

# ***Nippersink*** **CREEK**

*Opportunities for  
Enhancement*

**TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
FOR LANDOWNERS**



The excellent water quality of Nippersink Creek and adjoining wetlands provides vital habitat for rare fish, mussels, and birds including 48 threatened and endangered species.

## THE NIPPERSINK WATERSHED



## Preserving the “Little Waters” . . .

Native Americans named Nippersink Creek “little waters” for its many springs. Today we are challenged to keep these waters clear and clean in the face of widespread development. Landowners along Nippersink Creek and its tributaries can play an important role. All actions to protect wetlands, maintain natural shoreline vegetation, and restore wildlife habitat will help.

Use this guide to find technical and possible financial assistance for projects on your land. Speak to representatives of the listed agencies about your individual properties. Remember too that the programs listed here are just a sampling of what is available.

Working together we can continue to keep Nippersink Creek’s “Little Waters” clean-flowing and clear in coming years.

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### KEY TO AGENCY ABBREVIATIONS:

IDNR	Illinois Department of Natural Resources <a href="http://dnr.state.il.us">dnr.state.il.us</a>
NIPC	Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission <a href="http://www.nipc.cog.il.us">www.nipc.cog.il.us</a>
NRCS	United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service <a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov">www.nrcs.usda.gov</a> <a href="http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov">www.il.nrcs.usda.gov</a> <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/default.htm">www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/default.htm</a>
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District <a href="http://www.mchenryswcd.org">www.mchenryswcd.org</a> <a href="http://www.lakeswcd.org">www.lakeswcd.org</a>
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service <a href="http://midwest.fws.gov/Chicago/">http://midwest.fws.gov/Chicago/</a>



# HABITAT Restoration

*Habitat restoration on private lands creates wildlife corridors along Nippersink Creek.*

## COST SHARE PROGRAM:

### WHIP: WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

**Purpose:** Wildlife planting, fencing, fish habitat improvements, nesting cover establishment and management.

**Eligibility:** Landowners who have a project of at least 5 acres.

**Contact:** NRCS

## PROGRAM:

### BACKYARD CONSERVATION

**Practices:** Tree planting, wildlife habitat, backyard ponds and wetlands, composting, mulching, nutrient management, terracing, water conservation, and pest management.

**Eligibility:** Anyone -- no cost share

**Contact:** NRCS, SWCD

## PROGRAM:

### ILLINOIS ACRES FOR WILDLIFE

**Purpose:** To provide technical assistance to small and large landowners for the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

**Practices:** Land management plans; free tree and shrub seedlings; equipment; cost sharing.

**Eligibility:** Minimum of 1/4 acre to enroll. No fee.

**Contact:** IDNR Wildlife Habitat Biologist

## COST SHARE PROGRAM:

### HRP: HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRAM FOR THE FOX AND KISHWAUKEE RIVER WATERSHEDS

**Purpose:** To provide cost-share assistance for the restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

**Practices:** Non-traditional restoration projects that are generally not covered under other state and federal cost-share programs.

**Eligibility:** All landowners in priority areas of the Fox and Kishwaukee watersheds in N. Cook, McHenry, Kane, Boone, DeKalb and Western Lake counties.

**Contact:** SWCD

See also *Streambank Restoration and Wetland Protection* for other programs that support Habitat Restoration.



# STREAMBANK Restoration

*Eroding river banks dump soil into streams eliminating critical fish, mussel and aquatic insect habitat. Streambank stabilization projects reduce this problem as well as halting loss of landowner's acreage.*

## COST SHARE PROGRAM:

### CRP: CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

**Purpose:** To reduce erosion, reduce surplus commodity production, increase wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and increase forestland.

**Description:** Landowner sets aside cropland with annual rental payments based on standard soil rental rates.

**Practices:** Tree planting, shallow water wildlife areas, grass cover, native plant species plantings, and others cost-shared if land is accepted. In some instances, filter strips, streamside buffers, and buffer strips will also qualify for property tax reduction from the State of Illinois.

**Eligibility:** Varies by soil type and crop history.

**Contract:** 10 years, 15 years if planting hardwood trees.

**Contact:** NRCS

## GRANT-FUNDED PROJECT:

### FOX RIVER ECOSYSTEM PROJECTS

**Purpose:** Provides review of grant applications for IDNR C2000 Ecosystems Projects in the areas of watershed education, habitat enhancement, and land acquisition; and EPA 319 grant projects in the area of non-point source pollution control.

**Eligibility:** Private landowners, organizations or local government units may apply. Requires matching funds.

**Contact:** Fox River Ecosystem Partnership

**Other grant resources:** [www.FoxRiverEcosystem.org](http://www.FoxRiverEcosystem.org) (see Grants) McHenry County Conservation Foundation

## COST SHARE PROGRAM:

### SSRP: STREAMBANK STABILIZATION & RESTORATION PROGRAM

**Purpose:** To demonstrate effective, inexpensive vegetative and bio-engineering techniques for limiting streambank erosion.

**Eligibility:** Sites must meet assessment and selection criteria. Program monies fund labor, equipment and materials for demonstration projects at suitable locations statewide and provide cost-share assistance to landowners with severely eroding streambanks.

**Contract:** Recipients of funding must agree to maintain streambank stabilization practices for at least 10 years.

**Contact:** SWCD, NRCS



Water quality declines when pollution enters streams via pipes draining directly into streams. Remember storm drains take water directly to Nippersink waters. Some pollutants enter streams indirectly. As water runs over paved lots, lawns, and farmed surfaces it picks up oil, fertilizer, and soil particles and carries these pollutants to the water. Installation of streamside buffer strips and other erosion control measures will help keep Nippersink waters clean.

**COST SHARE PROGRAM:**  
**EQIP:**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

**Farmers Only**

**Purpose:** Provides technical & financial help to farm or cropland owners for conservation practices to protect soil & water quality.

**Practices:** grassed waterways, stream fencing, critical area planting, terraces, manure management systems including storage structures and barnyard runoff protection, and many other conservation practices.

**Eligibility:** Landowner/operator may be eligible for up to 75% cost-share, up to \$10,000 per year and \$50,000 for life of contract.

**Contract:** 5-10 years

**Contact:** NRCS

**PROGRAM:**  
**EROSION CONTROL ASSISTANCE**

**Purpose:** Provides technical and practical advice on how to reduce soil losses and stabilize critical areas.

**Description:** Experts in conservation tillage and erosion control will investigate potential erosion problem areas and help solve the problem.

**Fee:** where applicable

**Contact:** SWCD, NRCS

**COST SHARE PROGRAM:**

**CREP: ILLINOIS CONVERSATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

**Purpose:** Conservation practices to reduce sedimentation and nutrient runoff in the Illinois River watershed and to create and enhance wildlife habitat.

**Practices:** Frequently flooded and environmentally sensitive cropland is placed under a Conservation Plan of Operation.

**Eligibility:** Private landowners who have cropped land in floodplain, highly erodible land next to an existing riparian area, or land that qualifies as a wetland, farmed wetland, or prior converted wetland.

**Contract:** 15 or 35 year extension of CRP contract, or permanent easement (20 acres minimum)

**Contact:** SWCD, NRCS



Enhancing wetlands on your property offers multiple benefits. Wetlands provide vital wildlife habitat, while supplying flood water storage in times of heavy rains.

**COST SHARE PROGRAM:**

**WRP: WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM**

**Purpose:** Payment is made to place long-term or permanent easement on hydric soils that have a high potential to become restored wetlands.

**Practices:** Wetland restoration, wildlife habitat establishment.

**Contract:** Easement is placed on property and recorded with deed.

**Contact:** NRCS

**COST SHARE PROGRAM:**

**PARTNERS FOR FISH & WILDLIFE**

**Purpose:** Restoration of wetlands, prairie, savannah, threatened and endangered species habitat.

**Practices:** Cost-share for wetland and upland habitat restoration.

**Eligibility:** Private landowners, local government units, homeowners associations. Eligible party must have site that contains restorable habitat. No acreage limits.

**Contact:** USFWS

**PROGRAM:**

**VEGETATIVE FILTER STRIP ASSESSMENT LAW**

**Purpose:** To provide incentives through tax reductions in the assessed value of cropland. Qualifying land is eligible for a re-assessment at 1/6 its value.

**Practices:** Establishment of vegetative filter strips along wetlands, streams, and lakes.

**Eligibility:** Any landowner that owns land along wetlands, streams, or lakes.

**Contact:** SWCD, NRCS

**PROGRAM:**

**NORTHEAST ILLINOIS WETLAND CONSERVATION ACCOUNT**

**Purpose:** Provides financial and technical assistance for wetland restoration and wetland education.

**Practices:** Wetland restoration, creation, enhancement, and protection projects. Also educational programs that increase awareness of wetlands and promote wetland stewardship.

**Eligibility:** Private landowners; county, local and nonprofit organizations, homeowners associations, state agencies

**Contact:** USFWS



*Landowners within the Nippersink watershed can access information about the natural resources of their property in order to assist in making sound building decisions. Additional assistance is available for landowners wishing to protect unique natural resources of their property. Knowing more about the unique qualities of land within the Nippersink watershed will help protect this resource.*

**PROGRAM:**

**RESOURCE  
PLANNING FOR  
FARMS AND RURAL  
ESTATES**

**Purpose:** To provide landowners with a source of information to explain the capabilities and limitations of their properties.

**Description:** Prior to purchasing a homestead or rural property, individuals may ask for information about the natural resources found on the site, i.e. presence of high water tables, wetlands, floodplains, etc. on the property. Also, suitability of soils onsite for septic, basements, etc. Natural resource maps will be consulted and interpreted.

**Fee:** Free

**Special information:** The quick evaluation of a home or home-site up for sale for suitability can only be done by your local USDA Service Center (NRCS and SWCD) because they have the maps on hand. After the land is purchased and the homeowner wants information for the use of the land (cropland, wildlife, trees, ponds, etc.) NRCS, SWCD, IDNR, other agencies can also be helpful.

**Contact:** SWCD, NRCS, IDNR, USFWS

**PROGRAM:**

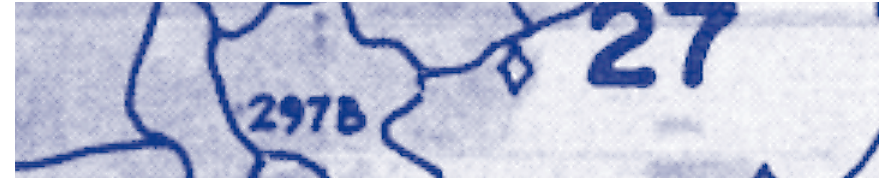
**CONSERVATION  
ENGINEER**

**Purpose:** Provides engineering services including design and construction support for non-point source pollution best management practices (BMPs) and best development and land management practices.

**Practices:** Stream corridor restoration, riparian buffers and streambank stabilization, sediment and erosion control practices; stormwater and runoff reduction and management; wetland creation and restoration; and upland habitat restoration.

**Eligibility:** Private landowners and groups, agricultural producers, residential and commercial developers and local governments.

**Contact:** The Nature Conservancy



**PROGRAM:**

**CONSERVATION  
EASEMENTS  
& ESTATE  
PLANNING**

**Purpose:** To preserve property, including family farms, allowing landowners to protect features that they especially care for by the use of conservation easements.

**Description:** A conservation easement is a recorded deed restriction of the future use of the property. It is a legal agreement between a landowner and a not-for-profit or governmental agency. The easement becomes a permanent part of the title to the property.

**Eligibility:** Any landowner who wishes to place an easement on his/her property and whose property meets the acceptance criteria of the not-for-profit or governmental agency.

**Contract:** In perpetuity

**Contact:** Land Foundation of McHenry County  
Fox Valley Land Foundation  
McHenry County Conservation District  
The Trust for Public Land



*Healthy wetlands help maintain the quality of Nippersink Creek.*

# Native Landscaping Resources

*Native plants flourish in Northern Illinois' restored prairies and wetlands providing habitat for numerous animals and insects. They serve a unique purpose in wetland and floodplain areas. Deep roots absorb and store huge quantities of water thus preventing excess flooding. Native plants also filter pollutants and soil from water runoff entering Nippersink Creek and its associated wetlands.*

## SOURCES FOR NATIVE PLANTS

**Purpose:** To increase native plant areas within the Nippersink watershed, especially as wetland buffers and along Nippersink banks in order to provide a natural filter to the waters and habitat for numerous animals and insects.

**Description:** Information about the benefits of planting native plant species and seasonal native plant sales are sponsored by the below-listed agencies.

**Contact:** McHenry County Defenders, SWCD



*Streambank erosion control with native plants stops land loss, keeps soil from entering clear waters, adds to the beauty of the area and provides habitat for wildlife.*

## RESOURCES

Here's a quick reference to phone numbers of agencies in your county that offer technical and financial assistance for landowners to improve habitat, protect water and wetlands, implement streambank restoration, land and estate planning, and provide native landscaping resources. The listed agencies work together on many projects. The U.S. Department of Agriculture NRCS and the county SWCD staff share offices.

### LAND CONSERVATION

American Farmland Trust	815/753-9347
Fox Valley Land Foundation	847/697-5503
Land Foundation of McHenry County	815/455-4618
McHenry County Conservation District	815/338-MCCD
The Trust for Public Land	312/427-1979

### COST SHARE PROGRAMS + CONSERVATION SERVICES

U.S.D.A. NRCS + county SWCD offices	
Lake County	847/223-1056
McHenry County	815/338-0049 ext. 3

### CONSERVATION ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Nature Conservancy	815/653-2297
(also NRCS/SWCD: see phone numbers above)	

### GRANT FUNDING SOURCES

Fox River Ecosystem Partnership	630/584-7961 ext. 3
McHenry County Conservation Foundation	815/759-9390

### NATIVE LANDSCAPING

Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC)	312/454-0400
McHenry County Defenders	815/338-0393

### WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

IDNR Wildlife Habitat Biologist	815/675-2385
USFWS	847/381-2253

Funding for this project provided by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

This guide is adapted from a booklet produced by the Friends of the Kishwaukee River funded by the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources C-2000 Ecosystems Program.



*Deep-rooted native plant strips protect clear Nippersink waters from plowed and paved surfaces runoff.*



## ***Friends of Nippersink Creek***

*a project of the McHenry County Defenders*

*funded by*



***Nippersink Creek Watershed Planning Committee***

***with an IL EPA Watershed Planning Grant***

**For more information contact:**

***Friends of Nippersink Creek***

c/o McHenry County Defenders  
124 Cass St., Suite 3, Woodstock, IL 60098  
815/338-0393  
email: mcdef@owc.net  
website: www.mcdef.org

***Nippersink Creek Watershed Planning Comm.***

c/o McHenry Co. Soil & Water Cons. District  
1143 N. Seminary, Woodstock, IL 60098  
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