



# Hoosier Heartland Fact Sheet

Serving Boone, Brown, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, and Shelby Counties

Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

## WHO WE ARE

Since 1969, Hoosier Heartland has been identifying and implementing natural resource projects in Central Indiana. We are a not-for-profit (501c3) organization of volunteers who connect community needs with funding and expert assistance to carry out projects that protect and enhance the environment, quality of life, and economic base for residents.

**WE** assess local resource needs and develop plans of action to address concerns and problems.

**WE** act as a liaison between communities or citizens and government to secure needed services and assistance.

**WE** promote the wise use, protection, and management of natural resources through a variety of educational and informational methods.

## OUR GOALS

1. A quality natural resource environment for the residents of the area.
2. Integration of conservation of natural resources in land use planning and changes.
3. Economic viability through the utilization and management of natural resources.
4. Awareness of the importance of natural resource conservation and development.

## HOOSIER HEARTLAND SUCCEEDS IN

- Working for healthy and productive natural resources that benefit our economy, produce clean water and clean air, and improve our standard of living.
- Providing current and accurate information for evaluating land use issues.
- Supplying advanced natural resource training for land use professionals and decision makers.
- Serving as an incubator for new like-minded organizations.
- Providing a voice and platform to help citizens address resource-related concerns.

## SOME EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

- Accredited training on planning and installing resource management systems.
- Funding to help small municipalities improve water treatment.
- Stream bank improvements to protect against flooding and enhance water quality.
- Forestry projects that provide income and enhance wildlife habitat.
- Urban gardens that provide fresh produce to residents and entrepreneurial opportunities for youth.
- Home well testing to insure safe water supplies for families.
- Construction of dependable water supplies for rural fire protection.
- Citizen forums that explore alternative energy sources.
- Teacher workshops so that our students understand Indiana's natural resources.
- Training for entrepreneurs who want to start or improve their small business.

## OUR STRUCTURE

### The Council

The Council is a governing board made of volunteers who represent one of our three major sponsors in each county.

- Soil and Water Districts
- County Extension Boards
- County Commissioners
- At-Large Members

### The Committees—Backyard Conservation, Education, Forestry, Rural Matters, and Urban.

Members are residents, groups, businesses, and units of government who are interested in our goals and can:

- Enjoy making things happen
- Feel a passion for our goals
- Bring special expertise to the group

## JOIN US

**You can help** make good things happen in your community! Many dedicated volunteers, organizations, and businesses make Hoosier Heartland successful. To join our highly successful organization, or to donate to our cause, please contact us at 317-290-3250.

*The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program was developed in 1964 by USDA and is based on the premise that local people, working together, can identify and solve problems and realize opportunities that will enhance their quality of life.*

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