

Wabash River in Tippecanoe County

As a resident of Tippecanoe County, you have been randomly selected to receive this survey. This survey is being conducted by the Living Laboratories on the Wabash project at Purdue University in partnership with the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation. Survey results will help these groups understand how residents of Tippecanoe County interact with the Wabash River and their general environmental attitudes, values and behaviors. Results will inform ongoing research and development activities along the Wabash. *All results will be kept confidential.*



FUTURE OF THE WABASH: Survey of Tippecanoe County Residents

Your voluntary participation in this survey is a chance to be a part of the process of determining the future of the Wabash River. This survey is the first step in an ongoing public involvement campaign.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. **It should take you approximately 20 minutes to complete.** You are not obligated to answer every question in this survey and can answer only the ones you wish. Once you have completed the survey, you can return it to us in the postage-paid return envelope or mail it to the address listed below: (Please do not include your return address on the envelope.)

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The following series of questions are about the importance of the Wabash River to the state of Indiana. For each of the following, please indicate your level of agreement with each statement by telling us whether you strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree, or strongly disagree. A don't know category is located at the end of the list if you are unsure of your level of agreement.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Don't Know (6)	Mean (n)
01. The Wabash River is an important part of Indiana's identity.	56.2%	37.5%	4.0%	1.4%	0%	.6%	1.50 (347)
02. Enhancing the Wabash River improves the ability of Indiana businesses to be competitive.	22.2%	37.8%	24.2%	8.9%	1.2%	5.8%	2.25 (327)
03. Enhancing the Wabash River is the most important environmental issue for the state of Indiana.	10.4%	27.4%	32.0%	21.9%	1.7%	6.6%	2.76 (324)
04. Providing funding to enhance the Wabash River should be a priority for the state of Indiana.	14.8%	43.5%	25.8%	10.4%	2.9%	2.6%	2.42 (336)
05. Efforts outside of my county to preserve and enhance the Wabash River benefit my community.	27.7%	53.8%	11.6%	2.3%	.9%	3.8%	1.91 (333)
06. My community is doing enough to preserve and enhance the Wabash River.	1.7%	12.2%	25.8%	38.3%	8.1%	13.9%	3.45 (297)

The following series of questions relate to your general feelings toward the natural world. For each of the following, please indicate your level of agreement with each statement by telling us whether you strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree, or strongly disagree. A don't know category is located at the end of the list if you are unsure of your level of agreement.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Don't Know (6)	Mean (n)
07. Rivers have value regardless of people being present.	53.3%	43.3%	2.6%	.3%	0%	.6%	1.5 (347)
08. The primary value of rivers is to provide resources for people who depend on them for their way of life.	3.7%	29.4%	28.2%	31.4%	4.6%	2.6%	3.04 (338)
09. I feel that I am part of the natural world that includes plant, animal and aquatic systems.	38.5%	49.1%	8.6%	1.4%	.3%	2.0%	1.73 (341)
10. Nature's primary value is to provide products useful to people.	8.4%	31.4%	16.4%	29.7%	13.0%	1.2%	3.08 (343)
11. I often feel a sense of oneness with the natural world around me.	20.3%	40.1%	26.5%	9.3%	1.2%	2.6%	2.29 (335)
12. Rivers are valuable only if they produce jobs and income for people	2.3%	2.6%	7.8%	51.3%	34.9%	1.2%	4.15 (343)

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13. I have a deep understanding of how my actions affect the natural world.	18.4%	50.9%	19.0%	4.6%	.3%	5.8%	2.12 (327)
14. Humans have the right to modify the natural environment to suit their needs.	5.2%	17.1%	18.2%	35.3%	21.4%	2.9%	3.52 (336)
15. Nature has as much right to exist as do people.	42.8%	41.3%	7.9%	3.2%	1.8%	2.9%	1.76 (331)
16. My personal welfare is not dependent on the welfare of the natural world	2.0%	11.3%	11.0%	43.5%	28.1%	4.1%	3.88 (331)

The following series of questions relate to your attitude toward the Wabash River. For each of the following, record your initial reaction by indicating your level of agreement with each statement by telling us whether you strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree, or strongly disagree. A don't know category is located at the end of the list if you are unsure of your level of agreement.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Don't Know (6)	Mean (n)
17. The Wabash River is important to me.	24.8%	53.0%	18.7%	2.0%	.6%	.9%	2.00 (344)
18. I identify with the lifestyles and values of the people who live in Tippecanoe County	14.2%	59.5%	16.8%	4.9%	.6%	4.0%	2.15 (332)
19. I would like to continue living near the Wabash River for a long time.	14.5%	45.2%	31.0%	5.2%	.9%	3.2%	2.31 (334)
20. Changes occurring along the Wabash River negatively impact how I feel about my community.	3.8%	19.7%	34.4%	26.5%	3.8%	11.8%	3.08 (300)
21. As far as I am concerned there are better rivers to live near than the Wabash River.	10.5%	23.3%	32.8%	17.7%	2.6%	13.1%	2.76 (299)
22. Living near the Wabash River is a part of who I am.	4.4%	20.2%	41.9%	26.4%	4.1%	2.9%	3.06 (331)
23. I sometimes feel like I do not belong in Tippecanoe County.	3.2%	10.4%	20.2%	44.7%	19.3%	2.3%	3.68 (339)
24. It is important to me to continue living near a river like the Wabash.	6.6%	25.6%	44.1%	17.3%	3.2%	3.2%	2.84 (336)
25. Changes occurring along the Wabash River can negatively affect me as an individual.	8.4%	39.8%	22.7%	18.3%	2.9%	7.8%	2.65 (317)
26. I have an emotional attachment to the Wabash River, it has meaning to me.	8.1%	28.1%	34.8%	21.2%	4.6%	3.2%	2.86 (334)
27. The Wabash River is a good place for doing the things I enjoy most.	4.7%	21.8%	40.7%	25.3%	4.7%	2.9%	3.04 (334)

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28. The people living in Tippecanoe County negatively affect my ability to achieve my personal goals.	1.2%	4.1%	20.6%	49.1%	20.1%	4.9%	3.87 (327)
29. The Wabash River provides many opportunities to engage in my favorite activities.	4.4%	21.8%	38.1%	27.3%	5.5%	2.9%	3.08 (334)
30. Changes occurring along the Wabash River can negatively affect my ability to reach my goals.	1.2%	12.3%	28.4%	36.4%	12.3%	9.4%	3.51 (309)
31. I would enjoy doing the things I do along the Wabash River just as much in another place.	5.2%	32.4%	39.4%	13.1%	2.0%	7.9%	2.72 (316)

The following series of questions test your knowledge about the environment. Please remember that you are not being judged on the correctness of your answer. For each of the following, indicate whether the following statements are generally true, generally false, or you don't know.

	Generally True (1)	Generally False (2)	Don't Know (3)	Mean (n)
32. Most water pollution today comes from factories.	41.3%	40.7%	18.1%	1.50 (286)
33. Vegetation along stream banks helps improve water quality.	85.9%	2.6%	11.5%	1.03 (308)
34. In terms of water quality, it is better to use a commercial car wash to clean your vehicle instead of washing it at home.	35.5%	27.3%	37.2%	1.44 (216)
35. Paint, solvents, or used motor oil may be disposed of safely into a storm drain.	2.0%	96.3%	1.7%	1.98 (344)
36. Grass clippings, garden trimmings, and fallen leaves can be a source of water pollution.	57.8%	23.0%	19.3%	1.28 (281)
37. A properly functioning septic system should be pumped, cleaned and inspected every 3 to 5 years.	63.1%	4.6%	32.3%	1.07 (237)
38. Most streets and parking lots drain without being treated into a nearby creek, river, or lake.	60.3%	11.5%	28.2%	1.16 (250)
39. Pet waste should be picked up only as a courtesy to others.	45.0%	51.0%	4.0%	1.53 (335)
40. All fertilizers and chemicals applied to lawns stay within the yard.	8.6%	86.6%	4.9%	1.91 (333)

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41. Habitat loss and impairment due to current urban growth is the greatest cause of wildlife and fish declines in the Wabash River.	52.1%	21.8%	26.1%	1.29 (258)
42. Habitat loss and impairment due to current agricultural practices is the greatest cause of wildlife and fish declines in the Wabash River.	52.6%	15.5%	57.0%	1.23 (237)
43. Agricultural production in the Midwest is contributing to a hypoxic zone (area of low oxygen) that threatens aquatic life in the Gulf of Mexico.	34.4%	8.6%	57.0%	1.20 (150)
44. Areas of grass, trees, and wetlands around streams can 'capture' and store pollutants and soil that erode from agricultural fields.	72.0%	4.9%	23.1%	1.06 (267)
45. Areas of grass, trees, and wetlands around streams can absorb flood waters and reduce flooding damage.	78.2%	7.4%	14.3%	1.09 (299)
46. Underground tiles that drain agricultural fields channel pollutants directly into streams and rivers.	63.3%	8.9%	27.8%	1.12 (252)
47. During periods of heavy rain, sewage and untreated water are released into rivers through combined sewer overflows.	80.3%	5.4%	14.3%	1.06 (300)

The following series of questions relate to your thoughts about the role of the environment. For each of the following, please indicate your level of agreement with each statement by telling us whether you strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree, or strongly disagree. A don't know category is located at the end of the list if you are unsure of your level of agreement.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Don't Know (6)	Mean (n)
48. Laws protecting the environment negatively limit my choices and personal freedom.	2.0%	7.2%	18.4%	48.6%	19.3%	4.6%	3.80 (332)
49. Protecting the environment will threaten jobs for people like me.	1.1%	2.0%	11.7%	52.4%	28.4%	4.3%	4.10 (334)
50. A clean environment provides me with better opportunities for recreation.	47.6%	46.1%	4.0%	1.4%	0%	.9%	1.59 (344)

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51. We don't need to worry much about the environment because future generations will be better able to deal with these problems than we are.	.9%	.3%	4.6%	41.1%	51.7%	1.4%	4.45 (343)
52. The effects of pollution on public health are worse than we realize.	26.7%	44.5%	11.8%	6.0%	2.0%	8.9%	2.03 (317)
53. Pollution generated here harms people all over the earth.	25.6%	43.7%	13.5%	6.6%	1.7%	8.9%	2.07 (317)
54. Claims suggesting that current levels of pollution are changing the earth's climate are exaggerated.	5.4%	14.0%	12.9%	30.9%	26.1%	10.6%	3.65 (312)
55. Due to human impact, thousands of species will become extinct over the next several decades.	24.6%	40.7%	12.9%	7.7%	2.6%	11.5%	2.13 (309)
56. The balance of nature is delicate and easily upset.	29.4%	42.9%	14.4%	7.5%	2.0%	3.7%	2.06 (334)
57. Environmental concerns are an issue for the federal government that are of little importance to my community.	.6%	2.0%	8.6%	45.0%	41.5%	2.3%	4.28 (341)

The following series of questions relate to your attitudes about property rights. For each of the following, please indicate your level of agreement with each statement by telling us whether you strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree, or strongly disagree. A don't know category is located at the end of the list if you are unsure of your level of agreement.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Don't Know (6)	Mean (n)
58. Developers have an obligation to build new houses and commercial facilities because of increasing growth pressures.	1.4%	13.2%	17.2%	41.4%	23.0%	3.7%	3.74 (335)
59. Property owners have the right to convert farmland and other open space to new development along the Wabash River.	3.7%	22.8%	23.1%	33.4%	12.1%	4.9%	3.29 (330)
60. Urban growth and development should be directed in ways that preserve open space.	33.2%	51.3%	10.0%	2.0%	1.4%	2.0%	1.85 (342)
61. The main focus of the county planning department should be to preserve natural resource industries, like farming and forest products.	20.4%	35.3%	22.4%	15.5%	2.3%	4.0%	2.42 (334)
62. County planning efforts negatively affect the rights of private citizens.	5.8%	20.9%	27.2%	29.6%	7.2%	9.3%	3.13 (313)

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The following series of questions relate to specific activities related to the environment. For each of the following, indicate yes, no, or don't know.

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't Know (3)	Mean (n)
63. Are you a member of any group whose main aim is to preserve or protect the environment?	15.6%	83.0%	1.4%	1.84 (342)
64. In the last year, have you given money to an environmental group?	29.5%	67.9%	2.6%	1.70 (340)
65. Have you avoided buying the products of a company because you felt that company was harming the environment?	32.6%	55.9%	11.5%	1.63 (307)
66. Did you vote for a candidate in the last election at least in part because he or she was in favor of strong environmental protection?	32.8%	52.2%	15.1%	1.16 (293)
67. In the last year, have you volunteered for an environmental, conservation, or wildlife protection group?	10.9%	87.9%	1.2%	1.89 (335)
68. If you have a pet that goes outside, do you always pick up your pet's waste? (Leave blank if you do not have a pet or your pet does not go outside)	44.4%	48.5%	7.0%	1.52 (159)
69. Have you had a soil nutrient test on your lawn in the last 3 years?	13.4%	82.7%	3.9%	1.86 (323)
70. Have you applied pesticides to your garden or yard in the last year?	43.8%	52.9%	3.3%	1.55 (322)
71. Have you applied fertilizer to your garden or yard in the last year?	64.3%	34.2%	1.5%	1.35 (331)
72a. Is your home served by a septic system?	32.4%	63.9%	3.6%	1.66 (318)

72b. If yes, when was the last time you had it maintained?(n=71)

Range: 1991-2006

Mean: 2002.51

See Appendix A

73. Where do you wash your car most of the time? (n=323)

4.6% Don't not own/wash a car

19.5% Paved Driveway

8.0% Gravel Driveway

2.5% Lawn

65.0% Commercial car wash

.3% Other (please specify)

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74. List the number of times in the last 6 months you participated in any of the following activities on or along the Wabash River?

Walking trails (n= 30, median= 3.00, maximum= 100)
Biking trails (n= 30, median= 3.00, maximum=30)
Canoeing / kayaking (n=26, median= 1.00, maximum= 25)
Motorboating (n=25, median= 2, maximum= 12)
Fishing (n=34, median= 3.00, maximum=25)
Waterskiing (n=2, median=5, maximum=5)
Swimming (n=7, median= 2, maximum= 3)

See Appendix B

75. List the number of times in the last 6 months you participated in any of the following activities on or along a waterway other than the Wabash River?

Walking trails (n= 119, median=3, maximum= 100)
Biking trails (n=33, median= 2.00, maximum= 30)
Canoeing / kayaking (n= 45, median= 1.00, maximum= 100)
Motorboating (n= 69, median= 3.00, maximum= 80)
Fishing (n=77, median= 3.00, maximum= 100)
Waterskiing (n= 17, median= 1.00, maximum= 30)
Swimming (n= 68, median= 2.00, maximum= 30)

See Appendix C

77. In the past year, did you attend any of the following Wabash centered events? (Check all that apply) (n= 352)

7.1% (25) Dragon Boat Festival
27.3% (96) Taste of Tippecanoe
14.5% (51) Dancing in the Streets
8.5% (30) Jazz and Blues Festival
8.5% (30) West Lafayette Art Fair
2.0% (7) Detrash the Wabash
23.9% (84) Feast of the Hunter's Moon
7.1% (25) Art on the Wabash Fair

78. In the past year, did you visit any of the following recreation areas along the Wabash River? (Check all that apply) (n=352)

56.8% (200) Riehle Plaza
49.4% (174) Pedestrian Bridge
25.3% (89) Tappawingo Park
34.7% (122) Happy Hollow Park
13.4% (47) Lafayette City Golf Course
30.7% (108) Fort Quiatenon
13.9% (49) Ross Hills Park
24.7% (87) Prophetstown State Park

79. Have you ever heard of the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation? (n=330)

62.1% Never heard of them
27.3% Heard of them but don't know what they do
10.6% Heard of them and know what they do

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	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	Neutral (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Don't Know (6)	Mean (n)
80. I am a regular user of the Wabash River.	4.0%	9.7%	22.8%	41.3%	19.5%	2.7%	3.64 (320)
81. I enjoy visiting the Wabash River.	10.9%	45.2%	27.6%	10.6%	4.5%	1.2%	2.52 (326)
82. The Wabash is a very healthy river.	0%	4.5%	12.3%	45.0%	22.2%	15.9%	4.01 (280)
83. I believe the Wabash River will be restored for the benefit of future generations.	8.1%	46.4%	21.0%	6.0%	2.7%	15.9%	2.39 (281)
84. The biggest source of pollution into the Wabash comes from upstream and Tippecanoe county is not a major contributor.	.9%	4.8%	12.0%	39.2%	10.2%	32.2%	3.79 (225)
85. The Wabash River has always been brown.	4.5%	17.0%	5.1%	26.6%	10.7%	36.1%	3.35 (214)
86. As measured by the diversity of fish species present, the water quality in the Wabash is decreasing over time.	7.8%	38.0%	8.7%	8.7%	2.1%	34.6%	2.38 (217)
87. WREC's mission is "To enhance the quality of life in the Wabash River corridor by creating sustainable opportunities to improve health, recreation, education, economic development and environmental management." This mission is compelling / important to me.	15.4%	42.9%	23.3%	4.8%	.6%	13.0%	2.22 (288)
88. The Wabash River is the longest undammed stretch of river East of the Mississippi. This concept is compelling / important to me.	11.4%	33.2%	30.5%	3.3%	.6%	21.0%	2.35 (264)

89. If there was a webpage with up-to-date information about the water quality and flood stage of the Wabash, often would you visit it? (n=323)

29.4% Never

39.9% Less than once a month

24.1% At least once a month

5.9% At least once a week

.6% Daily

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Please answer the following questions about yourself, the information will be used for classification purposes only.

90. In what year were you born? (n=344)

Range: 1900-1984

Mean: 1948.74

See Appendix D

91. What is your gender? (n=345)

64.6% Male

35.4% Female

92. What racial or ethnic group do you most closely identify with?? (n=334)

96.1% White or Caucasian

.6% African American

1.5% Hispanic or Latino

1.5% Asian

.3% Other (list below)

93. What is your highest level of formal education? (n= 330)

2.1% Some high school

27.0% High school graduate or GED

17.3% Some college

7.0% 2 year college

22.4% 4 year college

23.9% Graduate Degree

.3% Other

94. Do you have children under the age of 18 living in your household? (n=345)

24.9% Yes

75.1% No

95. How would you describe your political affiliation? (n=326)

15.3% Strong republican

21.6% Leaning republican

31.0% Neither republican nor democrat (independent or other party)

16.3% Leaning democrat

14.1% Strong democrat

96. How would you describe your political orientation? (n=324)

10.5% Strong conservative

38.0% Somewhat conservative

29.3% Neither conservative nor liberal

15.7% Somewhat liberal

6.5% Strong liberal

97. In your lifetime, how many years have you lived in Tippecanoe County? (n=340)

Range: 1-99

Mean: 34.39

See Appendix E

98. How would you describe the area where you live now? (n= 295)

46.4% In the City of Lafayette

19.3% In the City of West Lafayette

24.4% Suburban area surrounding Lafayette or West Lafayette

1.7% Small Town

4.4% Rural Tippecanoe County

3.7% Don't know

99. What is your zip code? (5 digit postal code) (n=340)

Top 5 (Full Table in Appendix F)

30.0% 47906

29.4% 47905

24.7% 47909

10.0% 47904

1.8% 47920

See Appendix F

100. Do you work in Tippecanoe County or commute to your job elsewhere? (n=340)

62.1% Work in Tippecanoe County

5.0% Commute to employment outside of county

32.9% Not currently employed

101. In your lifetime, how many years have you lived in Indiana? (n= 336)

Range: 1-86

Mean: 45.90

See Appendix G

102. How would you describe the area where you grew up? (n=342)

12.9% Urban or large city

8.2% Suburban or outside of large city

28.4% Medium size city

19.0% Small Town

16.1% Rural

15.5% Don't know

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103. Which of the following best describes the field of your current or most recent occupation? (n=334)

2.4% Agriculture
5.1% High Tech. Industry
10.8% Industrial Manufacturing
15.9% Sales or Service
12.9% University or Higher Ed.
2.1% Student
8.7% Health Care / Social Service
1.5% Homemaker
23.4% Retired

4.2% Unemployed / Seeking Employment
13.2% Other

104. What was your total household income for the last year, before taxes? (n= 321)

9.0% \$0 -- \$19,999
11.8% \$20,000 -- \$29,999
10.3% \$30,000 -- \$39,999
6.5% \$40,000 -- \$49,999
8.4% \$50,000 -- \$59,999
14.0% \$60,000 -- \$74,999
14.6% \$75,000 -- \$99,999
18.1% >\$100,000
7.2% Don't know