

GET INVOLVED

We invite local farmers to join the Living Snow Fence Program.

If your property is near a county road, you may be able to host a living snow fence and receive financial compensation.

Call 815-334-4661 to learn more!







ABOUT US

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the safety, accessibility, and the continued sustainability of our county highway.

We work year-round to provide innovative, cost-effective solutions to the challenges of transportation in both rural and urban areas.

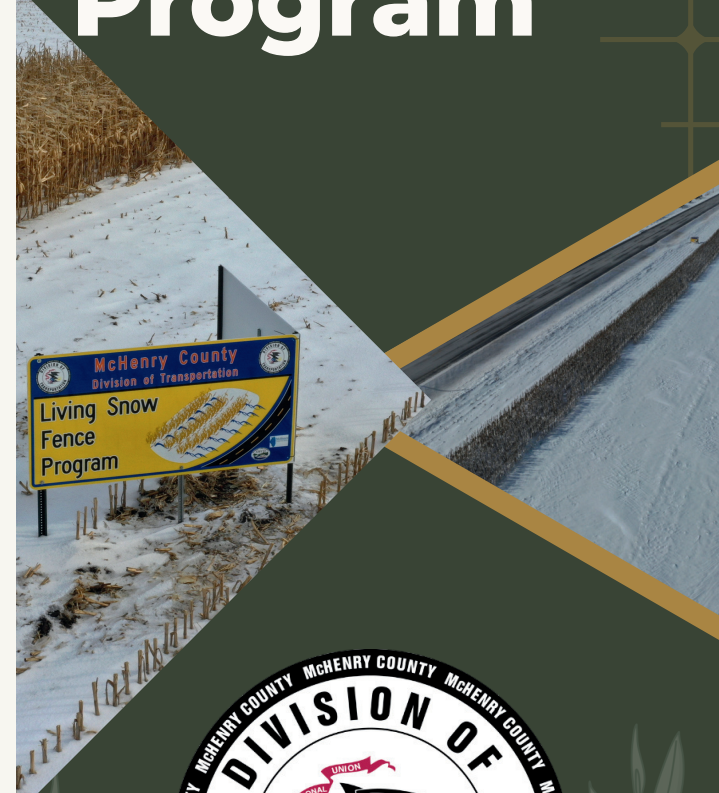
By utilizing natural barriers like corn rows and other vegetation, we're able to reduce the need for traditional snow removal, cut costs, and protect our roads during the harsh Illinois winters.

CONTACT US

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MCHENRY COUNTY

Living Snow Fence Program



WHAT IS A LIVING SNOW FENCE?

A living snow fence consists of rows of corn or other natural barriers planted parallel to roads. The placement of the snow fence is set a certain distance from the road right-of-way.

These barriers trap and manage blowing snow, preventing hazardous road conditions and reducing the need for traditional snow removal.

Living Snow Fence includes corn or an agreed-upon natural barrier (such as Sweet sorghum, hay bales, or silage bags, etc.),



HOW IT WORKS

1. Site Assessment:

- Our team evaluates potential sites for snow fences based on snow drift patterns and road alignment. Customarily, we prioritize areas along the North and West sides of the County Highway.

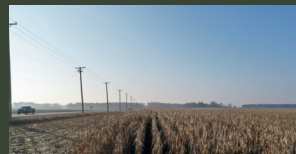
2. Design and Planting:

- We design the snow fence using native plant species suited to our climate.

3. Maintenance:

- Once established, living snow fences require minimal maintenance.

VEGETATIVE BARRIER



CORN ROWS



SWEET SORGHUM



HAY BALES



SILAGE BAGS



PAYMENT DETAILS

Per Acre Payment:

- Farmers receive \$2,000 per acre for maintaining a living snow fence at the end of the contract term.

Example Calculations:

- 12 rows for 2000 feet = 1.3 acres (\$2,600)

- 16 rows for 1100 feet = 1 acre (\$2,000)

Harvesting Rights:

- At the end of the contract (March 1), farmers can harvest remaining corn, which could yield up to 50-60 bushels.

Post-Contract:

- After March 1, 2025, MCDOT has no further obligations for maintenance or removal. At the end of the contract term (March 1) the farmer is allowed to harvest any of the remaining corn or crop for themselves