



Wabash River Corridor Enhancement Project History

Corridor Enhancement Project History Abstract:

The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) was formed in August, 2004, and it began active operations in July, 2005 when it hired its first Executive Director. WREC's mission is to enhance the quality of life in the Wabash River Corridor by providing sustainable opportunities to improve health, recreation, education, economic development and environmental management. WREC has completed extensive preliminary planning in preparation for beginning the development phase of the corridor enhancement project. WREC has completed an agency strategic plan, and a two phase corridor master plan which developed a corridor master plan for the Lafayette – West Lafayette urban river front and a twenty year corridor master plan for the entire 31 + miles of the Wabash River Corridor in Tippecanoe County. WREC brought in over \$1 million in support of these planning efforts. WREC has also initiated land use and acquisition planning including environmental assessment and remediation work, and along with its partners most significantly - North Central Health Services (NCHS), have acquired eight properties totaling over \$3.8 million dollars in value. WREC has developed long range partnerships at the state and federal levels including the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Working with our Fourth District United States Congressman and the USACE, WREC has completed a three phase Wabash River Hydraulic Study of the Tippecanoe County river section and a Wabash River Reconnaissance Study.

WREC has also begun to address Wabash River water quality issues identified as a top priority in its agency strategic plan and in both corridor master plans, by developing a watershed component to the enhancement project. WREC has hired a watershed coordinator and a specialist and partnered with Purdue University to form a research center - the Living Laboratory on the Wabash (LLOW), to study Wabash River Corridor health. WREC and LLOW have applied for and received over \$4 million in grants, mainly from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management 319 Storm Water Program. These grants have funded the development of a watershed management plan for the Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash River (RGBWR) watershed (a sub - watershed of the Wabash River encompassing mainly Tippecanoe County and parts of surrounding counties), and beginning in 2012 implementation of another planning grant to develop a watershed management plan for the Deer Creek-Sugar Creek Watershed (another sub – watershed of the Wabash River encompassing Tippecanoe County and four other counties to the east and north of Tippecanoe County), and the start to implementation of the RGBWR watershed management plan. WREC continues to work on land use and acquisition planning,

watershed planning and best management practices implementation, along with preliminary planning in transitioning into the development phase of the project.

Wabash River Corridor Enhancement Project History

The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation was formed in August, 2004, and it began active operations in July, 2005 when it hired its first Executive Director. Following is a brief synopsis of WREC's efforts and accomplishments from its formation.

2004

The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) is formed by the cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County, and Purdue University, with formational leadership provided by North Central Health Services (NCHS). North Central Health Services committed to funding WREC's first five years of operations with a five year, \$500,000 operations grant. NCHS also committed to assisting with support for future planning, land acquisition, and development projects.

2005

- 1. WREC receives its 501c3 nonprofit agency status from the IRS.*
- 2. WREC received its first \$100,000 NCHS operations grant.*
- 3. WREC becomes operational when it hires its first Executive Director.*
- 4. WREC initiated its ongoing partnership with Purdue University.*

WREC partnered with the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture to conduct a design study of the Lafayette West Lafayette (LWL) urban corridor. The Senior Urban Design Studio divided into 5 "firms" and worked collaboratively to conduct a resource inventory and analysis of the entire 4.5 urban corridor, and then worked independently as separate firms and developed 5 different design studies for the LWL downtown urban core. Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Kim Wilson led this effort.

- 5. WREC applied for and received a \$10,000 education and outreach grant from Alcoa. Grant funded LA 416 Urban Design Study Project, printing of WREC agency brochure and presentation equipment.*

2006

1. *WREC worked with the Indiana University- Purdue University Center for the Environment and Urban Policy to develop a WREC agency Strategic Plan.*
2. *Began Phase One of a three Phase Wabash River Hydraulic Study. Total project cost - \$100,000.*

WREC worked with Indiana Fourth District, United States Congressman Steve Buyer to obtain \$50,000 in funding from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), through the Planning Assistance to States program (PAS) to fund Phase One of a three phase Wabash River Hydraulic Study to update flood mapping for the Wabash River in Tippecanoe County. WREC applied for and received a \$50,000 matching grant from North Central Health Services to match the 50:50 USACE funding.

3. *WREC partnered with Purdue University to create the Living Laboratory on the Wabash River Research Center.*

WREC further developed its Purdue University partnership by partnering with LA Associate Professor Kim Wilson to apply for a Purdue University, Discovery Park - Center for the Environment \$75,000 Start Up grant to create a multi-disciplinary Research Center within the Center for the Environment – The Living Laboratory on the Wabash River (LLOW). The LLOW start up grant enabled the following efforts to be initiated:

- a. Begin water quality monitoring of the LWL section of the corridor, and also collect existing data from other sources, including the State, to begin to accumulate data to support future research efforts.
- b. Conduct a public survey of Tippecanoe County residents (1,000 surveys were sent with approximately 400 returned) to collect base line data on attitudes towards, and awareness of the Wabash River Corridor. This has been done utilizing graduate students under the direction of LLOW team member, Assistant Professor Linda Prokopy, through the Dept. of Forestry and Natural Resources. Data was analyzed in the summer 2007 from this effort.
- c. Begin the process to develop a community vision for the corridor in preparation for the upcoming Corridor Master Planning process. This community vision process was completed in November, 2006 utilizing graduate students under the direction of LLOW team member, Linda Prokopy, through the Dept. of Forestry and Natural Resources. A summary report of this effort is done, and this report will serve as the initial starting point for the CMP process.
- d. Plan for conducting a series of symposiums to look at various aspects of the river:
 - a. Scientific Study of the Wabash River Corridor
 - b. Wabash River Corridor study as a K-12 educational Component
 - c. Wabash River Corridor and its role in Economic Development

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4. *Completed and submitted the Indiana Department of Transportation application to designate River Road as a State Scenic Byway.*

The application project had been initiated by the Vision 2020 project committee and turned over to WREC upon its formation. The Byway route consists of: Division Road starting at Ross Hills County Park connecting to River Road South, turning north onto SR 231/43 and ending at the I65 Interchange on River Right (running through West Lafayette).

2007

1. *WREC/LLOW conducted a series of symposiums to look at various aspects of the river as a part of the WREC/LLOW startup grant project it received in 2006:*

a. Scientific Study of the Wabash River Corridor.

Review/assess the existing scientific study of the WRC to identify potential gaps in it. This forum was held in the spring of 2006. Scientists from Purdue University, Notre Dame, University, Ball State University, and Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis participated in this forum. The health of the WRC was identified as an area in need of further study, and this issue was selected to be the focus for the LLOW project.

b. Wabash River Corridor study as a K-12 educational Component.

Review/assess the existing, and, or potential for developing and including, WRC educational resources and curriculums in the local K-12 educational programs.

- ### **c. Wabash River Corridor and its role in Economic Development.**
- Discuss the role and significance of Quality of Life (QOL) and Place of Choice (POC) in economic development efforts to attract the bio–life science and high technology sector (B-LS & HT), and focusing on WRC enhancement as the key strategy to improve QOL and create a POC to attract and retain this economic sector in LWL.

WREC and LLOW planned this Symposium to position this issue as an integral part of local/state economic development planning efforts. Locally there was wide spread support for enhancement of the Wabash River Corridor, but the understanding of its importance to the success of current economic development efforts was not as entrenched.

2. *Purdue University Landscape Architecture 326 Class (spring 2007) worked with WREC and the Wabash Avenue Neighborhood Association to conduct a second riverfront design study. This study was focused on the southeast section of the corridor on the Lafayette side of the river in the Wabash Avenue neighborhood.*
3. *WREC partnered with the Purdue University Forestry and Natural Resources Department's 489 - Senior Capstone class (spring 2007), to develop a natural resource management plan for the entire 31 mile Wabash River corridor in Tippecanoe County*
4. *Began the second phase of a three Phase Wabash River Hydraulic Study. Total project cost - \$100,000.*

WREC worked with Indiana Fourth District, United States Congressman Steve Buyer to obtain \$50,000 in funding from the USACE through the PAS program to fund Phase two of a three phase Wabash River Hydraulic Study to update flood mapping for the Wabash River in Tippecanoe County. WREC applied for and received a \$50,000 matching grant from North Central Health Services to match the 50:50 USACE funding.

5. *WREC/LLOW applied for an Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) 319 Storm Water Program grant to develop a watershed management plan for the Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash River water shed (includes most of Tippecanoe County and parts of Warren, Fountain, White, Montgomery and Benton counties)*
6. *WREC partnered with Purdue University, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and various entities from around the state to co-host the first Indiana State River Rally on Purdue University's campus.*
7. *Began fund Raising effort in support of upcoming corridor master planning process.*
8. *WREC distributed an RFQ for selecting a design team/firm for the corridor master planning process.*
9. *The Wabash River Parkway Commission, an existing local Wabash River related organization merged with WREC. The commission became a WREC committee focused on education and outreach activities. It had created and led the annual **Riverfest** festival and continues under WREC to lead this annual event.*

2008

1. *Selected the Corridor Master Plan Phase One Project Consultant Team: Wallace, Roberts and Todd (WRT) - primary firm; HNTB/Engineering; ERA/Economic and Marketing and Economic Development Assessment; and CDF/Environmental Engineering.*
2. *WREC finalized the corridor planning project work scope during a planning charette led by WRT. Corridor planning would consist of two immediate phases – Phase One would develop a master plan for the Lafayette-West Lafayette urban section; Phase Two would develop a master plan for the Tippecanoe County Rural section.*
3. *Completed Phase Two of the Three Phase USACE Wabash River Hydraulic Study.*
4. *WREC worked with local government to amend the Indiana State Law authorizing the collection of an Innkeepers Tax in Tippecanoe County to designate a portion of the tax revenue to be permanently allocated to WREC for use in projects to enhance the Wabash River Corridor.*
5. *Completed fund raising for Phase One of Corridor Master Plan (Lafayette-West Lafayette Urban Section). Total project cost - \$64,000. WREC raised \$664,000 locally or Phase One.*

WREC matched a \$250,000 North Central health Services grant with \$68,000 in local private and public sector grants and \$346,000 in funding from local government (City of Laf. - \$105,000; City of West Laf. - \$50,000.; Tippecanoe County - \$55,000./Wabash River funding & \$136,000./Innkeepers Tax Rev.)

6. *WREC received \$246,000 from the USACE, PAS program to match local funding for Phase Two of the corridor master plan. WREC and the USACE began the process to finalize the USACE's project initiation process and approve WRT to work with the USACE consultant firm, Stantec on the project. Phase Three of the USACE Hydraulic Study would be completed as a part of this project also.*
7. *Completed fund raising for Phase Two of the Corridor Master Plan (Tippecanoe County rural Section). Total Project Cost - \$492,000. WREC raised \$250,000 locally through a North Central Health Services Grant to match \$246,000 in USACE, PAS program funding.*
8. *WREC received a \$749,000 IDEM 319 Storm Water Program grant submitted in 2007 to develop a watershed management plan for the Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash River watershed. The project was planned to start in 2009 upon completion of the IDEM contract process.*

The grant consisted of funding to hire a watershed coordinator, develop a watershed management plan, conduct weekly water quality monitoring, and develop education and outreach programs. Grant breakdown: IDEM - \$400,000/ Local fiscal and in-kind - \$349,000. Purdue University conducted the water quality monitoring program, and the watershed coordinator over saw the entire grant project and would write the plan.

9. *Received INDOT approval for the State Scenic Byway designation for River Road In Tippecanoe County/West Lafayette.*
10. *WREC began working with the Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission to create urban and rural riverfront zone districts.*
11. *WREC partner, North Central Health Services (NCHS) purchased a key property in the Wabash Avenue neighborhood for \$1.5 million dollars – the former boxboard paper mill site. The 17 acre site was cleared and received an IDEM Letter of No Further Action required for the site also as a part of NCHS's purchase. This is a one of only two sites along the urban riverfront with developable land out of the 100 year flood plain but still adjacent to the river.*

2009

1. *WREC purchased two voyager canoes for use at Riverfest and to develop a river tour program.*
2. *WREC worked with 4th District U.S. Congressman Steve Buyer and the USACE to receive authorization to have the USACE conduct a Wabash River Reconnaissance Study (RS). Purpose of the study is to develop a USACE corridor master plan utilizing local and all existing state and federal studies and information. The RS would also determine federal interest for participating in future corridor projects.*
3. *WREC Partnered with Ball State University (BSU) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct a pilot Wabash River Bottom Mapping project. The goal was to eventually map the entire Wabash River to monitor bottom contour changes and also assess/study its correlation to fish community research.*
4. *Began the IDEM 319 Grant Project (awarded in 2008), to develop a watershed management plan for the Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash River (RGBWR). Sara Peel was hired as the Watershed Coordinator.*
5. *Completed USACE PAS program contractual process, and began Phase Two of the Corridor Master Plan process (Tippecanoe County Rural Section) and Phase Three of the Wabash River Hydraulic Study.*
6. *WREC held its first annual Watershed water testing blitz in September. 180 sites tested throughout water shed project area by over two hundred volunteers.*

7. *WREC continued Phase One of the Corridor Master Plan Process for the LWL urban section.*

2010

1. *WREC completed Phase One Corridor Master Plan for the LWL urban section.*
2. *WREC and USACE completed Phase Two Corridor Master Plan for the Tippecanoe County Rural section.*
3. *USACE began the Wabash River Reconnaissance Study.*
4. *WREC purchased 500 North 3rd Street, Lafayette Property through a \$150,000 grant from North Central Health Service. The site was identified in the CMP as the location for a proposed Brown Street bike/pedestrian bridge landing in Lafayette. Completed Phase One environmental assessment work as a part of the project. Potential underground storage tank (UST) was identified for future removal as a part of the project.*
5. *WREC completed Phase two environmental assessment work for 500 North 3rd Street Property and completed site remediation following IDEM regulations for UST removal. WREC received a final letter of no further action required from IDEM following the remediation project.*
6. *WREC purchased 1 South Street, former Midwest Rental site through a \$300,000 NCHS grant, and completed Phase one environmental assessment work as a part of the project. Environmental assessment identified the need for phase two assessment work to be done in preparation for a future EPA remediation grant.*
7. *WREC developed a land use and acquisition policy and corresponding planning documents in follow up to the phase one and two corridor master planning efforts.*
8. *WREC/LLOW applied for an IDEM 319 program grant to begin implementing the RGBWR watershed management plan and continue water quality monitoring and education and outreach work.*
9. *WREC/LLOW applied for an IDEM 319 grant project gap grant to fund the watershed project between the RGBWR planning grant and the RGBWR Implementation Grant and the DC-SC Planning Grant.*
10. *WREC/LLOW applied for an IDEM 319 program grant to develop a watershed management plan for the Deer Creek-sugar Creek watershed of the Wabash River watershed.*
11. *WREC applied for, and received a \$10,000 Audubon Society Environmental Fellow grant for the Watershed Program.*

12. *WREC applied for an Indiana American Water Company Environmental grant project grant for the Water Sampling Blitz Event.*
13. *WREC expanded the watershed water testing blitz event into a bi-annual event in the spring and fall of each year.*
14. *WREC worked with local government to amend the Indiana State law authorizing the collection of an Innkeepers Tax in Tippecanoe County that designates a portion of the tax revenue to be permanently allocated to WREC for use in projects to enhance the Wabash River Corridor, to now authorize it to fund agency operations also. This new authorization was to take effect with the start of the upcoming state fiscal year in July, 2011.*
15. *WREC applied for and did not receive an IN Dept. of Transportation grant to develop a Scenic Byway Management Plan.*

2011

1. *USACE completed the Wabash River Reconnaissance Study.*
2. *WREC completed the IDEM 319 grant project to develop a watershed management plan for the Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash River. The plan was approved by USEPA and IDEM.*
3. *WREC/LLOW was awarded the IDEM 319 program grant (applied for in 2010) to begin implementing the RGBWR watershed management plan and continue water quality monitoring and education and outreach work.*
4. *WREC/LLOW was awarded an \$200K IDEM 319 grant project gap grant (applied for in 2010).*
5. *WREC purchased the property located at 1702-1708 North 9th Street through a \$550,000 North Central Health Services grant. The property was identified in the corridor master plan process as a key property for development as a site for a corridor gateway entrance to the corridor in the northern reach of the urban corridor. (Closing – January, 2012)*
6. *WREC applied for two United States EPA remediation program grants to clean up the former Midwest Rental property located at One South Street in Lafayette. Grant award notification is tentatively set for the spring of 2012. There will be 90 grants awarded in the program nationwide.*
7. *WREC completed Phase One and Two Environmental Assessment work for its One South St. property Lafayette in preparation for applying for future remediation grants.*

8. *WREC applied for and received a \$62,367 IN dept. of Transportation grant to develop a Management Plan for the River Road State Scenic Byway. A management plan is a requirement to be eligible to apply for Byway development grants. The project began in 2012, and it will completed in 2013. Grant: \$50K – INDOT; \$12,367 – Local Match. WREC will seek additional grants, and or use Innkeepers Tax Revenue funds for the local match.*

2012

1. *WREC closed on the acquisition of 1702-1708 North 9th Street through a \$550,000 North Central Health Services grant. The property was identified in the Corridor Master Plan process as a key property for development as a site for a corridor gateway entrance to the corridor in the northern reach of the urban corridor.*
2. *WREC was not awarded the two USEPA environmental cleanup grants for its One South Street, Lafayette property. During this grant process it learned of another grant opportunity for the same cleanup project offered by the IN State Office for Rural and Community Affairs (OCRA) and the IN Brownfield Program (IBP).*
3. *WREC partnered with Tippecanoe County and the City of Lafayette to apply for and receive a \$550K environmental cleanup grant for its One South Street property through the OCRA/IBP Joint Grant Program in the summer of 2012.*
4. *WREC is developing a program to identify potential property acquisition opportunities along North River Road - as part of its existing Land Use and Acquisition Plan. WREC has Identified four additional North River Road properties that are available and it is researching acquisition options.*
5. *WREC acquired four residential properties along North River Road, West Lafayette in accordance with the Corridor Master Plan goal to construct a looped trail system along both sides of the river. (2160, 2580, 2630, and 3000 North River Road)*
6. *WREC acquired a 106 acre property along South River Road in accordance with the Corridor Master Plan goal to construct a trail system along the river corridor. WREC received a \$700K NCHS grant to purchase the property.*
7. *WREC began its four year Deer Creek-Sugar Creek Watershed Management Plan Development Project. A Watershed Specialist was hired through the grant to oversee the project. This project was a partnership with the Carroll Co. SWCD.*
8. *WREC applied for and received a \$12,367 National Realtors Association Smart Growth Action Grant to fund the local match for the River Road Scenic Byway grant to develop The Byway's initial management plan. The Greater Lafayette Realtors' Association will assist WREC throughout the planning project.*

9. *WREC began the Scenic Byway Management Plan Development project in October. The project is scheduled to be completed in November, 2013. Storrow Kinsella Associates of Indianapolis was hired to lead the project. Tippecanoe County is serving as the local government sponsor for the project.*
10. *WREC was contacted By the IN Dept. of Environmental Management (IDEM) with a Request to submit an additional RGBWR Implementation grant on WREC's behalf to the USEPA for approximately \$223K. The funds would become available in 2013.*
11. *WREC applied to IDEM for the regular 2012 319 program grant for another RGBWR Implementation grant totaling approximately \$1.12 million for a three year project term. The grant award will be announced in late 2013 with funds available in 2014 through 2016*
12. *WREC brought a Part Time Bookkeeper position online in October, 2012 to assist in upgrading the agency's fiscal management capability in relation to the multiple grants that WREC is managing.*

2013

1. *WREC applied for and received NCHS grants totaling \$654,500. to acquire 7 additional properties along North River Road. Properties are located at 1552, 2120, 2560, 2650, 2700, and 3232 North River Road, West Lafayette. A seventh property does not have a formal address but is situated in this same area of the road corridor as the above properties.*
2. *WREC acquired 1552, 2560, 2650, 2700 and 3232 North River Road.*
3. *WREC completed the planning/plan development phases of the Scenic Byway Management Plan Development Project in December, 2013.*
4. *WREC began the One South Street Cleanup Project in December, 2013.*
5. *WREC received the IDEM 319 program Implementation grant for the RGBWR totaling approximately \$1.12 million for a three year project term - 2014 through 2016.*
6. *WREC amended its Bylaws, and added a Board elected, Community at Large Position, changed the Wabash River Parkway Commission (WRPC) Ex officio designated member to being a Board elected Community at large member. The WRPC had dissolved in 2007, and the sitting Board member had been retained until he passed away in 2012.*

2014

1. *WREC completed the Scenic Byway Management Plan Publication Phase of the Project to finish the project.*

2. *WREC applied for and received an \$885K NCHS grant to acquire 2010 North River Road, 2640 N River Road (Riverfront Section), 2140 N River Road (Riverfront Section) and in Lafayette: 2000 N. 9th St., 1620 Canal Road, and 34 Sanford St.*
3. *WREC purchased two properties on North River Road located at 2010 N River Road - funded through its 2014 NCHS grant, and 2120 North River Road funded through its 2013 NCHS grant. The purchase of 2120 N River Road completed the 2013 NCHS grant. These acquisitions are part of WREC's ongoing project to form a unified corridor along North River Road from Mascouten Park to Tecumseh Trails Park in support of Corridor Master Plan goals to develop a trail along the road and complete river bank stabilization improvements as needed. WREC is continuing to work to acquire properties identified in its 2014 NCHS grant.*
4. *WREC completed its \$550K Joint IN Office of Community and Rural Affairs/IN Brownfields Program grant to cleanup One South St., Lafayette.*
5. *WREC completed the selection process to hire a consultant to lead the effort to update the North Reach Section (including a Re-Use Study for the former Municipal Golf course) of its Two Cities, One River Urban River Front Plan for Lafayette – West Lafayette. The contract will be signed and the project begun once funding is secured for the project. The project budget is \$275K.*
6. *WREC secured commitments to fund the North Reach Section Update Project as follows:*
 - *NCHS Grant* - *\$135K*
 - *WREC* - *\$ 35K*
 - *City of Lafayette* - *\$ 30K*
 - *City of W. Lafayette* - *\$ 30K*
 - *Tippecanoe County* - *\$ 30K*
 - *National Realtors Association* - *\$ 15K (NAR Smart Growth Action Grant)*

The project is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2015.

7. *WREC applied for but did not receive an implementation grant for the Deer Creek- Sugar Creek Watershed Project.*

2015

1. *WREC began the Schematic Design and Engineering and North Reach Update Planning Project in May with an anticipated completion date in 2016.*
2. *WREC secured an NCHS Planning grant for \$673,150.00 matched with \$203,000.00 in local funds to complete schematic design and engineering planning for the Central Reach of the Two Cities, One River Master Plan, and take planning all of the way through to design, development and construction for one Reach element – the Riverside Promenade. Local match:*

- City of Lafayette	\$50,000.00
- Tippecanoe County	\$30,000.00
- City of West Lafayette	\$50,000.00
- WREC	\$73,000.00

3. WREC completed the selection process to hire the planning firm of MKSK to lead the Central Reach Planning Project, and began the Central Reach Planning Project with an anticipated completion date in 2016.

4. WREC partnered with the Cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County to apply for a development grant from NCHS to construct the Riverside Promenade. The grant request was for \$2,224,809.00 with the City of Lafayette providing the local match of \$600,000.00.

5. WREC purchased 426 Brown St., West Lafayette with a \$573,925 NCHS Land Acquisition grant.

6. WREC purchased 1500 Canal Road, Lafayette, and 650 Marion Street, Lafayette with a \$742,700.00 NCHS Land Acquisition grant.

7. WREC continued to implement the Region of the Great Bend Watershed Management Plan. The project will conclude on December 8, 2016. WREC applied for another IDEM 319 grant to continue to implement the Region of the Great Bend Watershed Management Plan for the period of December 9, 2016 – December, 2018.

8. WREC continued to implement the Deer Creek – Sugar Creek Watershed Management Plan in partnership with Carroll County Soil and Water Conservation District and working with the SWCD's of Cass, Miami, and Howard counties. The project will conclude on January 30, 2016.

2016

1. WREC received a \$2,224,809.00 NCHS Development grant to construct the Riverside Promenade, and the project began in November, 2016.

2. WREC completed the North Reach Schematic Design and Engineering and Update Planning Project.

3. WREC completed the Central Reach Schematic Design and Engineering Planning Project.

4. WREC was awarded an IDEM 319 grant to continue to implement the Region of the Great Bend Watershed Management Plan. The grant term will begin in December, 2016 and run approximately through December, 2018.

5. The IDEM 319 grant to develop a Watershed Management Plan for the Deer Creek-Sugar Creek watershed was completed – January 30.

6. WREC retained a fiscal management consultant to plan and implement restructuring of WREC's accounting system as recommended in its FY2015 Audit Report. Work included adapting its Quick Books program to more effectively track WREC's fiscal operations, developing an agency accounting manual, a personnel manual, and related individual agency policies as recommended by the consultant.

- 7. WREC accepted a property donation from NICHES Land Trust. The property is located on North River Road (former Wright Nature Preserve).*
- 8. A Sr. Engineering Student Group from Rose Hulman completed an engineering/design project to design the proposed Canal Interpretive Feature identified in the South Reach section of the Two Cities, One River Master Plan for the Lafayette-West Lafayette Urban River Corridor.*
- 9. WREC hosted a Senior Intern from the Purdue University School for Public Health.*
- 10. WREC Watershed program staff collaborated with Purdue University Hydrology researchers to publish two research papers based on research coming from WREC programs: “Understanding Urban-Suburban Adoption and Maintenance of Rain Barrels: Journal of Landscape and Urban Planning”. “The Wabash Sampling Blitz: A Study on the Effectiveness of Citizen Science: Citizen Science: Theory and Practice”.*
- 11. Cooperated with City of Lafayette – Lafayette Renew Dept. on the planning and design of the new Greenbush CSO Project located in the North Reach adjacent to Marion Street to incorporate the CSO Project into the North Reach Plan of the Two Cities, One River - Master Plan for the Lafayette-West Lafayette Urban River Corridor.*
- 12. WREC received an award from the Hoosier Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society for significant and positive contributions towards improving Wabash River water quality through its watershed program.*
- 13. WREC funded the entire salary of its PT Resource Specialist position. The position had, previously been funded in part through the IDEM 319 grant program.*

2017

- 1. WREC purchased 2060, 3030, 3301 NRR properties, funded through two NCHS grants totaling approximately: \$519,110.*
- 2. WREC applied for IDEM 319 Grant totaling \$507,250.(local match and grant funding).*
- 3. WREC filled its open PT Bookkeeper position. The position requirements were upgraded to reflect the growing complexity in WREC’s fiscal management area.*
- 4. WREC hired a new Watershed Coordinator, Shannon Stanis to fill its open Watershed Coordinator position.*
- 5. Riverside Promenade construction project continued.*
- 6. WREC completed the restructuring of the agency’s fiscal management consisting of significant upgrading of its Quick Books accounting program, development of an agency accounting policy manual, and an agency personnel manual.*
- 7. Lafayette Renew continued its project to construct the Greenbush CSO Separation Tank Construction project with WREC advising the project leadership to assure the project aligned with North Reach master planning goals.*

2018

- 1. Riverside Promenade construction project continued. Structural engineering design issues were identified resulting in a third party review process being initiated to completely reassess the structural engineering design of the facility. WJE, a forensic engineering firm from Chicago was retained to conduct the review.*
- 2. NCHS donated two corridor properties to WREC. Properties donated were: 906 Sycamore St. and 40 Chestnut St in Lafayette – Wabash Avenue Neighborhood.*
- 3. Lafayette Renew continued the Greenbush CSO Tank Construction Project.*
- 4. Lafayette Renew initiated planning for a new sewer line and partnered with WREC to utilize WREC's 40 Chestnut St. property for the line alignment.*
- 5. Riverfest expanded to encompass both sides of the river with all day live music, sand volleyball, and outdoor adventure activities (Zip Line and Climbing Wall). Attendance increased to approximately 10,000.*
- 6. IDEM contacted WREC to increase the cost share funding by \$80,000 due to extra funding becoming available in IDEM's 319 program. IDEM extended WREC's current 3219 grant to enable WREC to utilize the funds in its cost share program in 2019.*
- 7. WREC was awarded a 319 grant for the years 2019-2020.*
- 8. WREC hired IWM to conduct a \$44K, limited Phase II Environmental Assessment Study on its 40 Chestnut St. property. The property is known to be contaminated due to its history as a paper mill and previous IDEM and EPA reports and associated environmental assessment work done including a phase I environmental assessment WREC had completed during the acquisition process when NCHS donated the property to WREC in 2018.*

2019

- 1. Lafayette Renew completed the Greenbush CSO Tank Construction Project. This project was coordinated with WREC's plans for the North Reach.*
- 2. Lafayette Renew finalized planning and constructed of a new sewer line and partnered with WREC to utilize WREC's 40 Chestnut St. property for the sewer line alignment.*
- 3. WREC completed the extended 319 grant (2016-2019).*
- 4. WREC began year one of its current 319 grant and applied for the follow up 319 grant.*
- 5. WREC applied for a follow up EPA/IDEM 319 NPS Implementation Grant for the Region of the Great Bend watershed. IDEM approved the grant and submitted it to EPA for formal award. Grant award notification will occur in 2020. The grant will fund the period 2021-23.*
- 6. WREC applied for and received a \$5,000 Tipmont grant to fund its Cost Share Rain barrel Program*

7. WREC began a new partnership with the Tippecanoe County Solid Waste District to combine each agency's part-time staff position into one full-time position based with WREC and responsible for duties within both entities' missions. The partnership enables both agencies to retain a higher caliber of employee through hiring a full-time employee vs a part-time staff person.

8. WREC received a \$35 thousand Wabash Heartland Innovation Network (WHIN) grant to conduct a Wabash River Greenway (WRG) Corridor Master Plan - Planning to Plan Project with the goal being to create a WRG through the WHIN region along the five, WHIN river corridor counties. WREC proposed a two-step planning process to develop the WRG corridor master plan:

A. Planning to Plan Project. Project would prepare and organize the five, river corridor counties for the proposed corridor master plan development project.

B. Corridor Master Plan, Development Project. Project would develop a Wabash River Greenway corridor master plan for the five WHIN river corridor counties. The greenway would extend 90 miles along the river when finished.

9. WREC completed the Planning to Plan Project to prepare for a potential, future WHIN funded grant project to develop a Wabash River Greenway corridor master plan.

10. WREC Applied for a \$200K EPA Environmental Assessment Grant for WREC's property at 40 Chestnut St. (former 15a Paper Mill site)(Dec.3); Grant award notification – May/June, 2020.

11. WREC applied for and received a \$5,000 Tipmont grant to fund invasive plant removal from its properties.

12. WREC applied to, and was accepted ,to have its 40 Chestnut St. Property placed in the EPA/IDEM/IN Brownfields Program 128a Environmental Assessment Program. The program will fund and manage site specific and targeted environmental assessment work on the property. A \$21K limited assessment study was completed focusing on the proposed locations for a Lafayette Renew forced main sewer and the area of a former waste lagoon connected to the former paper mill operations on the site.

2020

1. WREC applied for and received three NCHS grants focused on the regional Wabash River Greenway corridor project defined in the 2019 WHIN Planning to Plan Grant Project (2019 -#6 and #7)

A. Williamsport Falls - Wabash River Greenway Connector Trail Site Survey Project – (\$18,550). WREC also received a matching grant from the Warren County Community Foundation to match the NCHS grant. NCHS Grant- \$13,550; WCCF Grant - \$5,000. The project began in the Spring of 2020, with completion estimated for spring of 2012

B. Complete Design and Engineering for the Wabash River Greenway Section of the Covington Circle Trail – (\$128,350). WREC also received a matching grant from the Western Indiana Community Foundation to match the NCHS grant. NCHS grant - \$78,350; WICF - \$50,000. WREC is partnering with the Western IN Community Foundation, which is directly managing the project. Completion of the project is contingent upon completion of land acquisition.

C. Wabash River Greenway (WRG) Corridor Master Plan(CMP) Development Project – (\$1,300,000).

The NCHS grant matches a WHIN grant. NCHS Grant - \$774,940; WHIN Grant - \$1,000,000. The WHIN Grant is allocated as follows: \$525,060 – WRG CMP Development Project; \$474,940 to match a WRG Pilot Project to extend the Panhandle Trail (PHT) (Pulaski/Cass counties) to connect to the WRG at the PHT south end, and to Tippecanoe River State Park at the PHT north end. The Project began in June, 2020, with completion projected to be in November, 2021.

2. WREC applied for and received a \$1million WHIN grant to develop a Wabash River Greenway Corridor Master Plan and provide a match to another grant for a WRG Pilot Project – The Panhandle Trail Extension Project. Projects funded with the WHIN grant are: WRG CMP Development Project - \$1,300,000, with \$525,060 from WHIN and matched with \$774,940 from NCHS (See 20201C above). The remaining \$474,940 from WHIN will match an IDNR Next Level Trails grant to extend the Panhandle Trail (PHT) (Pulaski/Cass counties) to connect to the WRG at the PHT south end, and to Tippecanoe River State Park at the PHT north end. The Panhandle Trail Extension Pilot Project – 2,374,700., is funded with \$474,940 WHIN grant; \$1,869,760 NLT grant; and a \$30,000 Pulaski Co. Community Foundation Grant. The Panhandle Trail Extension Project will apply for the IDNR Next Level Trails grant in 2020.

3. WREC was notified by EPA Area V that it did not receive a \$200K Site Specific Environmental assessment Grant for WREC's 40 Chestnut St. property. EPA Grant staff enthusiastically complimented WREC's project and application, noting WREC had received 100% of the point available for two of the three sections of the application, and only missed 2-4 points available for the third section. They strongly encourage WREC to apply to have the project and the 40 Chestnut St. property accepted into the EPA funded and managed Targeted Brownfields Assessment program (TBA). TBA conducts limited assessment projects on sites EPA prioritizes for assessment and future cleanup.

4. WREC was allocated a second EPA/IDEM/IN Brownfields Program 128a Environmental Assessment project for its 40 Chestnut St. property. The \$36K assessment project conducted follow up assessment work based on 2018-19 assessment reports.

5. WREC submitted a limited assessment project proposal for its 40 Chestnut St. property to the EPA TBA Program, and it was accepted. A \$60K assessment project was completed in the Fall of 2020, with the final report due in early 2021.