

What is Sycamore Trails RC&D?

Sycamore Trails Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council was organized by local people in 1970. The RC&D program is a combination of people, rural development needs, opportunities, and solutions.

RC&D provides a vehicle for dealing with many rural issues through citizen participation. It is as much a way of doing things—a *process*—as it is a program.

Many dedicated volunteers make Sycamore Trails RC&D successful. Local people work together to set goals and priorities, select projects, and take actions.

Office space, a program coordinator, and a program assistant are provided through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. However, no federal funds are provided for the operation of the RC&D Council or resource committees.

Sycamore Trails is incorporated as not-for-profit within the state of Indiana and is tax-exempt by Internal Revenue Service determination.

What We Do...

Sycamore Trails serves as a framework for local individuals, groups, businesses, and units of government to cooperate *regionally* to meet common needs and tackle common problems.

Examples of RC&D assistance include:

Information and Education

- ◆ Promote conservation education by sponsoring field days, demonstrations, tours, and programs to help landowners and others learn more about managing their natural resources - soil, water, forests, wildlife

Land Protection & Water Quality

- ◆ Work with landowners to find ways to protect their land in the face of ever-growing development pressure, including conservation easements on parcels of land.
- ◆ Provide assistance to landowners in eliminating the adverse impacts of past coal mining activities on their property.
- ◆ Work with partnering organizations on watershed protection & improvement plans

Rural Economic Development

- ◆ Promote regional tourism
- ◆ Seek new or expanded markets for our natural resource products
- ◆ Promote value-added industries
- ◆ Encourage and assist communities in accessing water sources for rural fire protection
- ◆ Support entrepreneurial expansion of small businesses

Technical Help

- ◆ Provide assistance to develop and coordinate locally identified projects; help find agencies, organizations, and private sector help to solve specific problems.

Organizational Help

- ◆ Assist with establishing or strengthening local groups organized to address a specific resource problem.

Referral Help

- ◆ Refer requests to the proper agency, organization, or private consultant if Sycamore Trails cannot help directly.

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Council

The RC&D Council oversees the direction and operation of Sycamore Trails. The Council Board of Directors is made up of representatives from the member organizations. The Council works closely with project sponsors, government agencies, and other organizations.

Where Do I Fit In?

If you have an interest in helping improve the quality of life in west central Indiana, you have a place in Sycamore Trails RC&D. You may be an individual or a representative of a group, organization, association, or agency.



Member Organizations

Sycamore Trails RC&D member organizations from our counties include:

- County Commissioners
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Cooperative Extension Boards
- City of Terre Haute

Counties we serve:

Clay	Owen	Sullivan
Fountain	Parke	Vermillion
Montgomery	Putnam	Vigo

Resource Committees

Standing committees which operate under the Council's guidance include:

- Abandoned Mine Lands Committee
- Education Committee
- Fish & Wildlife Committee
- Forestry Committee
- Invasive Plants Committee
- Land Trust & Stewardship Committee
- West Central Indiana Business Innovations

The Council also authorizes the formation of project committees when an identified need does not fit within the mission of any of the standing committees. ALL committees are made up of local volunteers.

Sycamore Trails Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.



Our vision: Local citizens cooperating to maintain a healthy, vibrant, and diverse environment and economy in the Sycamore Trails RC&D area.

Our mission: To motivate, assist, enable, and coordinate local citizens in the conservation and development of natural, human, and economic resources.

To find out more about Sycamore Trails RC&D and to voice your concerns about resource problems and opportunities, attend the next Council meeting. For more information, contact our office, or visit our website.

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