

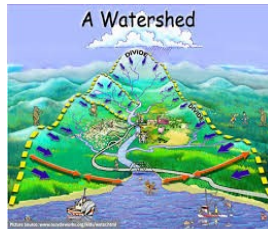
The Flow



EPA Awards Clark SWCD Watershed Improvement Grant

In December of 2018, the Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was notified that they had been awarded an EPA 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grant for the Fourteen Mile Creek and Goose Creek Watersheds Improvement Project. The grant was requested and obtained to implement the Watershed’s Management Plan, which was completed in 2012. The grant funds awarded were \$143,151.00 plus an additional \$95,434.00 in local matching funds for a project total of \$238,585.00.

Through this grant, residents of the watershed community will be encouraged to implement water quality improve-



ments through the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). The grant also calls

for public education and outreach activities to be conducted to help raise awareness of water quality issues within the Fourteen Mile Creek/Goose Creek Watersheds.

Please check out our website (14milecreekwatershed.weebly.com) and like us on Facebook to learn of special events, activities and your opportunities to help support this project!

SWCD Welcomes New Watershed Coordinator

The Watershed Coordinator for the new Fourteen Mile Creek/Goose Creek Watersheds Improvement and Implementation Project is David Trotter. David is a familiar face to the folks of Clark County, having served as the Purdue Extension Educator for Agriculture for 25 years before retiring from that position in 2011. He then came to work with the Clark County SWCD in 2012 through 2015 as the Watershed Technician for the Silver Creek Water-

shed Improvement Project.

As the Watershed Coordinator, David will guide the efforts in implementing the watershed management plan and its water quality improvement goals.

David may be contacted currently via email at 14mcwatershed@gmail.com or at 812-256-2330, ext. 3.

Clark County Soil and 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

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Getting to Know 14 Mile Creek and Goose Creek Watersheds

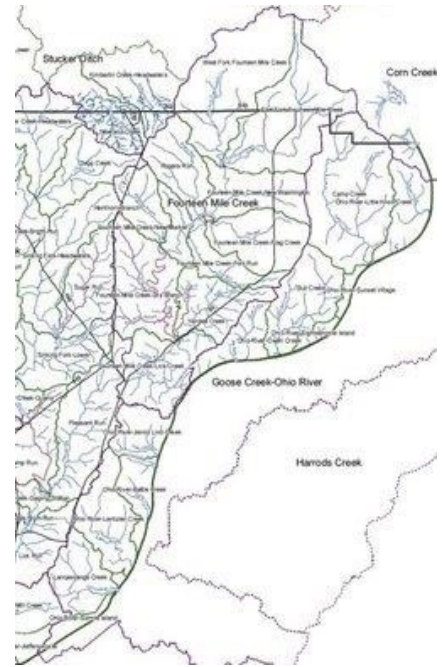
The Fourteen Mile Creek/Goose Creek Watersheds project contains 108,192 acres located in the eastern portion of Clark County, the southeastern portion of Scott County, and the southwestern corner of Jefferson County. Although the complete watersheds include areas of Kentucky that drain into the Ohio River, for purposes of feasibility the project and this management plan focuses on the Indiana side of the watershed.

The Fourteen Mile Creek Watershed consists of 4 sub watersheds (East Fork, West Fork, Rogers Run and Dry Branch) and Goose Creek Watershed contains 5 sub watersheds (Camp Creek, Pattons Creek, Bull Creek, Little Huckleberry

Creek and Lentizier Creek). These two watersheds combine for more than 266 miles of streams and about 1,540 miles of ditches.

The management plan for these watersheds utilized soil types and characteristics and land use practices to develop a set of water quality concerns specific to the area. Here are some of those identified and supported concerns:

- Excessive gully erosion in cropland and pastures
- Stream bank erosion
- Stream sedimentation
- Low quality hay and grazing plants
- Invasive plant species
- Failing septic systems



Cost-Share Funds Now Available

Agricultural landowners and/or operators with property in the Fourteen Mile Creek or Goose Creek Watersheds are eligible to apply for cost-share funds to install best management practices (BMPs) that are designed to improve water quality in critical areas of the watersheds.

BMPs are effective and practical methods that prevent or reduce the movement of sediment, nutrients, animal wastes, and other pollutants from the land to either surface or ground water. The cost-share program will cover up to 60% of the installation costs for practices like alternative livestock watering systems, forage plantings, fencing, cover crops, and heavy use area protection.



What's Non-Point Source Pollution?

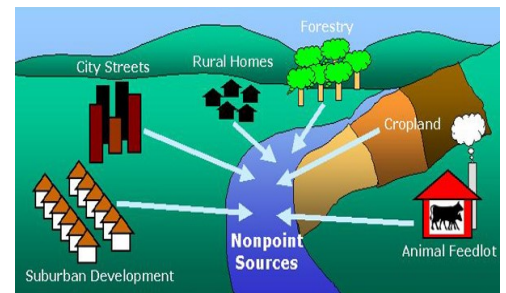
When we aren't exactly sure where pollution comes from, we refer to it as non-point source (NPS) pollution. Non-point source pollution is the largest water quality problem in the United States today. NPS pollution results from rainfall or snowmelt coming into contact with and carrying contaminants over and through the ground, eventually entering our creeks, rivers, lakes and even our underground drinking water sources.

Examples of NPS pollutants include fertilizers, pesticides, oil, grease and other chemicals. When sediment is not properly managed and contained from construction sites, crop and forest lands, or eroding stream banks, it's considered NPS pollution too. Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic systems are also forms of NPS pollution.

Because NPS pollution can come

from so many places, everyone can do their part to help prevent it. Careful use of fertilizers and pesticides on lawns and gardens is a good start. Keeping automobiles in good working order not only increases their life but also reduces repair costs. Fixing oil leaks and care to not spill anti-freeze or other materials can keep these potential pollutants out of our water. Protecting storm drains can also help and we can do this by keeping leaves and litter away from them. Picking pet waste picked up is also another way to do our part in preventing NPS pollution. Folks with septic systems can play a big role in preventing NPS pollution by having septic tanks pumped out regularly.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) can be installed by agricultural land owners to prevent NPS pollution. Conservation practices like planting cover crops in



the fall, livestock exclusion from ponds and streams, roof runoff systems on barns and other farm structures, or grade stabilization structures are just a few examples of BMPs that can protect our water sources from a variety of contaminants.

Our everyday actions can have a huge impact on what gets washed into our local ditches, creeks and streams. By doing our part to protect Fourteen Mile Creek, Goose Creek and the Ohio River, we are doing our part to improve water quality in Indiana and for everyone who live "downstream of the herd" so to speak.

Watershed Project Partnered to Sponsor Events

The Fourteen Mile Creek/Goose Creek Watershed implementation project recently helped to sponsor two local events to protect water quality and the environment.

"Bring in the Green", a clean up on Trail 6 at the Charlestown State Park was held on Satur-

day, March 16th. Approximately 40 volunteers helped to pick up and remove debris.

The Clark County Annual "Used Oil Collection Day" was held on Tuesday, April 2nd at the Clark County 4-H Fairgrounds. The event was sponsored by the Clark County Farm Bureau, Inc.

the Clark County SWCD and the Watershed Project. Used oils were accepted at no charge to residents.

If you know of similar events, that the Watershed Project could assist with, please contact our office at 812-256-2330, ext. 3.



Clark County Soil and
Water Conservation District

9608 Highway 62
Charlestown, IN 47111
812-256-2330, ext. 3

BULK RATE
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Permit No. 6

For additional information or details on the Fourteen Mile Creek/Goose Creek Watersheds Improvement Project, contact David Trotter, Watershed Coordinator, at

14mcwatershed@gmail.com

Here's a Flow Fact for You!

Did you know that improper Nutrient Management on the farm and/or in your lawn not only costs you extra money but can also pollute our watershed? Over applied nutrients that aren't utilized by plants have the potential to leach into groundwater or enter nearby surface water via land runoff. Too much nitrogen or phosphorus can impair water quality by decreasing the levels of oxygen available to fish and other stream life.

If these nutrients get into groundwater, they become a potential contaminant to drinking water and will require additional efforts to

remove them before they are safe for human or livestock consumption. By properly applying fertilizer we can protect water quality and our bottom line.

Soil testing before applying fertilizers to the soil is an excellent way to be sure you are properly applying fertilizers. Contact the Clark County SWCD (812-256-2330, ext. 3) for information on where and how to have your soil tested for its specific nutrient needs for the plants you plan to grow.



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