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HEARTLANDS
C O N S E R V A N C Y

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News Release

Information Lunch to Share Funding Opportunities for Erosion Control Projects in Highland Silver Lake Watershed

Free lunch meeting on January 25 at Diamond Mineral Springs Restaurant in Grantfork will provide information on cost share program for interested landowners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2019

Madison County, Ill. – HeartLands Conservancy will host an informational event about funding assistance opportunities for landowners in the Highland Silver Lake watershed on January 25 at 11:30 am at the Diamond Mineral Springs Restaurant in Grantfork, Illinois. Attendance is free and lunch will be provided. Registration for the event is recommended; please RSVP to Janet Buchanan of HeartLands Conservancy at 618-566-4451 ext. 25.

The meeting will give landowners and operators a chance to learn about funding opportunities currently available for erosion control projects and sign up for the 319 cost share program before the January 31 application deadline. During the event, landowners may ask questions about natural resource problems on their farms and seek conservation planning and assistance from HeartLands Conservancy, the Natural Resource and Conservation Service, and the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

The Highland Silver Lake watershed is the 30,688-acre area in eastern Madison County and western Bond County that drains to Silver Lake. This area includes the City of Highland, the Village of Grantfork, and small portions of New Douglas and Old Ripley.

The cost share program is made possible through a \$450,000 "319" grant awarded by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to HeartLands Conservancy to reduce non-point source pollution in the watershed.

HeartLands Conservancy is seeking landowners to sign up to install projects that will improve water quality. Projects will be installed using Illinois EPA grant funds and funds from the City of Highland as a cost share.

The following project types are eligible for funding:

- Cover crops/Green manure
- Grassed waterways
- Nutrient Management Plans
- Ponds/Wetlands
- Shoreline stabilization
- Stream channel and streambank stabilization
- Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs)
- Woodland improvement

The cost share program will reimburse 60 percent of construction costs spent on selected projects. Unfortunately, not all projects can be funded. Projects will be selected based on their pollutant reduction, cost, stormwater management impact, and other criteria.

To find out if your property is in the watershed, view the watershed map available at <https://www.heartlandsconservancy.org/highlandsilverlake.php>.

The first sign-up period for the cost share program closes on January 31, 2019. Future sign-up periods will be announced, as funding is available, at www.facebook.com/HeartLandsConservancy.

To sign up to implement a project using these funds, fill in the application at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/highlandsilverlake319>, or fill out and mail in the application available at <https://www.heartlandsconservancy.org/highlandsilverlake.php>.

For more information about the cost share program, please contact project manager Janet Buchanan at HeartLands Conservancy at 618-566-4451 ext. 25 or email janet.buchanan@heartlandsconservancy.org.

HeartLands Conservancy would like to thank project partners Illinois EPA, the City of Highland, Madison County Planning and Development, and the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for their assistance in obtaining and supporting this program.

ABOUT HEARTLANDS CONSERVANCY

HeartLands Conservancy, a nonprofit serving Southwestern Illinois since 1989, is devoted to the conservation of land, the preservation of green spaces in our communities, sustainable and environmentally friendly community planning, and engaging our neighbors with nature. We are investing in the nature of Southwestern Illinois. Visit: www.HeartLandsConservancy.org for more information.

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