OUR MISSION
To provide guidance and education to the youth and adults of St. Joseph County and to administer programs to preserve, protect and improve soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources for future generations.

Sammy Soil – A Coloring Book Story
Adapted from the Sammy Soil story by Ernest H. Whitaker and Sandra L. Purdue; Designed by Melanie Anderson
Hi! My name is Sammy Soil. I am a tiny piece of soil.
There are billions of others like me in all shapes and sizes. You step on us everyday.
I live on Farmer Brown's farm. Farmer Brown is a good farmer. I am happy to live on a conservation farm.
Come along, my wildlife friends, and help me plant these baby trees, so you can have homes, food, and clean air.
He causes big gullies to begin on his farm.

He cuts down trees.

He plows up and down hills.

I'm going to visit my uncle who lives on Farmer Smith's farm. Farmer Smith is not a good conservation farmer.
Oh, it's starting to rain. I must run for cover. There is no cover on Farmer Smith's farm. The grass is too short. I cannot hide from the rain.
Look! My other soil friends are washing down the river. The river is choking from the sediment they cause.
Where am I? I must have been carried away by a big gully on Farmer Smith's farm. This water is running very fast and I am being carried very far away.
At last the river has stopped. I am afraid. Will I ever get back home?
Oh my, I am at the beach. A little boy is putting me into his pail. His name is Johnny. He is taking me to his grandfather's.
We have traveled a long way. I wonder where Johnny's grandfather lives?
We're here! Johnny's grandfather is Farmer Brown. I'm so happy!
Look! Farmer Smith has changed his farm. He has become a conservation farmer.
He has made a grassed waterway where the big gully was.

He plows around the hill.

He planted trees on steep hills.

Hooray! I'll never be carried so far away from home again.
Look! The trees we planted are all grown up. There are lots of things we can make from trees.
The trees help keep my soil friends from clogging the river. Look how clear it is!
Now all my friends and I can do what we are supposed to do. We can help to grow trees and plants. Best of all, we can help grow food that makes you grow.