

TWO CITIES, ONE RIVER



A Project of
The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
Funded in part by North Central Health Services

Master Plan for the Wabash River Urban Corridor

City of Lafayette, City of West Lafayette

VISION

Two Cities, One River, is not just an expression of our two cities' desire to connect to the river, but also a vision of the future where the River is transformed into a healthy, beautiful centerpiece of a whole, interconnected community.

This vision informed the following conceptual plan to enhance the urban corridor over the next 20 years as resources and opportunities arise. The plan sets forth comprehensive enhancements for the Wabash River corridor as well as short term priority projects.

While the residents of the region and WREC are sensitive to current financial challenges, river enhancement is viewed as an essential investment in making the region more economically competitive. Building on the river's beauty, the plan seeks to restore a healthy river ecosystem and create recreation and related amenities to create a unique quality of life and make the region a place of choice—especially for attracting and retaining employees in the high technology and bio-life sciences sectors.

GOALS

During the early stages of community outreach and input, the community identified 5 widely supported goals that guided development of the plan. Each plan recommendation is framed in support of these goals and expresses a desire for an environmentally and economically responsible approach to effecting change along the Wabash.

- **Goal 1: Access** from the cities to the river, and create a healthy balance.
- **Goal 2: Cultivate** healthy ecosystems.
- **Goal 3: Engage** the whole community.
- **Goal 4: Connect** the cities to each other.
- **Goal 5: Elevate** the area to a sustainable place of choice.

Funded by North Central Health Services, Tippecanoe County, City of Lafayette, City of West Lafayette, Alcoa Foundation, The Community Foundation of Lafayette, Duke Energy Foundation, Tippecanoe County Park & Recreation Foundation, West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Foundation, Lafayette Urban Enterprise Association, Purdue Research Foundation, Caterpillar, and Lilly Tippecanoe Laboratories.

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SUSTAINABLE, INTEGRATED PLANNING

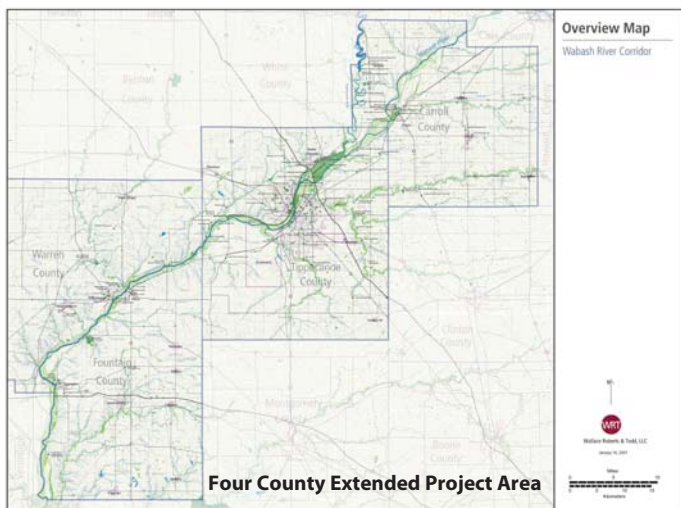
The broad experience and multi-jurisdictional perspective of the WREC board and staff led them to recognize the importance of taking a comprehensive approach to understanding the conditions and opportunities of the region. Therefore, WREC undertook development of a set of plans at the different scales necessary to address inter-related issues of the cities, county, and region. This plan, Two Cities, One River, for the urban reach of the Wabash within Tippecanoe County is one of that set, which also includes:

Master Plan for the Wabash River Greenway
Addresses public access and land management along the entire length of the Wabash River in Tippecanoe County and calls for a creation of a Wabash River greenway.

The Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash River Watershed Management Plan
Targets water quality improvement and education within the Wabash River watershed encompassing much of Tippecanoe County and portions of surrounding counties. This effort is being done in conjunction with Purdue University's Living Laboratories on the Wabash, an interdisciplinary research center.

Collectively, the plans call for coordinated action that better manages and enhances the resources of the watershed, the cities, the river, and each river corridor site.

WREC's strategic plan includes a long-range goal of extending the project into adjacent Warren, Fountain, and Carroll counties. A multi-county extension of the project would require corresponding additions to project leadership and changes in organizational structure. With these changes, further corridor enhancements in those counties could be undertaken.

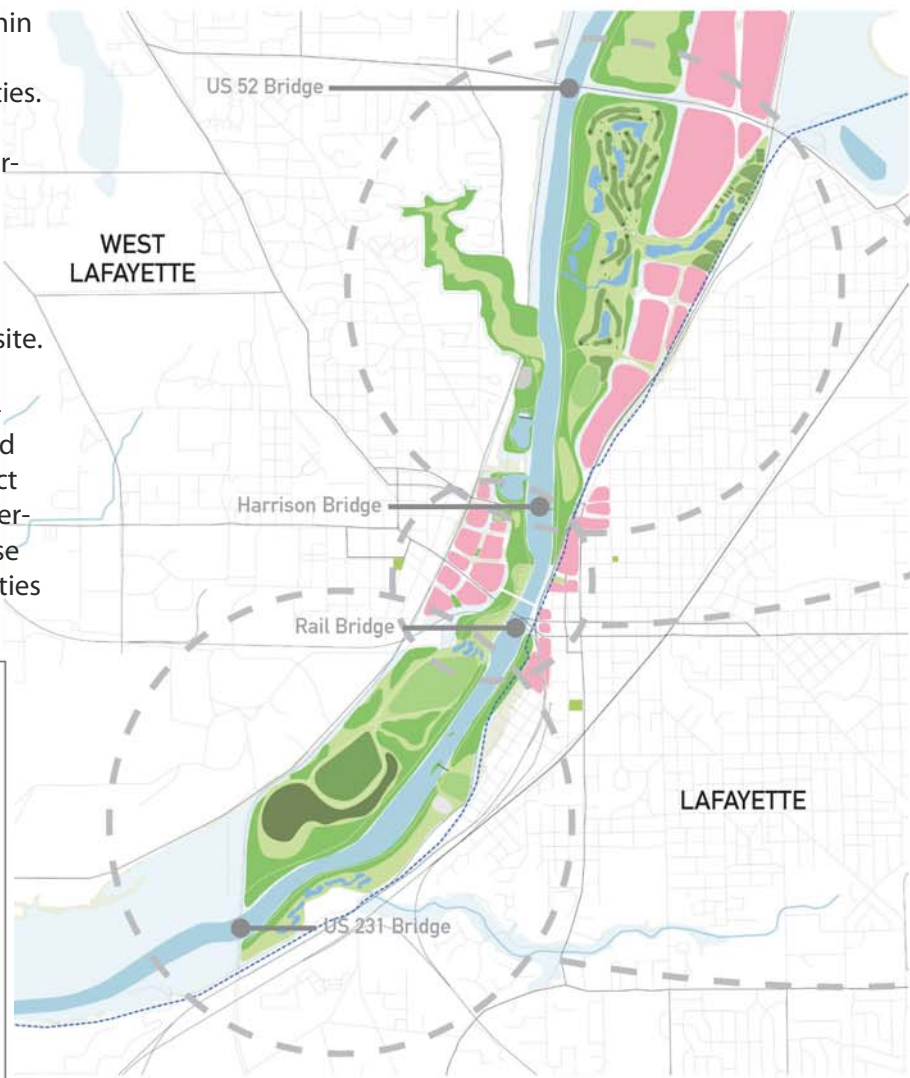


PLAN PRIORITIES

Through public meetings, surveys, and interviews, the community indicated a preference for projects that lie at the heart of the urban section for the first phases of work. They expressed a desire to reconnect Lafayette and West Lafayette by repairing and, literally and figuratively, bridging the fabric of central city development on both sides of the river.

PLAN REACHES

This plan articulates three reaches along the urban section of the Lafayette/West Lafayette stretch of the Wabash River—the Northern Reach, the Central Reach, and the Southern Reach. The Two Cities, One River vision is carried through in recommendations of the plan by reach, offering several significant projects within each of these reaches and community preferences reinforcing the vision by giving priority to those projects that serve to connect.



THE NORTHERN REACH – US 52 BRIDGE TO HARRISON BRIDGE

The Northern Reach includes significant recreational resources, of great value to the region but still underdeveloped. In several key areas, land use does not capitalize on the value of its proximity to well-maintained parkland. The plan seeks to create more optimal relationships between public and private investment.

The shape of the river bank in the Northern Reach is highly dynamic, undermining existing pathways and preventing ecological and recreational investments in the lowest parts of the floodplain. Over the long term, the Northern Reach presents great opportunity for ecological, educational, and recreational enhancements as well as major investments in neighborhood development, allowing the urban core of the region to capture more of its appropriate share of future development.



THE CENTRAL REACH – HARRISON BRIDGE TO RAIL BRIDGE

The Central Reach includes the civic cores of Lafayette and West Lafayette and their important assets. The first opportunities to enhance the identity of this region are here, in the heart of the community. Two Cities, One River expresses the sense of connection and shared identity the residents on both sides aspire to.

There are enormous opportunities to improve the relationship of the civic cores to the riverfront, the connectivity between the two cities, and the benefits they offer one another. New riverfront development, world class design for the riverfront open spaces, and critical new pedestrian connections across the river are among the opportunities to enhance the economies and quality of life in both cities.



THE SOUTHERN REACH – RAIL BRIDGE TO US 231 BRIDGE

This reach offers many potential dramatic enhancements grown from the rich historic roots of Lafayette and West Lafayette. Achieving those dramatic opportunities will require a long view—and appreciation for the extensive current uses and future interim uses the area offers.

The Southern Reach includes key resources: the historic Wabash Avenue neighborhood, Shamrock Park, and waterfront properties newly acquired for enhancement by WREC. As with the other reaches, there is great potential for interpretation of historical features such as the canal trace and development and park activities. The Southern Reach also brings opportunities for a full spectrum of community enhancing investments—ecological restoration, environmental education, and recreation.



REACH RECOMMENDATIONS

Highlights of recommended public and private sector investments for each Reach are outlined below and illustrated in the aerial views. The public sector investments of Connections and Open Space are planned to leverage the private investments of Development.

NORTHERN REACH

Connections

- US 52 Bridge Pedestrian Enhancements
- New Mascouten Pedestrian Bridge
- Harrison Bridge Pedestrian Enhancements
- New Pedestrian Bridge Over Railroad
- Scenic Byway Enhancement (all three Reaches)

Open Space

- New Boat Basins
- Happy Hollow & Mascouten Parks Enhancements
- Golf Course & Recreation Enhancements
- New Kids Zone & Overlook Park
- New Signature Park

Development

- North 9th Street Corridor/ Green City Development

CENTRAL REACH

Connections

- New Brown Street Pedestrian Bridge
- Enhance Myers Bridge & New Riverside Promenade
- SR 26 Bridges Pedestrian Enhancements
- Rail Bridge Pedestrian Enhancements

Open Space

- Tapawingo Park Enhancement & Expansion
- Lafayette Landing Park

Development

- West Lafayette Redevelopment
- Lafayette Downtown Redevelopment
- Rhiele Plaza Redevelopment

SOUTHERN REACH

Connections

- Rail Bridge Pedestrian Enhancements
- US 231 Bridge Pedestrian Enhancements
- Trails; New, Extension of Wabash River Heritage Trail (all three Reaches)

Open Space

- Canal Trace Park
- Water as Resource Park Element
- Environmental Park
- Great Lawn
- Living Laboratory on the Wabash

Development

- Residential Mixed Use



Northern Reach



Central Reach



Southern Reach

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