



Marion County
Soil & Water Conservation District
"helping people care for the land"

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News for Immediate Release

Fall Creek Watershed Effort Proceeding!

Twenty eight interested individuals attended the Lower Fall Creek Watershed Public Meeting on Tuesday, July 24th at 6:30 pm at the City of Lawrence Government Center. The Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) hosted this "watershed stakeholder" session. Ron Lauster- SWCD Director, opened the session. Sheila McKinley-Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD, selected by the SWCD to be Project Manager for the Lower Fall Creek Watershed Project, and Heather Buck also with Christopher Burke Engineering helped facilitate the meeting. Local resident inputs on resource concerns were requested. Concerns expressed at the meeting included excess sediment and debris build up at Emerson and Fall Creek Bridge, periodic flooding at Millersville Rd. at Mallard Lake/Devon Creek, and the possible needs for signs regarding water quality and health conditions on Fall Creek below 46th Street. Invasive species of honeysuckle and possible funding for vegetative buffers along the stream were also discussed.

Three upcoming work group sub-committee meetings and dates were confirmed at the session. Those interested in helping with any of these sub-committee efforts are encouraged to attend one or more of the appropriate sessions.

- The Water Quality Sub-Committee Meeting-Tuesday, August 7, 2007.
- The Land Use/Economic Development Sub-Committee-Tuesday, August 14, 2007.
- The Education and Outreach Sub-Committee Meeting-Thursday, August 16, 2007.

Each of these meetings, conducted on the appropriate meeting date, will begin at 3:00 pm and end around 4:30 pm. All the meetings will all be held at Lawrence Government Center, 9001 East 59th Street, Lawrence. The Center is just a short distance north of the intersection of Post Rd and 56th Street in the Northeastern part of Marion County. For more specific details about each meeting, location, or other details about the watershed project individuals are encouraged to contact the Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District by calling 317-786-1776 or visiting their web site at www.marionswcd.org. A web site specifically tailored for the watershed is also available at www.lowerfallcreek.org.

The Lower Fall Creek Watershed effort, being led by the SWCD, is made possible with an Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) grant. The grant was provided to develop a Watershed Management Plan for the Lower Fall Creek Watershed. Mark Kautz, Chair of the local SWCD states, "The strength and quality of this effort will be directly related to the involvement we obtain from local citizens and organizations in conducting this planning process". He continued, "We hope to involve all interested citizens, neighborhood groups, local and state government agencies and others in the watershed area". The Steering Committee for the project currently includes a host agency and organization representatives from Marion, Hamilton, Hancock, and Madison counties and the Cities of Indianapolis and Lawrence.