

The Flow



Clark County Soil & Water Conservation District

Partners helping to make our project happen:

- > Clark/Jefferson/Scott County Health Departments
- > Jefferson and Scott County SWCDs
- > IDNR Division of Nature Preserves
- > Indiana State Department of Agriculture
- > Natural Resources Conservation Service

Watershed Project Winding Down

The 14 Mile Creek/Goose Creek Watershed Improvement Project is drawing to a conclusion. We will officially close down all operations when we submit our final report to IDEM on March 31, 2023. The project started in October 2013 when the Clark County SWCD applied for and received a Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grant for the watershed. During a period of about 5 years the SWCD worked with landowners and others in the watershed to stimulate community awareness of water quality and to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan. That management plan was then submitted to IDEM and in late 2018 the Clark County SWCD received approval and funding . This approval and the accompanying funds from IDEM and the EPA allowed for the payment of cost-share funds to landowners who implemented or installed “Best Management Practices” that were outlined in the approved comprehensive management plan as ways to improve the overall water quality in the watershed.

When the 14 Mile Creek/Goose Creek Watershed Improvement Project comes to an end, the Clark County SWCD will have completed projects in both of the watersheds that comprise most of the land in Clark County (Silver Creek Watershed and 14 Mile Creek/Goose Creek Watershed). These two watersheds encompass over 200,000 acres in Clark and small parts of Scott, Jefferson and Floyd Counties.

We still have a few cost-share projects finishing-up so our numbers here aren't fully complete but, just to give you an idea of the impact of the 14 Mile Creek/Goose Creek Watershed Improvement Project here is where we stand to date: Cover Crops planted – over 1,150 acres, New Pasture or Hayland Seedings – over 150 acres, Heavy Use Area Protection Structures built – nearly 21,000 sq. ft., Pipeline installed for watering systems – over 2,300 ft., Interior Fencing for exclusion from critical areas – nearly 2,400 ft.

The final report of the 14 Mile Creek/Goose Creek Watershed Improvement Project will be available for viewing at the Clark County SWCD Office after it is submitted to IDEM on March 31, 2023. Also, you will be able to access the report at the Watershed's website (<https://14milecreekwatershed.weebly.com>) and at the Clark County SWCD website (<https://clarkswcd.org>).

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What Can You Do to Continue the Water Quality Improvement Effort?

Just because the 14 Mile Creek/Goose Creek Watershed Improvement Project is ending, don't be mistaken that the work is all done and everything in the watershed is pristine with nothing more to do to improve things even further. The truth is, this project only scratched the surface. One of the big components of the project was public awareness. Sure, the cost-share portion got a lot of interest from landowners but this effort to improve water quality is really on-going. You know, we didn't get to the point of polluting our streams and creeks overnight and we won't correct the problems in just 4 or 5 short years. It will take everyone living in the watershed (urban and rural residents alike) working together to get our land and water back to a "healthy" standard.

With that in mind, here is a list of just a few things you and your family can do to continue the efforts of the 14 Mile Creek/Goose Creek Watershed Improvement Project.

- Seek the advice of a professional (NRCS District Conservationist, IDNR Forester or Wildlife Biologist, IDEM Water Quality Specialist, Indiana State Dept. of Agriculture Team Member, Extension Educator) to help develop a "Best Management Practices" plan for your agricultural land.
- Participate in community efforts (River or Stream Sweeps, Earthday events, Pesticide safe disposal events, used oil collection events, community recycling efforts) and put the things you learn into practice at home and at work.
- Don't over apply fertilizer materials on lawns, gardens or ag land. Be sure to utilize soil tests to know exactly what kind of fertilizer and how much you should apply.
- Don't over water lawns; only water when it is needed.
- Wash vehicles on a permeable surface rather than on asphalt or concrete directing the run-off toward vegetated areas and away from storm drains and other surface waters.
- Maintain septic systems properly.
- Minimize yard waste by composting.
- Minimize bare areas in your landscape to reduce the potential for erosion and soil particle run-off.
- Fence livestock away from bodies of water (ponds and streams) and provide them with alternative water sources.
- Minimize mud and standing water in lots and livestock feeding/traffic areas by installing heavy use protection structures.



These are just a few suggestions, the list could be added to depending on your individual situation. That's why the advice of a professional will help you develop a plan that helps improve the quality of the watershed.



References & Resources

For the past four years I've used several resources to help communicate about best management practices in our newsletters, direct mailings, displays and brochures. Here are a few of the resources I've used and you can follow these sources and stay up on ideas to have a positive impact on water quality.

*Kentucky Forage News – This is an on-line resource and newsletter that is posted monthly by the University of Kentucky's Extension Forage Specialists. This resource strives to keep forage and livestock producers informed. It is a great resource for practical/useful research and demonstration updates, as well as, timely management reminders and a calendar of educational events. Archived editions can be found online at www.uky.edu/ag/forage/ForageNews . To receive Kentucky Forage News in your in-box, email a request to ukforageextension@uky.edu .

*Got Nature? – Another on-line monthly newsletter, this one focusing on natural resources and it originates from Purdue University's Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR). This newsletter highlights blogs and podcasts from the FNR Department, news articles and upcoming events. To receive the newsletter, send an email to evans44@purdue.edu .

*Eden Shale Farm – This is the demonstration farm operated and overseen by the Kentucky Beef Network. The farm is located in Owenton, KY and maintains a commercial cow-calf operation on 900+ acres and emphasizes forages. The farm is managed to maximize environmental stewardship techniques and best management practices (centralized watering points, innovative water sources, winter feeding areas, alternative electric energy sources). This is a great place to visit during one of their field days to get ideas of practices you might implement at home. They have an online blog that you can sign up to receive; go to their web page <https://edenshalefarm.com/about6.html> and at the bottom of the page click on the "Sign Up Now" box.

*Indiana Onsite Waste Professionals Association – This is a not-for-profit organization serving the Indiana onsite waste industry. This group supports Indiana's onsite wastewater professionals through education, installer and inspector certificate programs, and the promotion of best practices. They have a monthly e-newsletter that can be subscribed to by go to their website <https://iowpa.org> at their home page. Besides resources for wastewater professionals, their website also has homeowner resources as well.



Here's a Bunch of Flow Facts– Because We Know You'll Miss Them!



- 68.7% of the fresh water on Earth is trapped in glaciers.
 - Approximately 400 billion gallons of water are used in the United States per day.
 - Water can dissolve more substances than any other liquid including sulfuric acid.
 - About 6,800 gallons of water is required to grow a day's food for a family of four.
 - Water weighs about 8 pounds a gallon.
 - 70% of the human brain is water.
 - 80% of all illness in the developing world is water related.
- In some countries, less than half the population has access to clean water.
 - In one year, the average American residence uses over 100,000 gallons (indoors and outside).
 - A person can live about a month without food, but only about a week without water.
 - Americans drink more than one billion glasses of tap water per day.
 - 1 in 6 gallons of water leak from utility pipes before reaching customers in the US.
 - Chicken and goat are the least water intensive meats to consume.
 - Three quarters of all Americans live within 10 miles of polluted water.
 - If everyone in the US flushed the toilet just one less time per day, we could save a lake full of water about one mile long, one mile wide and four feet deep.
 - Water is the most common substance found on earth.
 - There are no scientific studies that support the recommendation to drink 8 glasses of water per day.
 - A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.

Funds for Practices to Improve Water Quality

If you had some ideas for implementing “Best Management Practices” on your property but just never got around to applying for the cost-share assistance through the 14 Mile Creek/Goose Creek Watershed or the Silver Creek Watershed Improvement Projects don't give up on your efforts. Funds may be available from other sources. Through the Clark County Natural Resources Office (SWCD & NRCS) you can inquire about local, state and federal funds like CWI (Clean Water Indiana) or EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program.) Also, stay vigilant in watching for funds that might come along from the Indiana Department of Agriculture or the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, as well as grants and loans from USDA. Some groups/organizations (local or national) may also have funds available from time to time.

It might require a little time at the computer searching for available funding assistance but it could pay-off in the long run. Just be sure you know the specifications and requirements for these funds.



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