



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

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News for Immediate Release

Fall Creek Project Is A Joint-Community Effort!

The Lower Fall Creek Watershed Project is quickly developing into a joint community effort. The water quality study is being coordinated by the Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). Ron Lauster, Director of the local SWCD reports, "Our SWCD has been working hard to obtain input from interested citizens, neighborhood groups, local and state government agencies and others in this planning effort". Hosts of individuals, agencies and organizations have volunteered to help direct this community planning effort by serving on the Lower Fall Creek Watershed Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee currently includes: Lori Kaplan- City of Lawrence Department of Public Works; Joe King- Dirty Dozen Hunting & Fishing Club; John South- Hamilton Co. SWCD; Cindy Beckner- Hancock County SWCD; Gwen White- IDNR Div of Fish & Wildlife; Bob Barr- IUPUI CEES; Chris Barnett- Near North Development Corporation; Crist Blassaras- Madison Co. SWCD; Pam Thevenow- Marion County Health-Department; Angie Dye-Veolia Water Company and Joshua Goode- watershed resident. Other representatives from the City of Indianapolis include Donna Price & Kelly Woods, Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD); Victoria Cluck and Bob Masbaum, Department of Public Works (DPW); and Tina Jones-Indy Parks. The study is being made possible with an Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) grant, which was provided to develop a Watershed Management Plan for the Lower Fall Creek Watershed. Sheila McKinley with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD has been selected by the SWCD to assist the District as Project Manager for the Lower Fall Creek Watershed Project.

The Steering Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 22nd at 3:00 pm at the Lawrence Government Center, 9001 East 59th Street, Lawrence. This meeting is open to the public for those interested in attending. Three other working groups- Water Quality, Land Use/Economic Development, and Education/Outreach have also been established and are seeking watershed residents and community leaders to assist in helping the Steering Committee with the project. Watershed stakeholder meetings are being planned about every three to four months to keep the general public informed of the projects progress. Those wanting more information about the project should contact the SWCD office at 317-786-1776. A web site specifically tailored for the watershed is available at www.lowerfallcreek.org. The site includes a watershed map, meeting notes, and other upcoming event information. Additional information about the Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District is available at their web site at www.marionswcd.org.

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