



Partners for Conservation Program (PFC)

This program is administered by Soil Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) with funds provided by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and provides cost share assistance and other financial incentives for the construction or adoption of projects that address specific resource concerns, such as Soil Erosion, Soil Health, Water Quality, Groundwater Pollution and more.

Contract sign-up is typically in April, although notification of your interest in the program can be discussed at any time of year. The SWCD Board of Directors will prioritize the applications received based on the tons of soil saved, acres benefited, cost per acre of practice, and cost per ton of soil saved.

Some of the practices eligible are terraces, waterways, water and sediment control basins, dry dams, cover crops, Denitrifying Bioreactors, well sealings, and streambank stabilization. The SWCD Board has approved a list of average costs for different aspects of these types of projects. Once a design is created, a cost estimate is provided to the applicant. PFC allows SWCDs to reimburse the applicant 75% of the actual cost, not to exceed the average county cost. Most projects have a minimum length of 10 years of maintaining the project, which is a requirement.

Contact us:
Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:30 pm

1201 S. Gougar Road New Lenox, IL 60451 (815) 462-3106 ex 3 www.willscookswcd.org

Landowner / Operators Responsibilities

Preplanning Your Projects Will Return Great Benefits for Your Efforts

Projects will not be funded unless approved by the SWCD prior to work being started.

To apply for Partners for Conservation funds:

- Fill out the application and return to Will-South Cook SWCD.
- Work with Will-South Cook SWCD to obtain a Conservation Plan for your property.
- Work with Will-South Cook SWCD to identify practices and complete a design.
- Complete a STAR application online.
- Sign and return the agreement to Will-South Cook SWCD once it is offered to you.

Constructing the Project:

- Select a contractor. You are strongly encouraged to seek bids from multiple contractors. Please refer to the ESC-1 form provided as it will be used for determining any cost-share payments.
- Use care when mowing or disturbing the area once flagged for construction. **Will-South Cook SWCD will flag the area once. Additional flagging will be done at a rate of \$50.00 per hour.**
- Notify the Will-South Cook SWCD office at least 3 days prior to construction to schedule a preconstruction field meeting that includes yourself, the contractor, and a member of Will-South Cook SWCD to review the design and discuss project expectations.
- Contact J.U.L.I.E. (800) 892-0123 so utilities can be located 48 hours prior to construction. Be prepared to answer questions regarding the location of the practice. Return a copy of the completed J.U.I.E. form, with dig numbers.
- Locate any existing file title in the area where in the area where construction will take place. Will-South Cook is not responsible for locating field tiles or damaging existing tiles during construction.
- All construction projects should be completed by October 15th of each year.
- Notify the Will-South Cook SWCD office 2 days prior to completion of the practice to schedule a construction check out and certification while the contractor is on site.
- Seed permanent vegetation with the seeding dates provided in your design.

Once the Project / Practice is Completed:

- Submit paid itemized bills, including construction, seeding & fertilizer bills, to Will-South Cook SWCD for processing and payment.
- Maintain the practice to ensure it is properly functioning for the duration of the written agreement.



Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District
Partners for Conservation Fund Program
Cost-Share Application

Applicants Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Project / Practice Address: _____

Property Owners Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Property Owner's Mailing Address:

Type of PFC project:

Current Cover Crop Type: (circle one) Winter Kill / Conventional

I understand the filing out of this application allows an authorized representative of Will-South Cook SWCD to visit and conduct any necessary on-site investigation to determine eligibility of this proposed project. I understand that this application does not guarantee cost share funding for this project. I understand that it is required for me to fill out an online STAR application to receive funding. Project funding will be decided by Will-South Cook SWCD based on funding availability and restrictions set by the Illinois state cost share guidelines and the Will-South Cook SWCD Board cost share guidelines. **This project will no longer be eligible for cost-share funds if construction on this project is started before funding decisions are made and/or started before a cost-share contract is signed.**

Applicant Date