



Facts at a Glance - 2011

The District was established in 1971 by a successful countywide referendum and supported by the Illinois Conservation District Act of 1963, the McHenry County Conservation District mission is to preserve, restore, and manage natural areas and open spaces for their intrinsic value and for the benefits to present and future generations.

Preservation:

- Over 25,019 acres protected.
- 18 sites have portions that are dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves
- Over 8,000 acres of rare, high-quality wetlands, savannas & prairies currently restored
- Over 12,000 acres are active in restoration management
- Over 37 miles of waterway protected along the Nippersink, Kishwaukee and Fox Rivers.
- 645 acres of prairies, savannas, and wetlands were sown wide native seeds in 2009-2010
- 3,200 acres receive prescribed burns 2009-2010
- 6,317 acres are involved in the farmland lease program – providing over eight square miles of unpaved land that acts as a sponge to let rainwater soak into the ground. (This property is also still subject to property taxes.)

Education:

- 775,000 people visited conservation sites last year.
- 11,759 thousand guests attend the Trail of History and Festival of the Sugar Maples.
- 26,963 individuals, families and children are educated at 621 education and wildlife programs and field trips.

Recreation

- 32 sites are open to the public and are improved with recreational amenities.
- Over 50 miles of Biking trails including the 26 mile Regional Prairie Trail that extends from Kane County to the Wisconsin line that links into the Grand Illinois Trail System.
- 115 miles of Hiking Trails
- 6 campgrounds serving more than 6,100 campers each year.
- 18 sites feature Picnic Shelters to enjoy or reserve.
- 19 sites feature fishing for anglers of a skill levels.
- 20 miles of canoeing along Nippersink Creek and at The Hollows, Lake Atwood.
- 600 volunteers assist the District donating 13,200 hours of services equating to \$267,400 worth of services or \$1.7 million since 2001.

Employees:

76 Full-time Employees
 8 Part-Time Employees
 Seasonals & Interns vary

Departments:

Administration, Education, Communications, Finance, Human Resources, Land & Facilities, Natural Area Management, Planning & Development, Police and Wildlife Resource.