

Montgomery County SWCD
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CONSERVATION CONNECTION

The Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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4th Grade Field Days

For the past 27 years, county 4th graders have visited Cain’s Homelike Farms to see conservation in action. This year was no different with hundreds of kids gathering to learn about the natural world from the professionals who help take care of it. These field days are one of the best examples of our Indiana Conservation Partnership in action. Volunteers from neighboring local, state, and federal agencies come and give their time to be presenters and guides to make this day special for our county kids year after year.

Presenters at each station have an activity that introduces students to one of many areas of water, soil, and wildlife conservation. At the Wetlands station students reenact the migration of Sandhill Cranes and learn the importance of wetlands as stopover habitat. Students investigate tiny creatures that live in our water and learn about the role they play in keeping it clean. Learning through doing is incredibly effective for remembering and is something we strive for in each of our stations. When students go home from this experience with some questions answered and a new sense of curiosity for the world, then we know we did our job.

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Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- October 2: SWCD Monthly Board Meeting, 8am, USDA Service Center
- October 9: Q4 CISMA Meeting, 4pm-5pm, USDA Service Center
- October 11: Statewide Weed Wrangle Day, 10am-12pm Location TBD
- October 13: Office closed
- November 5: Q4 CGMC Meeting, 10am-11:30am, The Table Spoon
- November 6: SWCD Monthly Board Meeting, 8am, USDA Service Center
- November 11: Office closed
- November 27-28: Office closed
- December 4: SWCD Monthly Board Meeting, 8am, USDA Service Center
- December 24-25: Office closed

2025 CGMC Garden Walk

The Community Growers hosted their annual Garden Walk back in July! This year's tour featured two community gardens right here in Crawfordsville. Nicholson School's Community Garden is sponsored by the Master Gardeners. Students work together with the Master Gardeners to grow food for student families and local food banks.

The next site we visited was the brand new Wabash Prairie Garden. You will find plants both familiar and new but all originally found in our area in the prairies that once covered our landscape. Visitors should take note of the matrix design of intermingled species of varying heights and take inspiration for their own landscaping. This new installation is available for all to see on the corner of Milligan and Russell Ave on campus.

The Community Growers are always on the lookout for gardeners interested in being part of the Garden Walk. Showcasing working, realistic home gardens, helps show that anyone can grow their own food no matter the space they have.



Forestry Field Day

Managing your woodlands is a great way to be fiscally as well as environmentally responsible. Having a well managed forest can be rewarding for you and future generations of your family, but not everyone is aware of these benefits. Back in July we hosted a Forestry Hike through one of board member Raoul Moore's tree plantations. Attendees toured the plantings and learned what it takes to take a land from a depleted ag field to a thriving young forest. Speakers from Purdue Extension and SICIM were part of the guided tour and shared their expertise in timber stand improvement and invasive species management. Managing a forest can be a daunting task, but can be done if you connect with the right people. There is a broad network of forestry professionals available but a good place to start is with your DNR district forester. They can provide a timber management plan for whatever your property goals may be. An invasive site visit from us can get you on track for improving your forest's health as well. For more information you can reach out to us with any of your forestry questions.



Brickyard Nature Park Update

SWCD Staff designed three educational signs that are now installed at the Brickyard Nature Park. The colorful signs depict pictures of flora and fauna and cover topics like prairie restoration, native birds, and invasive species.

Take a hike around the park and find all three!



IASWCD SNW Regional Meeting

On August 21st, SWCD Staff and Supervisors from the SNW Region (Montgomery, Warren, Fountain, Tippecanoe, Hendricks, Boone, Marion, Hamilton, Clinton, Howard, Tipton Counties) and members of partner organizations came together to discuss where we've been and where we're going as the Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP). They heard from leaders such as Damarys Mortenson (NRCS), Jane Hardisty (SSCB), Marc Roberts (IASWCD), Nathan Stoelting (ISDA), and Walt Sell (Purdue Extension). Through many challenges and changes, the ICP remains strong and ready to protect Indiana's natural resources.

