

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Johnson County SWCD Receives Funding for Watershed Project

The Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District has recently received funding through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Section 319 grant program, to continue work in the Youngs Creek Watershed and begin work in the Indian Creek Watershed. The Youngs Creek Watershed covers nearly 40% of Johnson County. This two-year implementation grant began January 2, 2007, and will serve to develop, promote and implement a cost-share program of practices identified in the Youngs Creek Watershed Management Plan that will aid in improving water quality within the watershed. The grant will also provide funding to develop a Management Plan for the Indian Creek Watershed, which includes portions of Johnson, Morgan, Monroe and Brown Counties.

Major goals of the project for the Youngs Creek Watershed will include promoting and implementing a cost-share program for conservation best management practices (BMPs) such as livestock exclusion, riparian buffers and conservation tillage, as well as promoting enrollment in other existing federal cost-share programs such as the conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Major goals of the project for the Indian Creek Watershed will include forming a steering committee, developing a watershed management plan, establishing a GIS database, and conducting outreach and educational activities to increase public awareness and participation in the watershed projects. A public meeting will be held soon to provide information about this project and recruit volunteers for the steering committee.

At the conclusion of the grant, the Youngs Creek Watershed Advisory Group, the Indian Creek Steering Committee and the Johnson County SWCD will revisit the management plan to evaluate progress toward stated goals, and determine the next course of action.

For more information or to become involved with the project contact Debra Ashack, Watershed Coordinator, Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District, (317) 346-6102, (317)878-4064 for out of area, or go online at www.swcd.org/watershed.htm .