



Cedar Creek

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES COST SHARE PROGRAM

This program is part of the Implementation of the Cedar Creek Watershed Management Plan (2005) funded by the Clean Water Act through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to the non-profit St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative Partnership, Inc.

The focus of this project is to encourage landowners to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Cedar Creek Watershed with the goal of improving water quality through the reduction of sediment, nutrients and pesticides. The Cedar Creek is the largest tributary of the St. Joseph River. The St. Joseph River is the source of drinking water for nearly 250,000 persons living in and around Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Program Guidelines

1. Eligibility:
 - a. Cost share is available for land located within the Cedar Creek watershed, in critical areas as defined by the Cedar Creek Watershed Management Plan. See attached map.
 - b. Priority will be given to flood plains and land situated along the corridors of ditches and waterways. Eligible parcels must lie at least 50% within ½ mile from the stream treatment area.
 - c. At least 50% of tracts situated on the watershed borders must lie within or drain into the Cedar Creek.
 - d. Private landowners, organizations, institutions or other entities are eligible to participate in this cost-share program. However, commercial developments cannot use this program to meet Rule 5, Rule 13, NPDES, or any other regulatory requirements.
 - e. Federal cost share funding sources can be used toward the establishment of these BMPs. However, combined cost-share assistance to the landowner cannot exceed 75%.
 - f. Filling in “odd areas” adjacent to existing federal farm program plantings and reinforcing existing plantings are acceptable.

Procedure

1. Interested landowners should contact the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative Office and website, or the DeKalb, Noble or Allen county SWCD office.
2. Landowners, with assistance from technical support specialists from their county SWCD, NRCS, or the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative, should complete the forms in the application packet and submit the completed forms to the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative.
3. Applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funding is available for cost-share under this program. The SJRWI will review the application and notify the landowner of approval.
4. The landowner is responsible for purchasing trees/seeds/pesticides and contracting with a planter.
5. Applicants must complete a Form 319-A (agricultural) or 319-U (non agricultural) form in order to be receive cost-share. These forms are required by IDEM.
6. After installation is complete, the landowner will notify the SJRWI and submit the "Completion/Reimbursement" form along with copies of invoices and receipts.
7. No cost-share monies will be approved until all required documents are submitted and the project is reviewed and planting/spraying is deemed completed.
8. Upon completion of the field verification, the SJRWI will submit the contract to IDEM for reimbursement. Checks will be issued to the landowner by the SJRWI approximately 6-8 weeks after inspection.