

EXPLORING CREATIVE FUNDING SOLUTIONS

📍 McHenry County
Conservation District



30+ Years of Flood Mitigation Through Conservation

District Priorities

- ✓ Conserve and protect high-value lands
- ✓ Manage existing conservation areas for climate resiliency with expanded nature-based solutions
- ✓ Protect habitat biodiversity and improve populations of declining plant and wildlife species
- ✓ Collaborate with conservation partners to maximize funding resources and conservation impact

Mitigation Strategies

- ◆ Preventative Measures
- ◆ Property Protection
- ◆ Structural Projects
- ◆ Resource Protection
- ◆ Emergency Services
- ◆ Public Information

KEY PARTNERSHIPS WITH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- ✓ Participates in McHenry County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan updates
- ✓ Collaborates with McHenry County Emergency Management
- ✓ Receives and implements FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants



SCHOOL SPRINGS MITIGATION BANK

Ringwood, Illinois

In 2019, the District established a wetland and stream mitigation bank on a former cornfield. By restoring 20 acres of wet prairie and sedge meadow wetlands and 5,000 feet of perennial stream, the project reconnected the stream to its natural floodplain. The site now absorbs flood pulses, helping to reduce downstream flood risk. Operated by the District, the mitigation bank provides stream and wetland credits while supporting the restoration of local wetland habitats.



Phase 2 of the Nippersink Creek Restoration Project.

Over 30 Years of Restoring Nippersink Creek Watershed

LONG-TERM RESTORATION PLANNING IMPLEMENTED THROUGH CREATIVE FUNDING SOLUTIONS

In the 1950s, Nippersink Creek was ditched and leveed for agricultural purposes, disconnecting it from the surrounding wetlands and leading to severe bank erosion and widespread flooding. From 1999 until now, the Conservation District has led five phases of floodplain restoration. Today, during heavy rain, the restored sections allow the stream to expand from 60 feet to up to half a mile wide, **safely spreading flood waters into wetlands and floodplains and reducing local flood risk.**

