



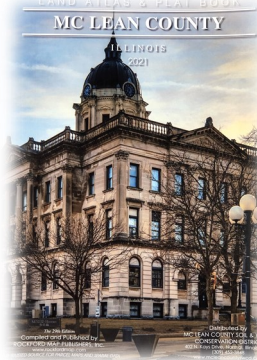
# McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District 2021 Conservation Review

## McLean County Soil and Water Conservation

The McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District proudly preserves McLean County's most valuable resources. Our desire to protect soil and water, and serve area producers is 78 years strong. The experienced staff and strong dedication to conservation gives landowners professional options and solutions to protect our natural resources. The past and present District Board of Directors has given this county the strong leadership and correct direction to maintain the rich agricultural integrity of McLean County.

## McLean County Conservation Services

The SWCD provides many conservation services to the public. Our tree and fish sales are held annually in both the spring and fall. We work with a comprehensive list of native seed vendors for both programmatic and non-programmatic plantings. Farmers and landowners can apply for conservation cost-share dollars and access a list of local conservation contractors and their services. In partnership with the McLean County Pheasants Forever chapter, we offer access to three no-till drills and a three-point hitch tree planter for habitat installation. McLean County plat books are on sale now, subscribe to our newsletter list to learn more about our most current programs and services.



## Our 2021 Accomplishments

The following accomplishments were executed in partnership with local partners, and the McLean County farmers and landowners. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) contracts and dollars distributed include the Environmental Qualities Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) in the most recent fiscal year. To learn more about these specific objectives, and additional opportunities, contact our office.

Conservation Objectives	Projects	Totals
Conservation Trees Distributed	104	1,714 trees
Pond Fish Stocking	70	70 ponds
SWCD Contracts and Dollars Dispersed	5	\$16,164
Cover Crops Projects and Acres	12	1,381 acres
Lake Bloomington Shoreline Installation	2	4,400 feet
No-Till Drill Projects and Acres	29	136 acres
Filter Strip & CRP Tax Reduction Applications	18	157 acres
NRCS Contracts and Dollars Dispersed	18	\$972,786
		7,675 Acres

## SWCD Board of Directors

- Mike Kelley** – Chairman
- Sally Breese** – Vice Chairman
- Irvin Bane** – Director
- Howard Heatherwick** – Director
- Jeff Mathews** – Director

## SWCD Staff

- Jackie Kraft**  
Watershed Coordinator
  - Ross Fogle**  
Watershed Conservation Specialist
  - Brett Irwin**  
Administrative Coordinator  
Resource Conservationist
- Phone:** (309) 452-3848 ext 3  
[mcleancountyswcd@gmail.com](mailto:mcleancountyswcd@gmail.com)

## SWCD News

Want to stay up to date with the Mclean County SWCD? Sign-up for our **Monthly E- Newsletter** on our website!

- Conservation News*
- Sales and Services*
- Education*

**Visit our Website!**



[www.mcleancountyswcd.com](http://www.mcleancountyswcd.com)

The McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status or disability.

This policy covers all programs, services and procedures of the District, including employment.

USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.



# McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District 2021 Project Highlights

## McLean County Monarch Project

The McLean County SWCD strives to protect and enhance monarch breeding and feeding habitat along with other regional pollinators. The Illinois Monarch Project has lead the path to save the monarchs. We have taken the pledge and share their goal of adding 150 million new milkweed stems and other nectar resources to the Illinois landscape by 2038. Projects have begun working with the Illinois Department of Transportation to convert roadside vegetation to pollinator friendly habitat. The initial project is located on I-55 on the east side of Linden Street. The project will develop nearly 1 mile or 12 acres of highly visible road frontage to pollinator habitat. In 2021 we asked farmers to commit an Acre of Habitat for the Farm. Sixteen landowners took the challenge and implemented 21 acres of Monarch Mix on their farms across McLean County! Trinity Lutheran and Northpoint 3rd grade classrooms were also awarded grants to begin a new habitat education program offered to classrooms across the country called, Milkweed in the Classroom. In partnership with the McLean County Pheasants Forever chapter the two schools established butterfly gardens and monitored the success of their plantings in the classroom.



Northpoint Elementary

## Lake Bloomington Shoreline Project

There are more than 17 miles of shoreline in Lake Bloomington and 20 miles in Evergreen Lake. The vast majority of annual loading is from a small selection of those banks eroding, equaling about 4-5% of the total shoreline. To date the Soil and Water Conservation District has addressed the stabilization of 6,300 feet that will contribute towards the goal of 80% reduction of loading in Lake Bloomington. Additionally, we have also implemented 6,105 feet in Evergreen Lake towards our goal to reduce loading by 87%.



## Jim Rutherford Conservation Scholarship

The Jim Rutherford Scholarship was established by the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District to assist outstanding agricultural students at any Illinois College. The student awarded the scholarship should demonstrate superior agricultural academic achievement, commitment to soil and water conservation and potential for innovation and/or leadership ability. The Jim Rutherford Scholarship is awarded in the fall semester of the academic year. This scholarship fund is made possible by generous donations from local donors. Each year an annual golf outing is held to raise the necessary funds. Help support the next generation of local agri-business professionals! Fourteen local scholars have been awarded since inception for a total of \$7000 to attend 8 different Illinois colleges. To make a donation, please contact our office.



2021 Golf Outing  
Champions

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- Sally Breese- Vice Chairman
- Irvin Bane- Director
- Howard Heatherwick- Director
- Jeff Mathews- Director

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