available!

## South Fork Wildcat Creek Stewardship Initiative: Phase II

The targeted, eligible areas will be the Tier 1-High Priority Critical Land Areas (CLA's) and Tier 2-Moderate Priority CLA's. If you find your acres within the Tier 1 areas (Blue) and are interested in one or more of the practices listed below in the Available Practices, then contact the Clinton County SWCD office to set up an appointment. If you are interested in these practices and are NOT located in the Tier 1 areas, you may still contact our office for information on other programs that you may be eligible for!

- Some Available Practices
- Fencing
- Heavy Use Protection Area
- Forage and Biomass Planting
- Livestock Watering Facilities
- Waste Facility Closure
- Underground Outlet
- Grassed Waterway
- Cover Crops
- Conservation Cover
- Residue and Tillage Management
- Riparian Forested Buffer
- Streambank Stabilization
- Rain Garden

*This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement 24998 to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The contents of this document do not reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.*

## Hoosier Riverwatch Volunteer Stream Monitoring Training

The Clinton County Soil & Water Conservation District will host a Hoosier Riverwatch basic training workshop on Friday, August 27th from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

Hoosier Riverwatch is a statewide program that supports volunteer water quality monitoring of local waterways. Workshop participants will learn about stream ecology and tools for assessing water quality through several *fun* activities both indoors and outdoors. Teachers, home school educators and Scout leaders may be especially interested in this workshop as many of the activities can be adapted for use with all grade levels and are cross-referenced with state teaching standards. The workshop is free of charge and open to individuals of high school age or older.

The workshop will be led by Hoosier Riverwatch trained facilitators Seth Harden and Leah Harden. All activities will take place at the Camp Cullom Nature Center. There is no fee for the workshop however registration is required. Masks may be required and class size limited to the first twelve individuals to register.

If you would like to be part of this *fun* citizen-science program, please call the Clinton County SWCD at (765) 659-1223 ext. 3 or email [leah.harden@in.nacdnet.net](mailto:leah.harden@in.nacdnet.net) to register.

Indiana volunteer stream monitoring groups have entered data collected during habitat, chemical, and biological sampling events at over 1,800 river and stream segments across Indiana. This information can be found at the online database at: <http://www.in.gov/idem/riverwatch/>

## CLEAN WATER INDIANA COST-SHARE PROGRAM

The Clinton County SWCD was awarded \$33,000/3 year through the Clean Water Indiana competitive grants program.

The funds are being utilized to provide a cost-share program that focuses on practices consistent with conservation cropping systems such as cover crops, transition to no-till, integrated crop management and gypsum application. In addition cost-share funds are available for soil testing/basic fertility to agricultural producers not currently subscribing to regular soil testing or who have no previous history of soil testing. The fertility information will help the producer to develop a plan for nutrient management using the 4R principles—right source, rate, time and place. This program was recently expanded to include specialty crop producers, small farm acreage, pasture and community gardens

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program, like the South Fork Wildcat Creek and Brown's Wonder-Sugar Creek programs, is established to provide a source for financial assistance to implement conservation practices that reduce non-point source pollution. The CWI Program is not limited by the watershed boundary—it is available county-wide!

The Clean Water Indiana fund is administered by

the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil Conservation under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board.

### Clean Water Indiana Cost-Share Program: Eligible Practices

Conversion to No-till  
Integrated crop management  
Cover crops  
Gypsum Application

The cost-share rates will be established by the technical steering committee but will not exceed 75% of the cost to implement the practice. Cover crop cost-share amount will be capped at \$20.00 acre per CWI programmatic guidelines. Acreage limitations may also apply.

In addition, a cost-share incentive will be established for the purpose of soil testing/basic fertility for individuals with fields with no existing soil data. Analysis of soil tests will be conducted by A&L Great Lakes Laboratories using their recommended soil testing methods. The following soil tests will be offered: S1 Basic Soil Fertility (Organic Matter, Available Phosphorous, Potassium, Magnesium, Calcium, Soil pH, Buffer pH, Cation Exchange Capacity, Percent Base Saturation of cation elements; S1+S3 (micros) (Sulfur, Zinc, Manganese, Iron, Copper, Boron. Individuals may be eligible for testing in Year 2 or Year 3 of the program dependent on the results of the 1st year test, Soil Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) and the tillage management system.



# POLLINATOR DIVERSITY MATTERS

<https://indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org>



What are pollinators? A pollinator is any insect or animal that moves pollen from one plant to another. Pollinators unknowingly collect pollen from flowers while they feed, and that pollen is transferred to new flowers as the pollinator moves around. The flower then uses the pollen to produce seed and fruit.

As you will see below, many insects, birds, and mammals act as pollinators. And while honey bees might be the best-known pollinator, it is actually our native bees that are the most efficient and prolific at the job.

## 1. Bees

Bees are probably the most well-known and best of all the pollinators. Honey bees, bumble bees, carpenter bees, sweat bees...the list goes on. The best pollinators by far are bees native to a region, and there are over 4,000 species of them! This includes mason bees, leaf cutter bees, digger bees, bumble bees, and more. How efficient are these native bees? Just 300 orchard mason bees, *Osmia lignaria*, can do the same job as 90,000 honey bees! Honey bees are not native to the United States, but they are widely used in agricultural production.

## 2. Butterflies and Moths

Butterflies are another well-known pollinator, though they aren't all that efficient at it because of their body structure. When a butterfly lands on a flower, it has very little contact with the pollen because of its long, thin legs. Butterflies also typically land on the side of flowers and use their long proboscis (tongues) to probe for nectar instead of crawling down into the flower like some other insects do.

Moths are relatives of

butterflies and also participate in pollination. Because moths are nocturnal, they tend to do their work at night, visiting mostly white, fragrant flowers.

## 3. Birds

Birds are key to the pollination of many wildflower species throughout the world, as well as a few food crops in tropical regions, like bananas. Over 2,000 species of birds are associated with pollination activities. In the United States, the hummingbird is vital to wildflower pollination, and a healthy wildflower population is crucial to a healthy ecosystem.

## 4. Bats

While the large majority of bats in the United States eat insects, some species from desert and tropical climates are pollinators. Bats are the major of exclusive pollinator for over 500 plant species, including those that give us mangoes and guava.

## 5. Hover Flies and Others

Many other insects and animals are top-notch pollinators, too. For instance, the hover fly (also known as a flower fly) is one of the most efficient pollinators out there. Hover flies are hard workers in orchards, pollinating fruit crops such as apples, cherries, pears and raspberries to name a few. They look like sweat bees with their black and yellow stripes, but they are flies and they do not possess a stinger. You can tell the difference by the way they hover in place—bees can't do that!

You might not immediately see the connection between birds and bugs and clean water, but it's a connection that is growing every year—literally. Pollinators are key to the reproduction and spread of many native plants, and native plants provide food and habitat for pollinators. These native plants also capture, clean, and store rain water in their leaves, stems, and roots. Less runoff polluting our water, more beneficial pollinators doing their important work.

Pesticides, habitat loss and pest and diseases are the most common threats for pollinators. Now that you know how important pollinators are continue reading to learn how to protect them from threats!

1. **Plants** For a list of the best native plants for pollinators please access <https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/POL-6/POL-6.html>

## 2. Yard Maintenance

If using native plants isn't in your immediate future, consider leaving a portion of your property unmown or restrict mowing to early morning or evening when pollinators are least active. This allows bees to use some of the forage that may naturally occur in your yard or fields, plants like clover and

dandelions.

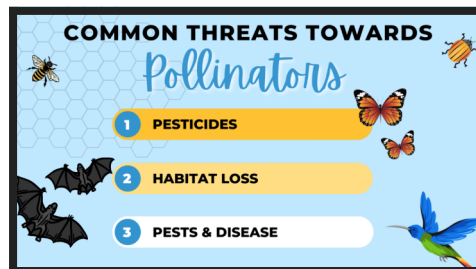
## 3. Groundcover

Using valuable native plants isn't the only way to support pollinators. Roughly 70% of native bees nest in the ground. Some build burrows into well-drained, bare, or partially vegetated soil. Others nest in soft-centered hollow twigs and plant stems. Bees will also colonize in dead trees and branches.

## 4. Water

Access to water is a key element of quality habitat. Consider keeping a small dish of water near your nectar sources. Refill daily to prevent diseases and prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

To learn more or to take the Clear Choices Clean Water Pledge visit <https://indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org>





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**Stay Updated!**

Keep up to date on all of our upcoming events and programs by following our facebook page [facebook.com/clintonswcd](https://facebook.com/clintonswcd) and checking out our website [Web: clintonswcd.org](http://www.clintonswcd.org)

For information on local or federal cost-share programs or conservation technical assistance please call 765-659-1223 ext. 3



## Watch for Announcements of Upcoming Events!

**Dates will be announced soon!**

**Annual Tree and Shrub Sale—August/September**

**Women4theLand Workshop—Fall 2021**

**South Fork Wildcat Creek Events:**

**Rainscaping Program—August**

**Storm Drain Mural—July**

**Cover Crop Raised Beds (fairgrounds)- July/August**

**Browns Wonder Sugar Creek Events:**

**Building Soil Resiliency—June 24th**

**Grazing Cover Crops—August/September**

**Conservation Bus Tour—Fall 2021**