



## OUR FUTURE, THEIR FUTURE

The Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development delivers environmental and conservation programs specific to the needs of this region. Your investment stays where you live, work & play!

***YES! I want to support Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development***

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*\*Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation. (FEIN 37-1273869) Your donation is tax deductible as allowable by law.*

### SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

406 EAST MAIN STREET  
MASCOUTAH, IL 62258  
618-566-4451  
[WWW.SWIRCD.ORG](http://WWW.SWIRCD.ORG)



“RESPECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT,  
GROWING OUR FUTURE”



SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS  
RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

## FRESH WATER

Southwestern Illinois contains a wealth of water resources, including the Mississippi River, the Kaskaskia River, and Carlyle Lake, the largest man-made lake in the State of Illinois. There are also approximately 200,000 acres recorded as "wetlands" within the region. While our water resources are considered as critical assets, many of these resources have become impaired over the past several generations.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, this region contains approximately 26,000 surface acres of impaired lakes and an additional 800 miles of streams listed as being impaired. Pollutants include remnants of pesticides and herbicides, as well as elements such as phosphorus, manganese, and zinc. Sources of pollutants include urban storm sewer runoff, agricultural practices including crop production and animal feeding operations, industrial point discharge, recreational pollution sources, and individual waste treatment systems.



## WHAT WE DO

We take a comprehensive approach to addressing water quality concerns, including leading multiple watershed and greenway planning efforts, advocating for state and federal programs, as well as local ordinances, that specifically address water quality, and raising private and public funding to implement on-the-ground or educational projects that will lead to improved stream or lake health.

Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development is also very interested in water quantity, and as such is leading a comprehensive study in water supply within the Kaskaskia River basin, as well as assisting local communities in identifying and protecting green infrastructure for improved stormwater management.

## CLEAN AIR

Due in part to its historical industrial base, the Metro East region has a significant issue with air quality. In particular, fine particulate matter, such as that coming from exhaust smoke, threatens the health of residents within the region. Particulate pollution can shorten lives, contribute to heart disease, lung cancer and asthma attacks, and interfere with the growth and work of the lungs.

## WHAT WE DO

Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation & Development is committed to improving air quality in the region. Some initiatives that the organization brings forward in an effort to improve air quality, include urban forestry which filters many types of air pollution, planning alternative transportation (walking – biking) routes, and supporting locally grown initiatives, which reduces transportation associated with obtaining our food products, while strengthening the local economy.



## CONNECTING PEOPLE... ASSISTING COMMUNITIES

## OPEN SPACE

This region possesses an abundance of natural resources including the American Bottoms, dense hardwood forests, hill prairie corridors, and nearly 1,000,000 acres of prime farmland. As migration moves eastward, these natural assets become threatened. Preserving a portion of our grasslands, wetlands, stream corridors, forests, and farmland in perpetuity provides a wealth of benefits to current and future generations.

## WHAT WE DO

We assist landowners and community leaders in identifying and preserving key natural or farmland assets. Protection measures vary and may include easements, land acquisition, or participation in state and federal programs. Our organization follows guidelines set forth by the Land Trust Alliance in conducting land conservation activities.

## GET ACTIVE

### EXPERIENCE OUR UNIQUE OPEN SPACES SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS SEASONAL TREKS



**EAGLE TREK**—Winter

**SPRING PRAIRIE TREK**—Spring

**CANOE & KAYAK FLOAT**—Summer

**HARVEST HIKE**—Fall



## VOLUNTEER

To ensure that our financial resources are invested in programs, and not overhead, we encourage volunteer efforts in many of our activities. Volunteering allows individuals to contribute expertise in specific areas, while also allowing for professional growth. Volunteers meet new individuals, attend events, and learn about the important resources located within southwestern Illinois.

## NEWSLETTER

Stay up-to-date on current events and happenings in your area by receiving our quarterly newsletter which features important activities, including places we've protected, projects that we're undertaking, pending legislation, and much more. You can receive a free subscription by registering online, via email, or by contacting our office. To learn more about opportunities and events, you can visit our website at [www.swircd.org](http://www.swircd.org) or contact our office.

