



# SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

## ED WEILBACHER SPECIAL PROJECTS



### EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Agronomy, Western Illinois University; Macomb, IL, 1977  
Emphasis in plant science and watershed management

### AFFILIATIONS

Soil and Water Conservancy Society

Illinois Forestry Association

Confluence Partners

Bike—Pedestrian and Water Resources Committee, East West Gateway Council of Governments

Mounds Heritage Trail, Facilitator

Metro-East Gateway Alliance, Facilitator

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mr. Weilbacher has over 36 years of experience and serves as Special Projects for Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development (SWIRCD). He previously worked for USDA Natural Resources Conservation for 36 years and served the last 22 years as Coordinator assigned to assist SWIRCD until his retirement in June 2011. In his capacity as Coordinator he assisted many groups and organizations to solve local natural resource problems. He helped form groups and sought consensus on contentious issues. Ed assisted SWIRCD to expand services and to be a strong regional nonprofit. He maintains an extensive network of relationships with professionals in Federal, State, and local agencies and with many organizations and individuals.

### PROJECTS

- **Confluence Greenway Master Plan 2010 and Master Plan 2020**—Team members worked with Confluence to develop their Master Plan and its update in 2010. In addition to the comprehensive master plan SWIRCD prioritized a list of projects that could be implemented in the next ten years to comply with future growth and development in the region.  
  
Tasks completed included the creation of the signature graphic image known as The Confluence Map. This map has become the iconic image for Confluence and is also featured in the Mel Price Lock and Dam Visitor's Center and is the first image you see entering the center. SWIRCD prepared the vision, goals and objectives, provided the detail for the entire plan along with progress benchmarks, and provided Confluence all text and graphics in both hard copy and digital.
- **Mounds Heritage Trail Master Plan**—SWIRCD provided the coordination with an IDNR grant to develop a plan to connect Cahokia Mounds with other mound sites with a multi-model trail between Illinois and Missouri. Cultural Resources and extensive public involvement and outreach were completed for this project. This planning effort included a diverse group of constituencies that included Native Americans, Hispanics, African-Americans and descendents from European settlers. The trail also incorporates a National Road in the plan. Currently a broader Master Plan is being developed to capture both the Old North St. Louis and Sugar Loaf Mound Groups in St. Louis. This update is being supported with a NPS - Lewis and Clark Trails Grant and the staff foundation.



## EDWARD WEILBACHER SPECIAL PROJECTS

### PROJECTS

- **Edwardsville Comprehensive Open Space, Parks & Trail Plan**—SWIRCD served as the project lead, along with H3 Studios and Trailnet, to complete the Comprehensive Open Space, Parks & Trail Plan for the City of Edwardsville, IL. Additionally, all mapping support for the project was provided, conducted reconnaissance, wrote text, presented to City Council and the general public, prepared powerpoint presentations throughout the project that included updates to the plan and status of the timeline, and prepared the final document and delivered the hard copies and digital files.
- **Chouteau Island Master Plan**—SWIRCD secured the funding to develop the Master Plan for Chouteau Island. Funding partners for the \$240,00 Master Plan included the Army Corps of Engineers, IDNR, SWIRCD and in-kind labor from cooperating organizations in Confluence. Worked as a lead with the consulting firm Parsons. Assisted with every step of the process including public meetings which included hostile individuals. Produced a final plan that has led to increased public land protected on the island and has established a framework for future investments.
- **Willoughby Heritage Farm and Conservation Reserve Master Plan**— SWIRCD was selected to provide master planning services along with Land Design, Inc to work with the steering committee, as well as numerous planning partners, to facilitate the development of a Master Plan. We secured funding through the Conservation Grant from IDNR that enabled the Collinsville Area Recreation District (CARD) to purchase the forty acres of land located along the bluff line in Collinsville, IL. SWIRCD holds a conservation easement on thirty acres of the site.

The constraints of the site were clearly evident by the deteriorated condition of the farm and the nature of the established conservation easement. Through extensive public involvement, along with the steering committee, SWIRCD was able to refine the Willoughby Farm Vision that was initially established by CARD. A complete natural resource inventory of the forty-acre parcel was completed in order to identify dominant plant species, recorded animal signs, documented physical site conditions, and critical resource issues for the property. The Master Plan and report acts as a guide in assisting the community and the various planning partners in the establishment of an interactive educational farmstead and the restoration and preservation of a quality natural area.

- **Lower Kaskaskia River Regional Interpretive Map**
- **Annual Kaskaskia Watershed Summits and Showcases**—Facilitation and Program Development
- **Ecosystem Partnership Facilitation**—
  - Kaskaskia Shoal
  - American Bottom
  - Lower Kaskaskia
- **Forest Legacy Program for Southwestern Illinois**—Lower Kaskaskia