

# WINTER 24/25 NEWSLETTER

## **Spring 2025 Tree and Fish Sale**

The Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District is now taking orders for the Spring 2025 Tree and Fish Sale! Order forms are available on the district website ([will-scookswcd.org](http://will-scookswcd.org)) or can be picked up at the District office during business hours.

The District has a wide variety of plants, shrubs, and trees available this spring. Stocks range in size from 12 inches to 5-foot linear stock, and in one, two, or five-gallon containers. Fish varieties for sale include: Black Crappie, Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Redear Sunfish, Triploid Grass Carp, Rainbow Trout, Bluegill and minnows.

Fish orders must be received by Tuesday, March 18. Grass Carp orders require the permit information on the bottom of the form to be filled in completely. Tree orders are due by Friday, March 28. All orders are prepaid only.

Tree orders will be available for pick-up April 11th and 12th during business hours and April 13th from 11 am - 2 pm. Fish orders will be available for pick-up on Saturday, April 12 from 11 am –2 pm only. Pick-up is located at the Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District Office, 1201 S. Gougar Road, New Lenox. For more information or order forms, please contact the SWCD office.



## **SWCD Conservation Education Scholarship**

In the spring of 2025, the Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District will be awarding three \$2,000 scholarships to Will or South Cook County students who plan to major in an agriculture or natural resource-related field at an accredited college or school of higher learning. The purpose of these scholarships is to further the cause of soil, water, and natural resource conservation by helping deserving students pursue the subject at an advanced level.

Applications are available at [www.will-scookswcd.org](http://www.will-scookswcd.org) or at the SWCD office. To be considered for the scholarship, all materials must be received by the office by February 28, 2025.

## **Sign Up Now for FY 2024 PFC Funding!**

Sign up is now available for the Partners for Conservation program funding for FY 2024. There are a variety of conservation practices available including grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures, and terraces along with associated practices and specific cover crops.

The SWCD offers cost-share in the amount of 75% of the state average cost of each practice. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please visit our website or contact the office.

## **Soil & Water Stewardship Scholarship is Now Open**

This scholarship is brought to you by the Northeastern Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The application opens on November 1, 2024 and has a deadline of February 15, 2025. The application is available on our website ([www.will-scookswcd.org](http://www.will-scookswcd.org)) or at the SWCD office.

## Are you interested in conservation? Become an Associate Director of the Will-South Cook SWCD!

Associate Directors are volunteers interested in providing their expertise to the SWCD, yet do not have the time to commit to serving on the board. Duties of Associate Directors include:

- Stay informed of local conservation issues
- Promote the district's work to local landowners
- Promote the district's work to legislators and other decision makers regarding the district's funding
- Work effectively with district staff and cooperating agencies
- Implement district programs effectively
- Ensure the board's policies and activities are consistent with the policies of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Division and AISWCD

Interested in learning more? Please contact our office!

## Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop - February 14, 2025

**When:** Friday, February 14th at 10 am

**Where:** Will-South Cook SWCD Office  
1201 S. Gougar Road in New Lenox

This presentation from the Illinois EPA will include information about Erosion and Sediment Control inspections, management practices on construction sites, and stormwater management. The workshop is intended for County Board members, Land Use Departments, Village Planners and Managers, and contractors. Lunch will be served following the workshop.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to the SWCD Office by **Monday, February 10th.**

Sign Up for our e-Newsletter at  
[www.will-scookswcd.org](http://www.will-scookswcd.org)

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Will South Cook Soil & Water Conservation District

## Pond Workshop - March 3, 2025

**When:** Monday, March 3rd at 6 pm

**Where:** Will-South Cook SWCD Office  
1201 S. Gougar Road in New Lenox

Seth Love, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist, will discuss several topics including fish management, vegetation management, and common pond problems. There will also be time available for questions after his presentation. Light refreshments will be available during the meeting.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to the SWCD Office by **Wednesday, February 26th.**

## Replacement Signs Available for Farm Family Winners

The Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District would like to offer all past Conservation Farm Family Award winners the opportunity to replace their signs at a reduced cost. The total cost of each sign is \$179, and the SWCD will pay 50% of the replacement cost.

If you are interested in replacing your farm's sign, please contact the district office.

## Will-South Cook SWCD Election

Voting for the 2025 Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District General Election will take place on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 from 7 am to 5:30 pm. Voters must be of legal voting age and own or reside on land located within the boundaries of the Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District.

