



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

**NEWS RELEASE**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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**Indiana NRCS Invests in Local Watershed to Protect Communities and Vital Infrastructure**

*Indianapolis, IN, October 6, 2017* – USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) plans to invest \$150 million in 48 new, multi-year projects that aim to build vital infrastructure while conserving natural resources in 20 states, including Indiana, through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program. NRCS works with local groups to help prevent floods, protect watersheds, improve agricultural water management and enhance wildlife habitat through this program.

“Protecting lives and property while improving the natural resources within Indiana’s watersheds is critical,” Jane Hardisty, Indiana NRCS State Conservationist said. “Watersheds are nature’s natural boundaries. Working with our local partners, we have made much progress throughout the years in reducing damages caused by flooding, sedimentation and erosion in Indiana watersheds because of our proactive approach to program implementation.”

Indiana’s Muddy Fork of Silver Creek Conservancy District has been selected to receive project funding to plan and design a new structure. Structure #4 will be owned, operated and maintained by the Muddy Fork of Silver Creek Conservancy District. NRCS serves as the primary technical adviser to project sponsors because of its engineering and environmental expertise, and ability to deliver science-based technology and knowledge about the watershed’s natural resources and ecosystem.

The Muddy Fork project will help complete a long-term, multi-phased effort to prevent flooding and provide other natural resource benefits in this watershed, which includes parts of Clark, Floyd, and Washington counties. The new structure will store more than 1,300 acre-feet of water, enhance wildlife habitat and provide additional sources of drinking water for nearby communities.

Since 1947, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program has helped communities address critical needs related to flood control, water management, watershed protection and development. “History has shown us that smart, proactive investments in small watershed and flood prevention projects yield great benefits for landowners, communities and taxpayers,” Hardisty said. “These dams reduce the flooding of businesses, homes, roads and agricultural lands. They provide dependable water supplies and increase recreational opportunities for fishing, hiking, and birdwatching.”

For more information about the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program, visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/wfpo/>. For information about other types of assistance available through NRCS contact your county’s District Conservationist <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/in/contact/local/>.

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