

Project Statistics

Lead District: Marion
Amount Funded: \$80,000



Project Information:

Project Title: Enhancing
Communities Through
Healthy Soils and Native
Plantings

Project Dates:
1/1/19-12/31/21

Project Overview:

This project will fund the urban soil health specialist position to implement education, direct technical assistance, and demonstration pertaining to soil health, native plantings, and water quality. It will also develop permaculture outreach materials based on technical work completed by a contracted native plant specialist in 2018. Our partners are building orchards, and technical support is needed for developing native understory layers, also known as plant guilds, that increase water infiltration and pollination. The project will also develop an updated Regional Rain Garden brochure and brand the brochure to be utilized by regional SWCDs. Key updates will include a user friendly plant list, information on regional soil types and rain garden registration and local stormwater credit programs available. The district will host 2 to 4 large workshops and 4 to 6 farm huddles over the grant period. The SWCD has been successful in providing urban vegetable growers with technical workshops and sees the importance of continued education. Large workshops target 30+ growers. Farm huddles entail contracting a consultant to complete site visits and direct technical assistance to conservation staff and small grower groups. The project will implement soil health and native planting demonstration projects at major highly visible demonstration partner sites including City parks, schools, community gardens, not-for-profits and market farms. The district will conduct Cover Crop Seed Giveaways whereby the SWCD will produce and distribute cover crop demonstration packages for home gardeners and growers.

Program Overview:

The Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Program (IC 14-32-8) was established to provide financial assistance to landowners and conservation groups. Through education, technical assistance, training, and cost sharing programs, the program supports the implementation of conservation practices which will reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution.

Program Administration:

The CWI fund is administered by the Indiana State Department of Agriculture Division of Soil Conservation under the direction of the State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB). The fund is derived from a portion of cigarette tax funds. (IC 6-7-1-29.3) The cigarette tax fund is 4.22 percent of total cigarette tax revenue, and the CWI fund receives one sixth of this amount. The CWI Program is responsible for providing local matching funds as well as grants for sediment and nutrient reduction projects.

For more information about CWI, please visit: in.gov/isda/2379.htm.
For more information about the SSCB, please visit: in.gov/isda/2361.htm.
Email questions or comments to cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov.
To find your local SWCD: please visit: in.gov/isda/2370.htm.

