



WREC Wire

January 2023

Happy New Years! This is the perfect time to start new river-friendly practices. Keep reading to find out how you can help the mighty Wabash River in 2023.

Cost Share Program

Do you want to install green infrastructure this year and you're not sure where to start or are interested in financial support? WREC has a cost share program that can help you accomplish your goals! Below you can see a step-by-step process for planning, applying for, and implementing your green infrastructure through our program! Even if you don't need financial assistance, WREC can provide free site visits to help you get information and resources for your project!

Our new grant cycle for 2023 just began so we have plenty of funds to help cover your project in 2023! If you're a farmer or farm land owner, 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. If you have an urban project such as a rain garden, native planting, or tree planting, call us at WREC to see if your project qualifies and set up a free consultation.

WREC COST SHARE PROGRAM

1

Check our website to see if WREC funds can cover your project:

<http://wabashriver.net/costshare/>

2

Schedule your free site visit with WREC staff by contacting us at watershed@wabashriver.net

3

Fill out an application on our website before March 15, 2023
<http://wabashriver.net/csapplication>

[Learn More](#)

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 2023 a more River-friendly year:

- [Start a compost pile](#) or utilize the [Food Waste Drop-off](#)
- [Plan your native plant garden](#)
- [Check out local parks for hikes and activities](#)
- [Plan your attack on invasive plants](#) and utilize [WREC's tool library](#)
- Apply for WREC's Cost Share Program (more info above)

January Invasive Removal Workday

WREC will be working with Lafayette Parks this winter to remove honeysuckle from the Wabash Heritage Trail! We will be working on the section right behind the Amtrak Depot in downtown Lafayette. We will be using hand saws, pullerbears, loppers, and pesticide tools to cut down the honeysuckle and and treat the stumps.

The date is TBD based on winter weather, but it will be on a week day so Lafayette Parks staff can help out.

Interested in helping remove invasives? Go to our website to sign up for the work day mailing list and we'll notify you of any volunteer opportunities!

Sign up to be notified

Winter Wildlife

Where does all the wildlife go when it gets cold and snowy in Indiana? While many animals hibernate, migrate, or find shelter, many animals still remain active during the winter.

Animals like amphibians, fish, reptiles, insects, and other invertebrates cannot regulate their body temperature and can't stay warm enough to not freeze during winter. Most of these animals must find cover. Frogs and turtles burrow into mud in lakes and ponds, while snakes and insects will find rocks and crevices to hide in.

Birds and mammals are able to maintain their body temperature, but must stay active to stay warm and find food. Indiana's mammals also have adaptations like warm fur, feathers, or extra body fat to keep warm in frigid temperatures.



This eastern box turtle has just came out from it's winter home where it was burrowed under leaves and dirt to stay warm.



This red squirrel hides in a tree hole and will most likely stay here for most of winter to be protected from the elements.



Many birds, especially insect eaters, migrate south to find warmer temperatures where there is more food to eat.

Turning Turf to Natives

Winter is the perfect time to start planning your native plantings! Whether you live in a downtown urban area with a small yard or in a rural area with plenty of room, natives are a great way to support local ecosystems. Here are a few topics you can research during crummy weather, so you feel prepared to take action this spring.

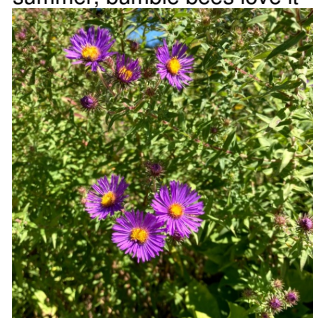
1. Sheet Mulching: This is a great way to remove turf grass over the winter. Just place overlapping cardboard on the grass you want to kill and cover it in 3-5 inches of mulch. This will take a few weeks or even months to kill the grass. If this is done in the winter or early spring, the site will be ready for plugs by the time the native plant sales happen in May.

2. Planning Native Plants: When deciding what native plants to plant, a few key components will dictate what plants will thrive in your environment. When looking at plants, make sure to keep in mind sunlight levels, soil moisture, and aesthetics. If you want a more tidy look that keeps your native planting looking intentional, stick with 3-4 species of plants for your garden and give your garden defined edges. Group plants of the same species together so you get a mass of color while they're in bloom.

3. Birds and the Bees- Think about whether you want specific pollinators, like bees and butterflies, or birds, like hummingbirds, to be attracted to your native plants. Check the bloom time on the plants you want so be sure they don't all bloom at once. Staggered bloom times will give you flowering plants throughout the season, and will give pollinators a more reliable food source. Songbirds also eat a lot of insects, so providing food for their prey will attract songbirds to your home!



Great Blue Lobelia - up to 2.5 feet, great for damp woodlands with partial shade, doesn't do well in dry soils, blooms late summer, bumble bees love it



New England Aster - up to 5

feet, large showy blooms in late summer/early fall



Orange Milkweed - 1.5 feet tall, long bloom time throughout summer, loves bright sun

Native Plants for Small Yards

String Light Recycling

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

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

During the month of December 2022 and January 2023 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 Tippecanoe 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 also cannot accept large incandescent bulbs.

Learn More at the Recycling & Solid Waste website



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Tippecanoe County Solid Waste Management District
200 N 2nd St
Lafayette, Indiana 47901 - United States
Telephone: 765-420-8505

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WABASH RIVER

ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION

WREC Wire

February 2023

Happy Black History Month!

In celebration for Black History Month, we want to recognize the amazing science and naturalist skills that were put to use helping black people escape slavery on the Underground Railroad. The Illinois Indiana Sea Grant created a curriculum for middle and high school teachers to explore how this the natural history of the Great Lakes region is a part of its human history.



[Learn More about Freedom Seekers](#)

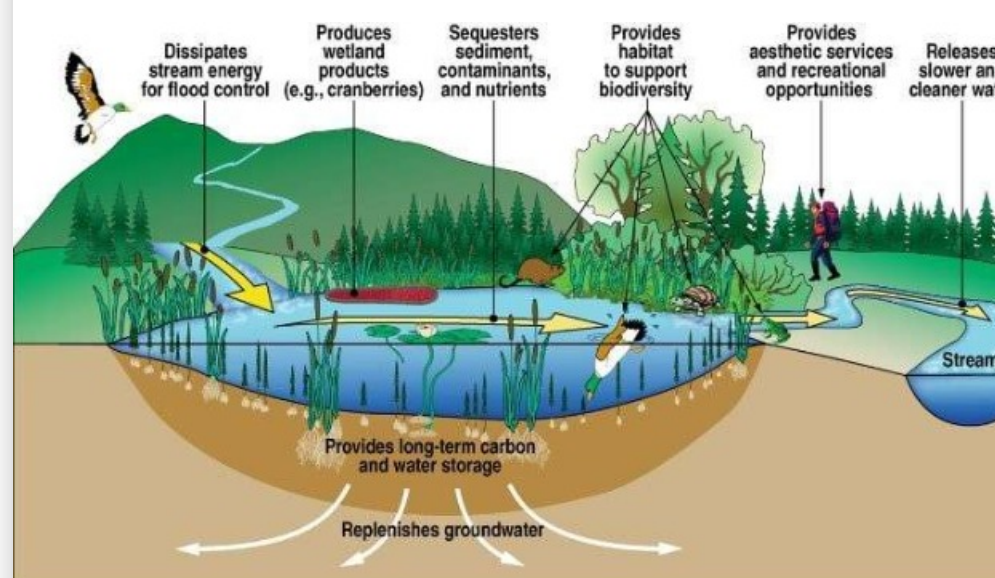
World Wetland Day! Wednesday February 2, 2022



Wetlands are critical ecosystems that need our support. 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!

Not only are wetlands an amazing source of biodiversity, they also reduce flooding, sequester carbon, replenish our groundwater systems, and help clean surface water.

Photo: Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) growing in a fen wetland on a WREC property along South River Road.



Honeysuckle Workday

WREC staff collaborated with City of Lafayette Parks Department staff to plan a honeysuckle work day along the Heritage Trail in downtown Lafayette. City of Lafayette Renew Staff, Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce (TICT) staff, Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality, and our community volunteers removed about 20 truckloads of invasive honeysuckle from along the Wabash Heritage Trail! We used loppers, handsaws, and chainsaws to cut down and remove honeysuckle before treating the stumps with herbicide.

Want to help fight invasive honeysuckle with us? Sign up to receive emails about future workdays!



Before and After of a portion of the Heritage Trail that we removed honeysuckle from. One step closer to seeing the river!



City of Lafayette and Lafayette Parks and Rec staff helping with the event by hauling away all of the honeysuckle brush.

[Volunteer with WREC](#)

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](#)

Tip for Landscaping with Native Plants

The design aspect of converting turf-to-native plants can feel overwhelming. You may have a handle on your site's sun and moisture conditions, and what native plants would thrive in that environment, but how do you make it look nice? One technique that helps reduce the number of decisions you need to make, looks great, and works ecologically is to plant in a matrix. A matrix refers to surrounding material. In the case of native plant landscaping, a matrix is usually a combination of one or two species of native grasses and sedges. You can think of them as the foundation or the backdrop of your garden. Benjamin Vogt, a landscaper that specializes in native plants, recommends a ratio of 50% matrix to 50% flowering plants. This matrix will suppress weeds, provide root competition to keep your flowering plants from growing tall and flopping over, provide you with "green mulch," and give you great seasonal interest outside of the flowering season.

Native plants to consider for your matrix:

- Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)
- Star Sedge (*Carex radiata*)
- Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)
- Sideoats Gramma (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)

Read more about matrix planting



Photo source: <https://www.monarchgard.com/>, Benjamin Vogt

Save the Dates: Spring Events

Wabash Sampling Blitz: April 7 & 8, 2023. The Sampling Blitz will have supply pick-up locations at Lily Nature Center at Celery Bog and The Soil and Water Conservation office. Be on the look-out for sign-ups in the coming months!

Wabash Sampling Blitz

De-Trash the Wabash: April 29, 2023. Help clean up litter in and around the Wabash River from Tapawingo Park to Davis Ferry and more! We provide the trash bags, trash pickers, gloves, and lunch!

DeTrash the Wabash

Spring Electronics Recycling Event: April 1, 2023 at The Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds. 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

Wabash Sampling Blitz

Do you want to help sample streams, creeks, and rivers in Tippecanoe County? Join us for the Wabash Sampling Blitz on April 7&8th! We will provide you with everything you need to test for things like nitrate, phosphorus, temperature, clarity and more!





You get to wear waders like these cool people above and help test streams all around Tippecanoe County!

Save the Date: Wabash Riverfest
Saturday July 8, 2023



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WABASH RIVER

ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION

WREC Wire

March 2023

Wabash Sampling Blitz- April 7 and 8

We are collecting water quality measurements in streams around Tippecanoe County and we need your help! Since the fall of 2009, volunteers have waded out into streams that lead to the Wabash River to take water quality samples. At each stream, volunteers collect a water sample, measure temperature and clarity, and test for nutrients.

All supplies are provided and no experience is necessary! The Sampling Blitz is a great activity for all ages, so grab your family or a friend to join us for the spring Wabash Sampling Blitz.

You can choose to volunteer either April 7th or 8th and you just need about 3 hours between 9am-5pm. Supply pickup is at Lilly Nature Center in West Lafayette on Friday April 7th and the USDA office in Lafayette on Saturday April 8th.

Check out our website for more information and to register www.wabashriver.net



WABASH SAMPLING BLITZ

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

- Friday or Saturday
- April 7 or 8, 2023
- 3 hours between 9am-5pm

Help us sample water quality in streams in Tippecanoe County
All training is available online, no experience needed, and all supplies are provided!

Learn more and register at www.wabashriver.net!



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.

[Cost Share Info](#)

Invasive Alert: Tree of Heaven

While this tree sounds nice, it is no angel. Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is a rapidly growing tree native to China that has become widespread across North America. The tree was originally brought from China to be used in urban landscaping. It was made popular due to its rapid growth and absence of insect or disease problems.

This rapid growth causes problems in our native ecosystems. Tree of Heaven crowds out native species by over producing seeds and forming dense thickets. It even secretes a chemical into the soil that is toxic to surrounding plants.



This is an example of basal bark treatment. We used a mix of oil and triclopyr to paint the bottom 12-18 inches of the stump. This kills the plant slowly from the roots.



This is a photo of tree of heaven leaves in the summer. They are long, smooth leaves that grow in organized pairs.

ID'ing Tree of Heaven

It has a smooth, light grey bark and have heart-shaped leaf scars, most noticeable in the winter after the leaves fall. After breaking a stem, the sap also smells distinctly like peanut butter. The leaves are long, tapering leaves that are in organized pairs along the stem.

Controlling Tree of Heaven

Tree of heaven can be difficult to control due to it's extensive root system and re-sprouting ability. You should not use cut stump treatment on tree of heaven as it will cause for a large number of re-sprouts. We used basal bark treatment which involves applying a pesticide and oil mix on the bottom 12-18 inches of the tree. This allows for the pesticide to be taken to the roots directly, and kills the tree slowly without triggering it to re-sprout. WREC staff are working diligently to remove invasives like Tree of Heaven on our properties.

WREC Staff Spotlight Jade Stuber, Invasive Species Technician



This year, WREC hired an invasive species technician to help us manage invasive species along the Wabash and on WREC properties. Meet Jade Stuber, who is a junior at Purdue University majoring in Wildlife and minoring in Law and Society. She has been managing Tree of Heaven and Honeysuckle as of recent, and is working very hard to get rid of invasive plants on our property! If you see someone in a yellow vest on our properties, that's Jade hard at work. We appreciate all the work she does in helping manage invasive plants and create better habitat for native species.

Events

Native Plant Sales

- Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Native Plant Sale.

Taking pre-orders now! You have the option to pre-order your plants by April 15 or purchase what is available for day of sale on May 20, 2023. [View the catalog and order here!](#)

- 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. The plant sale will be Friday May 12th and Saturday May 13th. You can sign up for a time slot to ensure you have time to shop for all the native plants you want! [Check out the IDNR calendar of events for more information.](#)

Opportunities to Remove and Learn about Invasive Plants

- RIP Squad: April 11th-June will be workdays for pulling Garlic Mustard. Be on the look-out in the next newsletters for more info about these days!
- Landscape Management Workshop: March 9 10am-noon. Learn about identification and control of invasives, native trees and shrubs for landscaping, and up and coming invasive species from regional experts. \$15 registration fee to help fund invasive species education projects. If you need continuing education credits, this program qualifies for 3A, 3B, and RT. [Register here.](#)
- Herbicide 101 Workshop: March 20th 2pm-4pm at Lilly Nature Center. Industry Professional Mark Peterson will be explaining the basics of using herbicide to fight your invasives. Free event, no registration necessary.

Help the Wabash River

- De-Trash the Wabash: On April 29th from 8am-12pm, help us clean up the Wabash River! De-Trash the Wabash is a volunteer event that is focused on removing trash and restoring the health of the Mighty Wabash River. Volunteers walk the banks of the river, removing abandoned bikes, old appliances, tires, clothing, and other debris from the area around the river. [Sign up here for the Spring De-Trash!](#)
- Wabash Sampling Blitz: On April 7 or 8, you can volunteer for about 3 hours to collect water quality samples and measurements in streams flowing in to the Wabash River. No experience needed, all training is online, and we will provide all the supplies you need! [Learn more and sign up for the Wabash Sampling Blitz!](#)



E-WASTE DAY

Free for Tippecanoe County Residents

Saturday April 1st, 2023
8am-2pm
Tippecanoe County
Fairgrounds

Electronics Recycling
Medicine Disposal
Paper Shredding

Items Accepted:

- TV's/Monitors
- DVD/CD Players
- Computers/Laptops/Servers
- Speakers
- Printers
- Mice/Keyboards
- Cords
- Cell Phones
- Microwaves
- And more!



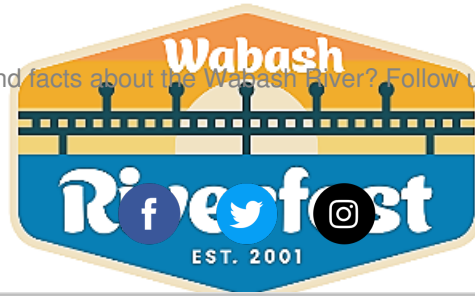
Tippecanoe County residents can recycle their electronics for FREE at this e-waste recycling event. Just bring your electronics to the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds on April 1 from 8am-2pm, and drop them off. They will not be accepting very large appliances such as washing machines and stoves, or appliances with refrigerant such as dehumidifiers or air conditioners. The Solid Waste District will also have free paper shredding and medicine disposal available!

Wabash Riverfest Sponsorships

Riverfest would not be possible without our wonderful sponsors! Support from local businesses keeps Riverfest free for our community.

If you, or someone you know, would like to partner for Riverfest 2023, please contact our Watershed Coordinator Amy Krzton-Presson at watershed@wabashriver.net

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



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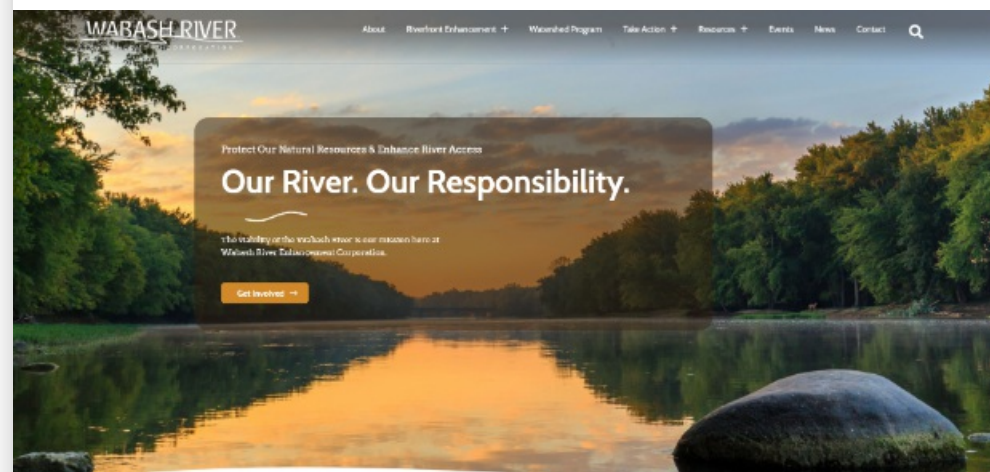
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WREC Wire

April 2023

Big news! WREC has a brand new website!! It has all the same great information, but looks amazing. The picture below is only the front page so be sure to check it out by clicking the link below!



[New WREC website!](#)

Wabash Sampling Blitz

Sign up to help us sample rivers, streams, and creeks in Tippecanoe County! No experience is needed, all ages are welcome, and we provide all supplies for the sampling. All you need is a few people and 3 hours to sample 3-5 streams. Want more information on the event and how to sign up? Check out the button below!

Sign up by April 4th!!



WABASH SAMPLING BLITZ

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

- Friday or Saturday
- April 7 or 8, 2023
- 3 hours between 9am-5pm

Help us sample water quality in streams in Tippecanoe County
All training is available online, no experience needed, and all supplies are provided!

Learn more and register at www.wabashriver.net!



[Sign up to sample!](#)

Rain Barrels

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. Below are some painted rain barrels that were done at a past WREC event!

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](#)

[How to Paint a Rain Barrel](#)

Native Plant Sales Coming Up & Third 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 20, 2023 the SWCD will host their fourth 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! Come by to check out all the cool programs and buy a few more plants at their day-of sale! If you would like to volunteer to help pull off this huge event, [sign up here!](#)
- Prophetstown State Park Native Plant Sale May 13 2023 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.
- The Central Indiana Native Plant Society and the Audubon Society will be back at the Tippecanoe Garden Expo with some native plants for sale. There are lots of plants being sold at this event, but very few booths have natives! The Native Plant Society and the Audubon Society use their native plant sale as a fundraiser to help pay for their programming throughout the year. They usually have some great shade plants for sale! [More info on the Garden Expo.](#)

Spring Invasives: Asian Bush Honeysuckle and Garlic Mustard

With this warm weather coming early, we are already starting to see green (but not the good kind of green!) Asian bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) and Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) are two invasive plants that plague Indiana in the early spring. Honeysuckle is native to Asia and Southern Russia and brought as an ornamental plant and for erosion control. It forms dense shrubs in the understory of forests and completely chokes out native plants. Garlic Mustard is native to Europe and western/central Asia and was used for its medicinal properties and for erosion control. These invasives spring up early in spring before natives so they can take over ecosystems and choke out native plants.



Garlic mustard takes over landscapes and completely covers the ground. This early spring takeover blocks sunlight for natives and uses nutrients needed for native growth.



This is an up-close look at Garlic mustard. It can be identified through triangular, heart-shaped leaves with toothed edges and white four-petal flowers



Asian bush honeysuckle grows so densely, it shades out everything on the forest floor, leaving only bare dirt. This lowers diversity and reduces food sources for birds and other animals.



In early summer, honeysuckle can be identified with its small white flowers. In late summer, those white flowers turn to red berries. The leaves are parallel to each other and have hollow branches.

NICHES 2021 WAR OF THE WEEDS
Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
Starting Friday April 14 through May 21st, 2023
Shifts 10am -1 pm & 1-4pm

From April 14th to May 21st, 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

Sign up for the War on Weeds

NICHE'S LAND TRUST



WAR OF THE WEEDS

2023

De-Trash the Wabash

Help us clean up trash and debris from the Wabash River! All supplies will be provided and there will be pizza for lunch. It will be from 8am-12pm on Saturday April 29th at Tapawingo Park in West Lafayette!

DE-TRASH THE WABASH

SAT. APRIL 29
8 AM - 12 PM

Tapawingo Park
West Lafayette



Help clean up our community!
Supplies and pizza lunch provided.



Register at tcpwq.org or scan the QR code.



[Learn More and Register](#)

Arbor Day Tree Planting

Join Tree Lafayette on April 29th at 8:30 am to plant trees in Lafayette!
[Learn more here.](#)



Help Plant Trees for Arbor Day!

COME JOIN US
TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN
OUR COMMUNITY!

CELEBRATE
ARBOR DAY AND
HELP PLANT
TREES ALONG
PARK AVENUE.



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WREC Wire 2023

May 2023

April was such a great (but busy) month for WREC! Keep reading to see upcoming events, past event updates, and more!

Wabash Sampling Blitz Recap

We had wonderful weather for the Blitz this spring and had over over 100 volunteers that sampled 180 streams in Tippecanoe and surrounding counties! Below are some photos of our volunteers and some of the sites they sampled!



De-Trash the Wabash

We had a GREAT day cleaning up the banks of the Wabash River this past weekend! We had over 170 volunteers cleaning up trash from many spots along the river. This not only makes the river look better, it is cleaner and healthier for everything that lives there. Want to get involved in the next De-Trash the Wabash? Make sure to follow our social media and check out our website for information!



[WREC website](#)

Community Events

Prophetstown Native Plant Sale

Sat. May 13 10AM-5PM

Prophetstown State Park

Find your native plant favorites! 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! Check out the [Prophetstown Calendar](#) for more information on the event!

Mind BOGgling Family Nature Celebration

Sat. May 20 10AM-2PM

Lilly Nature Center 1620 Lindberg Rd, West Lafayette

Join the nature celebration and join a variety of activities like nature hikes, learn about local amphibians, live music, and many other nature-related activities for everyone. Visit the West Lafayette [website](#) to learn more and see the full schedule! We will be there doing a pollinator activity!

SWCD Native Plant Fest

Sat. May 20 9AM-3PM

There will be a native plant sale, presentations, hikes, and garlic mustard pulls. The event is free and takes place at Ross Camp! Come by to check out all the cool programs and buy a few more plants at their day-of sale! Check out the [schedule](#).

WREC Cost-Share Project Updates

A few cost-share programs have gone in around town and we wanted to show off the hard work being put into them! Dr. Lindsey Payne is a professor at Purdue University where she heads the service learning program. Her students are in charge of designing projects for local organizations, and in this case, to design and build green infrastructure that helps to reduce pollution carried by stormwater. This spring, Dr. Payne's class worked on 3 projects for improving stormwater management: a native planting at LARA (Lafayette Adult Resource Academy), a large rain garden at Bharatiya Temple and Cultural Center of Greater Lafayette (BTCCGL), and a prairie and tree planting at CAT Park.

Great work, everyone! We're excited to see these plantings in action!



CAT Park students planted over 1,000 plant plugs, as well as spreading seeds for a turf to prairie restoration. They also planted 10 trees!

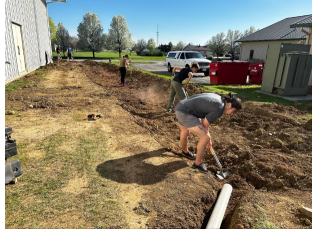


At Lafayette Adult Resource Academy (LARA), the students planted 840 plants in their front garden beds and created 4 rain gardens!





Bharatiya Temple and Cultural Center of Greater Lafayette (BTCCGL) put in over 1,000 plants to create a rain garden that is 1,100 square feet.



Invasive Plant Swap

Have you been itching to get rid of a callery pear, burning bush, or Japanese Barberry in your landscaping? Well this is the perfect opportunity! Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce (TICT) is having their annual invasive plant swap! You can get a free native tree or shrub by removing your invasive tree or shrub. For more information and to apply, visit the [SWCD website](http://www.swcd.org).



INVASIVE PLANT SWAP PROGRAM

You can receive FREE native trees and shrubs when you remove your invasive callery pear, burning bush, and/or Japanese barberry.



Invasive: Callery pear

Deadline to apply
July 1st, 2023



Invasive: Burning bush



Invasive: Japanese barberry

Learn more and apply at www.rb.gy/tp81



This program is generously funded by the Duke Energy Foundation.



Organized by:



Tippecanoe County
Soil & Water
Conservation District



WEST
LAFAYETTE
Home of Progress

WABASH RIVER
ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION



City of
LAFAYETTE
IND.

Get Ready for Wabash Riverfest!

Tapawingo Park to Riehle Plaza

July 8, 2023

9am-4pm

The countdown begins for the 2023 Riverfest! Save the date and get ready for a day of fun with live music, food, canoe races, fishing, and much more! To see updates on events, make sure to follow our [Facebook!](https://www.facebook.com/wabashriverfest)

FROM TAPAWINGO PARK TO RIEHLE PLAZA



2nd Saturday in July

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



[Click to edit Email Preferences](#) or [Unsubscribe from this list](#).

Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
200 N 2nd St

Lafayette, Indiana 47901 - United States
Telephone: 765-420-8505

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WREC Wire

June 2023

Summer is finally here! And, we are so excited for all the summer events that are coming up for Greater Lafayette. So, keep reading to find out more about local events, opportunities, and more!

Wabash Riverfest 2023 Saturday July 8th 9am-4pm Tapawingo Park



Wabash Riverfest 2023 is right around the corner! Join us for this annual summer festival that celebrates the mighty 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! Winners take home a carved paddle made by Halsema Custom Crafts.
- [Float trip from Davis Ferry to Tapawingo Park](#) - Use our rafts or canoes/kayaks, or bring your own. We'll bus you from Tapawingo to Davis Ferry, and you'll paddle the ~5 miles back to the festival. The trip takes about 3 hours if you're paddling.
- [Take Flight Birds of Prey show](#) - 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
- [Riverfront Charcoal Drawing 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.
- [Kids Fishing Lessons](#) - Kids ages 6-17 are invited to join us for fishing classes at 10am and 11:30am! Clint Kowalik, who taught DNR sport fishing for years, will be teaching kids how to fish on the Wabash River.
- [Mermaid Storytime](#) - Young and young at heart will enjoy this interactive story time. Learn about the aquatic creatures that live in our rivers with fairytale performers. Stories read at 10am and 2pm.
- [Nature Photography with smartphones workshop](#) - Join local artist, Zac Cody, in a 45 minute workshop on nature photography using smart phones. Zac will share techniques in setting up a great photograph using just your smartphone. Two workshops at 9 and 10am.

We need volunteers to make Riverfest run smoothly. All volunteers will receive a Riverfest t-shirt that is exclusive volunteer shirt! Please check out the website for ways to be involved and help out. Volunteers that help for at least 4 hours will get a t-shirt and 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

[Volunteer Sign-ups](#)

Thank You to our 2023 Sponsors for making these awesome opportunities completely FREE to our community!

Our 2023 Sponsors:

Tippecanoe County, the Cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette, The Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality, TBIRD Design and Engineering, Indiana American Water, SIA, Kimley Horn, Duke Energy, Bowen Engineering, Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission, IWM Consulting Group, Christopher Burke Engineering, Evonik, and Academy Sports.

Happy Juneteenth!

Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery (except in the case of punishment for a crime) in the United States. June 19th has been celebrated by black communities since 1865, when two years after the emancipation proclamation was signed, people enslaved in Texas were finally freed.

Learn More about Juneteenth



To celebrate Juneteenth, there will be an event on June 17th that is free and open to the public! All events will be highlighting and demonstrating history, arts, and racial/social justice in the community. They will be featuring a community choir performance, art show, soul food, stepping demos, live art class, and more! Learn more by visiting the [event page!](#)

Solar United Neighbors Tippecanoe County Solar Co-op

Interested in Going Solar? Now's your chance! Tippecanoe County, City of Lafayette, and City of West Lafayette partnered with Solar United Neighbors to launch the Tippecanoe & Montgomery Counties Solar + EV Charger Co-op. With the help and expertise of Solar United Neighbors, co-op members can leverage their numbers to get a group rate on quality solar installations. There is no cost to join and no obligation to install! Follow the link below to become a member today!

Coal is the primary source of energy for Indiana. The mining and burning of coal negatively impacts our waterways. Coal ash is the material remaining after coal is burned, and is held in open pits. There are 5 coal ash pits along the Wabash River. Converting to renewable energy will lower your energy bills, and reduce our reliance on coal mining and burning.

Learn More About Going Solar

SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS
Let's go solar together!
Join the Tippecanoe & Montgomery Counties
Solar and EV Charger Co-op

Why join a Solar Co-op?

- Expert help**
Get unbiased support
- Save money**
Get a group rate on your solar
- Community**
Go solar with 50-100 people
- Nonprofit**
We're not a sales company
- Free to join**
No commitment to go solar

Attend a Solar 101 to learn more!

June 12	-6:30 PM - West Lafayette City Hall; 222 N. Chauncey Ave; West Lafayette
June 16	-12 Noon - Lunch with the League of Women Voters - Mont. Co @ 54 Fusion; 101 W. Main St.; Crawfordsville
June 29	-6:30 PM - Zoom Webinar; Register at bit.ly/6-29-Solar101



City of LAFAYETTE | LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS | TIPPECANOE County | WEST LAFAYETTE | LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Invasive Plant Swap

The invasive plant swap program is back! Tippecanoe County residents can receive a free native tree or shrub replacement when you remove an invasive callery pear, burning bush, or Japanese barberry plant.

To apply, visit the [TICT website](#) to learn more!



INVASIVE PLANT SWAP PROGRAM

You can receive FREE native trees and shrubs when you remove your invasive callery pear, burning bush, and/or Japanese barberry.

Deadline to apply
July 1st, 2023



Learn more and apply at www.rb.gy/tp81

This program is generously funded by the Duke Energy Foundation.



Organized by:



Upcoming Community Events

Outdoor Explore

4449 State Road 42 N., West Lafayette

June 10, 10am-4pm

"Outdoor Explore! A Beyond Your Backyard Sampler" is a free, all-ages community event that strives to connect people with a wide range of outdoor pursuits through participatory activities at booths staffed by experts in their outdoor hobby. There will also be food trucks and a weenie roast! This event takes place at two locations, the Tippecanoe County Amphitheater in West Lafayette and the Bicentennial Nature Center in Lafayette. Check of their [website](#) for more information!

Solar 101 Event

West Lafayette City Hall

June 12, 6:30pm

Participate in a free Solar 101 session with Solar United Neighbors to learn how going solar can benefit your family and how doing so with the Tippecanoe & Montgomery Counties Solar + EV Charger Co-op makes it easy. [RSVP today!](#)

Kids Fishing Day

McAllister Recreation Center

June 17, 9am-12pm.

Free event for children ages 3-14 to get outdoors and experience fishing! All supplies will be provided as well as a free lunch. Get more information [here!](#)

Green Expo

Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds

June 25, 12-4pm

Join us for the 2nd annual Green Expo to celebrate local and regional businesses that are helping people to reduce their environmental impact! We will have businesses and organizations that have information and services relating to electrification, renewable energy, electric/hybrid vehicles, locally produced food, waste reduction, urban gardening, and more!

Pipelines, Progress, and Policy: A Public Forum on Water Use and Transfer

Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds

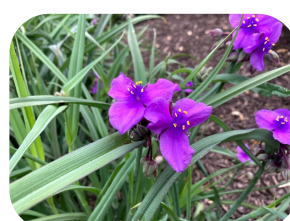
June 26, 6:30pm

Join us for a panel of local experts to learn more about the LEAP Project, including Scott Walker, CEO of Greater Lafayette Commerce, Representatives Aylesworth and Negele, Purdue water specialists, Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski, and County Commissioner Tom Murtaugh. 11,000 acres in Boone County have been identified for a large-scale research and innovation park - the LEAP Project. This project will require at least 6 million gallons per day by 2026 and 10 million gallons per day by 2027. Project organizers plan to source this water from Wabash River groundwater in Tippecanoe County and pipe it to the project location. Additional speaker and event information can be found on the [League of Women Voter's Website](#).

What's in Bloom?



Lance Leaf
Coreopsis



Spiderwort



Penstemon

The plants above are putting on a show this time of year! Lanceleaf Coreopsis blooms for weeks, which provides a lovely early summer display of golden yellow flowers. They are also a host plant for many species of moths and songbirds to feed on the ripe seeds in late summer. Similarly, spiderworts have interesting leaves and vibrant purple flowers. They are great for dry, partly sunny landscaping. Penstemons are another great native that is easy to use in landscaping. They tolerate a lot of growing conditions, from partial shade to full sun, and medium wet soils to dry. A wide variety of bees enjoy penstemon, from leafcutter bees to newly hatched bumble bees.

Native plants provide food and natural habitat to local pollinators such as monarch butterflies and bumblebees. Not only are wildflowers important to local fauna, but the inflorescence of native sedges and grasses are also a food source. These plants are fully adapted to the local environmental conditions in Tippecanoe, making them very hardy. Native plants can help you conserve water, and cut back on fertilizer and pesticide use. This will save you money and decreases the amount of polluted runoff that enters the Wabash River!

Lafayette Parks and Recreation Survey

The City of Lafayette wants to hear from you! Do you have comments, concerns, or recommendations for Lafayette Parks and Recreation? Fill out the [survey](#) link below! The survey will help Lafayette better serve residents as they create their 5-year master plan.



Lafayette Parks and
Recreation Survey

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



[Click to edit Email Preferences](#) or [Unsubscribe from this list](#).

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200 N 2nd St
Lafayette, Indiana 47901 - United States
Telephone: 765-420-8505

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WREC Wire

July 2023



Join us for jubilation and celebration on the banks of the Wabash River! Riverfest is this Saturday from 9am-4pm in Tapawingo Park. Keep reading below to learn all about the fun activities we'll have this year!



[Wabash Riverfest Website](#)

Thank You to our 2023 Sponsors for making these awesome opportunities completely FREE to our community!

TBIRD Design Services, The Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality, Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Greeley and Hansen, Tippecanoe County, the Cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette, Duke Energy, Christopher Burke Engineering, Bowen Engineering, Evonik, Indiana American Water, and Fleet Feet.



Water Drop 5k Run/Walk and Kids Run

Enjoy a beautiful run or walk down the Wabash River Heritage Trail! This race

starts on the pedestrian bridge and takes your right along the river and finishes back on the bridge!

Note: The deadline has passed to guarantee a race t-shirt, but if we have something in your size available, there is still an opportunity to get your hands on a Riverfest t-shirt!

Water Drop 5K and Kids Run Sign-Up



Live Music from SAMI

Come hang out and listen to live music all day from the Songwriters of Midnorth Indiana (SAMI)!



Trees of the Floodplain Hike

Learn about and how to ID local trees in the Wabash River floodplain from Purdue extension forester Lenny Farlee. Tree hikes at 10:30am and 1pm. No sign up needed, just meet at the fountain at the Pedestrian Bridge.



Mermaid Story Time

Learn more about aquatic creatures that live in our rivers with an interactive story time with fairytale performers! Storytime at 10am and 2pm. No sign up needed!



5 Mile Hike

Join the WREC Property Manager Pat on a 5 mile hike! He will hike on the Wabash Heritage Trail to the Sagamore Parkway Bridge where he will talk about WREC's exciting new trail projects. Hike starts at 9am. No sign up needed, just meet at the fountain at the Pedestrian Bridge.



Bike Rodeo

Kids learn safe biking techniques at the Bike Rodeo! Ride through a series of obstacles and test your knowledge of road safety. We will be giving out free helmets to participants too! Bike rodeo open from 9am-1pm. No sign up needed!



Try-a-Canoe

Get comfortable paddling the Wabash River with help from an experienced paddler! Any age is welcome to have a great first experience in a canoe. Try-a-canoe open from 10am - 3:30pm. No sign-up needed!



Charcoal Drawing Class

Let your inner artist shine through! Local Artist Dillon Mills will be teaching a charcoal drawing class where you can learn to draw beautiful river landscapes. All supplies are provided. Classes at 10am, noon, and 2pm. [Sign up!](#)



Nature Photography Class

Learn how to use your smartphone to take great nature photos! Local photographer Zac Cody will be teaching this intro to nature photography. Workshops at 9am and 10am. [Sign up!](#)



Kids Fishing Class and Open Fishing

Kids from age 6-17 (or under 18) can learn to fish for free! Learn to fish from Clint Kowalik, who ran the DNR's sport fishing program for over 10 years! All materials are provided for the lesson. There will also be open fishing from 1-2 pm for kids who want to use their new knowledge or those who already know how to fish. Classes at 10am and 11:30am. Open fishing from 1-2pm. [Sign up!](#)



Voyageur Canoe Races

Several local businesses and both cities are scheduled to race throughout the day of Riverfest! We do have a few open race spots for anyone that is interested in hopping in a giant canoe and challenging their fellow festival-goers! Open race spots are at 10am, 12:30pm, and 2:30pm. Sign up the day of Riverfest at the Canoe Race check-in!

Wabash Riverfest
Activities

Invasive Plant Swap



INVASIVE PLANT SWAP PROGRAM

You can receive FREE native trees and shrubs when you remove your invasive callery pear, burning bush, and/or Japanese barberry.

Deadline to apply
July 1st, 2023



Learn more and apply at
www.rb.gy/tp81

This program is generously funded
by the Duke Energy Foundation.



The invasive plant swap program is back! Tippecanoe County residents can receive a free native tree or shrub replacement when you remove an invasive callery pear, burning bush, or Japanese barberry plant.

Visit the TICT website to learn more!

Invasive Plant Swap
Information

Native Plants in Bloom

As summer begins, our spring blooms have closed up and the summer blooms have started. Many of us are seeing the return of Monarchs to the milkweed. What's blooming in your neighborhood?



Butterfly milkweed is a common native plant that is used in landscaping. It has showy orange flowers and is short in height, usually only reaching about 1.5 feet tall.



Common milkweed is not as common in landscaping, but is common in roadside ditches. It is an important native plant for monarch butterfly larvae, and has beautiful dusty pink flowers.



Purple Coneflowers produce beautiful purple flowers and bloom from mid to late summer. They are a nectar source for butterflies, bees, and many other pollinators. Goldfinches love the seedheads! They grow from 3-4 ft tall.

Native Plant Reminder: With Greater Lafayette in a drought, make sure to water your new native plants! If you planted them in the last year, they might need a little extra love right now compared to established plants.

Invasive of the Month: Common Mullein



Have you ever seen a Common Mullein before? They are an invasive plant that grow most commonly in open areas, like meadows and forest openings. They prefer dry, sandy soils. It was originally brought from Europe by settlers where it was used as a medicinal herb. These plants spread by seed dispersion and a single plant can produce 100,000-180,000 seeds which remain viable for over 100 years! To control these, they are easily hand pulled on loose soils. This is the most effective if they are pulled before the seeds are set.



First year Common Mullein forms small rosettes of bluish, green feltlike leaves that are small, usually less than a foot wide.



Mature plants bolt in their second year and begin growing anywhere from 5-10 feet tall, including the conspicuous

[Learn More About Mullein](#)

TICT Invasive Workday

Join TICT on a honeysuckle invasive workday! On July 10th from 10am-2pm, there will be a workday at Cary Camp targeting honeysuckle. [Sign up here](#) to help out!

INVASIVES WORKDAY

Monday, July 10th -
10am to 2pm
at
Cary Camp
(6286 State Road 26 E, Lafayette, IN
47905)

Target species: Bush honeysuckle

SIGN UP using the link provided or by
emailing jordan.young@in.nacdnet.net

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



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Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
200 N 2nd St.
Lafayette, Indiana 47901 - USA
Telephone: 765-420-8505



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WREC Wire

August 2023

Summer has flown by and the fun never stops at WREC! Keep reading to read about a super exciting grant that Tippecanoe County received, a Riverfest recap, upcoming events, and more!

\$25M US DOT Grant for Trail Infrastructure

WREC is thrilled to collaborate with Tippecanoe County Government, the City of Lafayette, and the City of West Lafayette on a successful grant application which awarded our community \$25-million from the U.S Department of Transportation for the Wabash River Greenway Project. This project includes:

- New side path and boardwalk along North River Road from Mascouten Park to Tecumseh Trails County Park
- A bike/pedestrian bridge over the Wabash River at Mascouten Park to connect to N 9th St
- A trail bridge connecting Tecumseh Trails County Park to the Amphitheater Park
- ADA upgrades, park-n-ride spaces, and bus stop connections along N 9th St

The project has till 2032 to be completed, but is expected to be completed in 5 years. The new trails and improvement of existing trails will greatly improve the bike connectivity of our community and bike safety, as many cyclists will have a more dedicated trail away from car traffic. There is also the addition of bus stop connections on the existing North 9th St. trail which provides transportation opportunities to more residents.

Below is a picture that shows North River Road just north of Mascouten Park, where one of the future trails will go.



[Learn More about the Wabash River Greenway Project](#)

Wabash Sampling Blitz

Friday September 8 and Saturday September 9
3 hours from 9am-5pm

WABASH SAMPLING BLITZ

September 8 & 9

3 hours between 9am-5pm



Come help us sample water quality!

All training is available online, no experience is necessary, and all supplies are provided!

Learn more and register at www.wabashriver.net!



During this event, volunteers have the opportunity to help us sample streams, creeks, and rivers that lead to the Wabash River! We use this data to help us get a snapshot of water quality in the Wabash River watershed, which can tell us the overall health of these local waterbodies. Participating in the Blitz is a great way to explore your local community, connect with local waterways, and help protect the Wabash River.

No experience is needed to participate and is open to all ages! We provide all supplies you will need for the day. So, grab a friend (or 2) and help us sample water quality! If you want to check out an interactive map of the results since the Blitz began all the way back in 2009, [check out our website!](http://www.wabashriver.net)

[Sign up for the Blitz!](#)

Wabash Riverfest 2023 Recap

Riverfest 2023 was another great year of celebrating the mighty Wabash River! The morning started off with some rain, but we didn't let that put a stop to the amazing day we had planned. Below are some pictures of the day including the voyageur canoe races, conservation booths, try-a-canoe, live music, charcoal drawing, trees of the floodplain hike, and more. We are already looking forward to Riverfest 2024!

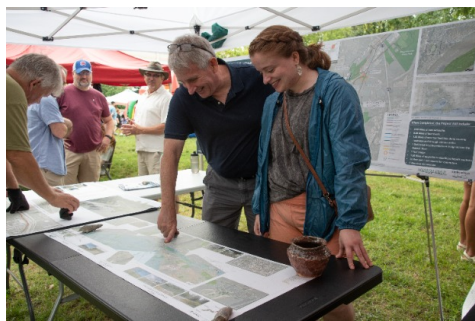
We love getting people to participate in activities and events on or near the river! Here's how many people participated in activities and events this year:

- Float Trip- 91
- Canoe Races- 107
- Kids Fishing- 23
- Try-a-Canoe- 202
- Photography and Drawing Class-23
- Bike Rodeo- 60
- Guided Hikes- 25

Thank You to our 2023 Sponsors for making these awesome opportunities completely FREE to our community!

- Arconic Foundation
- The Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality
- Indiana American Water
- Subaru of Indiana Automotive
- Kimley-Horn
- Duke Energy
- Greeley and Hansen
- Bowen Engineering
- Academy Sports
- Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission





Riverfest Participant Survey

We want to hear from you! Take the [Riverfest participant survey](#) to tell us how we can improve Wabash Riverfest

Riverfest Participant Survey



Wabash Riverfest Fall E-Waste Day
 E-Waste Day is back on September 30th from 8am-2pm at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds! There will be electronics recycling, paper shredding, and medicine disposal that is FREE for Tippecanoe County residents. For more information and to stay up-to-date, follow the [Tippecanoe County Solid Waste Facebook Page!](#)



E-WASTE DAY



Free for Tippecanoe County Residents

Saturday September 30, 2023
8am-2pm
Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds

Electronics Recycling
Medicine Disposal
Paper Shredding

Items Accepted:

- TV's/Monitors
- DVD/CD Players
- Computers/Laptops/Servers
- Speakers
- Printers
- Mice/Keyboards
- Cords
- Cell Phones
- Microwaves
- And more!



What's in Bloom?



Downy Skullcap



Goldenrod



Joe Pye Weed

As we go towards late summer and early fall, there is some pretty special flowers

that are blooming! Downy skullcap has delicate purple flowers that are very attractive for hummingbirds, butterflies, and many other pollinators. It likes shady, dry forests and meadows, making it great for partially shady yards with dry soil. Goldenrod has a tall, leafy stem with tiny yellow flowers clustered near the top. Although goldenrod is typically blamed for hay fever and allergies, the discomfort in this season is caused by pollen from another native - Ragweed! They are a wonderful source of nectar for both butterflies and bees. Joe pye weed has a dome flower head with tiny pinkish/lavender flowers. They can grow up to 12 feet tall, but are normally 5-7 feet in height. They are a very important source of honey for pollinators and the seeds are eaten by Swamp Sparrows.

Are you interested in incorporating native plants into your landscaping or converting turf grass to natives? We offer free site visits to help decide what would work best at your home, small business, or property! Email us at WREC@wabashriver.net or call us at 765-420-8505!

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



[Click to edit Email Preferences](#) or [Unsubscribe from this list.](#)

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WREC Wire

September 2023

September is a super busy month with plenty of opportunities to get involved! Keep reading to check out local opportunities and events happening in Greater Lafayette.

Sign up to volunteer!

Wabash Sampling Blitz

Friday, September 8 and Saturday September 9 | 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 in mid-April and once in mid-September. The first sampling blitz was held in the fall of 2009, which means we've been doing the Blitz for almost 15 years! Data from each event is mapped on our website, so you can learn about water quality in our area at any time! Fall 2023 data will be posted later in November.

We still need many volunteers for this event, so grab a friend and come help us sample water quality in Tippecanoe County!

[Learn more and sign up!](#)

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 14, 2023. Tree and shrub pick-up will be on Wednesday, September 28th at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds (1406 Teal Rd. Lafayette, IN)

To order: www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org

Questions? Call the SWCD office at 765-474-9992, ext. 3



Wonders on the Wabash Volunteer Callout

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 Shamrock Park to Fort Ouiatenon on September 6,7,12,13, and 14. 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 background check is required. Lunch is provided at the end of the day for all participants. You can also be paired with an experienced raft guide if you are not comfortable steering or teaching the students to paddle.

[Sign up to Volunteer](#)

De-Trash the Wabash

Saturday October 21st, 9am-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! We will be partnering with Purdue's Make a Difference Day to send students and community members out. De-Trash the Wabash 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, trash bags, and pizza for lunch are provided!

DE-TRASH
Detrash Information and Signup

Saturday, October 21
9 am - 12 pm
Tapawingo Park,
West Lafayette

HELP CLEAN UP THE COMMUNITY!
PIZZA LUNCH PROVIDED.




E-WASTE DAY

Free for Tippecanoe County Residents

Saturday September 30, 2023
8am-2pm
Tippecanoe County
Fairgrounds

Electronics Recycling
Medicine Disposal
Paper Shredding

Items Accepted:

- TV's/Monitors
- DVD/CD Players
- Computers/Laptops/Servers
- Speakers
- Printers
- Mice/Keyboards
- Cords
- Cell Phones
- Microwaves
- And more!





Recycling Event: E-Waste Day

Sat. September 30 | 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, which can contaminate local groundwater and soil.

Tippecanoe County households can drop off your old TVs, phones, laptops, 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!

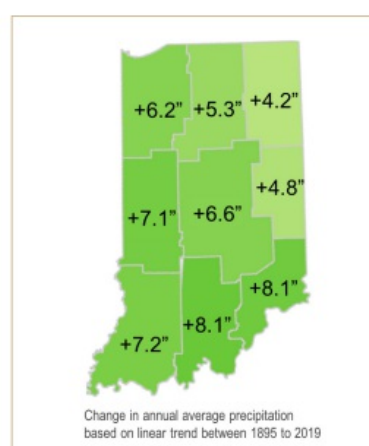
[E-Waste Day Event Info](#)

The Future of Indiana's Water Resources: The Impacts of Climate Change on Water

Indiana's water resources are critical for our economy and overall well-being. In June of 2023, the Indiana Climate Change Impacts Assessment (IN CCIA) was released to project how climate change in Indiana would impact all aspects of water resources including soil water, evaporation, runoff, snow cover, streamflow, drought, and flooding. With local temperatures and rainfall patterns shifting and changing, managing water needs for communities, natural systems, industry, recreation, and agriculture will become increasingly difficult.

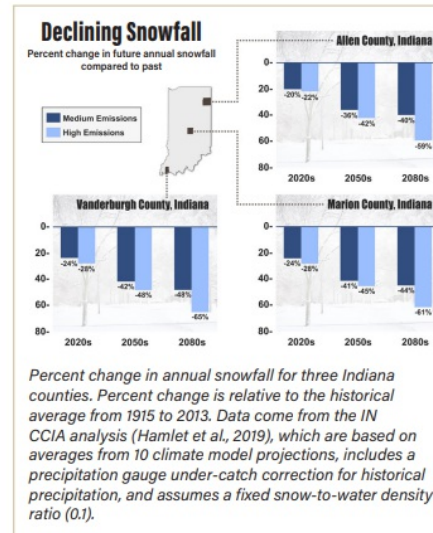
Main Takeaways from the 2023 IN CCIA Water Resources Report

Water storage in soil: Soil water storage is expected to increase by 2 to 5 percent in the spring and decrease by 5 to 9 percent in the fall. Wetter spring conditions and increase soil water storage could make agricultural spring planting more difficult. With decrease soil water storage in the fall, water deficits will become more prominent in the late growing season.



Increased Precipitation: As annual precipitation has already increased across the state, this pattern is projected to continue. The highest increase in winter and spring precipitation is expected. Summer precipitation will remain largely unchanged, but with an increase in the intensity of summer storms. Consequently, we will experience larger volumes of water falling in shorter periods, leading to longer drought periods between these intense rainfalls. The graph on the left illustrates the change in annual average precipitation across Indiana.

Increased agricultural and urban flooding: Increased precipitation and saturated soils will make flooding on agricultural fields more likely. More intense rainfall events will increase urban flooding as stormwater facilities are overwhelmed and reach capacity quicker.



Declining Snowfall: Declining Snowfall: Snowfall and snow cover across the state will diminish due to rising winter temperatures. The graph illustrates the projected decrease in snowfall, taking into account medium to high emissions scenarios. Winter precipitation will increasingly come as rain rather than snow as temperatures rise. Any snowfall that does occur will melt quickly, and soil frost will decrease significantly.

Want to read the full report? Check it out [here!](#)

Invasive Workdays

Do you want to help remove invasive plants from local ecosystems? Get involved with invasive workdays!

- NICHES and TICT Workday: Sat. September 16, 10am @ Granville San Barrens- Queen Anne's Lace Weed Wrangle. This workday will be focusing on Queen Anne's Lace which is an invasive plant that takes over prairie ecosystems. Plan to arrive promptly at 10am as they will be walking back to a spot to pull as a group. Wear long pants and gloves as they will be walking through tall grasses where poison ivy may be present.
- TICT Workday: Sat. September 23, 10am @ Mar Len Park- The focus for this workday will be hand pulling and cutting bush honeysuckle and other shrubs. Bring gloves and tools if you have them, but there will be a extra tools for volunteers.

[More Information](#)

Mussels: A Shell of Indiana's Rivers

Indiana has historically had 75+ species of freshwater mussels that were sustained through our plentiful rivers. Those mussels were mainly used by Native Americans and Indiana's thriving pearl button trade. This trade decimated their populations, but they are making a slow and steady comeback. Prophetstown State Park will be hosting Cassie Hauswald for World Rivers Day who is the director of Freshwater Programs for the Sam Shine Foundation. In this free talk, Cassie will speak about the importance of freshwater mussels in Indiana's history and the future of mussel populations in Indiana.

Registration is required and starts on 9/7 on the [IN Humanities website](#)

Mussels: A Shell of Indiana's Rivers

Sunday, September 24th | 12:00pm-1:30pm
Prophetstown State Park Visitor Center

Celebrate World Rivers Day & learn about Indiana's mussels with biologist Cassie Hauswald! This discussion will share about the past & present of mussel populations & share positive choices for water that can keep the mussels of Indiana alive and well.

Registration required, Ages 13+
Light lunch provided
Learn more and register



JOIN AMERICORPS!

BECOME A PARK CREW MEMBER

About the role:

- Environment Conservation
- Park Stewardship
- Professional Development
- Community Engagement
- Member Benefits

West Lafayette AmeriCorps Program

West Lafayette Parks and Recreation is teaming up with AmeriCorps to bring a program to West Lafayette! The City of West Lafayette AmeriCorps program aims to further develop and conserve our public greenspaces through service experience. Our AmeriCorps members will serve with the goal of improving public parks, land, and facilities. Thereby, improving health outcomes for our entire community! Members receive benefits for their time served. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals interested in conservation, community development, local government, and working outdoors. For more information and to apply for a position, visit the [West Lafayette Website](#).

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



View this email in your
browser



WREC Wire

October 2023

Happy fall! As leaves start to fall, read below on upcoming events and how to get your yard ready for the winter!

Native Seed Collection Workshop



Learn how native plants help reduce stormwater runoff, and hear from restoration expert Stephanie Frischie about how to collect and store seeds from native plants.

Participants will take home the seeds they collect! Spaces are limited and registration is required.

Learn more and register
www.WabashRiver.net



October 7th, 9am-12pm.

Meet at Celery Bog and we will travel to multiple native plantings in Lafayette and West Lafayette!

Take a tour of local stormwater infrastructure with WREC and restoration specialist Stephanie Frischie. During the tour, you'll learn how to collect seeds from established native plants and identify some of the plants. You'll also learn proper seed collection and processing techniques and be able to collect your own seeds to take home. All the necessary supplies will be provided, and we'll organize a carpool to travel from site to site. Additionally, WREC will offer a winter sowing workshop in December. You can either store the seeds you collect during the seed collecting workshop to use in the winter sowing workshop or use them in your own home projects.

Registration is required! Learn more and register: <https://wabashriver.net/watershed-program/green-tour/>

Detrash the Wabash

Saturday October 21st, 9am-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! We will be partnering with Purdue's Make a Difference Day to send students and community members out. De-Trash the Wabash cleans over 9 miles of river from Fort Ouiantenon 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, trash bags, and pizza for lunch are provided!

DE-TRASH The Wabash

Saturday, October 21
9 am - 12 pm
Tapawingo Park
West Lafayette

Pizza lunch provided.
Bring your own water bottle.

Sign up:
tcpwq.org




Organized by the Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality, Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, Tippecanoe Solid Waste Management District, and Wabash Riverkeeper Network.



Detrash Info and Signup

Upcoming Invasive Plant Opportunities:

WREC
Honeysuckle Workday, Tues. October 17, 9am-noon @Tapawingo Park
Meet at the shelter in Tapawingo Park. There is no registration required, just show up! Gloves and tools will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you have them.

HONEYSUCKLE WORK DAY

October 17, 9am-noon
meet at Tapawingo Park Shelter
no registration required
tools and equipment provided



RIP Squad

TUESDAYS 3-5pm at Prophet's Rock Woods
OCT 17, 24, 31 ~ NOV 7, 14, 21, 28

THURSDAYS 3-5pm at Ross Hills Park
OCT 19, 26 ~ NOV 2, 9, 16, 30

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

TICT Reboot Conference, November 13 1-3:30pm @ Lilly Nature Center

We'll be regrouping and discussing important changes to our committee structure. But it's not all business--let's catch up before the holiday season kicks in! Current Committees: Steering, Education, Eradication, and Reporting
If you're interested in joining a committee, come to the meeting! We'll be discussing restructuring, moderated by Jordan Young and Amber Slaughterbeck, our regional specialist with SICIM.
Got questions or concerns? Reach out to Jordan Young at 618-684-8262 or jordan.young@in.nacdnet.net

Invasive Workday, Sat. October 28, 10am @ Mar Len Park

The focus for this workday will be hand pulling and cutting bush honeysuckle and other shrubs. Bring gloves and tools if you have them, but there will be a extra tools for volunteers.

Fall 2023 Wabash Sampling Blitz

Thank you to our 80+ volunteers that sampled over 164 streams this September! We want to especially thank The Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality for their continued support! We also want to thank [VS Engineering](#) for having employees sample. We love having local partners and businesses help sample water quality for the Blitz! We'll have the results of this year's Blitz available in a few weeks on our website. Make sure to check out the interactive map to see how each measurement compares over our years of sampling. 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 a lot about our waterways with every visit. Here are some fun photos from the Fall 2023 Blitz!

Sampling Blitz Results



Winterizing your Rain Barrel

It's that time of the year where we need to disconnect our rain barrels and prepare them for the winter ahead! We recommend doing this before the first frost of the year, usually in mid-October. Make sure to drain it and leave the spigot open all winter. This will protect the plastic from cracking when the water freezes. It is best to drain your rain barrel 3-5 days after the rain for the best absorption in your yard. We will post on social media as we watch the weather for a good time to drain and disconnect our rain barrels.

Winterization Guides are available on our website through the link below.

Each rain barrel holds about 55 gallons of water. Try to remember how many times you have drained your rain barrel this year. Multiply that number by 55 gallons and give yourself a pat on the back for keeping all that water out of storm drains and the Wabash River!

Rain Barrel Information

Prophetstown Trail of Scarecrows

The Trail of Scarecrows is going on now at Prophetstown State Park! TICT has a scarecrow, so make sure to check it out! 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.



Invasive plants are like unwanted guests in our yards and natural areas. They come from other places and grow so fast that they crowd out the local plants. This can be a problem because it can harm the environment and the animals that depend on native plants.

[/TippecanoeInvasiveCooperativeTaskforce](#)



Scan the QR Code for our website or follow us on Facebook!



Leave your leaves for the Wabash River! Don't let honeysuckle haunt your yard.

Soon, 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 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.



[Click to edit Email Preferences](#) or [Unsubscribe](#) from this list.

Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
200 N 2nd St
Lafayette, Indiana 47901 - United States
Telephone: 765-420-8505

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WREC Wire

November 2023

Detrash the Wabash Recap

We had almost 200 volunteers collect 4.5 tons of trash from around the mighty Wabash River! Almost 2.5 tons of that weight came from a tire dump at Bicentennial Nature Area, where volunteers dragged tire pieces from the shoreline and water. It was a great day where volunteers helped to enhance the quality of life for everything that calls the river home. Special thanks to the Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality and the Tippecanoe County Solid Waste District in their partnership on this event.



Upcoming Invasive Plant Opportunities:

RIP Squad

TUESDAYS 3-5pm at Prophet's Rock Woods
NOV 7, 14, 21, 28

THURSDAYS 3-5pm at Ross Hills Park
NOV 2, 9, 16, 30

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.

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We'll be regrouping and discussing important changes to our committee structure. But it's not all business--let's catch up before the holiday season kicks in! Current Committees: Steering, Education, Eradication, and Reporting. If you're interested in joining a committee, come to the meeting! We'll be discussing restructuring, moderated by Jordan Young and Amber Slaughterbeck, our regional specialist with State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management group.

Got questions or concerns? Reach out to Jordan Young at 618-684-8262 or jordan.young@in.nacdnet.net



News From Our Partners

Job Opening- Rural Conservationist

Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring a rural conservationist! The successful applicant will be responsible for providing technical and educational assistance to land owners/users in developing, planning, and applying natural resource conservation measures.

To learn more and apply, visit the [Tippecanoe County Job Board](#).

Cover Crops Fall Training

Nov. 14, 9am-3pm

Purdue University ACRE, 4550 US-52, West Lafayette, IN, 47906

Hosted by Purdue ACRE, this one-day in-person training is intended to provide important basics of cover crop management for field professionals working with farmers on cover crop implementation. Interested? [Learn more here!](#)

Free Cover Crop Seeds!

The Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District has free cover crop seeds at their office at 1812 Troxel Drive, Lafayette IN 47901! [Visit their website to learn more.](#)

FREE cover crop seed for small farms and gardens!

Stop by our office to pick up a free bag of cover crop seed! Each bag contains enough oats and radish seed to cover about 50 sq. feet (~5 oz).

Visit our website for more info:
tippecanoecountyswcd.org



Winterizing your Rain Barrel

It's that time of the year where we need to disconnect our rain barrels and prepare them for the winter ahead! We recommend doing this before the first frost of the year, usually in mid-October. If you haven't done this yet, do it ASAP before temperatures drop! Make sure to drain it and leave the spigot open all winter. This will protect the plastic from cracking when the water freezes.

Winterization Guides are available on our website through the link below.

Each rain barrel holds about 55 gallons of water. Try to remember how many times you have drained your rain barrel this year. Multiply that number by 55 gallons and give yourself a pat on the back for keeping all that water out of storm drains and the Wabash River!

[Rain Barrel Information](#)

Fall Yard Cleanup

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. By choosing how you cleanup your yard in the fall, you can provide a crucial food source and habitat to pollinators through the winter months!

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. Many butterfly caterpillars also overwinter in fallen leaves and 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 late 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.



Leave your plant corpses!

Dead plants in gardens are great winter homes and food supplies for native bees, butterflies, ladybugs, and more

By removing your plant cemetery in the fall, you stop supporting pollinators!

WABASH RIVER
ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION

Free Site Visit

Do you want to install green infrastructure, like native plants, rain gardens, or rain barrels, and you're not sure where to start? WREC offers free site visits to homeowners, business owners, or just anyone who is interested in learning more about green infrastructure! We can provide detailed feedback and a site visit report that has information and resources on how to implement river-friendly practices.

Email our watershed coordinator to set your free site visit today!

watershed@wabashriver.net

String Light Recycling

Finding broken string lights as you decorate for the holidays? Get them recycled by dropping them off at sites around Tippecanoe County!

During the months surrounding the holidays, the Tippecanoe County Government Building, West Lafayette City Hall, and Lafayette City Hall are hosting boxes that anyone from the public can drop their broken string lights in to get recycled for free!

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

Big thanks to Oscar metals 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!



String Light Recycling

November 13-January 31st

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

West Lafayette City Hall

Lafayette City Hall

Tippecanoe County Building



TIPPECANOE COUNTY
Recycling & Solid Waste



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WREC Wire

December 2023

Which Way Does it Flow? Groundwater Webinar

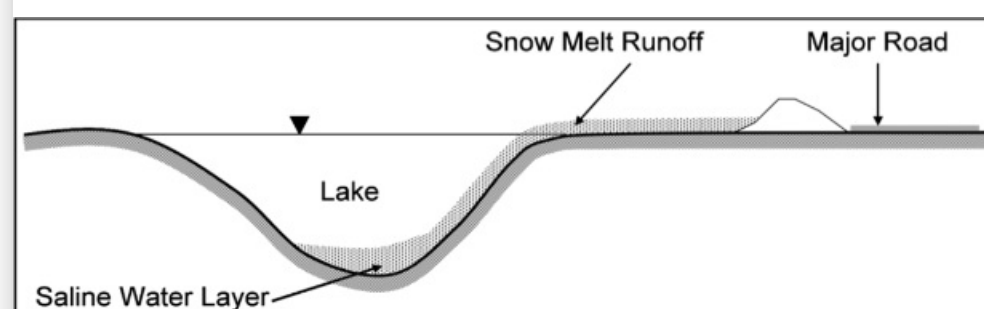
This virtual webinar co-sponsored by the White River Alliance, Purdue University's Institute for a Sustainable Future, and Indiana Water Resources Research Center, features water experts from Purdue and USGS who will provide data about the 2023 water year and discuss groundwater-surface water interactions in the state. To learn more, [visit the event page](#).

A promotional banner for a virtual forum. The background is a blurred image of a river. The text "VIRTUAL FORUM" is in a blue box at the top left. The main title "WHICH WAY DOES IT FLOW?" is in large, bold, blue letters. Below it is the subtitle "The Interaction Between Groundwater and Surface Water and Why It Matters". Further down, it says "Featuring speakers from Purdue University and the US Geological Survey." The date and time are listed as "DATE | TIME" and "TUESDAY 12/12 | 11:30-1:00 PM". A registration link "REGISTER NOW: bit.ly/Groundwater_Surfacewater" is provided, along with a QR code. Logos for Purdue University, Indiana Water Resources Research Center, and White River Alliance are on the right side.

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. Once salt enters aquatic ecosystems, there is no way to remove it. It can't be broken down, absorbed, metabolized, or removed from the water and is toxic to aquatic life. This can be a big problem in standing water systems such as lakes, ponds, and wetlands where the chloride can build up in the bottom and alter the physical and chemical properties of the water. 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.



Alternatives to Sidewalk Salt

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 cost share, and implementing your green infrastructure. 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 have plenty of funds in 2024 for agricultural projects, specifically equipment modifications for installing cover crops or nutrient management plans.

COST-SHARE INFO

- 1**
 - See if your idea is a project that WREC funds
 - Priority is being given to agricultural projects, like equipment mods and nutrient management plans
- 2**
 - Schedule a free site visit with staff by emailing watershed@wabashriver.net
- 3**
 - Fill out an application on our website before March: www.wabashriver.net/csapplication



Interested in learning more about soil health? Check out [WREC's video on improving soil health on ag fields.](#)



String Light Recycling

November 13-January 31st

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

West Lafayette City Hall

Lafayette City Hall

Tippecanoe County Building



TIPPECANOE COUNTY
Recycling & Solid Waste



OSCAR WINSKI
The Complete Metals Company

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

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

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

Big thanks to Oscar Winski metals, 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 2024 Sponsorships

Wabash Riverfest would not be possible without all of our amazing local sponsors. If you're interested in sponsoring Wabash Riverfest 2024 and helping to connect the community to the mighty Wabash River, contact our watershed coordinator at watershed@wabashriver.net.

Sponsor a level...

Sponsor a Riverfest level and receive all the marketing benefits at your level and the lower levels.

Wabash Watershed - \$5,000

- Logo on promotional postcard
- Name on drinkware

Wabash River - \$2,500

- Logo same size as WREC logo as space allows
- Waived Canoe Race entry fee

Celery Bog wetland - \$2,000

- Logo on Festival T-shirt
- Logo on Festival promotional poster

Jordan Creek - \$1,500

- Name on Festival T-shirt
- Name in Press Release

Flint Run - \$1,000

- Name in WREC Newsletter (~4,500 recipients)
- Opportunity to distribute materials at festival booth
- "Thank you" social media post (~3000 followers)

Wea Ditch - \$500

- Link to your website featured on Riverfest website
- Verbal recognition during Riverfest announcements

...or sponsor an event for \$250

Charcoals Drawing Class	Coloring Station	Kids' Run
Climbing Wall	Try-a-Canoe	Mermaid Storytime
Birds of Prey Show	Volunteer Booth	Tree ID Hike
Photography Class	Paddleboard Yoga	Bike Rodeo
Float Trip	Canoe Races	SUP (Stand up Paddleboard) Class

To be included on materials, heed the following deadlines:

Postcard: April 31 | Poster: May 15 | T-Shirt: May 20 | Sponsor Board: June 15



To sponsor Wabash Riverfest 2024, contact Amy Krzton-Presson, Festival Organizer
watershed@wabashriver.net | 765-807-1315 | www.wabashriverfest.com



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