

St. Clair County Soil and Water Conservation District

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The district provides services to the residents of St. Clair County in many areas, contributing to the County's environmental quality and orderly growth.

1. CPP Cost Share Program

In the past three years, the district has designed agricultural erosion control facilities, which were constructed at a cost \$275,000. These projects resulted in about \$165,000 in cost share payments to county farmers. District personnel also assisted the Natural Resource Conservation Service in designing similar facilities for the Federal EQIP and CRP programs which resulted in cost share payments which exceeded the above amounts.

2. Inspection of Construction Projects

Since 2004, the District has inspected construction sites in the County for compliance with the Illinois EPA's sediment and erosion control requirements. We provide guidance to contractors on their storm water and erosion control plans and facilities. Results of the inspections are sent to EPA, so that enforcement action can be taken in the few cases where voluntary compliance cannot be obtained.

We also conduct inspections of drainage and erosion complaints from county residents. Technical advice is provided and we attempt to facilitate corrective actions that may be necessary.

In addition to the inspections, we, together with the Madison and Monroe County Districts, present annual educational events for governmental officials, land developers, engineers and contractors, to demonstrate developments in the sediment and erosion control field.

3. Development Reviews

The District prepares Natural Resource Inventory Reports for the St. Clair County Zoning Board, as well as local municipalities, to assist them in evaluating proposed land use changes and subdivisions of property. These reports include information on soils, cultural resources, natural areas, historical mining, floodplains and wetlands. They also include an evaluation of any proposed farmland conversions.

4. Proposed County Storm Water Ordinance

District personnel have been assisting the St. Clair County Building and Zoning Department in developing procedures to be used in reviewing and processing permit applications under the proposed County Storm Water ordinance. Storm water control has been an issue of increasing importance in the County. It is expected that the County and the District will sign an agreement under which the District will review permit applications.