

**DeKalb County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
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<http://www.dekalbilswcd.org/>

The DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District recently completed a 2 year erosion and sedimentation inventory of the Somonauk Creek Watershed above Lake Holiday. Initial streambank erosion estimates were made during the summer of 2007. During this time, the complete 21 miles of the creek from the upper reaches to the lake itself were walked and erosion determinations made. In the summer of 2008, erosion estimates were completed for the entire watershed using the Natural Resource Conservation Services RAP-M process. Select sample units were used to evaluate sheet, rill and ephemeral erosion. The data collected was used to assist the Lake Holiday Homeowners Association in identifying the amount of sediment that was entering the lake; as a result of our findings the association was able save thousands of dollars in dredging expense. Also several contacts have been made with landowners along the Somonauk Creek who have shown interest in stabilizing the stream on their property. Many of these projects would be eligible for cost share assistance through the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Streambank Stabilization Restoration Program, which the Soil and Water Conservation Districts administer within their counties. The DeKalb County SWCD staff has made presentations to the Lake Holiday Homeowners Association Board and the Sandwich Rotary Club regarding this Inventory. The report can be reviewed by visiting our website at: <http://www.dekalbilswcd.org/events.htm>



*Example of streambank erosion occurring in the Somonauk Creek. It is determined that a total of 3,519 tons of sediment is eroded from the stream in 1 year.*

This past year the DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District conducted soil erosion and sediment control inspections through an agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) on construction sites located within DeKalb County. As a result of these inspections several sites were issued violation notices from the IEPA for not being in compliance with their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) ILR10 permit for storm water discharges from construction site activities. To address this concern the DeKalb County SWCD will host an NPDES Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Seminar in March. This seminar will assist contractors, developers, engineers and municipalities in what is

needed to stay in compliance with the Clean Water Act. Several Soil and Water Conservation District employees who are Certified Professionals in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) will be presenters at this event. To learn more about this seminar you can visit our website at: <http://www.dekalbilswcd.org/seminars.htm> or contact Dean Johnson, Resource Conservationist at 815-756-3237 ext. 3.



*Soil & Water Conservation District employee conducting soil erosion and sediment control site inspections for the Illinois EPA in DeKalb Co.*