



White County Soil View Now Available

As a result of local, state, and federal partnerships, soils of all 321,360 surface acres in White County are now available in Geographic Information System format on a Soil View CD.

A Cooperative Agreement between the White County board, White County Soil and Water Conservation District, Illinois Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to update and digitize the soil survey was reached in 2001. The desire was to include all of the data on one CD, and an interactive multi-media soil survey was created.

The mission of the cooperative soil survey is to assist mankind in understanding and wisely using soil resources to achieve and sustain a desirable quality of life.

Major fieldwork for the soil survey of White County was completed in 1989, with soil names and descriptions approved in 1991. The soil survey book was published in 1996. The survey was made cooperatively by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, as part of the technical assistance furnished to the White County Soil and Water Conservation District. The cost was shared by the White County Board and the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

A soil survey contains information that can be used in land-planning programs. It contains predictions of soil behavior for selected land uses. The survey also highlights limitations and hazards inherent in the soil, improvements needed to overcome the limitations, and the impact of selected land uses on the environment.

The soil survey is designed for many different users:

- ❖ Farmers, foresters, and agronomists use it to evaluate potential of the soil and management needed for maximum food and fiber production.
- ❖ Planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers use the survey to plan land use, select sites for construction, and identify special practices needed to ensure proper performance.
- ❖ Conservationists, teachers, students, and specialists in recreation, wildlife management, waste disposal, and pollution control can use the survey to help them understand, protect, and enhance the environment.

Soil View can be picked up at the White County Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service office in the USDA Service Center. Additional information on soils and other natural resource programs and activities is available on the District's website at geocities.com/whitecountyswcd.