

Watershed News

Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District

October, 2005

Lilly Creek & Little Duck Creek Watershed Project

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has recently awarded the Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) \$96,150 in grants to develop a Watershed Management Plan for Lilly Creek and Little Duck Creek watersheds. These watersheds, located in the northern portion of the county, were selected in part due to a creek's listing on the state's record of Impaired Water Bodies. This initial planning phase of the project will run through April 2007.

The Madison County Watershed Steering Committee is comprised of 27 individuals that serve as guides for the project. Members ideally represent the commu-



Lilly Creek and Little Duck Creek watersheds based on criteria developed by the SWCD and the Steering Committee.

The following criteria were used:

**Watershed begins and ends within the county boundaries*

**Watershed contains a 303 (d) List Impaired Stream*

**Watershed contains public wellheads*

**Watershed must be a 14 digit Hydrologic Unit Code watershed*

The two regions fall on either side of the Swanfelt watershed, where a Watershed Management Plan was completed in 2004.

nity as a whole, for example: landowners, producers, industry, city/county staff, educators, water quality groups, and residents. Office holders are as follows:

Chair: John Shettle

Vice Chair: Judy Delury

Secretary: Shannon Adams

Facilitator: Laura Fribley

The Steering Committee will be writing a watershed management plan for the Lilly Creek and Little Duck Creek watersheds. The steering committee selected the

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What is a watershed?

A watershed is the land area that drains into a particular lake, stream, or ocean.

Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. Some are millions of square miles, others are just a few acres. Just as creeks drain into rivers, watersheds are nearly always part of a larger watershed.

Contact our office to see how you can get involved with the watershed project.

644-4249 ext. 3

Lilly Creek and Little Duck Creek Watershed Project

Benefits of a Watershed Management Plan

1. *Water quality concerns are identified in a non-confrontational way.*
2. *Funding will become available to VOLUNTARILY work on those water quality concerns as a result of the plan.*
3. *Planned watersheds provide a better quality of life for those living in that area...and those who live downstream.*

The current project consists of several main tasks. The first will involve chemical and biological sampling at 12 sites along Little Duck, Big Duck, Lilly, and Pipe Creeks. The chemical sampling will take place 4 times annually, 3 of these during base flow and 1 during storm flow. The biological sampling will occur twice annually. The results will be an attempt to provide the steering committee with data needed to prioritize their plan's goals and management actions.

Secondly, landowners and residents will be surveyed to determine their thoughts about water quality issues, as well as the project as it gets underway.

Another task the watershed project will undertake is identifying any new best management practice (BMP) (e.g., grassed waterway) installed during the plan and getting these into geographic information systems (GIS) shapefiles.

Lastly, an education and outreach program will be created. This will include

educational programs and a watershed tour to look at BMPs used in the watersheds.

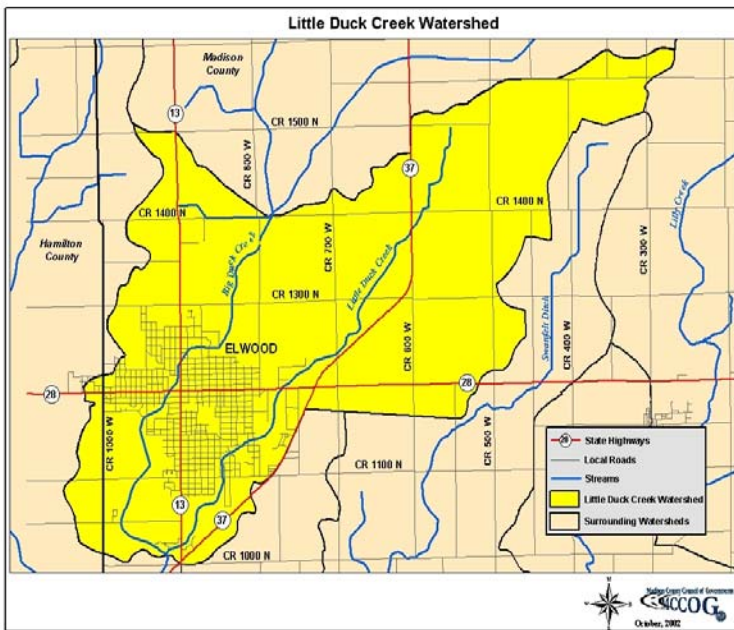
Ultimately, this two year planning project (ending April 2007) will result in the creation of a Lilly Creek and Little Duck Creek Watershed Management Plan that will enable the SWCD and Committee to pursue implementation money for the Lilly & Little Duck Creek watersheds and perhaps more planning dollars for other watersheds within the county.

What are Best Management Practices (BMPs)?

BMPs are land management standards that have been agreed upon as environmentally acceptable and are continually being developed and studied for effectiveness and long-term benefits. They are guidelines that are intended to provide cost-effective and common-sense alternatives to causing extensive harm to aquatic and terrestrial environments in developed and agricultural settings, and to provide a measure of protection for good water quality with the elimination of non-point source pollutants.

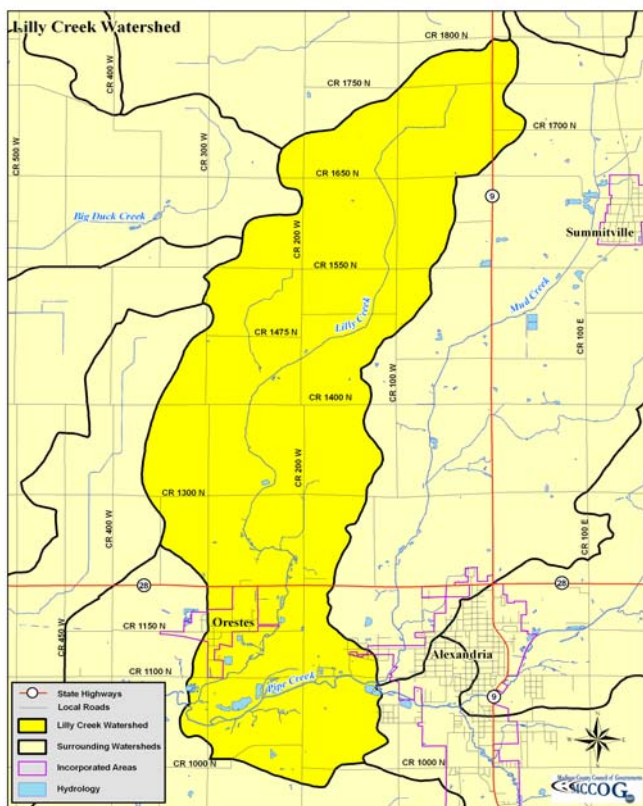


Surplus sediment is visible within portions of this creek in the Lilly Creek watershed. Excess sediment can be harmful to aquatic life. It also carries other contaminants into the aquatic system, such as pesticides or excess nutrients, which can affect drinking water quality. Practices that can reduce the amount of sediment reaching our creeks include grassed waterways, silt fence installation around construction sites, and conservation tillage.



What's a 303(d) List Impaired Stream?

Under our nation's Clean Water Act, states are required to monitor waters for certain pollutants and create a list, called the 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies. An "impaired" water does not meet water quality standards for designated uses, such as fish consumption, recreational use, or aquatic life support. Pollutants might be from fertilizers, industrial chemicals, pesticides, animal wastes, or human sewage. Specific to Madison County, parameters of concern within impaired waterbodies are E. Coli, impaired biotic communities, and fish consumption advisories for PCBs and/ or mercury. Developing a Watershed Management Plan will allow us to pursue further grant monies to help improve water quality within Lilly Creek and Little Duck watersheds, with the help of volunteers.



Watershed Boundaries

The maps on this page show the boundaries of the Lilly Creek and Little Duck Watersheds. Our goal is to create a meaningful watershed management plan for these two watersheds. By doing so, we will have a good chance to receive grant funding to work on VOLUNTARILY improving the water quality in this watershed. It has been proven in many progressive areas around the country that quality water leads to a better quality of life. A better quality of life opens up many opportunities for small communities and counties. So if you live, work, or farm in these areas...get involved in this watershed planning project!

Special thanks to Madison County Council of Governments

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Upcoming Events

SEPTIC SYSTEM WORKSHOP
NOVEMBER 15
6:30-8:30 PM
ELWOOD YMCA
1620 MAIN ST.

Learn how to avoid septic system nightmares by attending a FREE septic system workshop. You will learn the do's and don'ts about septic systems and find out how to save thousands of dollars over time by properly maintaining your system. You will also learn background information on the Lilly and Little Duck watersheds that will connect septic system management to water quality. The workshop promises to be interesting and informative, with fact sheets available for pickup. Pre-registration not necessary. There will be door prizes including a free septic pump. Thanks to our sponsors!

A-1 Whitaker's Sewer & Septic &
Payless Septic & Sewer Co.

REGIONAL WASTE DISCUSSIONS
OCTOBER 31
10AM-12PM

ELWOOD MUNICIPAL BUILDING
IDEM will discuss grant funds available to cities and towns, and steps needed to create a regional waste district. Afterwards, we will break into small groups and brainstorm. Come discuss what regional waste problems exist in northern Madison county, and offer ideas as to how we can fix any problems.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:
OCT. 12, NOV. 9, & DEC. 7
6-7:30 PM
ELWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING
ROOM