



WREC Wire

January 2022

A change in course (but not a goodbye) A note from our Watershed Coordinator, Shannon Stanis

I have accepted the position as Executive Director of NICHES Land Trust and will be transitioning to their staff full time in January. I am very excited for this opportunity but it is with a heavy heart that I say I will no longer be the watershed coordinator for the Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash River. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve the community through my role at the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) over the last four years.

Rivers connect us in the most beautiful ways. Like many people, I moved to Lafayette because of the Wabash River and did not know it at the time. In 2015 I started a graduate program at Purdue University. I lived in the north end of Lafayette and biked over the Wabash to Purdue's campus every day. I fell in love with the Wabash on these rides. Every day I would tell the Wabash something- exciting news, disappointments, motivational pep talks, etc. Anything I had to share, the Wabash was there. I would listen to what the river had to share with me. I could feel the river's resilience while watching the water flow. The Wabash took care of me and I wanted to take care of the Wabash. I became involved in local environmental efforts and started volunteering with WREC and NICHES Land Trust. The more I explored the watershed, the more I loved this river and the more invested I became in this community. When I decided to stay after graduation, I knew it was because of the Wabash.

Thank you to everyone that has made this journey at WREC so fulfilling by attending events, following us on social media, volunteering, celebrating at Wabash Riverfest, partnering on projects, enjoying the river, advocating on the Wabash's behalf, supporting this work, and so much more. Together, we have accomplished great things for the river. I have greatly enjoyed working with all of you to improve conditions in and increase access to the Wabash River.

I was not looking for new employment but this opportunity came about to use my skills to help the Wabash and this community in another impactful way. By leading NICHES Land Trust, I will oversee care for 4,000+ acres of the Wabash River's watershed and ensure these natural areas are accessible to all. NICHES has always been an important partner to WREC and the watershed group; and that collaborative partnership will be strengthened under my leadership.

I am so grateful our journey together continues and for our bright future ahead.

Wishing you a happy holiday season,

Shannon



WE ARE HIRING

Watershed Coordinator

**Full Time Position working to improve the
Wabash River through education, land
management, and riverfront development.**

Learn more and apply:

<http://www.wabashriver.net/job-opportunities/>

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Cover Crop Field Day Equipment Demonstration

WREC and our partners are planning a Cover Crop Field Day focused on Equipment Demonstration. Tentative Date is February 15th and will be confirmed soon.

This field day has 3 stops and is for anyone that grows food! If you have a backyard food garden, grow row crops at a large scale, or anywhere in between, this field day is for you! Cover crops are important at any farm level. Learn from your peers how they incorporate cover crops, the equipment they use to do so, and how they help your farm/garden. Conservation staff will cover funding opportunities to help bring these practices to life. Attendees will see cover crops growing at each location.

9am- 10:30am: Wildcat Valley Farms. Get an up close look at equipment used to install and terminate cover crops in large scale agricultural production including a roller crimper and air seeder.

11am-12:30pm: Ivy Tech Agricultural Fields. See a variety of cover crop demos and learn about seeding with drones at a mid-sized farm.

1pm-2:30pm: Grow Local's Powerhouse Lane Farm. View cover crops in vegetable beds and the equipment used for this important practice on small farms and backyard gardens.

More information to come to the WREC Website soon. Free Event. No RSVP required. Attendees are welcome to attend all or part of the sessions as their schedules allow.

Happy New Year!

Whether you're a New Year's resolutions person, or just someone that's dreaming of warmer weather, winter is a great time to start planning projects that won't kick off until spring time. Take this time to research, plan, sketch, and prep for your spring projects. Here's a list of ideas and resources to help make 2022 a more River-friendly year:

- [Start a compost pile](#) or utilize the [Food Waste Drop-off](#)
- [Plan your native plant garden](#)
- [Find a new-to-you natural area to visit](#)
- [Plan your attack on invasive plants](#) and utilize [WREC's tool library](#)

Our own public libraries in Tippecanoe County have several native plant books available that could be great winter reading:

- Native Plants of the Midwest by A. Branham
- Midwest Native Plant Primer by A. Branham
- Birdscaping in the Midwest: a guide to gardening with native plants to attract birds by M. Nowak
- Nature's Best Hope: a new approach to conservation that starts in your yard by D. Tallamy
- An Indiana Landowners Guide to Native Prairie Plants by N. Benage
- The Midwestern Native Plant Garden: native alternatives to flowering nonnative plants by C. Adelman

Find Books at our County
Library

Composting Through the Winter

Decomposition slows down or sometimes freezes to a halt in the winter. Composting is still possible in colder temperatures, it just happens in slow motion. If you have a back yard compost pile, here are a few tips to keep your food scraps out of the landfill and keep your compost pile happy all winter long.

- **Insulation:** Increase the amount of browns, or carbon, in your pile. This is typically in the form of fallen leaves in the winter. If you have excess leaves in the fall and you want to add them to your pile slowly over the winter, just keep them in another pile to the side and add leaves as needed.
- **Keep it fluffy:** Decomposition needs air, and small air pockets also act as insulation like in a down jacket. Be sure to toss your pile when it's not frozen to keep your microbes warm and active.
- **Dig while it's soft:** If you use the ultra-easy way of composting and just bury your food waste straight in your yard or garden, dig a few holes or a trench while the ground is soft in preparation for the winter freeze. That way you can just toss your food waste in the hole and pile some frozen dirt on top.
- **Utilize the West Lafayette Food Waste Drop-off:** If you don't or can't have a compost pile at home, you can always bring food scraps to the West Lafayette Street Department food waste drop-off. Food waste is sent to the Waste Water Treatment Plant to be bio-digested. The off-gassing methane is used to power the plant and the bio-solids are given to Tippecanoe farmers to use as fertilizer.



pic
source: <http://confessionsofacomposter.blogspot.com/2019/01/winter-compost-blues.html>

Riverfront Development Updates

CSO Project: Have you noticed the construction site in the Wabash Avenue neighborhood just south of the South St. Bridge as you cross into Lafayette? Lafayette Renew has been constructing a combined sewer overflow holding tank there on WREC and City owned property. The project is in its final stages, and anticipated to be finished in January/February of 2022. The combined sewer overflow tank will allow storm water and sewage to be contained during heavy rain events while it waits to be processed at the waste water treatment plant. The project also includes a solar field that will help to power the waste water treatment plant! This project also gave the opportunity to remove invasive species from the banks of the Wabash, opening up a beautiful view of the floodplain and water. Once the project is completed WREC's river front plans call for extending the Wabash River Heritage Trail through the site to connect the Wabash Avenue neighborhood to downtown Lafayette and West Lafayette and create additional green space in our urban center.

Environmental Cleanup: WREC is working with the US Environmental Protection Agency and IN Dept. of Environmental Management to clean up 40 Chestnut St. a 14 acre river front property located in the Wabash Ave neighborhood in Lafayette. The former Lafayette Boxboard Paper Mill site, now owned by WREC, has contaminated soil from its previous operations as a paper mill and WREC and its partners are in the final stages of assessing the site and developing a remediation plan for the property. WREC is working with both the EPA and IDEM to obtain funding to clean it up in preparation for converting the area to public greenspace per WREC's Two Cities, One River corridor master plan for the Lafayette and West Lafayette urban riverfront.

READI Grant: 30 million dollars in State READI funds (a regional economic development program), were awarded to our six county region of the state. The application plan for these funds included pilot projects for the 5-County multi-use Wabash River Greenway (WRG) being planned by WREC. Other READI projects included improvements to the Purdue University Airport and increasing broadband internet access in the region. Allocation of READI funds will be finalized beginning in January, 2022. If funded, the READI WRG Pilot Project in Tippecanoe County will develop a North River Road Trail Head on the west side of the road under the Sagamore Parkway Bridge, connector trails up to the Sagamore Parkway Bike Bridge on both sides of the river, and a Canoe/Kayak Put in/Take Out facility on the west side of the river under the bridge. Learn about the Wabash Greenway Project and take the public input surveys here. [Learn about the greenway project and take the public input surveys here.](#)

Next Level Trail Grant: WREC applied for a trail grant (Project) through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Next Level Trail Grant Program. This Project would fund a connector trail from the east landing of the existing Sagamore Parkway Bike Bridge and extend east along the south side of Sagamore Parkway to North 9th Street. The Project will link to the Tippecanoe County READI Pilot Project if it is funded, and a City of West Lafayette connector trail project, to connect both cities to each other and to the Wabash River Heritage Trail and the Wabash River corridor Heritage. The award notification of this grant application is in February or March!



During the month of December 2021 and January 2022 Tippecanoe residents will be able to drop off broken string lights to be recycled for free! There are drop-off bins in the lobby of the County Government Building, in the lobby of the south entrance to Lafayette City Hall, and in the lobby of the West Lafayette City Hall. Big thanks to Oscar Winski e-Recycling, Tippecanoe County, the City of Lafayette, and the City of West Lafayette for collaborating to host these drop-off sites and get your string lights recycled! If your string lights are attached to plastic decorations, please remove those and put the plastic in your trash. We are unable to recycle plastic decorations, only string lights!

Learn More at the Recycling & Solid Waste website



The second newsletter for the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan was released in November. Click the link below to read the newsletter in English or Spanish. If you haven't taken the survey yet, it can be found in [English or Spanish on the website](#).

Second Climate Action Newsletter

Segundo boletín en Español



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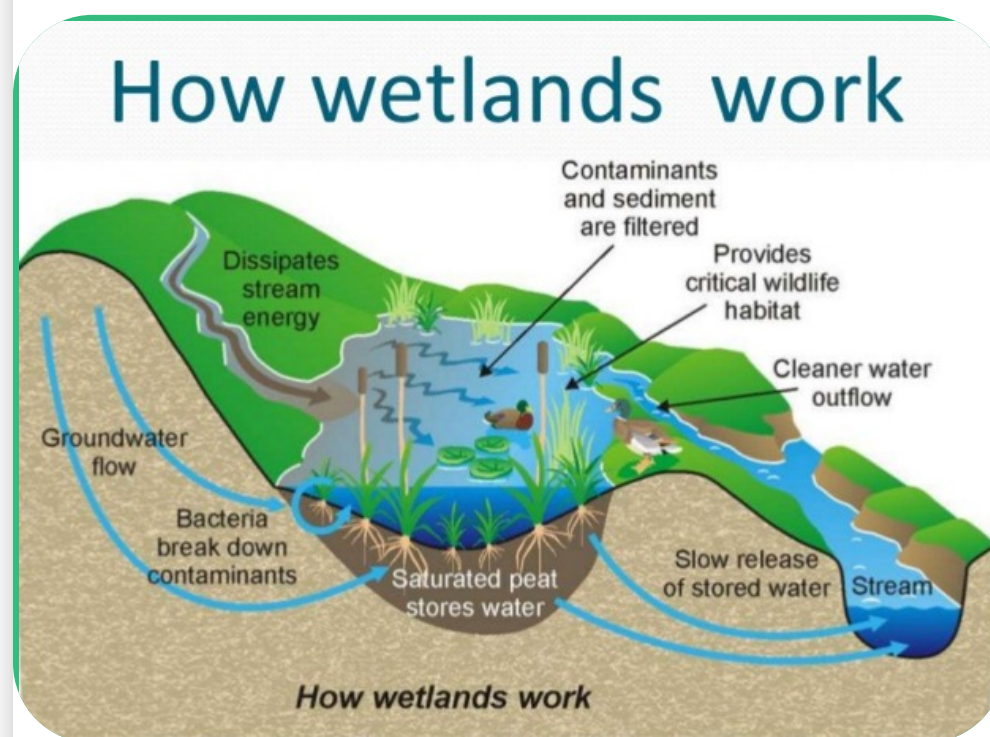
WREC Wire

February 2022
Happy Black History Month!

World Wetland Day!

Wednesday February 2, 2022

Wetlands are critical ecosystems that need our support. Check out the infographic below and the website: <https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/> to learn more about the importance of wetlands. WREC's cost share program can assist with wetland projects, big and small. Improving central Indiana wetlands improves the Wabash River, which in turn improves the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. Water connects us all, and taking care of our environment is taking care of each other!



AG FIELD DAY

Cover Crop Equipment Demonstrations

February 17, 2022 | 9 am - 3 pm

- o **9am-10:30am:** Wildcat Valley Farms (5514 S 800 E, Lafayette) – Learn about opportunities for financial assistance for cover crops. Get an up close look at a roller-crimper and a Salford air seeder used to manage cover crops.
- o **11am-12:30pm:** Ivy Tech agricultural fields (3101 S Creasy Lane, Lafayette) – See a variety of cover crop demos and learn more about seeding with a drone.
- o **1:15pm-2:45pm:** GrowLocal's Powerhouse Lane Farm (2150 Powderhouse Lane, Lafayette) Learn how cover crops can be incorporated into vegetable production beds. See a variety of equipment including an Earthway Planter, a bag broadcast seeder, and a BCS walk-behind tractor.

No registration required! Show up for the session at the designated time. You may attend all or part of the sessions. The event is free. For questions, contact Angie Miller at 765-474-9992, ext. 4006.

[Learn More](#)

Deadline Approaching! Get your cost share application in now!

WREC provides free site visits and technical assistance to help you decide how you can make your property more environmentally friendly. Interested in converting some of your lawn to native plants? We can help you with that! Excited about a rain garden? We can help you figure out what would work best for your property! WREC can help you figure out how to accomplish your goals on your own or with funding help through our cost share program. Applications are due March 15, 2022 and can be found on our website. We fund both urban and agricultural projects. Contact us if you have any questions or want to schedule a site visit. Check out the link below for a list of practices we fund.

COST-SHARE INFO



Save the Dates: Spring Events

Wabash Sampling Blitz: April 8 & 9, 2022. We will host the event with contact-less supply pick up and drop off. All training will be done online. We hope you can make it! Sign up & start watching training videos on our website.

Wabash Sampling Blitz

De-Trash the Wabash: April 23, 2022. Help clean up litter in and around the Wabash River! We provide the trash bags, trash pickers, and gloves.

DeTrash the Wabash

Spring Electronics Recycling Event: April 30, 2022 at Harrison High School. The Tippecanoe Recycling and Solid Waste District will be accepting electronics to be recycled, paper to be shredded and recycled, and medicine to be disposed of safely. Event is free for Tippecanoe County residents.

E-waste Day

Natural Resources Job Openings

WREC is still accepting applications for our Watershed Coordinator position. Help improve the ecosystems around the Wabash River and facilitate education and outreach in our community: <http://www.wabashriver.net/job-opportunities/>

The Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring a part-time invasive species technician. This is a 3-year grant funded position. The Technician will work closely with Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce (TICT) on a variety of local efforts, including providing public education and outreach about invasive species, assisting with invasive plant removal workdays, and reporting invasive species locations. More information: <https://tippecanoecountyswcd.org/>

Lawn-to-Garden Methods: Sheet Mulching

It may seem daunting to think about converting some or all of your lawn to a native planting. Sheet mulching is a great way to both kill turf grass and prep a garden bed for planting in the spring. Simply lay cardboard down where you want the garden to be, then pile 3-5 inches of mulch on top of the cardboard. Soak the whole thing in water and just give it some time. Now is a great time to start sheet mulching so that your beds are ready for plant plugs by the time the native plant sales happen this spring. Check the link below for a more detailed description of how to sheet mulch.

[More Info on Sheet Mulching](#)



Lay cardboard where you want your new garden beds to be. Be sure the sheets of cardboard overlap by several inches.



Place a layer of thick mulch over top of the cardboard and soak the whole thing in water.

Invasive Plant Removal Tool Library

Have some stubborn honeysuckle or wintercreeper that needs eliminated on your property before you can achieve your native plant dreams? WREC has some tools that could help! We have two pullerbears and a set of soil knives that make removing invasive plants much easier. These are free to check out for a week at a time. Click the button below for more information about these tools, to check their availability, and to fill out the form to check some out. Have invasives but you're not sure how to manage them or what to replace them with? Contact us for a free outdoor site visit and we can get you the information you need to reduce invasive plants on your property!



WREC'S TOOL LIBRARY

Clean up your rain garden or prep your site for next year's garden by borrowing from our invasive plant removal tool library. One Pullerbear or two soil knives can be checked out for a week at a time.

[HTTP://WWW.WABASHRIVER.NET/TOOL-LIBRARY/](http://www.wabashriver.net/tool-library/)

[Tool Library](#)



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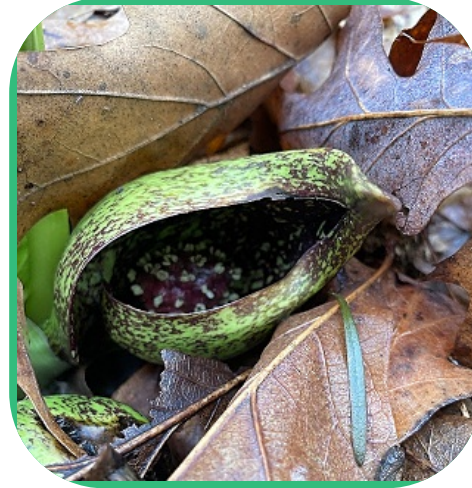
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browser

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WREC Wire

March 2022



The Spring Equinox is March 20th! As the days get longer, snow melts, and plants start to emerge from the soil, we have many opportunities to connect with Nature in our community this Spring.

Skunk Cabbage blooming at the fen on one of WREC's properties.

Cost Share Applications are due for Urban and Agricultural projects on March 15th. We can help fund rain gardens, native plants, a green roof, pervious pavement, cover crops, grassed waterways, and many other practices that help the Wabash River.

WREC provides free site visits- a time to chat with someone about your ideas and ask any questions you may have. We understand river friendly projects can be complicated, so we are eager to help you make a successful and rewarding project. Send us an email or give us a call to set up a site visit.

[Cost Share Info](#)



Public Meeting

We are excited to invite the community to our public meeting to learn about the schematic design for the Tippecanoe portion of the 5-county Wabash River Greenway. Click the graphic below to see the website and learn more.

WABASH RIVER GREENWAY

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

MARCH 3rd

WEST LAFAYETTE WELLNESS CENTER - MAC GYM
1101 KALBERER RD, WEST LAFAYETTE, IN

5:00p to 6:00p - Project Display Boards for Public Viewing
6:00p to 6:30p - Project Summary Presentation
6:30p to 7:00p - Q & A

GET INVOLVED IN THE GREENWAY!

www.wabashrivergreenway.com

Cover Crop Equipment Demonstration Rescheduled to March 24

Icy rain in February forced us to reschedule our Ag Field Day, but we're ready to show off the roller crimper and fly Ivy Tech's drone on March 24! Click the flier below

for more info.

AG FIELD DAY

Cover Crop Equipment Demonstrations

March 24 3 sessions

- 9am - 10:30am Roller Crimper and Salford Air Seeder, info on financial assistance programs
- 11am - 12:30pm Precision ag and seeding with a drone
- 1:15pm - 2:45pm Cover crops in vegetable gardens and small scale equipment



Wabash Sampling Blitz- April 8 and 9



Don your waders or knee boots, grab a transparency tube, and sign up to spend some time in our local creeks and streams! WREC needs citizen scientists (no experience necessary!) to take water quality samples and measurements. This is a socially distanced and COVID-safe event! Click the button below for more information and to register.

[Learn More and Register](#)

Native Plant Sales Coming Up!

There are several options for buying locally grown, central-Indiana native plants for your upcoming gardening season.

- Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Native Plant Sale. The SWCD will publish an order form on their website. You'll be able to view what plants will be available, and under what conditions they grow the best. You have the option to pre-order your plants by early April 15 or purchase what is available for day of sale on May 14, 2022. Keep an eye on the [SWCD website](#) or social media for announcements and the order form.
- Prophetstown State Park Native Plant Sale. Prophetstown harvests seeds from plants on their property, germinates them in their greenhouse through the winter, and sells the plugs to the public in May. Check out the [IDNR calendar of events](#) for more information.
- The Land Nursery is a West Lafayette nursery that specializes in native plants. Check out [The Land Nursery website](#) for a plant list and contact information.

E-waste Paper Shredding Medicine Disposal



April 30, 2022

8am-2pm

Harrison High School

**Free for Tippecanoe
County residents**

 tippecanoe.in.gov/recycle

Tippecanoe County residents can recycle their electronics for FREE at this e-waste recycling event. Just bring your electronics to Harrison High School on April 30, and drop them off. They will not be accepting very large appliances such as washing machines and stoves, or appliances with refrigerant such as dehumidifiers or air conditioners. The Solid Waste District will also have free paper shredding and medicine disposal available!



WREC'S TOOL LIBRARY

Clean up your rain garden or prep your site for next year's garden by borrowing from our invasive plant removal tool library. One Pullerbear or two soil knives can be checked out for a week at a time.

[HTTP://WWW.WABASHRIVER.NET/TOOL-LIBRARY/](http://www.wabashriver.net/tool-library/)

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WREC Wire

April 2022

Spring showers are here and it's time to put those rain barrels to work! If you already own a rain barrel, now is a great time to set it up to start diverting stormwater. The City of Lafayette and West Lafayette have rain barrels kits available. You can either buy just the barrel, or buy the barrel, diverter, and stand.

You can use water collected in rain barrels to water your vegetables, lawn, and flowers while reducing your utility bills. Depending on your house and yard size, you can collect a significant amount of rainfall using your rain barrels. Estimates indicate during a one inch rain event, one downspout delivers 12 gallons of water per minute and that one rain barrel will capture 1,300 gallons of water throughout the year.

[More About Rain Barrels](#)

E-Waste Day
Saturday April 30, 2022
8am-2pm
Harrison High School

Tippecanoe County residents can recycle their electronics for FREE at this e-waste recycling event. They will not be accepting very large appliances such as washing machines and stoves, or appliances with refrigerant such as dehumidifiers or air conditioners. All attendees must show proof of residency to receive free service. If you cannot show proof of Tippecanoe County residency, you will have to pay the regular fees for e-waste with Oscar Winski. Click the image below to learn more.

E-waste Paper Shredding Medicine Disposal

April 30, 2022

8am-2pm

Harrison High School

**Free for Tippecanoe
County residents**

 tippecanoe.in.gov/recycle



Native Plant Sales Coming Up & Second Annual Native Plant Festival!

- Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Native Plant Sale is accepting pre orders through April 15. Pick up on May 13 or 14. Check their [website](#) for pre order forms and more information.
- On May 8, 2021 the SWCD will host their second annual Native Plant Festival! There will be a native plant sale, presentations, hikes, and garlic mustard pulls. The event is free and takes place at Ross Camp! WREC staff will give a talk on DIY rain gardens. Come by to check out all the cool programs and buy a few more plants at their day-of sale!
- Prophetstown State Park Native Plant Sale May 6, 2022 from 10am-5pm. Prophetstown harvests seeds from plants on their property, germinates them in their greenhouse through the winter, and uses the plugs in Indiana State Park property restoration. The remaining plugs are sold to the public at their native plant sale! Contact jparks@dnr.in.gov for details on the native plant sale, or check [Prophetstown Calendar of Events](#) for the most up to date information.

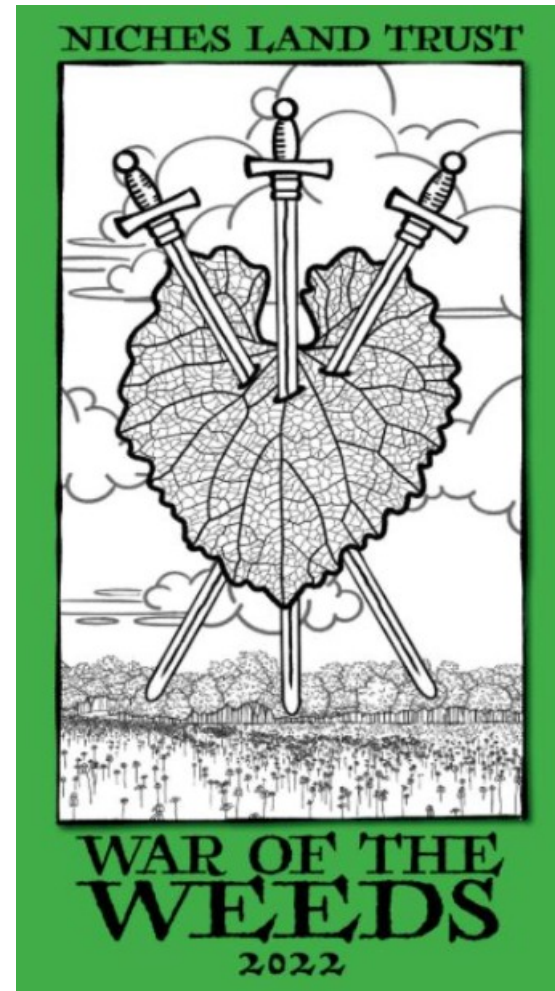
NICHES 2021 WAR OF THE WEEDS
Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
Starting Friday April 16 through May 16th, 2021
Shifts 10am -12:45 pm & 1-4pm

From April 8th to May 22nd, NICHES will host our annual Spring volunteer effort to improve diversity in woodlands. Every spring, the invasive plant garlic mustard emerges across Niches preserves in large numbers. If left unchecked, this weed can change soil chemistry, overtake the forest's understory, and diminish the beautiful display of native ephemeral wildflowers. With your help, the forest understory will be filled with a diverse mix of plants that provide food and shelter to abundant wildlife.

For this year's effort, Niches will be hosting 41 garlic mustard pulling shifts at 16 different local nature preserves within a 10-50 minute drive of Lafayette. This is our organization's single biggest annual volunteer push. Please check out shift dates/locations and sign-up. Contact Sam Cody with any questions sam@nicheslandtrust.org

EVERY VOLUNTEER THAT REGISTERS FOR 2 OR MORE SHIFTS BEFORE THE END OF MARCH WILL RECEIVE THIS YEAR'S T-SHIRT DESIGN (FEATURED BELOW)

[2022 WOTW Garlic mustard pulling shift list](#)



Sign up to pickup trash along the banks of the Wabash River. We'll provide the gloves, trash pickers, and bags!

[Learn More and Register](#)

Tree Lafayette Tree Planting Events

- Friday, April 22, 2022, 10am, Miller Elementary School located at 700 S. 4th Street: Lafayette Subaru of Indiana Automotive (SIA) is sponsoring the event and tree planting. Volunteers and students will be planting 15 trees on the school grounds for Earth Day.
- Saturday April 30, 9:20am - 1pm, Corner of Underwood St and 24th St: Teams (3-5 persons) will select a start time for the morning when they pre-register online. Get your team together and register to help plant trees along Underwood Street. If you do not have a team, we will assign you to a team. Trees have many benefits to the neighborhood and our community. Click "Learn More" button below for more information or to pre-register. All participants must be pre-registered. Join us to have some fun, enjoy the fresh air, get some exercise, and have the satisfaction that you helped our community and the environment.



Help Plant Trees for Arbor Day!



**THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY OF
ARBOR DAY. COME
JOIN US TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN OUR
COMMUNITY!**



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WABASH RIVER

ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION

WREC Wire

May 2022

Welcoming WREC's New Watershed Coordinator

In December, WREC's former watershed coordinator accepted a position with Niches Land Trust as their new executive director. When Shannon moved on to bigger and better things, WREC's resource specialist recently filled the vacancy left by Shannon as WREC's new Watershed Coordinator. Amy Krzton-Presson joined WREC in April of 2019 as the resource specialist and the recycling educator with the County Solid Waste District. Amy earned a bachelors of science in Wildlife Biology with a minor in Outdoor Recreation from Murray State University in Kentucky. After working temporary wildlife field technician jobs for two years, Amy returned to Murray State to earn a masters degree in Watershed Science with a focus on Ecology. Amy has worked as an outdoor educator in Texas, a field technician catching and monitoring rats, bats, lizards, and turtles across the the US; and spent 5 years managing a water quality monitoring project in Illinois. In her spare time Amy enjoys landscaping with native plants, birding, spoiling her cats, and doing home improvement projects. She's excited to continue working with WREC to improve the watershed!



Amy's former position as Resource Specialist/Recycling Educator with the County Solid Waste District is now open! [Read the full job description and apply on the County's website.](#) This is a full time job with County Government Benefits.

WABASH
RIVERFEST

JULY 9 | TAPAWINGO PARK
9A - 4P

22ND ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE WABASH RIVER

SIGN UP FOR ACTIVITIES AND LEARN MORE AT WABASHRIVERFEST.COM

The poster for Wabash Riverfest 2022 features a bright yellow background with a sun, birds, and a canoe. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font. The event is scheduled for July 9th at Tapawingo Park from 9A to 4P. It is the 22nd annual celebration of the Wabash River. A call to action at the bottom encourages signing up for activities and learning more at WabashRiverfest.com.

Riverfest is back!

We're excited to have our 1-day celebration of the Wabash River this July 9th! Sign up to paddle the Wabash River, take a charcoal drawing class, check out the conservation education exhibits, watch the raptor presentation, and cheer on the voyageur canoe races! Click on the photo above to see what's in store!

Native Plant Fest
May 14, 2022 Ross Camp

We're excited to be helping out with the second annual native plant fest next Saturday! Stop by to buy some plants, attend WREC's DIY rain garden walk-and-talk, and check out all the other cool sessions. Native plants help stormwater better infiltrate the ground, reducing nonpoint source pollution flowing in to the Wabash River. Native plants are also vital in supporting our local pollinators and provide food and shelter to birds. Do you have a native planting in your yard already? Register your site with [Homegrown National Park](#) to show that you're a part of the grassroots biodiversity regeneration effort!



There are a few other native plant sales coming up!

- [Register to attend Prophetstown State Park's native plant sale this weekend.](#)
- The local chapter of the Native Plant Society will have a sidewalk sale from 9-4 on Saturday May 28, and 1-4 on Sunday May 29 at 900 Rose Street in West Lafayette

WREC receives Next Level Trails Grant

We are thrilled to receive a 2.7 million dollar grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in their Next Level Trails grant program! This grant will fund a connection from the existing trail on the Sagamore Parkway Bridge, connecting to the trail along 9th Street and the Lafayette-side of the Wabash Heritage Trail. We're excited to see this development come to fruition!

Spring Events Recap

It's been a busy spring and we hosted or co-hosted several events!

- Ag Field Day: Cover Crop Equipment Demonstrations - This was held in partnership with the Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District, Wildcat Valley Farms, Ivy Tech Precision Ag, and GrowLocal Lafayette. It was cold and rainy, but everyone learned a lot from seeding with drones, to interseeders, to small-scale cover crops on urban farms!
- Wabash Sampling Blitz - Another cold and rainy event, but our volunteers were fearless! Even WREC's own bookkeeper donned some waders and sampled a few streams for water quality.
- De-Trash the Wabash - Finally we had great weather at a spring event! We

had almost 70 volunteers help pick up over a ton of trash along the banks of the Wabash River. This event was a combined effort between the Tippecanoe Partnership for Water Quality, the City of Lafayette, the City of West Lafayette, and the Purdue Department of Forestry and Natural Resources.



Harry from GrowLocal shows the radishes he planted as cover crops.



WREC's bookkeeper Emily is ready to sample!



De-Trash Volunteers from Purdue FNR.

Want updates and facts about the Wabash River? Follow us on social media!



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515 Columbia Street
Lafayette, Indiana 47907 - USA
Telephone: 765-420-8505

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WABASH RIVER

ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION

WREC Wire

June 2019

Now that summer is in full swing, its time to get outside and enjoy all the events and activities our community has to offer!

What's blooming in June:



Blue Flag Iris



Ohio Spiderwort



Prairie Sundrop

Native plants provide food and natural habitat to local pollinators such as monarch butterflies and bumblebees. They are fully adapted to the local environmental conditions in Tippecanoe, making them very hardy and low maintenance. Native plants can help you conserve water, and cut back on fertilizer and pesticide use, which saves money and decreases the amount of polluted runoff that enters the Wabash River!



Get Ready for Wabash Riverfest!
Saturday July 9 | 9AM - 4PM
Tapawingo Park and Riverfront Promenade

Join us for our annual community celebration of the Wabash River! Relax and enjoy some music from SAMI, learn about the Wabash River and our community, and try one of the variety of River activities we have!

- **Voyageur Canoe Races** - get a team of 10 together and challenge another team to an on-the-water paddle-a-thon! Email Amanda at aestes@lafayette.in.gov to get a team signed up.
- **Float trip from Davis Ferry to Tapawingo Park** - Use our rafts or canoes, or bring your own. Sign-ups to come closer to Riverfest!

- **Take Flight Birds of Prey show** - Come learn about birds of prey and visit them up close! Starts at 11am
- **Conservation Booths** - learn about local organizations working to improve our community and our environment
- **2- or 7-mile guided bike rides** - Join the Wabash River Cycle club on either a all-levels bike ride or a longer ride along the Heritage Trail. Bring your own bike and helmet!
- **Riverfront Charcoal Drawing Class on the Promenade** - Learn how to use charcoal to draw a beautiful scene of the Wabash River. Free and lasts about 1 hour!
- **Water Drop 5k and Kids Run** - Come out to race or cheer on the participants at 8:00 am and stay for the rest of the Festival.

We need volunteers to make Riverfest run smoothly. Please check out the website for ways to be involved and help out! Volunteers that help for at least 4 hours get their choice of one of the following:

- a rain barrel
- a voucher for a free native tree or shrub from the Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District fall tree sale
- their choice of one of three books on native plants or rain gardens

[sign up to volunteer](#)



Call for Artists

The Arts Federation, Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, and Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality invite artists to submit artworks that have been inspired by the Wabash River and its tributaries.

Timeline

- Deadline to Submit Applications: July 15, 2022
- Artwork Selection & Artist Notification: Early August 2022
- Artwork Drop off at TAF: August 24 - 26, 2022
- Opening Reception: September 2, 6-8 pm
- Exhibition: September 2 - September 30
- Artwork Pick Up: October 3 - 5

Eligibility

- This opportunity is open to any artist who is 18 years of age and older.
- All works submitted for consideration must be original and created by the exhibiting artist.
- Displayed artwork may be any 2-D or 3-D media. Eligible media include, but are not limited to: drawing, painting, photography, mixed media, oil/chalk pastels, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, assemblage, digital art, collage, metal work, jewelry design, fiber/textile art, wood work, and contemporary craft.



the arts
federation



On Sunday, June 5, the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan Committee is hosting a Green Expo to showcase 'all things green' to the Greater Lafayette Community. Expo runs from 12 pm - 4pm.

There will be document shredding service from 12 pm - 2 pm

- electric car and bike show
- tree planting
- home preparedness/winterization
- organic plants
- composting
- land conservation
- urban gardens
- sustainable farming practices
- recycling
- solar & electric heating/cooling
- solar communities

Plus much more!

At 2pm there will be a community input workshop. At this public input workshop, participants will hear how climate change is expected to impact our county, what climate action planning is, and the draft goals and initiatives for the [Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan](#). Participants will have the opportunity to share their concerns about climate change, brainstorm who will be impacted the most, and vote to show their priorities for local climate action.

This is a great opportunity for YOU to weigh in and provide your thoughts on how to make Greater Lafayette a more carbon-conscious and climate-resilient community for generations to come!

This workshop will last roughly one hour but we encourage you to stop by and participate for as long as you are able to! Any Tippecanoe resident is welcome to attend. No registration necessary.

Visit the first annual GLCAP Green Expo on Sunday, June 5, 2022 at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds in the East Pavilion!

Facebook Event for
Green Expo

Facebook Event for
Public Input Workshop

WREC will be at Wolf Park

Let's Rewild! | Saturday, June 4- 10 & 10:30am
This Saturday WREC, the [Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality](#), and the [Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce](#) will be a part of two of Wolf Park's tours. WREC staff will do a short workshop on rainbarrels, a TCPWQ stormwater educator will discuss native plants, and the TICT invasive plant technician will go over identification and control of a few common invasive plants.

Learn how to rewild your backyard- Sign Up!

Learn More



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WREC Wire

July 2022



Get Ready for Wabash Riverfest!

Saturday July 9 | 9AM - 4PM
Tapawingo Park and Riverfront Promenade

Join us for our annual community celebration and jubilation on the banks of the Wabash River! Relax and enjoy some music from SAMI, learn about the Wabash River and our community, and try one of the variety of River activities we have!

Volunteer for Wabash Riverfest 2022

We could still use a few volunteers to help run various activities throughout the day. Inspire others to love the Wabash River by helping them in the Try a Canoe Area, or get in touch with your creative side by volunteering as a Hand Painting artist!

All volunteers receive a free Riverfest T-Shirt, and any volunteer who devotes 4 or more hours will get their choice of a River-friendly gift. Sign ups are available on the Riverfest website, along with a full list of available volunteer activities.

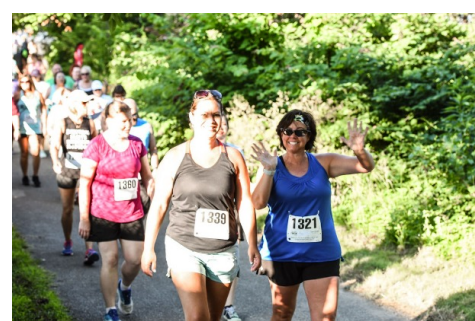
[Riverfest Volunteering](#)



Huge thanks to our generous 2022 Riverfest sponsors for making this a totally FREE event to the community!

2022 Sponsors:

TBIRD Design Services, Duke Energy, Bowen Engineering, Greeley and Hansen, Wildcat Canoe and Kayak Too, Indiana American Water, Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, IWM Consulting Group, Kimley Horn, Subaru of Indiana Automotive Inc., City of West Lafayette, City of Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County!



Water Drop 5K Run

Sat. July 9 | 8AM
Pedestrian Bridge

Join the annual Water Drop 5K run at Riverfest 2022! The 5K route follows the scenic Wabash Heritage Trail and will be on the paved surfaces along the banks of

the Wabash River.

5K Information and
Signup



Voyageur Canoe Races

Ready to watch local teams race down the Wabash River? Stop by the cheer on your favorite teams! Want to be apart of the race? There's open races at 10:30am, 1pm, and 2pm so grab some friends and meet by the canoe race check in. Be there and be ready to paddle!

Float Trip Information



Charcoal Drawing Class

Learn how to draw riverfront scenery using charcoal, and connect with the beauty of the Wabash River away from the bustle of the festival. This year, the class will be hosted on the Wabash River Promenade with a great view of the riverfront scenery. Registration is recommended to secure a spot in one of the three classes, but walk-in spots may be available the day of. All supplies are provided.

Charcoal Drawing Signup



Live Music

Sat. July 9 | All Day
Tapawingo Park

Kick back and enjoy live music from local artists and bands all day! Featuring sets from various artists from the Songwriters Association of Mid-north America (SAMI)

Artists: Mike Almon · Jessi Chase · David Inskeep · Amanda Parker · Vickie Maris and Scott Greeson · Lee Anna Crane Atwell · Frank Anthony · Mike Longcor · Derrick Coleman · Lauren Mills · Elija Davis · Gabbie Bush · Dustin Beasley

Trees of the Wabash River Floodplain Hike

Tapawingo Park | 10:30AM and 1PM

Join Purdue extension forester Lenny Farlee on a hike that takes you on a leisurely educational walk along the Wabash River to learn more about native trees and how to ID common trees. Hike leaves from the fountain at the pedestrian bridge. No sign up required!

Wabash Bike Rides

Tapawingo Park | 10AM, 12PM, 2PM

Bring your own bike and helmet and take a relaxing 2 or 7 mile bike ride along the Wabash Heritage Trail with the Wabash Cycling Club! Bike rides leave from the ice rink in Tapawingo Park. No sign up required, bring your own bike and helmet!

Fort Ouiatenon Guided 8-mile Hike

Tapawingo Park | 10AM

Starting at the Fountain by the pedestrian bridge, a local naturalist will lead hikers along the Heritage Trail to Fort Ouiatenon and back. This is a great opportunity to hike the trail if you've never been! Hike leaves from the fountain at the Pedestrian Bridge. No sign up required, bring plenty of water and a snack!

Bike Rodeo

Riverside Skate Rink | 9AM-1PM

Kids can learn how to ride safely through a fun, full day of hands-on activities and interactive stations. These stations aim to teach basic skills such as starting and stopping, scanning for traffic, avoiding hazards, and other best practices. Challenge yourself on the obstacle course! Bicycles and helmets will be available for use or you can bring your own. This event is in the ice rink. No sign up required!

Take Flight Birds of Prey Demonstration

Tapawingo Park | 11AM-noon

Come learn about birds of prey and visit them up close! See what it's like to be hawk eyed or falcon fast by meeting these magnificent predators up close and hearing the stories of our shared history. No sign up required!

Local Food Trucks

Tapawingo Park | All day

Take a break from the activities to refuel! In Tapawingo park, enjoy bites from Kona Ice, K Lora, and Tacos Mexico!

More Activities



INVASIVE PLANT SWAP PROGRAM

We are offering **FREE** native trees and shrubs when you remove your invasive callery pear and/or burning bush.

Deadline to apply: August 1st

Find the application at:
<https://tippecanoecountyswcd.org/tict-2>

Replacements offered

- Allegheny Serviceberry
- Pagoda Dogwood
- Overcup Oak
- American Hornbeam
- Redbud
- Black Chokeberry
- Winterberry
- Arrowwood Viburnum
- Tulip Poplar
- Blackhaw Viburnum

Logos for TICT, WABASH RIVER ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION, TIPPECANOE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, and CITY OF LAFAYETTE.

Invasive Plant Swap

What are invasive species?

They are non-native species whose introduction cause or are likely to cause harm to the economy, the environment, and to human health. Invasive species outcompete with and displace native species, lowering habitat quality and sometimes increasing erosion.

Callery pear (also known as Bradford pears) invade local forests and roadsides. Burning bush is also invasive and have become an issue in Prophets Rock forests and other woodland areas. Both of these plants are commonly used in landscaping. Just because they are not taking over your yard does not mean that they are not an issue! Birds and mammals eat the berries and spread them to natural areas all over our region. This program helps to encourage people to remove callery pears and burning bushes in their landscaping.

If you have a callery pear and/or burning bush, you can get a **FREE** native tree or shrub to replace it with. All participants will be responsible for removing their invasive tree, providing proof of removal by providing before and after pictures, picking up their native replacement, and planting their native replacement.

Deadline to apply: August 1st

Contact TICT with questions: TICTaboutinvasives@gmail.com

To Learn More and Apply

Food Waste and Composting Tips

Did you know approximately 30-40% of the food supply in the US is wasted? It's best to try to reduce the food you waste, but if you do have food waste, make an effort to not send it to a landfill. Landfills create methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas. Composting is a great way to divert food waste from landfills.

The following items are safe and easy to compost: Fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds, egg shells, shredded newspaper, and yard waste like leaves and grass clippings.

There are two ways that are easiest for composting at home:



Food Waste Collection
The city offers a food waste drop off site where food waste is collected and processed. The off-gassed methane is then used to power the Water treatment plant and the bio-solids are given to local farmers as fertilizer.



Vermicomposting (AKA worm bins)
This is great for small spaces (like apartments)
Creates compost that is great for houseplants and gardens.
Uses worms to break down food scraps into nutrient rich soil!

[More info about Food Waste Dropoff](#)

[Learn more about vermicomposting](#)

Rain Gardens

What Are Rain Gardens?

Rain gardens are a depressed area in a landscape that is planted with native wildflowers, shrubs, and grasses. They collect rainwater from a roof, driveway, or street and allow it to soak into the ground which reduces stormwater pollution and protects our River.



How can rain gardens improve your lawn and community?

Rain gardens can filter out pollutants and provide habitat for butterflies, songbirds, and other wildlife. They also increase the amount of water that filters into the ground which recharges local aquifers.

Rain gardens feature perennial flowers or native prairie wildflowers that usually have deep roots. If your rain garden is large enough, shrubs and trees are a great addition. A few species that are native to our region and common in rain gardens are Aster, Coneflower, Little Bluestem, Penstemon, and Prairie Dropseed.

Rain gardens should be located at least 10 feet away from the foundation of structures, such as the house or garage. Avoid putting rain gardens over or near a septic tank with at least a 50 foot buffer.

If you're interested in learning whether a rain garden works for your property, WREC staff provide free site visits for residents in our watershed! Just contact us at watershed@wabashriver.net to set one up.

[Learn more about rain gardens!](#)

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WREC Wire

August 2022

The summer is quickly coming to an end, but there is still plenty to do in the Greater Lafayette area! Keep reading for a Riverfest recap, eco-friendly tips, and volunteer opportunities!

Wabash Riverfest Recap

A huge thanks to everyone who sponsored, volunteered, and attended Wabash Riverfest 2019! We appreciate everyone's help and involvement in making this year's festival a huge success! We hope you had a great time, and were able to learn about or experience the wonders of the Wabash River, and we're already looking forward to next year!



Teams from all over the county duked it out to win the prized trophy oars in our Voyageur Canoe Races. The most competitive race of them all was the City Race: West Lafayette vs. Lafayette and Lafayette took home the prize! On the left is the Lafayette team posing with their trophy.



We had perfect weather for the Waterdrop 5k. 100+ people run in the race!



Kids sprinted across the Pedestrian Bridge in the Water Droplet kids run. We had over 60 kids participate in the kids run.



Kids here learned how to maneuver through obstacles and be a safe cyclist at the bike rodeo.



The fun was never-ending! People of all ages (especially kids) enjoyed face painting.



Folks of all ages were able to get comfortable canoeing at our Try-a-canoe station with experienced paddlers.



Over 100 people took a 5-mile paddling trip down the Wabash in rafts.

[Riverfest Facebook](#)

This festival isn't possible without support from our incredible sponsors. Enormous thanks to all of them!



Thank you to our sponsor!

Huge thanks to our generous 2022 Riverfest sponsors for making this a totally FREE event to the community!

2022 Sponsors:

TBIRD Design Services, Duke Energy, Bowen Engineering, Greeley and Hansen, Wildcat Canoe and Kayak Too, Indiana American Water, Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, IWM Consulting Group, Kimley Horn, Subaru of Indiana Automotive Inc., City of West Lafayette, City of Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County!



Wabash Invasive Removal Workday



We had a great day removing invasive plants from multiple NICHES and WREC properties. We had about 75 volunteers help to eradicate bush honeysuckle from the banks of the Wabash River and queen annes lace from the Niches property, the Granville Sand Barrens.

Removing invasive plants helps to...

- Improve the biodiversity of aquatic organisms in the Wabash River
- Improve soil quality, reducing erosion along river banks
- Provide shade, carbon storage, and habitat for native wildlife

Recycling Tip



The graphic features a green background with a recycling symbol on the left and a globe with a plant on the right. The title "PLASTIC BAG SWAPS" is centered in large, bold, black letters. Below the title, three rows of illustrations show the transition from plastic to reusable alternatives: 1. A blue plastic grocery bag is crossed out with a red 'X', and a brown canvas reusable grocery bag is shown with a recycling symbol. 2. A blue plastic ziploc bag is crossed out with a red 'X', and a clear reusable ziploc bag is shown. 3. A clear plastic produce bag is crossed out with a red 'X', and a reusable mesh produce bag is shown. To the right of these illustrations, text reads: "Plastic bags are not recyclable so make the switch to an eco-friendly alternative today!". At the bottom right of the graphic is the logo for TIPPECANOE COUNTY Recycling & Solid Waste, which includes a recycling symbol with a red exclamation mark and a crossed-out trash can.

Plastic grocery bags, produce bags, and Ziploc bags are all convenient, but are single-use and NOT recyclable in curbside bins or at the county recycling facility!

Instead of using plastic bags, some great alternatives are:

- Canvas grocery bags or reusable bags
- Reusable produce bags OR let your vegetables and fruit go naked and bag less!
- Reusable Ziploc bags OR just use Tupperware you have at home!

If you still have a ton of grocery bags laying around, here's some great ways to reuse them!

- Use them as tiny trash bags in tiny trashcans (in bathrooms or under sinks).
- Have a pet? Use them as poop bags!

Just want to get rid of a stash of plastic grocery bags? Most grocery stores, like Walmart, Meijer, or Payless have a bin for recycling plastic bags in their stores. Just look for a bin near the front door.

[More Info on Reducing Waste](#)

The Wabash Sampling Blitz is coming up, more info to come





Join 250 volunteers to collect a snapshot of the water quality of the Wabash River watershed! Volunteer with your friends or family, or let us partner you up with other volunteers to sample your local stream, your favorite canoe spot, or try a new stream within the Wabash River, Wildcat Creek or Deer Creek watersheds!

Dates and details to come for this event so stay tuned!

Save the Date: E-Waste Day Fall 2022

E-Waste Day

October 15, 2022

8AM-2PM

Tippecanoe County

Fairgrounds

**Free for all Tippecanoe
County residents**



TIPPECANOE COUNTY
Recycling & Solid Waste



TCPWQ



Save the date for our fall E-Waste collection day! It will be October 15th from 8-2pm at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds. Be on the lookout for more information about this awesome event!

Want updates and facts about the Wabash River? Follow us on social media!



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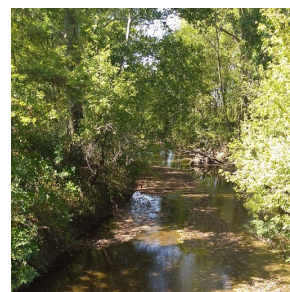
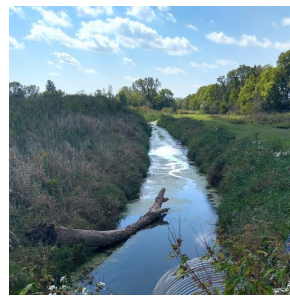
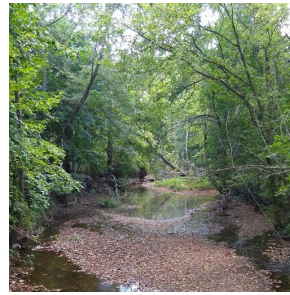
September 2022

As the temperatures start to cool, there is still plenty of things to do in the Greater Lafayette area. Keep reading for ways to get involved in the community this month!

Sign up to volunteer!

Wabash Sampling Blitz

Friday, September 9 and Saturday September 10 | 9AM - 5PM



During this event, volunteers sample streams that lead to the Wabash River. No experience is required and the event is open to all ages. This is a fun way to explore your community, learn about local waterways, and help protect the Wabash. We host the sampling blitz twice a year- once mid April and once mid-September. The first sampling blitz was in the fall of 2009! Data from each event is mapped on our website, so you can learn about water quality in our area anytime! Fall 2022 data will be posted later in November.

We still need a lot of volunteers for this event, so sign up with a buddy!

[Learn more](#)

Fall Native Tree and Shrub Sale

Add beautiful native trees and shrubs to your landscape! The Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting their annual fall native tree and shrub sale. Their pre-order only sale offers over 35 native species, all of which are grown at Woody Warehouse, a nursery located in Hendricks County, Indiana. All species are sold in 3 gallon pots, and are \$30 each. Visit the Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District website to place your order. Order deadline is September 16, 2022. Tree and shrub pick-up will be on Wednesday, September 28th at the Ross Camp Dining Hall (9225 W 75 S, West Lafayette, IN 47906).

To order: www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org
Questions? Email Angie at angela.garcia-miller@n.nacdnet.net




Native Tree & Shrub Sale

Accepting orders now through September 16th

[Order here](#)

765-474-9992, ext. 3
www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org

Wonders on the Wabash Volunteer Callout



September 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 2022



WONDERS ON THE WABASH
WWW.TCPWQ.ORG

Do you love to get out on the Wabash River? Do you also love teaching others about the Wabash? Join us for Wonders on the Wabash!

Wonders on the Wabash is a program created by the Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality for 6th grade classrooms. The program allows students to experience the Wabash River during a 4.5 mile rafting trip from Tapawingo Park to Fort Ouiatenon on September 14, 15, 20, 21, & 22. Along the way, students test water quality, study native mussels, observe the fish of the Wabash, and learn the history of the river.

This event serves hundreds of students every year and we rely on community volunteers to make it possible. Volunteers help keep spirits up while rafting, steer the raft, and review the provided information about the Wabash River with the students before their quiz at the end of the day. As a volunteer, you can pick one day or multiple days to accompany the kids on the Wabash!

All adult information is provided. A back ground check is required. Lunch is provided at the end of the day for all participants. You can be paired with an experienced raft guide if you are not comfortable steering or teaching the students to paddle.

If you're interested in volunteering as a raft guide, visit:
<https://www.tippecanoe.in.gov/969/Volunteer-Information>

De-Trash the Wabash

Saturday October 22nd, 8am-12pm

Join us to clean up trash along the banks of the Wabash River! This river cleanup is a great day for citizens to show their love for the Wabash River and their desire for clean water and a healthy watershed! De-Trash Day cleans over 9 miles of river from Fort Ouiatenon to Davis Ferry Park. Volunteers will walk the banks of the Wabash River to remove abandoned bikes, tires, clothing, and other debris from in and around the river. Trash pickers, gloves, and trash bags provided!

For more information, visit:

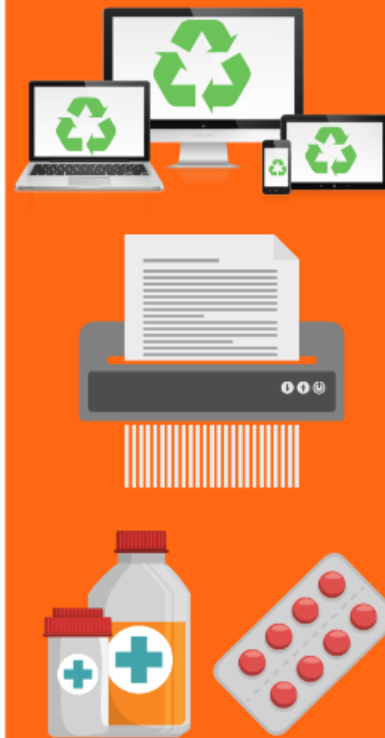
<https://www.tippecanoe.in.gov/1029/Wabash-River-Clean-Up>



E-waste Day

Paper Shredding
Medicine Disposal
Electronics Recycling

October 15, 2022
8am-2pm
Tippecanoe County
Fairgrounds
**Free for Tippecanoe
County residents**



Recycling Event: E-Waste Day

Sat. October 15th | 8am - 2pm
Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds
1406 Teal Rd, Lafayette

The Tippecanoe County Recycling & Solid Waste District and the Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality are hosting an e-waste recycling event! Old electronics can lead to toxic leachate in landfills, so dispose of them properly and help protect the local soil and groundwater!

Tippecanoe County households can drop off your old TVs, VCRs, DVD players, and many other electronic device for **FREE**. Residents from outside of Tippecanoe will be charged for certain items. We will not be accepting any devices containing refrigerants such as refrigerators, air conditioner units, and dehumidifiers.

In addition to electronics recycling, paper shredding and safe medicine disposal will also be available at this event. Shredded paper should never go in to mixed recycling. The pieces of paper are too small to be sorted at the sorting facility. Using a shred service ensures that your documents are securely shredded and then sent directly to a paper recycler. Medicine should never be flushed down the drain at home. Safe medication disposal is good for us and good for our watershed. Needles, liquids, and powders not accepted. Be sure to empty your medicine out of the bottles before dropping it off! Emptying your bottles in to a single ziplock bag before you come is helpful to keep the line moving!

Green Tour

Saturday September 24, 2pm-4pm
Starts at Lincoln Sharing Garden, ends at The Arts Federation
Free walking tour on efforts to improve the Wabash River

	Soil Health Learn about cover crops in urban vegetable gardens and building community health through sharing gardens
	Stormwater Infrastructure Visit a bio-swale at a condo and learn about stormwater infrastructure at multi-family buildings
	LAND VAL-UES View a short film about local farmers incorporating smart environmental practices in to their farms, and hear from the farmers themselves during the Q&A session.
	Wabash River Art Exhibit Check out the TAF exhibit focused on the Wabash River. Discuss how art impacts conservation.

Learn more at our website:
<http://wabashriver.net/green-tours/>



Join the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation on our annual Green Tour. This September we'll visit a diversity of urban and agricultural green infrastructure that improves the Wabash River and helps to strengthen our community. We'll stop at three places and hear from urban gardeners, soil health experts, condo residents, local farmers, and art curators. These are the stops on our tour:

- **Lincoln Sharing Garden** - Learn about cover crops in urban vegetable gardens and building community health through sharing gardens.
- **Bio-swale on 5th and Cincinnatti** - Visit a bio-swale at a condo and learn about stormwater infrastructure at multi-family buildings
- **The Arts Federation** - View a short film about local farmers, their farming practices, & smart environmental practices; working together for the greater good of the community. Check out the TAF exhibit focused on the Wabash River. Discuss how art impacts conservation.

No registration necessary, just meet us at the Lincoln Sharing Garden at 2pm on Sept 24!

Wabash River Art Exhibit



TAF (The Arts Federation) is hosting an exhibition, "On the Banks of the Wabash". This will feature local artists who are creating art to pay homage to the Mighty Wabash River. The exhibit opens September 2nd and will end September 30th. So stop by TAF at 638 North Street Lafayette, IN to celebrate the Wabash and all it's beauty! We will also be viewing the exhibit on WREC's Green Tour on Sept 24 and will hear from the art curator at that event.

Local Environmental Job Openings

Want to work for the City of Lafayette or West Lafayette to better improve green infrastructure or work on local climate action? Look at the jobs below!

City of West Lafayette Climate Resiliency & Sustainability Officer: Under the direction of the Utility Director, incumbent is responsible for developing, implementing, coordinating and/or managing programs and policies to achieve the goals of the Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan and related City plans with a focus on sustainability and climate action. For more information, click the button below.

[view climate job](#)

City of Lafayette Green Infrastructure Manager: Incumbent works as Green Infrastructure Manager for Lafayette Renew, responsible for working in compliance with Indiana Phase II Stormwater regulations, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) stormwater programs. They would be in charge of planning and maintaining green infrastructure in Lafayette such as rain gardens, bioswales, and pervious pavement. For more information, click the button below.

[view green infrastructure job](#)

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WABASH RIVER

ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION

WREC Wire October 2022

Recycling Event: E-Waste Day

Sat. October 15th | 8am - 2pm
Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds
1406 Teal Rd, Lafayette

The [Tippecanoe County Recycling & Solid Waste District](#) and the [Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality](#) are hosting an electronics recycling event! Old electronics can lead to toxic runoff in landfills, so dispose of them properly and help protect the local soil and groundwater!

Tippecanoe County households can drop off your old TVs, VCRs, DVD players, and many other electronic devices for **FREE**. Residents from outside of Tippecanoe will be charged for certain items. We will not be accepting any devices containing refrigerants such as refrigerators, air conditioner units, and dehumidifiers.

There will be paper shredding provided by EcoShred and medicine disposal with Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Department. No sharps, needles, or liquids will be allowed. **Please remove your medication from prescription pill bottles before bringing it to this event!** Dumping old medicine down the drain is extremely bad for water quality and can seriously harm aquatic ecosystems.

E-waste Day

Paper Shredding
Medicine Disposal
Electronics Recycling

October 15, 2022
8am-2pm
Tippecanoe County
Fairgrounds
**Free for Tippecanoe
County residents**



Upcoming Invasive Plant Opportunities:

RIP Squad

TUESDAYS 3-5pm at Prophet's Rock Woods
OCT 18, 25 ~ NOV 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

THURSDAYS 3-5pm at Ross Hills Park
OCT 20, 27 ~ NOV 3, 10, 17 ~ DEC 1

For more info & exact meeting locations contact Patty Jones:
removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com or 765-463-3050

Sponsored by the West Central Chapter of Indiana Native Plant Society in cooperation with West Lafayette, Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County Parks, Sycamore Audubon Society and TICT.

TICT

WED NOV 2nd 5-7pm

Habitat Help Day- Cole Elementary Outdoor Education Center: Volunteers are needed to remove invasive plants like Bush Honeysuckle.

SAT NOV 12th

Tippecanoe County Amphitheater Invasive Plant Workday
Volunteers are needed to help control invasive shrubs in the Amphitheater woods. Bring work gloves and loppers or handsaw, if you have them.

For more info, email: Mary.Cutler@tippecanoe.in.gov

MON NOV 14th 1pm

TICT Education Committee Member Callout. All who are interested in helping educate the public on invasive plants are invited to join the Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce! Meeting is at the Lilly Nature Center meeting room.

For more info, contact: Amanda Estes aestes@lafayette.in.gov or Mary Cutler mcutler@tippecanoe.in.gov

Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District

THU NOV 3rd 8:30am-3pm

Women's Conservation Learning Circle: A women-only, peer-to-peer informal discussion on managing invasives.

More info/registration: www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org

For more info, contact Angie at angela.garcia-miller@in.nacdnet.net



Fall 2021 Wabash Sampling Blitz

Thank you to our 70+ volunteers that sampled over 138 streams this September! We want to especially thank [Wabash](#) for sponsoring the Blitz this year and for The Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality for their continued support! We'll have the results of this year's Blitz available in a few weeks on our website. Each stream is unique, some are deep and others shallow. This fall, many of our volunteers found their streams dry due to the low amounts of rainfall this summer. This is common for this time of year and we were still able to get water samples from most of sites! We learn lots about our waterways with every visit. Here are some fun photos from the Fall 2022 Blitz!



Tree Lafayette Tree Planting Event

Saturday October 8th

The 2022 Fall Arbor Day Tree Planting Event will be held in the morning on Saturday, October 8, 2022. Volunteers will plant 54 more trees along Underwood Street, Lafayette, IN 47904. Trees have many benefits for the neighborhood, the community, and the environment. Join us for some fresh air, fun, exercise, and satisfaction that you are helping the community and the environment. This year is the 150th Anniversary of Arbor Day. The City of Lafayette and Tree Lafayette have committed to planting 150 trees on Underwood Street this year to recognize the 150th Anniversary of Arbor Day. Trees are becoming even more important with climate change. Volunteers need to pre-register online.

Prophetstown Trail of Scarecrows

The Trail of Scarecrows is going on now at Prophetstown State Park! WREC partnered with Indiana-Illinois Sea Grant and our scarecrows are showing off a rain barrel! This event shows one-of-a-kind scarecrows from local businesses and organizations. It's on an easily accessible bike trail in the park so make sure to go out and see all the amazing scarecrows made from community members! The scarecrows will be up from now until November 7th.



Leave your leaves for the Wabash River!

Soon, the leaves will change colors and trees will drop their leaves. What you do at home with the fallen leaves can have a big impact on wildlife and the Wabash River. Leaves, twigs, and grass clippings are rich in nutrients. Excess nutrients in our waterways can cause harmful algal blooms which can deplete the water of oxygen. Without oxygen, life in the water cannot survive!

River Friendly Lawn Care Options:

- A. Mulch the leaves into your lawn. Simply leave them where they are and go over them with your lawn mower. They will be broken in to small pieces and will slowly break down over the winter. By spring, they'll entirely disappear!
- B. Cover flower beds and vegetable gardens with a thick layer of leaves & twigs as winter garden mulch. Leave whole leaves under trees to provide a [soft landing](#) for caterpillars.
- C. Compost leaves & twigs at home in your backyard compost pile.
- D. Rake leaves & twigs into paper bags for curbside pick up. The day before Recycling & Trash pick up, place leaves into a pile by the curb.
- E. Call R&R Topsoil (765-404-2937) to arrange a time to drop off your leaves for free. They will be added to this company's composter to get turned in to topsoil! They do not accept sticks and branches, only leaves and grass clippings.

River Friendly Lawn Care Benefits:

- A. Mulched leaves in your lawn provide beneficial nutrients to your lawn as they break down.
- B. Leaves and twigs will help insulate your garden beds, provide nutrients for soil, and cover for wildlife. Many native bees nest in the ground and dead plant material through the winter. Leaves provides them with over-wintering habitat!
- C. Compost can be used in the spring as natural fertilizer for your lawn or garden.
- D. Keeping leaves in a bag before pick up prevents them from clogging storm drains and spreading to the Wabash River.
- E. If you don't have the space to compost leaves at your home, this company can compost them for you for free!



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Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
515 Columbia Street
Lafayette, Indiana 47907 - USA
Telephone: 765-420-8505

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WABASH RIVER

ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION

WREC Wire

November 2022



WABASH RIVER
ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION

LEAVE YOUR LEAVES

Why leave the leaves?

- They are food and shelter for butterflies, bees, birds, moths, salamanders, toads, and more
- They are a great fertilizer and natural mulch for you lawn, flower beds, and garden beds

Leaves Your Leaves This Fall

This fall, put your blower and rake away and leave your leaves on your lawn!

- Leaves are a natural mulch that fertilize and suppress weeds as they break down. Break your leaves into smaller pieces using a lawn mower or mulching mower and then spread them on your lawn, flower beds, and garden beds.
- Leaves act as great habitat for wildlife. Critters ranging from turtles and toads to songbirds, mammals, and invertebrates rely on leaf litter for food, shelter, and nesting material.

Winterize your Rain Barrels to Protect them

Temperatures are dropping! Water expands when it freezes, and plastics become brittle and can crack. Protect your rain barrel set-up by draining all the water and ensuring it doesn't collect more water over the winter.

Winterizing your rain barrel

Drain the water

Empty the entire barrel. It's good to do this when it hasn't rained in a few days so the water can soak in to the dry ground.



Store the barrel

Flip your barrel upside-down so it won't fill with water or snow, or store it in your garage or shed. Leave the spigots open.



Restore the downspout

Either cap your diverter and leave it on the downspout, or remove the diverter and replace it with a connecting piece so your gutters function normally.



Books to Learn About Native Plants

Interested in finding out more about native plants? Fall and winter are a great time to start planning your spring plantings, and below are some book suggestions about native plants and the benefits they can bring to your yard and landscaping. All of these books can be found for free at the Tippecanoe Public Library. Using our local

library is a great way to reduce and re-use!

- Bringing nature home: how you can sustain wildlife with native plants by Doug Tallamy
- Native plants of the Midwest: a comprehensive guide to the best 500 species for the garden by Alan Branhagen
- Native Plants for North American Gardens by Alan Armitage
- Got sun?: 200 best native plants for your garden by Carolyn Harstad
- The Midwest native plant primer : 225 plants for an earth-friendly garden by Alan Branhagen
- Birdscaping in the Midwest: a guide to gardening with native plants to attract birds by Mariette Nowak
- Nature's best hope: a new approach to conservation that starts in your yard by Doug Tallamy
- The Midwestern native garden: native alternatives to nonnative flowers and plants by Charlotte Adelman
- Grow native: bringing natural beauty to your garden by Lynn Steiner

Psstt. Don't forget WREC does free site visits where we can give recommendations on environmentally friendly practices like rain barrels, rain gardens, native plantings, and more! Visit our website to learn more and contact us.

Site Visit Contact

Importance of Dead-standing Plants

When many people think of a valuable urban pollinator garden, they think of bloom times and a diversity of flower types to appeal to pollinators of all shapes, sizes, and habits. But beautiful blooms are only part of the cycle. As native plants turn brown and brittle, they continue to provide winter shelter and food to birds and pollinators.

Native bees overwinter in a few different habitats. Some overwinter underground and in rock crevices. Thick layers of mulch can keep ground-nesting bees from finding a place to hunker down. Other native bees overwinter in the stems of plants. [Leafcutter bees, mason bees, and yellow-faced bees will nest in the hollow stems of many native plants.](#) Many butterfly caterpillars also overwinter in plant debris.

Birds also use this plant material as both a food source and habitat. They can chow down on the seeds, duck under cover if they need to make a quick escape, and search for nesting insects for a boost of protein.

To make your landscaping more wildlife friendly, consider these maintenance recommendations:

- Don't put thick mulch everywhere, leave some bare dirt in an area that isn't in danger of erosion. This gives ground-nesting bees a place to burrow.
- Leave your dead-standing plant material up through the winter. Wait until March to cut it back, and even then, leave about 15 inches of stalks standing until that plant starts to green up and grow again.
- Leave your leaves. Leaves provide overwinter habitat for insects and amphibians, and they make a great fluffy mulch for flower beds. Leaves are easier for insects to navigate through than shredded wood mulch.



The dark seed heads of purple coneflower provide a food source for over-wintering birds, and the dry stems provide habitat for pollinators through the winter.



A small native bee in a bergamot stem. Photo by Scott Woodbury

Local Volunteer Opportunities

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NOV 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District

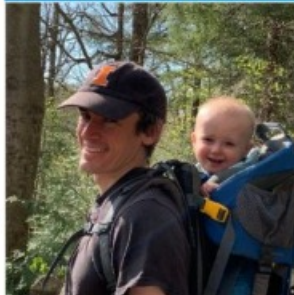
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More info/registration: www.tippecanoecountyswd.org
For more info, contact Angie at angela.garcia-miller@in.nacdn.net



The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Solar Power, and Savings



John Smillie
LWVMC Climate Team Chair
Citizens' Climate Lobby
Congressional Liaison

Mark your calendar for November 9th, at 6 p.m. at the West Lafayette Public Library, to learn more about new unprecedented opportunities to address climate change, as individuals and as a community, and save money, too. John Smillie will navigate us through the Inflation Reduction Act, Solar Power, and Savings.



WREC'S TOOL LIBRARY

Clean up your rain garden or prep your site for next year's garden by borrowing from our invasive plant removal tool library. One Pullerbear or two soil knives can be checked out for two weeks at a time.

[HTTP://WWW.WABASHRIVER.NET/TOOL-LIBRARY/](http://www.wabashriver.net/tool-library/)

WREC at Greening of the Statehouse

WREC's Watershed Coordinator was invited to speak on a panel discussion at the Hoosier Environmental Council's Greening the Statehouse annual conference. Amy shared information about the historical water quality conditions of the Wabash River, how the clean water act has helped the Wabash, and efforts going on locally to improve water quality and our community's relationship with the Wabash River.



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WREC Wire

December 2022

2022 Re-cap

2022 was a busy year for WREC's watershed program! Our 2022 cost share program funded:

- 1,569 acres of cover crops
- 3058 feet of grassed waterway
- 58 urban trees
- 4 acres of prairie planting

These practices reduced 7,060,60 lbs of Nitrogen, 3,530 lbs of Phosphorous, and 3,527 tons of sediment from entering the Wabash River! Thanks to these projects with our community partners, we have a cleaner, brighter Wabash River.

We had Riverfest back in full swing with almost 700 people taking part in our guided activities!

- 236 people participated in try-a-canoe,
- 104 floated on the Wabash River float trip
- almost 100 people went on guided hikes and bike rides
- 126 people raced in the voyageur canoe races
- 60 people took the charcoal riverfront drawing class

Our annual green tour was held in downtown Lafayette and had stops at a urban rain garden, a community garden where GrowLocal spoke about urban cover crops, and ended at TAF to view an art gallery inspired by the Wabash River and a short documentary about conservation farming! We hosted 2 Wabash Sampling Blitz events and hired a database technician to organize our Blitz data. In July, 50 employees from Wabash (formerly Wabash National) helped remove honeysuckle from one of WREC's riverfront properties near Shamrock Park.

It's been an incredible outreach year and we are looking forward to what 2023 brings! Thank you to everyone that participated this year - through projects, events, e-newsletters, and social media! This community makes the Wabash River shine.



Learning about cover crops on urban vegetable gardens during our Green Tour.



Having fun at Wabash Riverfest 2022!



WREC's database technician helping collect water samples during the Wabash Sampling Blitz.



Volunteers from Wabash helping to kill and remove honeysuckle on WREC's riverfront property.

Salting in the Winter

Sidewalk salt is great in the winter to prevent accidents and falls on roadways and sidewalks. But, it can also cause harm to lawns, gardens, and local ecosystems. It can especially be harmful for local waterways, like the Wabash River. Make sure to use salt responsibly! More salt doesn't equal more melting. One 12 oz coffee mug is enough for 10 sidewalk squares or 250 square feet.

SHAKE THE HABIT!

Salt helps keep our roads, driveways and sidewalks safer in slippery weather, but our salt habit is bad for the health of our streams, rivers and lakes.

More salt doesn't equal more melting. One 12-oz coffee mug is enough for 10 sidewalk squares or 250 sq ft!



Alternatives to Sidewalk Salt

Thanks to Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette



WREC received a grant to purchase invasive plant management tools



Big big thanks to the [Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette](#) for their generous grant! With their support, WREC was able to purchase electric chainsaws, herbicide application equipment, and safety equipment. We're excited to get to work removing invasive honeysuckle and tree of heaven on WREC properties along the Wabash River!

Volunteer Opportunities

WREC will be hosting a few work days this winter to remove honeysuckle from the Wabash Heritage Trail from the section behind the Amtrak Depot. Be on the lookout for dates for this volunteer opportunity!

Invasive Plant Management Technician

Honeysuckle management on the Wabash Riverfront in downtown Lafayette

- ***Must qualify for federal work study. Check your work study status on your MyPurdue portal.
- Spring 2023 semester
- \$17/hour, approx 8 hours per week
- MyCCO job ID: 950924



WabashRiver.net **WABASH RIVER**
ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION



WREC is hiring a Purdue Student to help manage invasive plants on our downtown riverfront property. Applicants must qualify for federal work study.

[Learn More](#)

Using the Fall and Winter to Plan for Spring Planting

When the temperatures drop many of the native plants in our landscaping go to seed and start to turn brown for the winter. This is a great time to look at our native plant landscaping with a new perspective. Throughout the growing season, our gardens can get pretty dense if our plants are really happy and growing well. It can be overwhelming to try to assess the makeup of the flowerbeds if the vegetation is very thick. It can even be difficult to tell weeds from native plants when everything is green. Checking out your gardens once the plants go dormant lets you see how much space is in between the plants, what areas could use a few more plants the following spring, and what plants may need to be split. It's also much easier to spot and pull the creeping charlie (*Glechoma hederacea*) and mock strawberry (*Duchesnea indica*) (both exotic, common weeds in urban gardens), as they often stay green though the winter.

One of the joys of landscaping with native plants is observing the seasonal changes and how the plants fit in to the wider community as a source of food, water, or shelter. Even in an urban yard, native plants can provide resources in an otherwise food desert for birds and pollinators. Not only will observing your native plant landscaping in the winter help you to prepare for next spring's plans, but it also allows you to observe the cycles of nature happening in your own back yard.



Steps to WREC's Cost Share Program

Do you have big dreams of green infrastructure, but the cost is holding you back or you're not sure where to start? WREC has a cost share program to help you accomplish your goals! Below is a basic step-by-step guide on the process of planning, applying for, and implementing your green infrastructure through our cost-share program so that WREC can help ease the financial burden. Even if you don't need financial assistance, we are happy to provide input through free site visits and help you get the resources and information you need!

We are starting our new grant for 2023 so we have plenty of funds to help your project in 2023! Contact the Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District to see if you qualify for our cost share or another program to help you install cover crops, pay for conservation tillage, install a stream crossing, or more!

1

- See if your idea is a project that WREC funds: <http://www.wabashriver.net/costshare/>
- Be sure the project will be located within the critical area of our watershed

COST-SHARE INFO

2

- Schedule a free site visit with WREC staff by emailing watershed@wabashriver.net



STRING LIGHT RECYCLING

Bring your old/broken string lights to one of the following locations:

West Lafayette City Hall

Lafayette City Hall

Tippecanoe County Building

Available through January 31st

Reminder: string lights are not recyclable in curbside or drop-off sites.



Finding broken string lights as you decorate for the holidays? There are several drop-off options to get those string lights recycled!

During the month of December and January, the Tippecanoe County Government Building, West Lafayette City Hall, and Lafayette City Hall are hosting barrels that anyone from the public can drop their broken string lights in to get recycled!

The barrel at the County Building is just inside the front door in the main lobby. The barrel at Lafayette City Hall is in the lobby at the entrance on South St right next to the elevators. The barrel at the West Lafayette City Hall will be just inside the front doors.

Big thanks to Oscar Winski E-recycling, the Tippecanoe County Recycling and Solid Waste District, and all the local governments for collaborating to host these drop-off sites to get your string lights recycled!

Wabash Riverfest 2023 Sponsorships

Want to support Wabash Riverfest 2023?

We are currently looking for Riverfest 2023 sponsors!

Interested? Email us at watershed@wabashriver.net





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Tippecanoe County Solid Waste Management District
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