

## BEFORE



Before a rain garden was established, rain flowed across this property taking sediment, grass clippings, and other pollutants to nearby waters. Financial assistance provided the opportunity to enhance this property and help keep pollutants from reaching local waters.

## AFTER



After a rain garden was established, runoff from rain is now captured and directed to a garden planted with native wildflowers and grasses. Rain gardens not only enhance the beauty of your property, they absorb water and pollutants reducing runoff, protecting water quality, and preventing flooding. This is one landowner who benefited from the available funding.

### Conservation in Practice. Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District

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*Photo's courtesy of Janel Meyer, Bill Schmidt, Kris Thomas and the Steuben County SWCD.*



Steuben County Soil & Water  
Conservation District

## Urban Conservation Program



### Providing funding to landowners

Did you know The Steuben County SWCD has secured a grant to provide financial assistance to local landowners to transform their landscape? That's right! We want to *give you money* to integrate conservation practices on your property that will improve not just your curb appeal but make an earth-friendly choice you can feel good about.

Installation practices include rain gardens, tree/shrub plantings, water-edge enhancements and native-scaping to reduce sediment and nutrients in waterbodies, conserve water and improve water quality, increase food and shelter for wildlife, connect landowners with nature and inspire a landowner stewardship ethic.

# Urban Conservation Program

## Why practice urban conservation?

The everyday decisions we make at home greatly affect our environment. Increased urbanization means more impervious surfaces and runoff and less wildlife habitat. Our water, soil, air, and wildlife depend on us for their protection! Adopting conservation practices is one important way in which we can help our environment.

## What benefits does urban conservation provide?

- ✓ **Increase in property values**
- ✓ **Substantial monetary and time savings** compared to traditional lawn maintenance
- ✓ **Protect watersheds by providing filtration and reducing pollution from runoff**
- ✓ **Attract wildlife, providing food & cover**
- ✓ **Connect communities with nature**



*Native-scaping involves planting native species in your landscape and provides food & habitat to birds, butterflies, and other animals.*



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

To qualify for cost-share you must meet the following requirements:

- ✓ The land where the practice is to be installed must be located within an urban residential area in Steuben County.
- ✓ The property where the practice is to be installed must be located on or within a 1/2-mile of a river, lake, shore, or perennial stream; participant's adjacent to a waterbody will be given priority.

## WHAT URBAN CONSERVATION PRACTICES ARE COVERED?

- ✓ Native-scaping (*planting using native and non-invasive adapted plants*)
- ✓ Rain gardens
- ✓ Tree and shrub plantings
- ✓ Water-edge enhancements (filter/buffer strips)

## HOW DO I GET STARTED?

Contact the Steuben County SWCD at  
260-665-3211 ext. 3 to discuss your  
options!!!

## THE FINE PRINT:

The cooperator will agree to follow Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards and specifications for practice and/or contract specifications:

- ✓ **Cost-share will pay for 75% of all fees up to \$2,000 per project** (native-scaping, rain gardens and water-edge enhancements). Tree/shrub plantings will pay a maximum of \$750.
- ✓ If you do not own the land, you **MUST** get the landowner permission and signature.
- ✓ The date of purchase/installation must be **AFTER** the date of cost-share application approval.
- ✓ Cost-share funds are paid in arrears and copies of receipts and seed tags (if applicable) must be turned in for reimbursement.
- ✓ All practices will be inspected for final approval by Steuben County SWCD staff and/or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff.
- ✓ Cost-share program participants must display a stewardship yard sign for the life of the practice.
- ✓ Funds will not be used for landscaping, water features, or aesthetic enhancements.

