

AISWCD Factsheet
4/30/2009
Knox County SWCD

Project #1
Well Sealing Demonstration

Sealing abandoned wells is a civic responsibility. Children falling into abandoned wells or our groundwater becoming polluted are real concerns for every citizen. Oftentimes the old “out of sight, out of mind” mentality takes over, yet the risk is real. Abandoned wells can be found in pastures, near homesteads and even in urban settings. Neighbors should encourage each other to properly seal their abandoned wells.

State agencies estimate that there are at least 100,000 improperly abandoned wells in Illinois that pose a significant threat to local health and safety. Improperly abandoned wells can;

- Provide a direct conduit for pollutants to enter aquifers and contaminate groundwater shared by all citizens. Pollutants come from contaminated surface water, agricultural runoff, effluent from private sewage disposal systems and direct refuse dumping.
- Pose a safety hazard when left unsealed. Children, animals and even adults can fall into an open well, causing injury or death.

To promote awareness of abandoned wells and educate landowners on proper sealing procedures, the Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District held a Well Sealing Demonstration on Friday, March, 20, 2009. The demonstration included short presentations given by the Knox County Health Department and the University of Illinois Extension while two wells in close proximity were sealed.

Before (bottom) and during demonstration (right)



Project #2
Cedar Creek Clean-Up

Cedar Creek begins near the interchange of Interstate 74 and Highway 34 in Knox County. The creek drains most of the City of Galesburg, including a point discharge from the Galesburg Sanitary District, before it leaves the county just south of the airport. The creek runs through Warren County and into Henderson County where it joins Henderson Creek before draining into the Mississippi River just south of the Oquawka State Wildlife Refuge and Lock & Dam 18.

The Galesburg Area Chamber of Commerce Environmental Task Force group sponsored the first semi-annual Cedar Creek Clean-Up on Saturday, April 25, 2009. The Knox County SWCD is a member of the Environmental Task Force group and spearheaded this event.

The event was a huge success! A total of 49 men, women and children collected over 2200 pounds of trash from Cedar Creek and its banks between South Arthur Avenue and South Linwood Road in Galesburg. Volunteers were able to comb through nearly the entire target area before inclement weather approached. Contributing to the successful event were several area sponsors: Hy-Vee, Wal-Mart, BNSF Railway, Wilson Paper Co., Menards, Tractor Supply Co., City of Galesburg, Waste Management, Knox County Landfill, Knox County Health Department, and Koppers.

The Environmental Task Force group is looking forward to another clean-up to be held in conjunction with the State of Illinois 6th annual "It's Our River Day" on Saturday, September 19, 2009. For more information regarding "It's Our River Day" please visit www.standingupforillinois.org/cleanwater/

