

# TIPPECANOE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



2005 - 2010  
*Long-Range Plan*



## *Vision Statement*

*The Soil and Water Conservation District is recognized by the community as Tippecanoe County's foremost conservation organization providing leadership and assistance through promotion of natural resource stewardship and responsible planning.*

## *Mission Statement*

*The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to provide quality technical, educational, and informational resources for the community through leadership, service, and citizen involvement to foster natural resource conservation and environmental stewardship.*

# *Organization*

*The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a legal subdivision of state government; the only local unit of government responsible for coordinating the conservation of our soil, water, and related natural resources.*

*The Tippecanoe District was organized through a public referendum held in 1940 in accordance with the Indiana Soil Conservation Act, now amended. At its origin, only five townships were served by and included in the District. Over the course of time, the District has come to serve all of Tippecanoe County, including the once excluded cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette, as well as the smaller towns.*

*The official governing body of a Conservation District consists of five supervisors.*

*Three are elected at the local Annual Meeting of land occupiers and two are appointed by the State Soil Conservation Board based upon recommendations of the leadership in the District. Selection of all five supervisors is based on input from the local people they serve, and as public officials responsible to the district and state, supervisors are required to subscribe to a standard public oath of office.*

# *Purpose*

*The purpose of a Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide information about soil, water and related natural resource conservation; to identify and prioritize local soil and water resource concerns; to implement conservation practices and technologies, and to connect land users to educational, technical and financial assistance from local organizations and state and federal agencies.*

*Because each Conservation District develops its own programs to suit the needs of the people in its county, local citizens play an important role, and each district serves as a means for all interested people in a county to work together for natural resource conservation and development.*

# Tippecanoe County, Indiana

*County Seat:*  
*Lafayette*

*Origin of Name:*  
*Tippecanoe River & Battleground*

*Organization Date:*  
*March 1, 1826*



## *Tippecanoe County Townships:*

- Fairfield
- Jackson
- Lauramie
- Perry
- Randolph
- Sheffield
- Shelby
- Tippecanoe
- Union
- Wabash
- Washington
- Wayne
- Wea



# *Watersheds, Geology and Soils of Tippecanoe County*

Tippecanoe County is located in the west-central part of Indiana and has a land area of 322,000 acres or 503 square miles. The county extends about 24 miles from north to south and 21 miles from west to east. Located near the center of the county, the twin cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette contain the county seat.

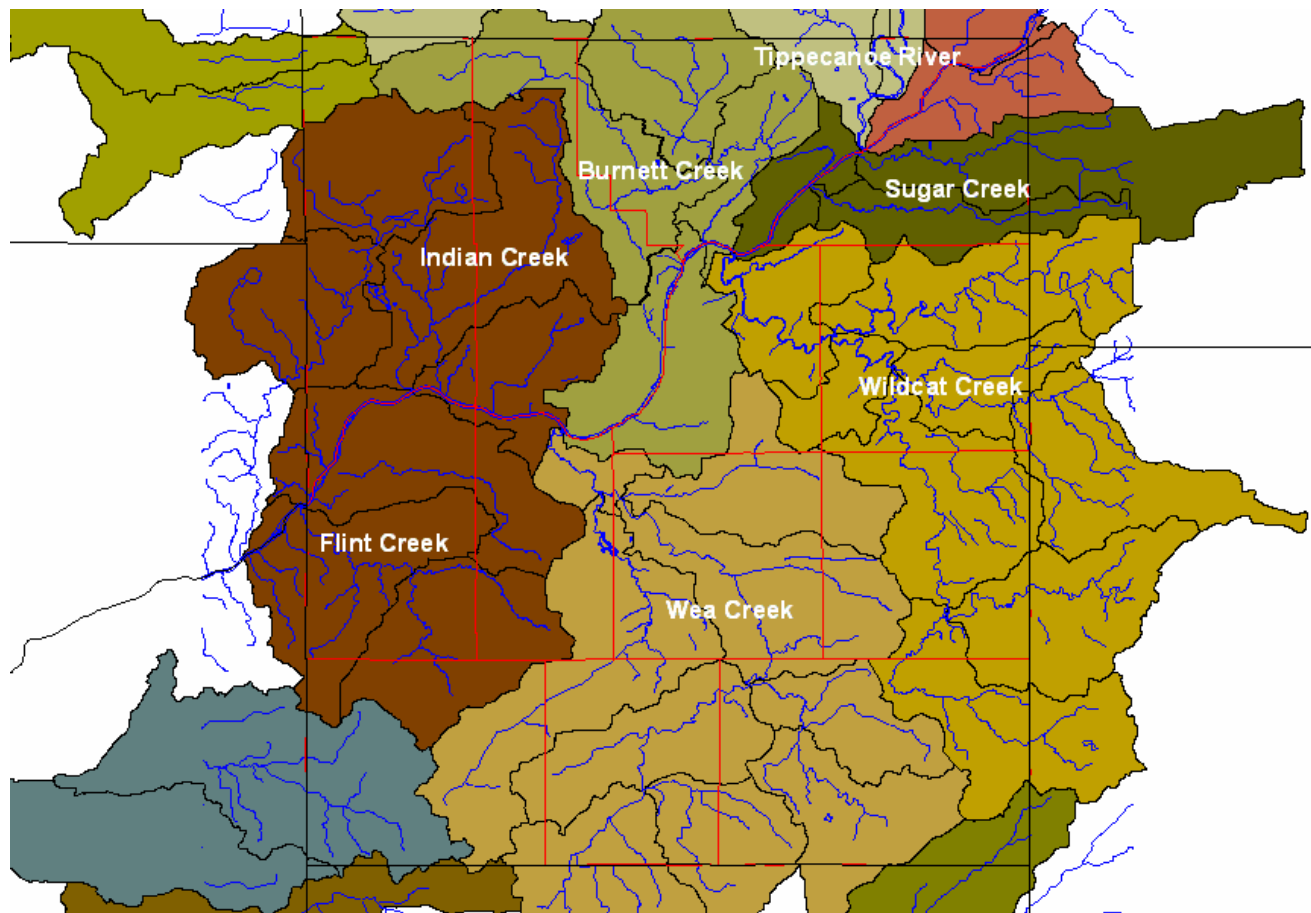
The Wabash Valley is the most striking physiographic feature of this county. All of the county is within the drainage basin of the Wabash River, which crosses the county from the northeastern corner to near the center of the western boundary. There are many watersheds and sub watersheds within Tippecanoe County, seven of which are depicted on the next page. Two main tributaries, the Tippecanoe River and Wildcat Creek, enter the Wabash River in the northeastern part of the county. Little Pine Creek, Indian Creek, Burnett's Creek and Moot's Creek are minor tributaries from the north; Sugar Creek and Buck Creek enter from the east, and finally, Wea Creek and Flint Creek come in from the south.

Tippecanoe County was repeatedly glaciated in earlier times. Wisconsin, the last glacier, melted about 10,000 years ago. Soils of the county are derived from this glacial drift and slope gently southwestward. During the past 10,000 years, soil forming processes have been at work developing soils from the glacial drift. There are twelve major soil associations in the county which are further grouped here into five main soils areas:

1. The flood plain of the Wabash River and its tributaries, where the predominant soils are well-drained and cover approximately 7% of the county;
2. The terraces associated with the Wabash River and principal tributaries including the Tippecanoe River, Wildcat Creek, and Wea Creek, where the principle soils vary from excessively-drained to the very poorly drained make up about 18% of the county;
3. The sloping land area between the level uplands and major drainage ways are made up of well-drained soils and amounts to about 27% of the county;
4. The nearly level to gently sloping upland soils ranging from somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained occupy approximately 34% of the county; and
5. The prairie soils ranging from the well-drained, sloping to the very poorly drained, make up the remaining 14% of Tippecanoe County.

# *Tippecanoe County Watersheds/Sub-Watersheds:*

- *Burnett Creek*
- *Indian Creek*
- *Flint Creek*
- *Sugar Creek*
- *Tippecanoe River*
- *Wea Creek*
- *Wildcat Creek*



# *The Road Less Traveled...*

*2005 - 2010*

Tippecanoe County's history leads back to densely wooded forests and abundant wildlife, to prairies and fertile farmlands, to wetlands and the Wabash River. This wealth of natural resources is what initially drew the first permanent settlers here in 1822, and led to the establishment of "Marquis de Lafayette" in 1825, now known as Lafayette. Tippecanoe County was established in 1826, and to accommodate progress, the Wabash and Erie Canal was constructed and arrived in Lafayette in 1843. West Lafayette was established in 1845, and the first railroad reached Tippecanoe County in 1851. Within 30 years, urbanization and progress replaced the native grasses and woodlands, with cities and modes of transportation, changing the natural landscape of Tippecanoe County forever.

Today, urbanization, mobility and the fast pace of modern life often separate us from daily personal contact with the natural elements. Yet even when they go unnoticed, these resources remain a powerful influence on our quality of life and our prospects for the future.

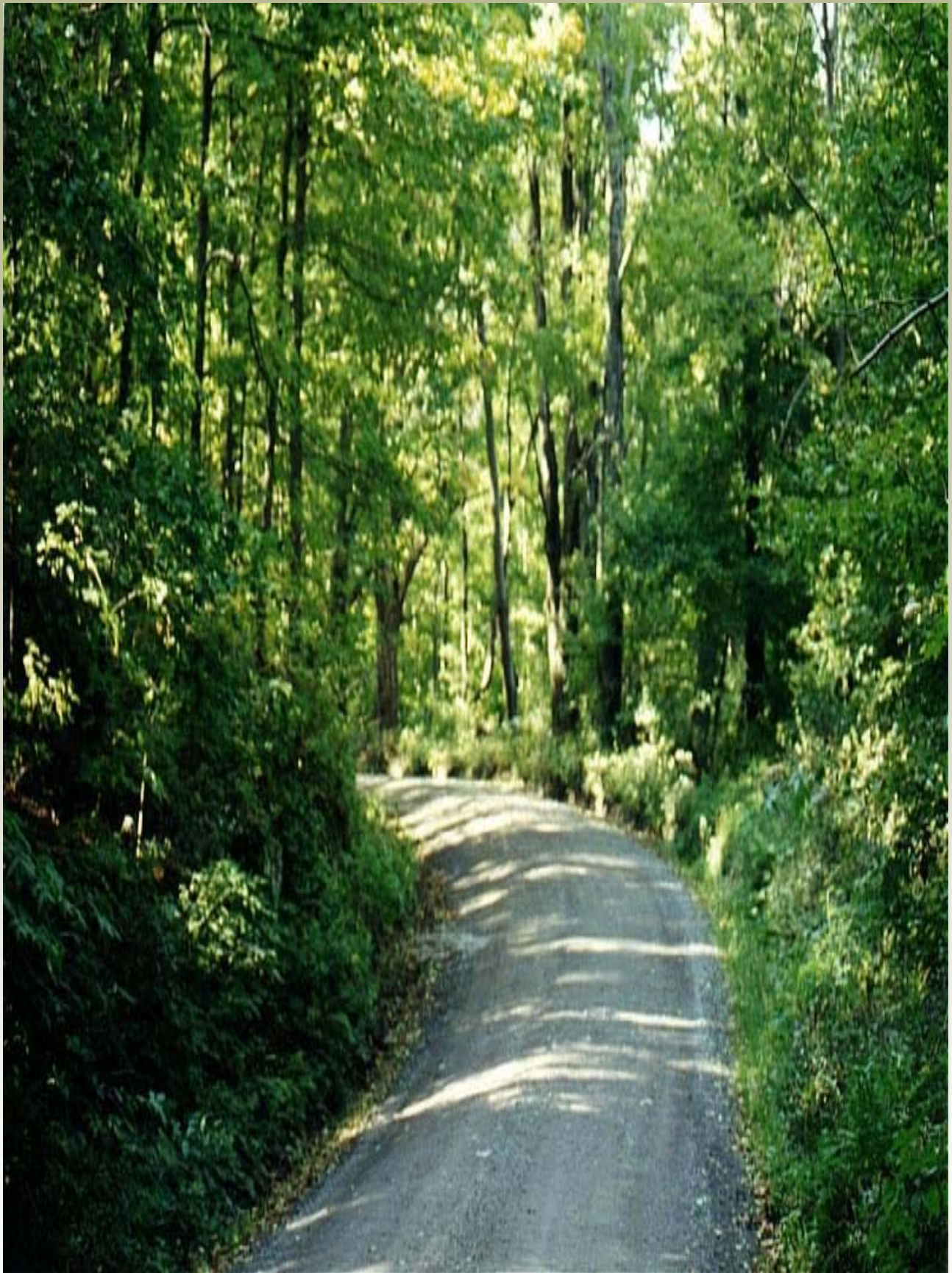
This Long-Range Plan is a roadmap for caring for these important resources. Hopefully it brings to mind the visions of many who have spent their lives here in the Twin Cities, in the rural areas, and along the banks of the Wabash. It will move us forward with comprehensive conservation programs and innovative approaches to put "conservation on the ground". It will translate into action by combining science and gentle persuasion to advance the conservation ethic, and by joining efforts with those of other conservation organizations and partners. Overall, this Plan encourages a thoughtful course of action that gives equal weight to the immediate and the long-term, as well as to the local and far-reaching impacts of our actions on the natural environment.

Our vision of natural resources for Tippecanoe County are:

- Stable Soils
- Healthy Forests and Riparian Buffers
- Clean Streams and Water Resources
- Productive Farms
- Sustainable Communities

Throughout the plan, you will note that there are statements of intent, strategic planning objectives, and a public education and outreach component for each of these natural resources. Education has been a part of the Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District's general objective for nearly six decades, and we continue to believe that education is one of the most effective ways to guarantee the wise use of our natural resources for the future. Building public awareness will move us forward into the next decade while ensuring stable soils, healthy forests, clean streams, productive farms, sustainable communities, and an overall pleasing quality of life for the people of Tippecanoe County.





## *Our Vision:*

### *Stable Soils*

Today, as in the past, certain agricultural uses and earthmoving projects each, to varying degrees, accelerate soil erosion. Erosion can mean the loss of important, fertile soils. It can also turn those once productive, beneficial soils into a community problem. When the disturbed soil gets into our streams, it becomes a pollutant that smothers aquatic life, promotes flooding, and reduces recreational opportunities.

The District's 1972 Long Range Plan indicated that resource concerns that were "presently recognizable" at that time included, to name a few:

- Accelerated erosion on areas under construction, resulting in downstream silting of drainage ways, bottomlands, and streams;
- Increased surface water management problems and flooding due to run-off from impervious surfaces such as parking lots, roofs, streets, etc.;
- Improper soil use...constructing buildings, streets, and other structures that fail because soil limitations were not overcome;

These concerns still exist as a result of "progress"...and added together, the numerous small land-disturbing activities throughout Tippecanoe County have the cumulative effect of making sediment our greatest water pollutant by volume.

Consequently, the need for erosion and sediment control remain a high priority and an essential component in helping the District accomplish its priorities over the next five years.

*The surface of the earth is soft and impressible by the feet of men, and so with the paths which the mind travels.*

*- - Henry David Thoreau*

## *Stable Soils:*

### *Our Statements of Intent:*

- 1. By 2010, 80% of Riparian Buffer “remaining need” will be planned.*
- 2. By 2010, there will be 50% increase in conservation tillage on erosive soils.*
- 3. By 2010, Soil and Water Education will reach 25% more people for each audience identified: Youth (Formal and Nonformal); Adult (General); Industry/Business; and Local Government*
- 4. By 2010, a full-time urban technical assistance program will be in place.*
- 5. By 2010, wildlife habitat will be established on 80% of the targeted sensitive areas.*

# *Stable Soils*

## *Strategic Planning Objectives:*

### Urban/Suburban Communities:

- Provide to governmental units responsible for land use planning and zoning ordinances resource information and recommendations relative to soil suitability, erosion and sediment control, water management, etc.  
*(Statement of Intent #4)*
- Provide training sessions on erosion and sediment pollution control for engineers, developers, and earthmovers and/or work one-on-one with individuals within these groups to provide the specific assistance needed to effectively manage their particular work sites.  
*(Statement of Intent #4)*

### Agricultural Communities:

- Identify current tillage trends on Highly Erodible Land.  
*(Statement of Intent #2)*
- Provide to agricultural landowners/landusers resource information and recommendations relative to soil suitability, erosion and sediment control, water management, etc., including natural resource comprehensive conservation planning.  
*(Statements of Intent #1, #2, #5)*
- Provide workshops and small group tours.  
*(Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #5)*
- Promote enrollment of erosive lands into conservation programs.  
*(Statement of Intent #2)*

### All Communities:

- Inventory critical areas and provide educational and technical assistance to those responsible for installing corrective measures.  
*(Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5)*
- Increase and promote filter strips along ditch banks, streams and rivers.  
*(Statement of Intent #1)*
- Increase and promote installation of erosion control practices, conservation tillage and protective cover.  
*(Statement of Intent #2)*
- Furnish soils information to landowners, planners, developers, and others detailing soil limitations, etc. for proper planning.  
*(Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5)*
- Provide technical assistance to landowners, planners, developers, and units of government and others in determining surface and ground water management alternatives as part of soil, water, and related natural resource planning.  
*(Statements of Intent #1, #2, #4, #5)*
- Encourage use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in urban and rural areas.  
*(Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5)*
- Promote and/or provide cost-share conservation programs/opportunities.  
*(Statements of Intent #1, #2, #5)*
- Support federal, state and local laws regarding erosion and sediment control.  
*(Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5)*



# *Stable Soils*

## *Public Education and Outreach:*

*The District's education and outreach component targeted specifically to adults, business/industry, and local government will enhance our ability to promote overall good conservation measures and specific best management practices in the planning phases, albeit urban or agricultural.*

*The District's acceptance of conservation easements will prevent the loss of natural topography, and may be used as demonstration areas to validate the effective and aesthetic utilization of a landscape's natural elements within a developing community.*

## *Resources:*

*The addition of an urban technician will ensure that the District continues to be a visible presence in the county, and will bolster what is our most effective approach to erosion control – working one-on-one with engineers, developers, earthmovers, and local governmental entities.*

*Utilization of a District employee will allow us to carry out workshops, informational mailings, etc. in our pursuit of an increase in conservation tillage, riparian buffers, and wildlife habitat.*

*Partnerships with the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, Indiana Department of Natural Resources and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service allow the District to offer training, technical assistance and cost-share incentives.*



## *Our Vision:*

### *Healthy Forests and Riparian Buffers*

Forests and riparian buffers are important for a number of reasons. They play a critical role in the landscape, filtering and removing nutrients from the soil; providing food, habitat and temperature-moderating shade for fish and wildlife; protecting streambank integrity; and moderating flood damage.

Resource concerns such as accelerated erosion along streambanks and loss of natural topography can be addressed through the careful stewardship of stream corridors and the protection of our forests and buffered areas:

There is a direct correlation between healthy forests and high-quality streams. It has been documented that, as forested buffer strips are reduced, water quality declines. Protecting, maintaining, and even creating new forested corridors along streams is essential to protecting the vitality of our water resources, now and in the future.

*He that planteth a tree is a servant of God, he  
provideth a kindness for many generations, and  
faces that he hath not seen shall bless him.*  
-- Henry Van Dyke

## *Healthy Forests & Riparian Buffers*

### *Our Statements of Intent:*

- 1. By 2010, 80% of Riparian Buffer “remaining need” will be planned.*
- 2. By 2010, there will be 50% increase in conservation tillage on erosive soils.*
- 3. By 2010, Soil and Water Education will reach 25% more people for each audience identified: Youth (Formal and Nonformal); Adult (General); Industry/Business; and Local Government*
- 4. By 2010, a full-time urban technical assistance program will be in place.*
- 5. By 2010, wildlife habitat will be established on 80% of the targeted sensitive areas.*

# *Healthy Forests & Riparian Buffers*

## *Strategic Planning Objectives*

### Urban/Suburban Communities:

- Promote tree planting to individual landowners, homeowner associations, community groups, business organizations, and local units of government.  
(*Statement of Intent #4*)

### Agricultural Communities:

- Provide to agricultural landowners/landusers resource information and recommendations relative to soil suitability, erosion and sediment control, water management, etc., including natural resource comprehensive conservation planning.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #5*)
- Provide workshops and small group tours.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #3, #4, #5*)
- Promote and/or provide cost-share conservation programs.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #4, #5*)
- Promote windbreak establishment to agricultural landowners/landusers through comprehensive planning.  
(*Statement of Intent #1, #5*)
- Coordinate a forestry related field day to promote forest management, IDNR Division of Forestry, and USDA programs and funding.  
(*Statement of Intent #1, #5*)

### All Communities:

- Promote reestablishment of a riparian corridor along the Wabash River and its tributaries utilizing cost-benefit tools obtained from USDA.  
(*Statement of Intent #1, #3, #4, #5*)
- Increase and promote filter strips along ditch banks, streams and rivers.  
(*Statement of Intent #1*)
- Inventory critical areas and provide educational and technical assistance to those responsible for installing corrective measures.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #3, #4, #5*)
- Furnish soils information to landowners, planners, developers, and others for proper planning.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5*)
- Provide technical assistance to landowners, planners, developers, units of government and others in the (re) establishment of forested buffers.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #4, #5*)
- Encourage use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in urban and rural areas.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #3, #4, #5*)
- Promote cost-share and leveraging opportunities to individual, agencies, and organizations for tree planting and/or buffers.  
(*Statement of Intent #1, #4, #5*)



# *Healthy Forests & Riparian Buffers*

## *Public Education and Outreach:*

The District's education and outreach component targeted to all audiences will increase public awareness of the importance and benefits of trees, healthy forests, and riparian buffers.

The District will meet personally with landowners in need of creating and/or maintaining a riparian area, and coordinate efforts with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to provide conservation planning and technical assistance. The District will also work closely with Wabash Corridor groups, including Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County, and State Park decision makers.

## *Resources:*

Utilization of a District employee will allow us to identify the Riparian Buffer "remaining need" using the Geographical Information System. As a result of the determined need, we will carry out workshops, informational mailings, meetings with public officials and individual landowners in our pursuit of healthy forests and riparian buffers.

Partnerships with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service allow the District to offer technical assistance and cost-share incentives.



## *Our Vision:*

### *Clean Streams & Water Resources*

Water is essential for life on Earth and plays a vital role in the proper functioning of its ecosystems. The pollution of water has a serious impact on all living creatures, and can negatively affect the use of water for drinking, household needs, recreation, fishing, transportation and commerce.

Water pollution can be simply sediment finding its way into streams where it stifles aquatic life, contributing to flooding by filling up the stream's overflow capacity. It can be stormwater running off non-porous surfaces of homes, shops, and parking lots that will quickly send high volumes of water rushing into storm sewers and small streams, carrying pollutants and increasing the potential for flooding. It can also be groundwater picking up trace metals and carrying them into our waterways. Nitrogen and phosphorus are also pollutants resulting from malfunctioning septic systems, sewage treatment plants, animal manure, and lawn and farm fertilizers which accelerate the growth of algae clogging our streams and harming aquatic life.

Human activity in the cities and on the farms, as well as the forces of nature, inevitably impact the quality of our water resources—the streams, rivers and wetlands we depend on.

Education and appreciation for this fundamental resource is the first step toward changing the behavior of society to realize that we all live in a watershed and we all live downstream!

*Nature and education are somewhat similar.  
The latter transforms man, and in so doing  
creates a second nature.*

*-- Democritus*

## *Clean Streams & Water Resources*

### *Our Statements of Intent:*

- 1. By 2010, 80% of Riparian Buffer “remaining need” will be planned.*
- 2. By 2010, there will be 50% increase in conservation tillage on erosive soils.*
- 3. By 2010, Soil and Water Education will reach 25% more people for each audience identified: Youth (Formal and Nonformal); Adult (General); Industry/Business; and Local Government*
- 4. By 2010, a full-time urban technical assistance program will be in place.*
- 5. By 2010, wildlife habitat will be established on 80% of the targeted sensitive areas.*

# *Clean Streams & Water Resources*

## *Strategic Planning Objectives*

### Urban/Suburban Communities:

- Support existing wellhead protections efforts of Cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette.  
(*Statement of Intent #3, #4*)
- Provide to governmental units responsible for land use planning and zoning ordinances resource information and recommendations relative to erosion and sediment control and water management, etc.  
(*Statement of Intent #4*)
- Promote and coordinate storm drain stenciling activities.  
(*Statement of Intent #3*)

### Agricultural Communities:

- Promote plugging of abandoned wells.  
(*Statement of Intent #3*)
- Provide to agricultural landowners/landusers resource information and recommendations relative to soil suitability, erosion and sediment control, water management, etc., including natural resource comprehensive conservation planning.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #5*)

### All Communities:

- Promote and coordinate Hoosier RiverWatch volunteer water monitoring programs.  
(*Statement of Intent #3*)
- Promote and participate in watershed based planning.  
(*Statement of Intent #3*)
- Provide educational programs focused on non-point source water pollution.  
(*Statement of Intent #3*)
- Promote the River Friendly Farmer program.  
(*Statement of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5*)
- Furnish soils information to landowners, planners, developers, and others for proper planning.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5*)
- Provide technical assistance to landowners, planners, developers, and units of government and others in determining surface and ground water management alternatives as part of soil, water, and related natural resource planning.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #2, #4, #5*)
- Coordinate and/or assist with county-wide well water testing program.  
(*Statements of Intent #3*)
- Encourage use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in urban and rural areas.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5*)
- Support federal, state and local laws regarding erosion and sediment control.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5*)

# *Clean Streams & Water Resources*

## *Public Education and Outreach:*

The District's education and outreach component will address all audiences, including K-12 water quality school youth programs being conducted throughout the academic year. Areas of adult education will include coordination of storm drain stenciling activities and facilitation of Hoosier RiverWatch volunteer water monitoring. Additionally, an Industrial Education Day and a conservation tour for public officials will be offered on an annual basis.

The District will continue to serve in its consultative and advisory role on the issue of wetlands, providing technical information, communicating state and federal regulations, and assisting those involved in working with land or water projects that may impact wetlands.

## *Resources:*

Utilization of a District educator will allow us to address water quality education needs for all audiences including youth (formal and nonformal), adult (general), industrial, and governmental.

Utilization of District part-time staff and an IDNR Resource Specialist will allow us to address stormwater management activities through a transition period of an EPA-imposed stormwater management program – the second phase of the federal Clean Water Act.

Partnerships with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service allow the District to continue to offer technical assistance and/or cost-share incentives.



## *Our Vision:*

### *Productive Farms*

Tippecanoe County's roots are deep in agriculture and family farms, however, full-time, traditional farming is no longer prevalent. Many who work the land today are doing it only part-time and require another source of income in order to prosper.

In addition, agriculture is dealing with another challenge — land use pressure from the urbanizing portions of the county. Rapid urban growth is demanding more space for housing developments and shopping centers. According to USDA Agriculture Statistics, between 1997 and 2002, Tippecanoe County lost 25,272 acres of farmland to urban development. This represents a 10% loss of farmland in just five years. Losing productive farmland to development means losing an important source of food and fiber, and an essential ingredient in the delicate urban/rural balance that makes Tippecanoe County such an attractive place to live.

The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1940 to help farmers conserve soil and water resources on their farms and to make the best use of their land. The District today continues its founding tradition of working with farmers, and assisting them with conservation programs so that they can operate their farms more efficiently and productively.

*Farmers are the only indispensable people on the face of the earth.*

*- - Li Zhaoxing, Ambassador, China*

## *Productive Farms*

### *Our Statements of Intent:*

- 1. By 2010, 80% of Riparian Buffer “remaining need” will be planned.*
- 2. By 2010, there will be 50% increase in conservation tillage on erosive soils.*
- 3. By 2010, Soil and Water Education will reach 25% more people for each audience identified: Youth (Formal and Nonformal); Adult (General); Industry/Business; and Local Government*
- 4. By 2010, a full-time urban technical assistance program will be in place.*
- 5. By 2010, wildlife habitat will be established on 80% of the targeted sensitive areas.*

# *Productive Farms*

## *Strategic Planning Objectives*

### Urban/Suburban Communities:

- Promote agricultural awareness in urban schools and community groups.  
*(Statement of Intent #3)*
- Encourage smart growth and development.  
*(Statement of Intent #3, #4)*
- Provide to governmental units responsible for land use planning and zoning ordinances resource information and recommendations relative to erosion and sediment control and water management, etc.  
*(Statement of Intent #3, #4)*

### Agricultural Communities:

- Provide to agricultural landowners/landusers resource information and recommendations relative to soil suitability, erosion and sediment control, water management, etc., including natural resource comprehensive conservation planning.  
*(Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #5)*
- Promote enrollment of erosive lands into conservation programs.  
*(Statement of Intent #2)*
- Increase and promote installation of erosion control practices, conservation tillage and protective cover.  
*(Statement of Intent #2)*
- Promote and/or provide cost-share conservation programs/opportunities.  
*(Statements of Intent #1, #2, #5)*

### All Communities:

- Participate in Tippecanoe County Ag Days.  
*(Statement of Intent #3)*
- Develop maps and a database to identify Tippecanoe County's most important natural resource areas, areas worthy of preservation, and areas facing the greatest development pressures, adding this information to the Geographic Information System (GIS).  
*(Statement of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5)*
- Promote and participate in watershed based planning.  
*(Statement of Intent #3)*
- Promote the River Friendly Farmer program.  
*(Statement of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5)*
- Furnish soils information to landowners, planners, developers, and others for proper planning.  
*(Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5)*
- Provide technical assistance to landowners, planners, developers, and units of government and others in determining surface and ground water management alternatives as part of soil, water, and related natural resource planning.  
*(Statements of Intent #1, #2, #4, #5)*
- Encourage use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in urban and rural areas.  
*(Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5)*
- Support federal, state and local laws regarding erosion and sediment control.  
*(Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5)*



# *Productive Farms*

## *Public Education and Outreach:*

The District's education and outreach component is critical in building society's ethics to value the contribution that farms and agriculture make to our county. To that end, the District will promote agriculture awareness in schools and among community groups.

The District is committed to working with farmers by coordinating efforts with Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for the conservation of their soil and water resources in the most productive manner.

## *Resources:*

Utilization of a District employee will allow us to carry out workshops, informational mailings, etc. in our pursuit of an increase in conservation tillage, riparian buffers, and wildlife habitat.

Partnerships with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, Pheasants Forever, and Quail Unlimited allow the District to offer technical assistance and cost-share incentives.



## *Our Vision:*

### *Sustainable Communities*

As more people discover the pleasing quality of life in Tippecanoe County, they will put more pressure on our land, water, and ecosystems, as well as our infrastructure systems, and recreation facilities.

As more and more of our natural resources are consumed, the specific characteristics of a given piece of land become the essential clues which reveal its best use. The physical properties of a parcel as well as human needs and nearby uses all should factor into land use decisions. Planners, farmers, engineers and builders all rely on the soil survey to identify the characteristics of soil in a given location and whether it would be suitable for uses such as farming or road construction.

The District's role is to consider all resources, i.e., soil, water, air, plants, animals, and humans and to promote good resource management. This, plus providing detailed information about Tippecanoe County's streams, wetlands, soils, and topography continue to be of utmost importance to encourage wise management and development of our sustainable communities, both natural and manmade .

*When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.*

*- - Aldo Leopold*

## *Sustainable Communities*

### *Our Statements of Intent:*

- 1. By 2010, 80% of Riparian Buffer “remaining need” will be planned.*
- 2. By 2010, there will be 50% increase in conservation tillage on erosive soils.*
- 3. By 2010, Soil and Water Education will reach 25% more people for each audience identified: Youth (Formal and Nonformal); Adult (General); Industry/Business; and Local Government*
- 4. By 2010, a full-time urban technical assistance program will be in place.*
- 5. By 2010, wildlife habitat will be established on 80% of the targeted sensitive areas.*

# *Sustainable Communities*

## *Strategic Planning Objectives*

### Urban/Suburban Communities:

- Provide to governmental units responsible for land use planning and zoning ordinances natural resource information and recommendations relative to erosion and sediment control and water management, etc.  
(*Statement of Intent #3, #4*)

### Agricultural Communities:

- Provide to agricultural landowners/landusers resource information and recommendations relative to soil suitability, erosion and sediment control, water management, etc., including natural resource comprehensive conservation planning.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #5*)

### All Communities:

- Develop maps/database to identify Tippecanoe County's most important natural resource areas and areas worthy of preservation adding this information to the Geographic Information System (GIS).  
(*Statement of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5*)
- Provide soils information and technical assistance to landowners, planners, developers, and units of government and others in determining surface and ground water management alternatives as part of soil, water, and related natural resource planning.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5*)
- Promote smart growth and development and participate in watershed based planning.  
(*Statements of Intent #3, #4*)
- Promote Backyard Conservation and encourage use of Best Management Practices (BMPs).  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #2, #3, #4, #5*)
- Promote development of contiguous habitat and greenspace in all developments.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #3, #4, #5*)
- Promote IDNR Division of Wildlife programs and protection of county's endangered/threatened wildlife.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #5*)
- Promote IDNR Division of Forestry programs and forests/trees in developing landscapes.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #5*)
- Promote native grass establishment to reduce carbon sequestration and use of native plants when appropriate.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #5*)
- Promote programs that reduce non-point source water pollution.  
(*Statements of Intent #1, #5*)
- Encourage input on environmental issues from local stakeholders.  
(*Statement of Intent #3*)
- Promote protection of historic and cultural resources of Tippecanoe County.  
(*Statement of Intent #3*)
- Provide Soil & Water Stewardship materials to local libraries, churches, schools, organizations and homeowners.  
(*Statement of Intent #3*)

# *Sustainable Communities*

## *Public Education and Outreach:*

The District's education and outreach component again will address all audiences as it continues to believe that an informed citizenry can and will make better natural resource decisions.

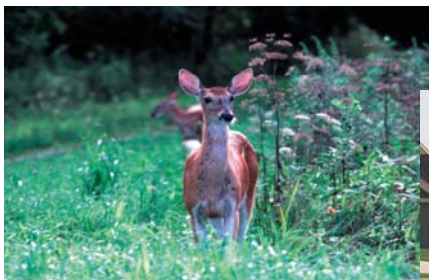
## *Resources:*

Utilization of a District educator will allow us to address water quality education needs for all audiences including youth – formal and nonformal, adult – general, industrial, and governmental.

The addition of an urban technician will ensure that the District continues to be a visible presence in the county, and will bolster what is our most effective natural resource approach – working one-on-one with engineers, developers, earthmovers, and local governmental entities.

Utilization of a District employee will allow us to carry out workshops, informational mailings, etc. in our pursuit of an increase in conservation tillage, riparian buffers, and wildlife habitat.

Partnerships with the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, Indiana Department of Natural Resources and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service will allow the District to offer training, technical assistance and cost-share incentives.



## *Natural Resource Conservation*

### *- 1940 and Beyond -*

The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District was created in *1940* to serve county farmers by helping them to conserve their soil and water resources.

During the *1950s, 1960s, and 1970s*, the District became deeply involved in broader-based issues, including flood prevention, inventorying of county soils, and land use planning. The District staff consisted of one part-time clerk/secretary whose responsibilities were directed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's District Conservationist.

The *1980s* presented a new set of challenges, including technical issues such as non-point source pollution and groundwater protection.

The *1990s* were a time of accelerated urbanization and growth in Tippecanoe County, and programs addressing those needs, including sediment control and stormwater management, were added. District staff was increased to two full-time employees and one part-time: the part-time secretary/administrative assistant became full-time, a new position was created for a full-time Environmental Coordinator, and a part-time Erosion Control Technician was hired.

*The beginning of the new century* was marked by the continuing diversification of programs and related activities. In addition to the two existing full time positions, a Water Quality Educator was hired in 2001 through an EPA 319 Grant for a two-year cycle. As the demand for education continued to grow, the position was continued with County funding beginning in 2004.

Due to the increasing roles and responsibilities within the District, a staffing decision was made to promote the full-time administrative assistant position to a full-time district administrator. The District currently has a staff of three full-time, two part-time, and two federal work-study employees to address the ever-increasing demand for natural resource information, education, and technical assistance.

*Subsequently*, it is the goal of the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District board, staff, and supporters to continue to grow and change in response to the needs of our community now and in the coming years.

## *Adoption Statement*

*This plan was adopted by the Tippecanoe County  
Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Supervisors on December 3, 2004.*

---

*James J. King, Chairman*

*Roger McClellan, Supervisor*

*Chuck Shelby, Supervisor*

*Steve Roy, Supervisor*

*Roger Verhey, Supervisor*

*The staff of the  
Tippecanoe County  
Soil and Water Conservation District  
are equally committed to carrying out the priorities  
established within this document to further the SWCD  
mission and its commitment to foster natural resource  
conservation and environmental stewardship.*



*"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."*

*~Gaylord Nelson  
Co-founder of Earth Day*



SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
1812 TROXEL DRIVE, STE. C3 - LAFAYETTE, IN 47909-7367  
PH: 765-474-9992, EXT. 3 - FAX: 765-474-1266  
[WWW.TIPPECANOESWCD.ORG](http://WWW.TIPPECANOESWCD.ORG)