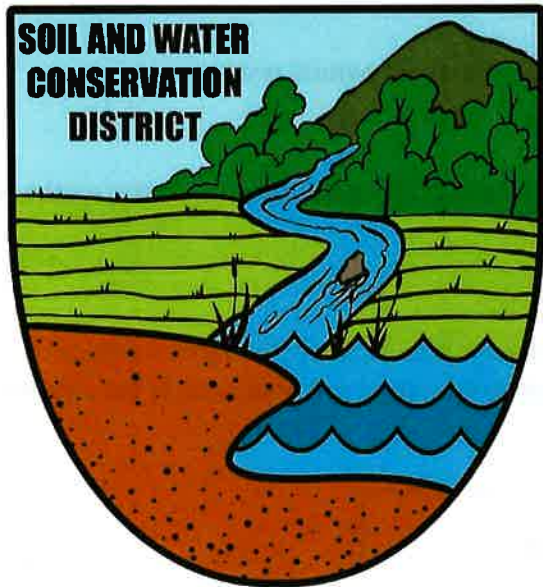


BROWN COUNTY



Business Plan 2021-2025

The Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District is: a Department of the Brown County Government; a subdivision of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture; and an affiliate of the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Conservation District Business Plan

Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District

"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving" – Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

Organization: A district constitutes a governmental subdivision of the state and a public body corporate and politic exercising public powers (IC 14-32-5).

Function: To provide information about soil, water and related natural resource conservation; identify and prioritize local soil and water resource concerns; and connect land users to sources of education, and technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.

Purpose: To connect Brown County residents with the value and safekeeping of our natural resources.

Vision Statement: To ensure that all Brown County residents understand and practice sound conservation methods to protect our natural resources for future generations.

Mission: To provide leadership and partner with Brown County residents and interested environmental groups on management of our land and water resources. The district will also provide education and assistance in the stewardship of the land through best conservation practices.

Natural Resource Goals:

Protect Water Quality

Enhance Native Habitat

Improve Soil Health

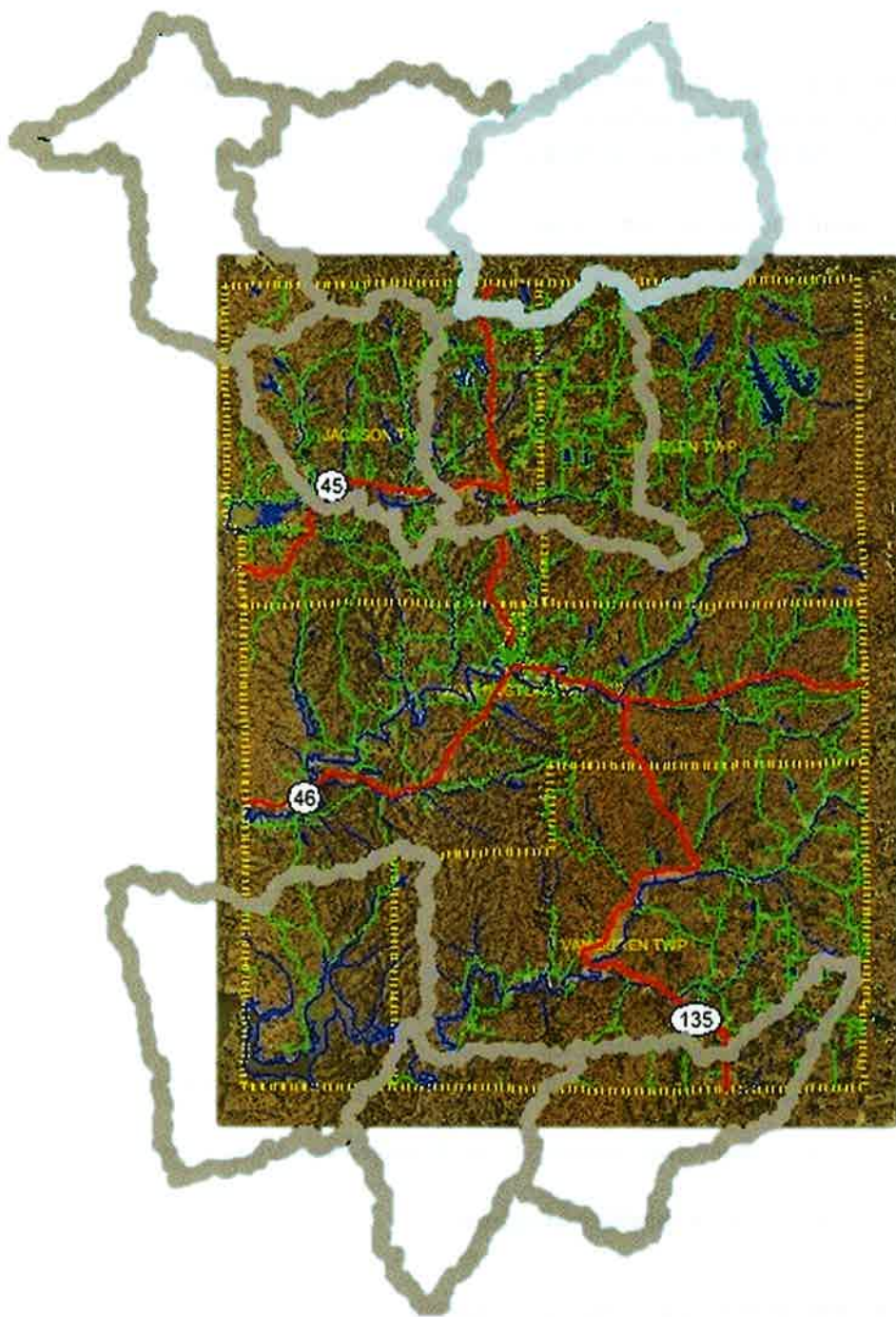
Provide Environmental Education

Promote Sustainable Agriculture

Geographic Areas of Concern:

Watersheds (HUC 12) containing Impaired Class 5 and 4A as determined by the IDEM 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and its 2020 Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM):

051202020101, 051202080402, 051202080404, 051202080701, 051202011601, 051202011602, 051202011603, 051202020102



Note- HUC 10 Watersheds included in these areas are: Indian Creek, Bean Blossom Creek, Salt Creek/Lake Monroe, and South Fork Salt Creek. These watershed names and areas are commonly referred to in 319 Grant projects.

Actions and Best Management Practices to Support Goals

Goal: Protect Water Quality

District Actions:

The BCSWCD will:

- Assist Landowners/users to control or decrease sediment and nutrient levels released in Brown County streams
- Assist Landowners/users to manage ponds and stream banks
- To continue to offer cost share programs to landowners to help implement conservation best management practices in this area.
- Support and/or participate in local watershed protection groups.
- Hold periodic educational workshops on water quality topics.

Best Management Practices that BCSWCD will prioritize to protect water quality:

- Cover crops
 - No-till farming
 - Rain gardens
 - Bioswales
 - Filter strips
 - Grassed waterways
 - Livestock fencing
 - Wetland management
 - Well protection
-

Goal: Enhance Native Habitat

District Actions:

The BCSWCD will:

- Assist Landowners/ users to promote native flora and fauna
- Assist Landowners/ users to manage their woodlands sustainably
- To continue to offer cost share programs to landowners to help implement conservation best management practices in this area.
- Support and participate with local CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area), Brown County Native Woodlands Project
- Hold periodic educational workshops on forest and wildlife management

Best Management Practices that BCSWCD will prioritize to enhance native habitat:

- Invasive species management
- Timber Stand Improvement
- Pollinator habitat planting (including forb, graminoid, shrub, and tree plantings)
- Prescribed fire

- Forest trail repair and maintenance
 - Stream crossings
 - Critical area seeding
-

Goal: Improve Soil Health

District Actions:

The BCSWCD will:

- Assist landowners/ users with their soil erosion issues and concerns.
- Promote the NRCS Four Soil Health Principles:
 - 1. Use plant diversity to increase diversity in the soil.
 - 2. Manage soils more by disturbing them less.
 - 3. Keep plants growing throughout the year to feed the soil
 - 4. Keep the soil covered as much as possible.
- Work with IDEM on compliance with RULE 5 (327 IAC 15-5) permits
- To assist landowners/ users with information on best farming practices including no-till and cover crops.
- Provide landowners/users with information on BMPs for soil conservation in wetlands, prairies, urban settings, and forested areas
- To continue to offer cost share programs to landowners to help implement conservation best management practices in this area.
- Work with NRCS and ISDA staff and others to do tillage and cover crop transects as needed and requested.
- Hold periodic workshops on topics related to soil health

Best Management Practices that BCSWCD will prioritize to improve soil health:

- Cover crops
 - No-till
 - Critical Area Seeding
 - Silt-fence
 - Inlet Protection
 - Water Diversion
 - Stream Protection
 - Heavy Use Area Pad
-

Goal: Provide Environmental Education

District Actions:

The BCSWCD will:

- Plan and present workshops, field days and other educational programs both alone and in partnership with local schools and other organizations. These programs will target adults, children and/or families.
- Hold at least two workshops per year on various conservation topics
- Partner with Brown County teachers to offer desired programming and activities for K-12 students

- Periodically update the BCSWCD Facebook page and distribute an e-newsletter that promote available programs and provide information on conservation to Brown County residents.
- Provide educational resources and available materials to any interested service clubs, school, church group, 4-H group, scouts and others.

Events that BCSWCD will prioritize to provide Environmental Education:

4 th Grade Field Day	Junior Nature Camp
Nature Daze	Annual Meeting
Ag Breakfast	Native Plant Stewardship Course
Septic Summit	Women’s Learning Circle
Pond Workshop	Indiana Master Naturalist
Weed Wrangle	Arbor Day Tree Give-Away
In-school programming	

Goal: Promote Sustainable Agriculture

District Actions:

The BCSWCD will:

- Offer annual cover crop seed order and tool loaner program to provide conservation resources more locally
- Facilitate, host, or collaborate with local sustainable agriculture organizations
- To continue to offer cost share programs to landowners to help implement conservation best management practices in this area.
- Hold periodic workshops on topics related to sustainable agriculture

Best Management Practices that BCSWCD will prioritize to promote sustainable agriculture:

- Solar, wind, and geothermal energy
- Rotational grazing
- Roof-runoff structure
- Hoop House
- Nutrient Management
- Integrated Pest Management
- Composting
- Cover crops
- No-till

Key Partners to Reach for Program Success:

- Brown County Government: Heath Department, Planning and Zoning, County Council, County Commissioners, Solid Waste/Recycling Center, Parks and Recreation
- Brown County Native Woodlands Project
- Brown County School Corporation
- Brown County State Park
- Cordry-Sweetwater Conservancy District
- Friends of Lake Monroe 319 Grant Steering Committee
- Hoosier National Forest
- Indiana Conservation Partners (ICP): IASWCD, IDEM, IDNR, ISDA, Purdue, SSCB, USDA- FSA, and USDA- NRCS
- Indiana District Employees Association (IDEA)
- Keep Brown County Beautiful
- Lake Lemon Conservancy District
- Monroe County SWCD
- Nashville Tree Board
- Nature Daze Planning Committee
- Other Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Salt Creek Preservation Group
- Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management Group (SICIM)
- Sycamore Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- Town of Nashville
- Women 4 the Land
- Yellowwood State Forest

Key Donors/Funders/Grant makers

Local: Brown County Community Foundation, Brown County Lions Club, Friends of Brown County State Park, South Central REMC, Smithville Foundation

State: Clean Water Indiana, Lake and River Enhancement (LARE), IDEM 319

*All Best Management Practices referred to in this document will follow NRCS Standards and Specifications as much as possible and when applicable.

Ed P-b

Laura Young

Scott W. Stephens

This Soil and Water Conservation Business Plan was completed by the Brown County SWCD with the assistance of SWCD staff and Supervisors on August 28th, 2020.

We accept the revised plan and changes to this business plan dated 2021-2025.

Signed this 1st day of October 2020

