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## News Release

### Sign-Up Period Open for Projects in Highland Silver Lake Watershed

*Applications being accepted for projects addressing water quality and stormwater issues in area upstream of Highland Silver Lake*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 5, 2018**

**Madison County, Ill.** – A sign-up period is now open for landowners in the Highland Silver Lake watershed to apply for funding from a cost share program through HeartLands Conservancy to install watershed improvement projects.

The 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, using the 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% 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>.

**THIS SIGN-UP PERIOD CLOSSES ON JANUARY 31, 2019.** Future sign-up periods will be announced, as funding is available, at [www.facebook.com/HeartLandsConservancy](https://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](mailto: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](http://www.HeartLandsConservancy.org) for more information.

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