



CITY OF DECATUR ILLINOIS

#1 GARY K. ANDERSON PLAZA

DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62523-1196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2022

\$9.88 million grant to support Lake Decatur Water Quality Initiative

Decatur, IL – The City of Decatur is moving forward with a major water quality improvement plan after being awarded a \$9,883,117 federal grant for these efforts. The grant comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) that leverages partner resources to advance innovative projects that address climate change, enhance water quality, and address other critical challenges on agricultural land.

Lake Decatur Water Quality Initiative’s objective is to collaborate with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and 53 partners to help farmers and landowners adopt Climate-Smart practices. The goal is to achieve measurable and quantifiable improvements in water quality, specifically reducing sediment and nitrates, in the Mississippi River Basin Critical Conservation Area which includes the 926-square-mile Lake Decatur watershed. The project aims to reduce up to 50% of the sediment and 20% of the nitrate nitrogen annually flowing into Lake Decatur. The partnership will leverage existing watershed plans to target funding to lands where conservation actions will have the greatest impact.

“This is an exciting opportunity to continue our efforts to improve the water quality in Lake Decatur,” said Jennifer Gunter, Watershed and Lake Manager. “We greatly appreciate the voluntary participation of our 53 grant partners who are critical to the success of this 5-year-long initiative.”

Our Lake Decatur Watershed work can be found here:

<https://decaturil.gov/departments/water/lake-decatour-watershed-management-plan/>

The 53 grant partners are:

Agri Drain Corporation

Allerton Park and Retreat Center
American Farmland Trust
Champaign County Farm Bureau
Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District
Clarkson Grain Company
Corteva Agriscience
CoverCress Inc.
Crop-Tech Consulting
DeWitt County Farm Bureau
DeWitt County Soil and Water Conservation District
Ducks Unlimited
EcoMetrics
Economic Development Corporation of Decatur-Macon County
Ecosystem Service Exchange
Evergreen FS
Farm Credit Illinois
FarmRaise
First Illinois Ag Group
Ford County Soil and Water Conservation District
Ford-Iroquois Farm Bureau
Growmark Inc.
Illinois Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association
Illinois Hemp Growers Association
Illinois Lakes Management Association
Illinois Land Improvement Contractors Association
Illinois Nutrient Research & Education Center
K-Coe Isom/Martin Engineering
Lieb Farms
Macon County Conservation District
Macon County Farm Bureau
Macon County Soil and Water Conservation District
ManPlan Inc.
McLean County Farm Bureau
McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District
National Great Rivers Research and Education Center
National Hemp Association
Northern Star Integrated Services, LLC
Northwater Consulting
Nutrien
Piatt County Farm Bureau
Piatt County Soil & Water Conservation District
Sand County Foundation
Sanitary District of Decatur
Shelby County Farm Bureau
Sloan Implement
United States Geological Survey
University of Illinois - Critical Zone Observatory
WAND TV
Water Management Solutions LLC

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