



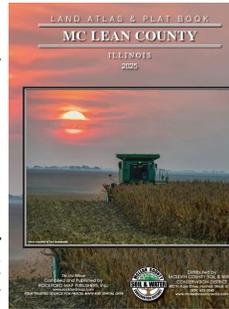
McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District 2025 Conservation Review

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 83 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 local contractors for conservation implementation and native seed vendors for both programmatic and non programmatic projects. Farmers and landowners can apply for conservation cost-share dollars and access federal program possibilities. In partnership with the McLean County Pheasants Forever Chapter, we offer access to three no-till drills, a three-point broadcast seeder and a three-point tree planter for habitat installation. McLean County plat books are also available at our office. Subscribe to our newsletter to learn more about our most current programs and services available to you.



SWCD Board of Directors

Mike Kelley– Chairman
Jeff Mathews– Vice Chairman
Irvin Bane– Director
Garrett Conaty– Director
Collin Loeffler– Director

SWCD Staff

Jackie Kraft
 Watershed Coordinator
Ross Fogle
 Watershed Conservation Specialist
Brett Irwin
 Administrative Coordinator
 Resource Conservationist

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SWCD News

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

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www.mcleancountyswcd.com

Our 2025 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 in the most recent fiscal year through 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	92	1,347 trees
Pond Fish Stocking	50	50 ponds
SWCD Contracts and Dollars Dispersed	10	\$29,438.25
Cover Crop Projects and Acres	11	1,332 acres
Lake Bloomington Shoreline Installation	1	1200 feet
No-Till Drill Projects and Acres	14	65.5 acres
Outreach Events and Attendees	12	220 attendees
NRCS Contracts and Dollars Dispersed	23	\$3,221,591.74
		25,111.3 acres

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.



2025 Conservation Review

McLean County Conservation Cost-share Projects

Partners for Conservation funds are available for conservation installation that will conserve soil and benefit water quality. This funding pool is available on behalf of the McLean County Soil and Water Conservation District. The funds can be used for projects outside of current practices enrolled in an active government contract. Cost share is based on a practice component list that sets expectations for average costs of installation. In 2025 funding in the amount of \$29,438.50 was allocated to McLean County landowners on 10 separate projects. The following practices and projects reflect those totals. Four projects impacting 395 acres for strip till implementation, five projects for the adoption of cover crops impacting 492 acres, and finally one constructed WASCOD project. Applications are available at the office with a sign-up deadline before February 28, 2026.

McLean County Conservation Outreach & Education

The McLean County SWCD coordinated a Twilight Pollinator Scavenger Hunt and Prairie Walk in partnership with Pheasants Forever and First Baptist Church of Bloomington. Children and families enjoyed the mowed paths throughout the newly established prairie and visited various stations to learn more about plants and pollinators that use the space. More than 50 adults, and children attended the event and took home a door prize for completing their scavenger hunt questions. Families attended from neighboring subdivisions on bicycles and evening walks. It was an exciting time for all the partners to see the prairie in bloom, and a learning center for the community. In cooperation with Birkey's Drones and Purdue University, the McLean County SWCD held a informational meeting about cover crop seedings with drone technology. Dr. Shalamar Armstrong and Michael Ruffatti discussed cover crop adoption, tile drainage research, and cover crop adoption. Birkey's Drones gave an overview of the technology, and talked about the various uses drones are helping farmers and cooperatives with to maximize farm efficiencies. The event also included various program availabilities through the USDA and SWCD.



Lake Bloomington & Evergreen Lake Watershed Grants

Farmers and landowners within the watersheds have continued to adopt best management practices and improve conservation stewardship resulting in nutrient reductions. The McLean County SWCD has completed the IL EPA 319 implementation grant which was awarded for \$344,654.50. These funds were used to install important conservation practices conjoining our lakes. Additionally, the McLean County SWCD was awarded a Technical Assistance Grant through the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation districts to hire a watershed conservation specialist. New funding is available to farmers within the watershed thanks to this new collaboration and study being conducted. The focus centers around the adoption and implementation of cover crops, reduced tillage and 4R nitrogen management practices and their impact on water quality. The partnership began with an effort by the SWCD, City of Bloomington, Purdue University and the University of Illinois to propose a grant to the Illinois Soybean Association. The goals of this collaboration will be to evaluate the long-term stream and lake water quality data set of Lake Bloomington watersheds in correlation with the change of conservation on the landscape.

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