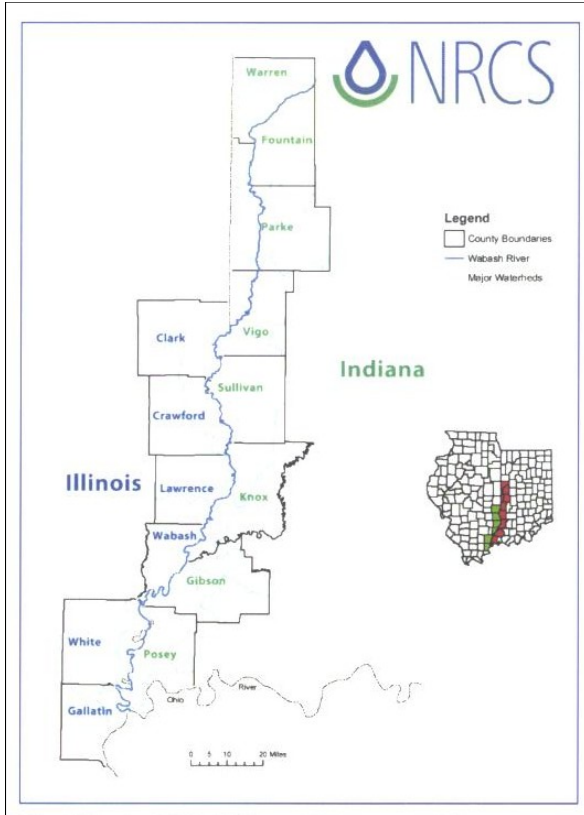


Wabash River Floodplain Corridor Project — Illinois' Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program



White County SWCD entered into an agreement with The Nature Conservancy to provide assistance for the Wabash River Floodplain Corridor Project - Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and The Nature Conservancy are partnering to promote a Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) project along the Wabash River in White, Gallatin, and Wabash Counties. The WREP is a special project in which NRCS and local conservation partners work with landowners to enroll acreage into 30 year or permanent easements and restore land to wetland conditions in a targeted area including 6 Illinois counties and 8 in Indiana.

The WREP is a program offered by USDA to return lands with flooding problems to their natural floodplain conditions. Most land in the floodplain of the Wabash River qualifies for the WREP Floodplain Easement Program. Easements purchased by NRCS are based on \$2,800 per acre for cropland or \$2,500 per acre for non-cropland areas. Payments will be made as a one time lump-sum. If restoration work is done on a site enrolled as a permanent easement, NRCS can pay 100% of the costs.

There has been extensive flood damage to farmland along the Wabash Valley Corridor. Some farmland acres have been damaged badly enough to affect crop production. The Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program can become a valuable resource for farmers and landowners.

WREP, a component of the Wetlands Reserve Program, leverages assistance from NRCS' partners to provide financial and technical assistance to eligible landowners to protect, restore and enhance wetlands and improve wildlife habitat. Wetlands provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. Wetlands also improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals; reduce flooding; recharge groundwater; protect biological diversity; and provide opportunities for educational, scientific and limited recreational activities.

For additional information, contact White, Gallatin, or Wabash County Soil and Water Conservation District staff or the NRCS District Conservationist.

