

# Conservation District Business Plan

## Vanderburgh County Soil and Water Conservation District

*I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving – Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.*

**Organization:** A district constitutes a governmental subdivision of the state and a public body corporate and politic exercising public powers.

**Function:** To provide information about soil, water and related natural resource conservation; identify and prioritize local soil and water resource concerns; and connect land users to sources of education, technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.

**We serve:** Vanderburgh Co. SWCD serves current & future citizens of Vanderburgh County emphasizing agricultural, urban and suburban communities.

**Why:** Vanderburgh County SWCD is legally mandated to address soil & water quality issues.

**Mission Statement:** Our mission is to provide quality conservation services resulting in a harmonious balance between natural resources, social change and economic health within Vanderburgh County by fostering innovative partnerships.

### Critical Natural Resource Issues:

Soil Erosion

Water Quality

Preservation of Farmland

Preservation/Creation of Natural Areas (Forestry, Wildlife Habitat & Green Spaces)

Urban Initiatives

**SWCD SUPERVISORS:** Laura Lamb, Chairman, David Ellison, Vice-Chairman, Stephen Helfrich, Secretary, Wayne Fehd, Member & Scott Winiger, Member

Statements of Intent for each of the natural resource issues.

#### **Soil Erosion:**

Address urban through educational program continue fulfilling regulatory duties

Informational/educational programs

Utilizing existing or new financial assistance programs from federal, state & local sources

#### **Water Quality:**

Education/information programs existing & new

Utilize existing & establish water quality projects

#### **Preservation of Farmland:**

Reduce the loss of farmland to urban development

#### **Preservation/Creation of Natural Areas:**

Preserve existing wetlands, forests & wildlife areas

Create additional wetlands, forest and wildlife areas

#### **Urban Initiatives:**

Encourage the use of current & future green space initiatives in urban settings including subdivisions

Priority Actions for 2010 to 2013:

#### **Soil Erosion:**

I. Urban Soil Erosion

- Continue developers workshop

- Continue SWCD level of involvement with MS4's
- Continue existing and develop new and current challenge education programs
- Continue existing watershed initiatives and establish new one by 2012

## II. Agricultural

- Field days/No-Till workshops
- Continue Locust Creek Core IV projects
- Establish a priority watershed TBD in Vanderburgh County utilizing Core IV principles
- Locate and promote programs that provide incentives to adopt conservation practices (Newsletter)

## Water Quality:

### I. Vanderburgh County

- Partner with Health Department and other agencies and organizations to address water quality concerns
- Continue septic information in newsletter & informative materials from well informed outside source materials
- Continue conservation programs on Ag lands that improve water quality
- Continue water quality monitoring
- Continue Water Quality Education and Informational programs, materials creation and other methods to promote a better understanding of Water Quality challenges and solutions

## Preservation of Farmland

### I. Locate & identify

## Preservation/Creation of Natural Areas

### I. Create additional wetlands, forest & wildlife areas

- SWCD continues to increase and utilize knowledge about federal, state & local programs related to natural areas
- Continue current and develop new Preservation Programs and promote these to general public
- Promote native plant species awareness, benefits and usage
- Work with partners to eradicate invasive species
- Educate Public on the value and methods of creating and preserving natural areas, the use of nature plants and the eradication and control of invasive species.

### II. Preserve existing wetlands, forests & wildlife areas

- SWCD continues to increase and utilize knowledge about programs to aide in the preservation of our current natural areas
- Educate/promote these programs to the public and community leaders through workshops and partnerships

## Urban Initiatives

### I. Encourage the utilization of "green spaces" in subdivisions & urban

- Educate SWCD on Zoning & related "green space" issues
- Remain involved in influencing zoning ordinances related to "green space"
- Partner with city Arborist to promote Arbor Day Foundation and other tree education programs
- Partner with conservation organizations to develop and promote relevant programs (i.e. KEB, SWIMGA, Purdue Extension)
- Partner with City/County parks department to preserve/create parks & related areas.