



WREC Wire

April 2021

The Watershed is hiring!

The Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality (TCPWQ) is hiring a stormwater educator. This position designs and delivers educational programs with a focus on adult outreach. WREC is lucky to partner with TCPWQ on many of our events. The stormwater educator position is a valuable partner in the watershed group. If you (or someone you know) are passionate about our waterways, please apply and spread the word about this employment opportunity.

The position is posted through the City of Lafayette on their site: <http://www.lafayette.in.gov/employment/>
Application deadline April 14, 2021 at 4:30pm

Indiana's Wetlands Still need your help!

State Senate Bill 389 would repeal Indiana's Isolated Wetland Law. This bill has already passed in the senate and will be voted on by the House Environmental Affairs Committee on Monday April 5, 2021. If passed, it removes protections for these important state regulated wetlands, including 80% of Indiana's wetlands. Amendments 11 and 12 do not help, they would still drastically reduce wetland protection. Please contact your State Representative and urge them to vote No on SB 389.

You can also voice your opposition to SB 389 and Amendments 11 and 12 to these House leaders:

- Chairman Doug Gutwein, h16@iga.in.gov
- Indiana House Speaker Tod Huston, h37@iga.in.gov
- Representative Matt Lehman, h79@iga.in.gov (House Majority Floor Leader, i.e. #2 in the House, and bill sponsor)

Wetlands are critical ecosystems that need our support. Isolated wetlands absorb large quantities of water, reduce flooding, purify water and air, and provide wildlife habitat. If you like clean air and water, you like wetlands! Water connects us all, and taking care of our environment is taking care of each other!

The Hoosier Environmental Council put together a "Myth Busters" document that addresses many false claims about the bill. Check it out here: tinyurl.com/SB389Mythbusting

The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation is one of many agencies that have formally expressed opposition to this bill to our state leaders. Hearing from constituents like you makes the message even more powerful.

[Find your Rep here](#)

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. Thanks to a generous grant from Tipmont Envirowatts, we have discounted rain barrels kits available for \$25. You can purchase one through the City of Lafayette and the City of West Lafayette. Grant funds are limited and expected to run out soon. Full price kits will be available once the grant expires.

[More About Rain Barrels](#)

E-Waste Day
Saturday April 3, 2021
8am-2pm*
1449 Veterans Memorial Parkway
***Paper shredding offered from 10am-2pm**

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

Spring Wabash Sampling Blitz

April 9 & 10, 2021
9am-5pm*
Registrations closes end of day April 2
***must pick up supplies by 3pm**

We have extended the Spring Wabash sampling blitz to two all day sampling events to make social distancing easy. All supplies will be set out for a contactless pick up/drop off. Sign up with someone in your contact pod to spend a few hours exploring the watershed and sampling streams. No experience is required! During this event, we assigned you 4 streams to visit that drains to the Wabash (No volunteers sample the Wabash itself!). We give you all the directions, instructions, and supplies you need. At each stream you will measure the temperature and clarity of the water and test for nutrients and pH. All the while you learn about how each of these impact water quality and how all our streams are connected in the watershed. This data helps our community understand the health of our waterways!

Learn More & Register here



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

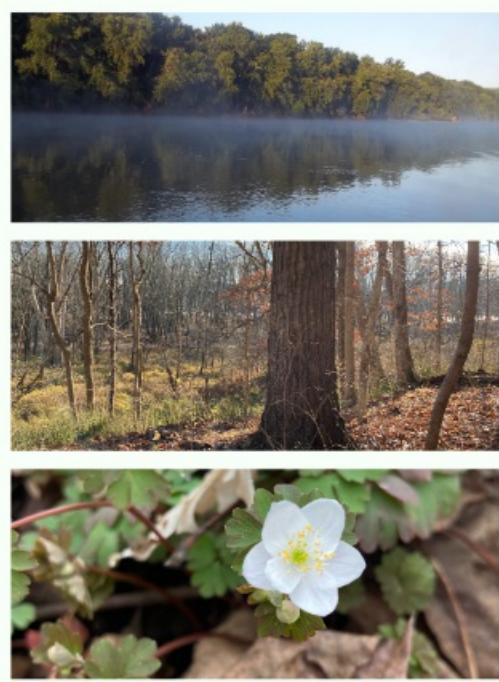
- Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Native Plant Sale is accepting pre orders through April 16. Pick up on May 6. Check their [website](#) for pre order forms and more information.
- On May 8, 2021 the SWCD will host the first annual Native Plant Festival! There will be a native plant sale, presentations, hikes, and garlic mustard pulls. The event is free and takes place at Ross Camp! Full schedule to come. Shannon Stanis (WREC watershed Coordinator) will give a talk about our cost share program & do a garlic mustard pesto demonstration. Amy Krzton Presson (WREC resource specialist) will give a talk on DIY rain gardens. Catch one of our outdoor talks and say a social distanced "hello"!
- Prophetstown State Park Native Plant Sale May 8, 2021. Prophetstown harvests seeds from plants on their property, germinates them in their greenhouse through the winter, and sells the plugs to the public. 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.

2021 Green Tour Conservation practices in the South River Road area

Meet your neighbors, build community, and learn about different ways to steward the land along the Wabash. Each event is hosted by a different neighbor on their property. They will share what projects they have undertaken, funding programs, and their motivations during a property tour.
Registration is required:
WabashRiver.net/green-tours.
or by calling Shannon Stanis at the Wabash River Enhancement Corp. at 765-807-1312
Directions and parking will be emailed after registration

This tour is organized by the Wabash River Enhancement Corp (WREC), NICHEs Land Trust, the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District, and partnering private landowners.

2021 TOUR STOPS



April 14, 4pm:
neighborhood
collaborative
honeysuckle removal

June 16, 10am: Large
scale woodland
restoration

June 23, 5pm:
Woodland invasive
species control

July 24, 11am:
Floodplain conversion
from corn/soy to
wildlife habitat

July 24, 1pm: turf
grass to prairie
restoration

Please also join us for a
Native Plant Festival!
May 8, 9am-3pm Ross Camp
Featuring a native plant sale, hikes,
presentations, garlic mustard pulls

NICHEs and WREC also regularly host
volunteer workdays on our South River Road
properties. Learn more and sign up at
Nicheslandtrust.org
and WabashRiver.net

[More Info & Register here](#)

NICHES 2021 WAR OF THE WEEDS

Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

Starting Friday April 16 through May 16th, 2021

Shifts 10am -12:45 pm & 1-4pm

Help NICHES Land Trust protect native spring wildflowers by volunteering to pull the invasive plant garlic mustard! For this year's War of the Weeds we will be hosting 30 garlic mustard pulling shifts at 11 different local nature preserves within a 10-50 minute drive of Lafayette (limited to 12 volunteers per shift). This is our organization's single biggest annual volunteer push, if we can manage to fill every volunteer shift it will provide over a thousand volunteer hours during a critically important stewardship window. If you can lend a hand please email sam@nicheslandtrust.org with the shifts you can make. Every volunteer that signs up for 2 shifts or more will receive this year's War of the Weeds t-shirt (picture below). Our native spring wildflowers need your help!!





VOLUNTEER TO

DETRESH THE WABASH

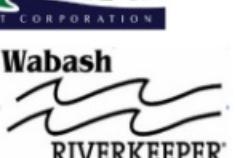
Help safely remove trash from the banks of the Wabash. Multiple contact-less supply pick up points to ensure social distancing. All ages welcome!

SATURDAY APRIL 24, 2021

9AM-2PM

SIGN UP AT:

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/DETRASH2021](https://tinyurl.com/detrash2021)



Tree Lafayette Opportunities

- Thursday day April 22, 10am: Tree Lafayette Earth Day Celebration and Tree Dedication Event Planting. Imagination Station parking lot at 600 N 4th Street, Lafayette, Indiana. Social distancing and face masks will be required at the event for safety. SIA is sponsoring the planting of 15 trees on North 4th Street for Earth Day. The trees will be planted by a contractor.
- Saturday May 1, 9:30am: Tree Lafayette Arbor Day Planting N 15th St. Approximately 64 trees will be planted by volunteers. Help plant trees for our community, for the environment, and to help reduce the effects of climate change. Trees have so many benefits. We will be planting our 3,500th tree during the event. More information and Registration at <https://www.treelafayette.org/>

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



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Wabash River Enhancement Corporation

515 Columbia Street

Lafayette, Indiana 47907 - USA

Telephone: 765-420-8505

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WABASH RIVER ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION

WREC Wire

August 2021



A Break in the Rain for Wabash River Days

It was touch and go for a minute, but the weather really pulled through for three weekends of socially distanced fun at Wabash River Days! We offered two days of float trips, two weekends of charcoal drawing classes, three weekends of hikes and tours, and a full day of the rock wall in Tapawingo Park. Throughout the two weeks of events, community members also trekked all over the Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash River to complete missions for our scavenger hunt, and ran a virtual 5K along the River. Over 660 people participated in River Days events and nearly 2,000 people visited our educational displays in Tapawingo Park. Huge thanks to all of our sponsors for making this event and the great prizes possible, and thanks to all our stellar community members for getting out and enjoying the Wabash River!



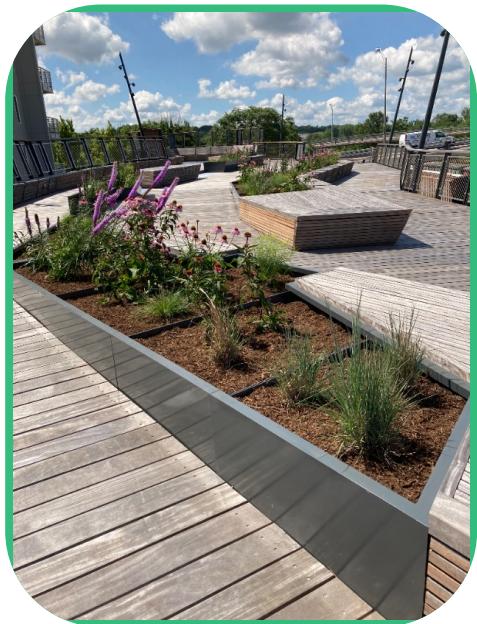


Thank You to our 2021 Sponsors for making these awesome opportunities completely FREE to our community!

Our 2021 Sponsors:

TBIRD design services, The Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality, WLFI, Bob Rohrman Subaru, Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Greeley and Hansen, NICHEs Land Trust, Tippecanoe County, the Cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette, Duke Energy, Christopher Burke Engineering, Bowen Engineering, Henry Poor Lumber and Flooring Express, Waste Management, Centier Bank, Stuart and Branigin, Evonik, Karma Industries, Waterchem, and Indiana American Water.

Wabash Riverfront Promenade - One Year In



Riverfront Promenade 2020



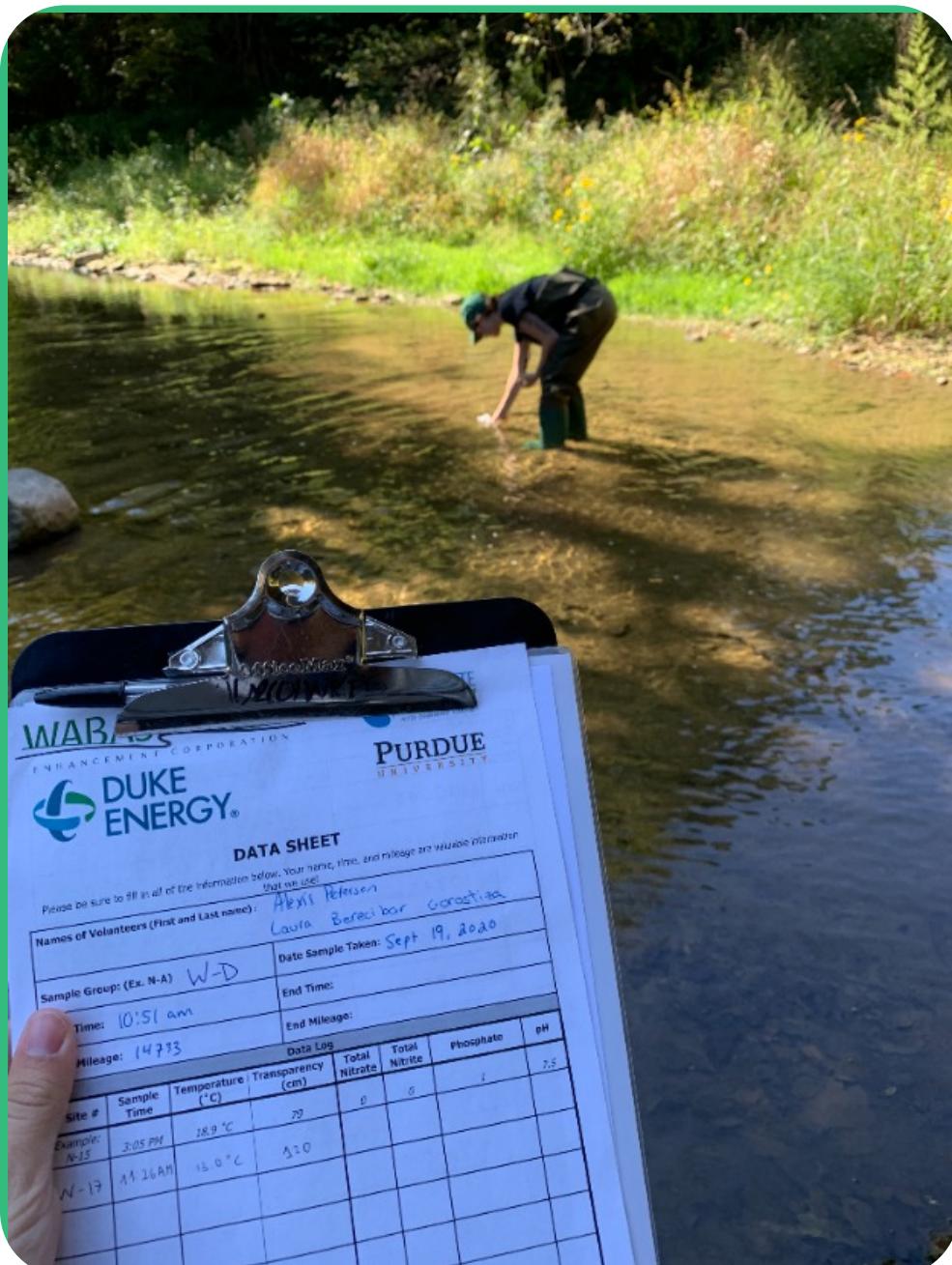
Riverfront Promenade 2021 - The native plants have filled in and are thriving!

On July 28, 2020 WREC hosted our long-awaited Riverside Promenade Grand Opening! This was WREC's first development project brought to life. It's now a year after the grand opening and the Promenade has been used for community events, a quiet retreat for employees on their lunch break, and a beautiful display of native plant landscaping.

The Promenade was the perfect location for our River Days charcoal drawing class. Participants were able to spread out, sit or stand, and have several different views of the riverfront for inspiration. We will continue to implement well-planned infrastructure that brings our community closer to the natural environment and the Wabash River!



Wabash Sampling Blitz



Friday Sept 10 and Saturday Sept 11, 2021

Looking for an education and fun event to do with your family/roommates? Want to join community efforts to improve the Wabash River? Want to get out of the house without being in a crowd? Then sign up for the sampling blitz! Get excited for a hands-on, feet-wet way to help the Wabash River.

During this event, volunteers collect and test water samples from 4-5 streams in our watershed. All supplies (including instructions and directions) are provided. No prior experience is necessary! Supplies will be isolated before a contact-less pick up. Training will be through online videos you can watch in the comfort of your own home. A sampling partner and your own transportation are required. Two sampling days are offered, but volunteers only need to sample on one of the two days that works best for their schedule.

Learn more, see previous year's results, and sign up on our[website!](#)

Wabash River Greenway Corridor Master Plan

WREC is continuing to work with consultants Kimley Horn to develop a master plan for the Wabash River Greenway. The Greenway will travel along the Wabash River corridor through five counties: Cass, Carroll, Tippecanoe, Warren, and Fountain County. This plan will be finalized by the end of the year, and we are excited to see the results!



Recycling Tip of the Month

Whether you have curbside pick up with a local city, or you use the recycling drop-off locations throughout the county, this tip applies to everyone in Tippecanoe County. Recyclables should always be loose in your bin, and never bagged or boxed. These materials are sorted by both people and machines in the sorting facilities in Indianapolis and Muncie. The sorting process is quick and systematic, and only works if materials are loose and not contained in a bag. Any bags of materials that go to a recycling sorting facility are pulled off the conveyor belt and sent to a landfill. Plastic bags also become easily entangled in the machinery that sorts recyclables. This can damage the machines and endanger workers. Be sure your recycling efforts pay off, and keep your recyclables loose and free when they go in to a curbside bin or drop-off dumpster!

For more recycling tips, follow the Tippecanoe Solid Waste District on social media:



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



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WREC Wire

December 2021

For us along the Wabash River, the winter solstice is the moment when the Earth's north pole is at its maximum tilt away from the sun. This will happen Tuesday, December 21 at 9:59 am. Then the Earth begins to tilt again towards the sun and the winter season begins. Right now, the length of daylight is getting shorter each day as the northern hemisphere is tilted further and further away from the sun. After the solstice, the length of sunlight will increase each day as we tilt closer towards the sun. The opposite is happening in the southern hemisphere, where communities will celebrate the summer solstice as we celebrate the winter. The winter solstice brings a valuable time to pause and reflect, to observe the world around us, and a sense of optimism for brighter days ahead.

2021 was a busy year for WREC's watershed program! Our 2021 cost share program funded: 1,759 acres of cover crops, 4,391 feet of grassed waterways, 108 Urban Trees, 1 ac of native plants, 2 rain barrels, 1 rain garden, 1 bioswale, and 1 stormwater retrofit. These practices reduce 26,885 lb of Nitrogen, 13,273 lbs of Phosphorous, and 12,052 tons of sediment from entering the Wabash River annually! Thanks to these projects with 12 community partners, we have a cleaner, brighter Wabash River.

By the end of the year we'll have held 14 volunteer work days to clean up our South River Road property, with the help of over 250 volunteers. We organized a month-long version of Riverfest: Wabash River Days as a way to celebrate the Wabash River during a pandemic. During River Days we hosted a remote scavenger hunt that had over 5,000 submissions and the three first place winners had their choice of a free kayak or Yeti cooler. There was lots of outdoor recreation during River Days including 70 people floating down the Wabash River, 150 people attending our hosted hikes, and over 120 people attending our charcoal drawing classes on the Promenade. We hosted a multi-stop green tour along South River Road in partnership with Niches Land Trust and the Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce. This green tour helped neighbors to connect with each other and learn about the local land management efforts along the Wabash River. Our watershed coordinator and the resource specialist conducted 14 free site visits to help residents learn about native plants and rain gardens. We hosted 2 Wabash Sampling Blitz events and 100% of sites were sampled during the Fall 2021 event!

It's been an incredible outreach year and we are looking forward to what 2022 brings! Thank you to everyone that participated this year - through projects, events, e-newsletters, and social media! This community makes the Wabash River shine.



Volunteer Opportunities!

WREC will be hosting two work days in December at our South River Road property. We have a variety of tasks to accomplish during workdays including cutting and stacking honeysuckle brush, removing fencing, and collecting litter. [Sign up to help out on December 4 or December 10.](#)

The Sycamore Audubon Society is hosting the local Christmas Bird Count on December 18. This is the longest running wildlife census on the planet and it happens every winter. Bird watchers across America spend the morning watching and counting birds. Volunteers "will record every individual bird and bird species seen in a specified area, contributing to a vast citizen science network that continues a tradition stretching back more than 100 years." If you are interested in being a part of this effort, contact Ed Hopkins, email: hopkinse@purdue.edu.



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 through the winter.

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

Steps to WREC's Cost Share Program

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

Funds for 2022 urban projects are almost tapped out, but we are still happy to do a free site visit with you to get you ready to apply for a 2023 cost share project! We still have some funds for agricultural cost share projects. Contact the Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District to see if you qualify for our cost share or another program to help you install cover crops, pay for conservation tillage, install a stream crossing, or more!

1

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

2

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

3

- Fill out the application on our website before March:
<http://www.wabashriver.net/csapplication>

COST-SHARE INFO

Invasive Bush Honeysuckle Removal Tools

There are certain times of the year where specific invasive plants are very obvious and easy to identify. Asian bush honeysuckle really stands out when there are no leaves on most trees. Right now, it is likely the only leafy green shrub in the woods and is very easy to spot. If you have invasive honeysuckle that you're interested in getting rid of, WREC now has a tool library that includes two pullerbears. These are free to check out for one week at a time, and honeysuckle is the perfect plant on which to use them.

WREC's Tool Library



©FIRST LIGHT WILDLIFE HABITATS

Forest in winter invaded by bush honeysuckle.

New Recycling and Solid Waste District Website

The Recycling and Solid Waste District launched a new website recently to replace their prehistoric website. Use the new searchable database, learn about what happens to our recyclables, and find out what materials are NOT accepted in the local recycling program:

tippecanoe.in.gov/recycle



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

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

The barrel at the County Building is just inside the front door in the main lobby. The barrel at Lafayette City Hall is in the lobby at the south entrance, in the same lobby as the utilities drop box. The barrel at the West Lafayette City Hall will be just inside the front doors.

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



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WREC Wire

February 2021

Happy Black History Month!

World Wetland Day!

Tuesday February 2, 2021

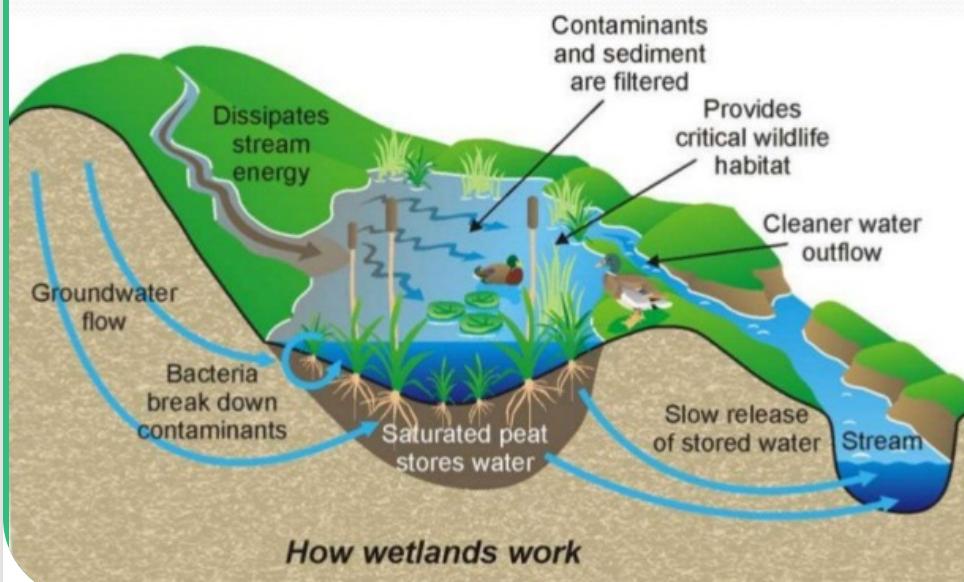
Wetlands are critical ecosystems that need our support. Check out the infographic below and the website: <https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/> to learn more about the importance of wetlands. WREC's cost share program can assist with wetland projects, big and small. Improving central Indiana wetlands improves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

Indiana's wetlands need your help. State Senate Bill 389 would repeal Indiana's Isolated Wetland Law. If passed, it removes protections for these important state regulated wetlands, including 80% of Indiana's wetlands. Please contact your State Senator and Representative and urge them to vote No on SB 389.

The Hoosier Environmental Council put together a "Myth Busters" document that addresses many false claims about the bill. Check it out here: tinyurl.com/SB389Mythbusting

[Find your State Rep here](#)

How wetlands work



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, 2021 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](#)



2020 Projects funded

In 2020, our cost share program funded: 4 rain barrels, 4 rain gardens, 1 bioswale, 12 trees at the Crosser Sports Complex, 1500 square feet of native plants, 1 Stormwater Retrofit, 55 acres of Cover Crops, 5,000 feet of Grassed Waterways, and 3 grade bank stabilization structures. These projects were installed throughout Tippecanoe County with 10 participants. Additionally, 112 Rain Barrels were distributed through the Cities of West Lafayette and Lafayette thanks to a generous grant we received from Tipmont REMC Envirowatts! These projects made a big impact for water quality in the Wabash River!

Volunteer to Remove Invasive Plants along the Wabash River

WREC is working diligently to remove invasive plants and allow native plants to regenerate on our properties along the Wabash River. If you are interested in volunteering to stack honeysuckle, yank some garlic mustard, or cut some Bradford pear, sign up for one of our workdays. Contact us if you have a group that wants to volunteer another day. All volunteer events are outdoors and social distancing is very easy. Scheduled 2021 workdays: Feb 27, March 27, April 24, May 21, June 25, Sept 25, Oct 22, & Dec 10

Save the Date: Wabash Sampling Blitz

April 9 & 10, 2021 are the tentative dates for the Spring Wabash Sampling Blitz. We will host the event again with contact-less supply pick up and drop off. All training will be done online. We hope you can make it! Sign up & start watching training videos on our website.

[Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Lawn-to-Garden Methods: Sheet Mulching

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

[More Info on Sheet Mulching](#)



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



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

Climate Change and the Impact on Bird Populations

The Purdue Climate Change Research Center recently released their Indiana Climate Change Impact Assessment newsletter. Professor Barry Dunningham explains the likely impacts that climate change will have on bird populations. Dunningham explains that a warming climate will have a mixed impact on different types of birds. Many birds, along with other wildlife, use temperature and weather patterns as seasonal triggers for behavior changes.

"Based on data from the U.S. Forest Service that shows how bird migratory patterns are changing, Dunningham estimates that 30 percent of bird species are benefiting from climate change. But the rest are worse off. "If there is one thing I would tell the bird-watching public: 'yes under climate change there will be winners and losers. But all the evidence we see so far says there will be a lot more losers than winners,'" he said."

To read the entire article follow the link below.

[IN Climate News Letter](#)

Invasive Plant Removal Tool Library

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



WREC'S TOOL LIBRARY

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

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

[Tool Library](#)



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WREC Wire

January 2020

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 2021 a more River-friendly year:

- [Start a compost pile](#), or utilize the [Food Waste Drop-off](#)
- [Plan your native plant garden](#)
- [Find a new-to-you natural area to visit](#)
- [Plan your attack on invasive plants](#) and utilize [WREC's tool library](#)
- [Checkout WREC's Green Tour story map](#) and view all the green infrastructure around town from your own couch

If you have ideas for some green infrastructure projects, check out our cost share program. You can contact us with questions or to schedule a FREE site visit to get input on your ideas and what will work with your property. Applications are due March 15, 2021!

[Cost Share Info](#)

Wabash River Greenway Planning Project

WREC is working with the Wabash Heartland Innovation Network (WHIN) and surrounding counties to plan a multi-use path along the Wabash River. When realized, this opportunity will: create a nationally significant quality of life recreational resource within the largest watershed of the state; become an economic development driver for new public and private investment; utilize technology to enhance the user experience and restore the riparian corridor ecology as the premier river system of the Midwest.

We are currently seeking public input on what they would value in a mulit-use trail along the Wabash Corridor. Check out the project website below to learn more, fill out the online community engagement survey, and visit a pop-up planning station in a participating community.



[Wabash Greenway](#)



Invasive Plant Warning: Autumn Olive

It's a common story. In an effort to reduce erosion, a plant was brought half-way around the world and planted extensively in areas where it had no natural competition or predators. Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) is native to Asia and was introduced in the 1800's in North America. It quickly took over forest edges, roadsides, ditches, and grasslands. The silvery underside of Autumn olive's leaves help to discern it from other shrubs.

Autumn olive lowers biodiversity by both shading out native plants around it, and suppressing their growth by changing the chemistry of the soil around it. Small autumn olive can be hand-pulled, but the larger plants will need a cut-stump herbicide application. Without applying herbicide, this plant will re-sprout.

Autumn olive is rarely planted on purpose today. However, after it is removed, native plants may need to be planted to stabilize the soil and help re-establish a native food web. Wild plums and American hazelnut are two great replacements for autumn olive.



Wild plum (*Prunus americana*) has showy white flowers in the spring and sweet orange fruits in the late summer. Pollinators love the flowers and birds and mammals love the fruit. It has an extensive root system making it great for soil stabilization.



American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*), bears nuts instead of berries, but squirrels, birds, and insects feed on these nuts. Hazelnuts spread easily by suckering and can form dense thickets.

Board of Directors Visit to WRC South River Road Property

Over the past two years, WREC has partnered with Niches Land Trust and Purdue Department of Forestry and Natural Resources to remove invasive plants and inventory one of our properties on South River Road. At least 60% of the mature honeysuckle has been removed, multiple volunteer events have been held to stack and remove cut honeysuckle, and Purdue students have completed a management plans for the property.

In early December, WREC's board of directors took a trip to this site to view the progress. Our Watershed Coordinator, Shannon Stanis, described the land management efforts and why controlling invasive plants is so vital. We were joined by Justin Harmeson, the Niches land steward leading invasive management, and Brian Boszor, the Central Region Environmental Biologist for the IN Department of Natural Resources, who both provided their insight as well. The board learned a lot and were wowed by a beautiful view of the Wabash River and a unique spring-fed wetland called a fen. The property is not currently open to the general public, but we intend to open it after it is well managed and hiking trails are established.



WREC's Board of Directors hiked through the property to view the progress and the fen on site.

Composting Through the Winter

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

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



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



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

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WREC Wire

July 2021



WREC is proud to present River Days: a Wabash Riverfest Adventure! Join us for 3 weekends of free events July 2 through July 18. Celebrate the Wabash River through

- rock climbing wall in Tapawingo Park- This Saturday 9am-4pm!!
- river float trips in a canoe, kayak, or raft
- charcoal drawing classes on the Promenade
- guided riverside hikes for kids or adults
- virtual 5k
- conservation displays
- a scavenger hunt using the GooseChase App

We have big prizes for winners of the Scavenger Hunt and 5k including a kayak, roof rack, YETI Cooler, hammock, and gift cards to local businesses. Download the GooseChase App to your phone and find "Wabash River Days 2021" to start playing!

Visit the Riverfest website for a detailed schedule and event sign ups. All events are free, except for the 5k registration, thanks to our generous community sponsors.

Many events that require a sign-up are already full, so we've added more hikes! River Days is off to a great start!

[Wabash Riverfest Website](#)

Thank You to our 2021 Sponsors for making these awesome opportunities completely FREE to our community!

Our 2021 Sponsors:

TBIRD design services, The Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality, WLFI, Bob Rohrman Subaru, Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Greeley and Hansen, NICHEs Land Trust, Tippecanoe County, the Cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette, Duke Energy, Christopher Burke Engineering, Bowen Engineering, Henry Poor Lumber and Flooring Express, Waste Management, Centier Bank, Stuart and Branigin, Evonik, Karma Industries, Waterchem, and Indiana American Water.

Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan Survey- Your input needed!

Tippecanoe County, the City of Lafayette, and the City of West Lafayette are collaborating on a Climate Action Plan, and they want YOUR input! Take survey #1 and make your voice heard in this process. Check out the website to learn more about the action plan process and sign up for updates.



[Climate Survey #1](#)

[Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan Website](#)

Native Plants in Bloom

As summer begins, our spring ephemerals 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.



Brown-eyed susans are great for filling large spaces in landscaping with bright yellow blumes. They spread easily and can tolerate lots of sun and dry soils.

Remove Your Birdfeeders until Further Notice

The Indiana DNR has received reports of sick and dying songbirds from 15 counties around the state. As the investigation continues, the DNR recommends all Hoosiers remove their birdfeeders (including those for hummingbirds) STATEWIDE.

Reports are from Clark, Delaware, Hamilton, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, LaGrange, Lake, Marion, Monroe, Newton, St. Joseph, Union, Washington, and Whitley.

DNR is working with the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (IN ADDL) and the USGS National Wildlife Health Center to determine the birds' cause of death.

The affected songbirds showed neurological signs of illness as well as eye swelling and crusty discharge.

Several samples have been sent to IN ADDL. All bird samples submitted have tested negative for avian influenza and West Nile virus. Final laboratory diagnostic results are pending.

The following steps are recommended statewide:

- Use the DNR sick/dead wildlife reporting tool at on.IN.gov/sickwildlife to alert DNR staff.
- Stop feeding birds until the mortality event has concluded.
- Clean feeders and baths with a 10% bleach solution. Better yet, put away birdbaths until the event is over.
- Avoid handling birds. If you need to handle birds, wear disposable gloves.
- When removing dead birds, wear disposable gloves and place birds and gloves in a sealable plastic bag to dispose with household trash.
- Keep pets away from sick or dead birds as a precaution.

Additional information will be shared when final diagnostic results are received. Report sick birds and learn more at on.IN.gov/songbirddeaths.

Green Tour: Conservation Practices along South River Road

WREC, Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District, and Niches Land Trust are working together to host a multi-stop Green Tour to learn about cooperative conservation along South River Road.

We had a fantastic discussion at the June 16 Green Tour stop # 3. We visited a private landowner that worked with an Indiana State Forester and the NRCS to develop a woodland management plan and find funding to remove invasive plants on their forested property. Even though the landowners had just gotten started removing autumn olive and bush honeysuckle, the native plants are coming back as the invasives are removed!

Join us on Saturday July 24 for the last two stops on the Green Tour. We will visit a Wabash River Floodplain Restoration and a 1 acre turf to prairie restoration. Check out our website to learn more and register for the last stop.

[Green Tour Info](#)

**Green Tour 2021, Stop 3:
The Beginnings of Woodland Invasive Species Control**



Wabash River Greenway

WREC is working to develop a master plan for a five-county greenway along the Wabash River corridor. This opportunity will be an amazing recreational resource within the largest watershed of the state, become an economic development driver for new public and private investment, and restore the riparian corridor ecology as the premier river system of the Midwest.

Learn more about this exciting project and take our public input survey.

[Wabash River Greenway](#)

Recycling Tips

Dealing with your waste appropriately and responsibly is part of being a River Friendly Home. Plastic bags should never go in to your mixed recycling. This includes trash bags, grocery bags, or any other flexible plastic wrap. Recycling sorting facility workers call these "tanglers," because they wrap around the moving mechanical parts at the sorting facility.

Tanglers clog the sorting machinery, costing time and money, and endanger workers. Plastic grocery bags can be recycled at grocery and other retail stores that have plastic bag recycling near their front door. Even better, more than just grocery bags can be recycled at those locations. Check out the picture below to see what all can be recycled at retail stores. Keep your recycling clean, dry, and loose/unbagged!



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



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WREC Wire

June 2021



Join us for River Days, a Wabash Riverfest Adventure!

July 2-July 18, 2021

Learn about and enjoy Indiana's Wabash River through conservation exhibits, river float trips, charcoal drawing classes, guided riverside hikes, a rock climbing wall, a 5k, and a scavenger hunt using the GooseChase App. All activities are free, except the 5k. Mask up and keep social distance while we celebrate the Wabash this summer!

July 2-July 18:

Run/Walk the 5k, Complete missions on the Scavenger Hunt, and visit conservation displays in Tapawingo Park all on your own schedule. Prizes, including a kayak, a car roof rack, a YETI cooler, a hammock, rain barrels, gift cards to local business and more, will be award to participants in the 5k and Scavenger Hunt! Download the GooseChase App to your smart phone and find "Wabash River Days 2021" to play the scavenger hunt. Register for the 5k on our website.

July 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18:

Guided Riverside hikes each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. A variety of topics and distances are scheduled for all ages. Learn about the trees of Wabash River Floodplain, explore the Wabash Walls murals, tour the Purdue Extension gardens, hike to Davis Ferry on the Heritage Trail, learn about the Ouiatenon Preserve, or enjoy story time in the park. Check the website for complete hike schedule and descriptions and to register!

July 10:

Climb the 32 foot tall Rockwall in Tapawingo Park (no registration required), float the Wabash river, and/or attend a Charcoal Drawing class on the Riverside Promenade. Secure your spot on the float trip and in the class by registering on our website.

July 11:

Float the Wabash river, and/or attend a Charcoal Drawing class on the Riverside Promenade. Register on our website for both events. Shout out to TBIRD for sponsoring the Float Trip and to NICHES Land Trust for organizing it!

River Days Website

Thank You to our 2021 Sponsors for making these awesome opportunities completely FREE to our community!

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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](#)



Art by Tom Feelings: "The struggle to create artwork as well as to live creatively under any conditions and survive (like my ancestors), embodies my particular heritage in America."

New Wabash River Greenway Survey - Safety

The Wabash River Greenway will be a 90-mile long destination recreation corridor of land trails, parks, river access, and blueway river trails. The Greenway will provide nature-based walk, jog, bike, and paddle connectivity to river communities within west central Indiana. From Cass County to Fountain County, this trail system will compliment and connect to existing trail routes within the ten county Wabash Heartland Innovation Network (WHIN) with a focus on improving water quality and wildlife habitat along the Wabash.

We want this trail to be safe and feel safe to attract a variety of users with differing recreation/experience intentions. Visitors to the area may be a long distance bicycle tourist, part of an organized cycling tour, a destination cyclist, a bicycling overnighter, or a backpacking hiker. Local residents may use the greenway for daily recreation of biking, jogging, and walking, as well as commuting.

Greenway safety is a critically important in the greenway design. Safety, and the perception of safety, are known to impact greenway success and use. Designs for safety strive to reduce conflict between vehicles and cyclists, walkers, and joggers by heightening the level of visibility, denoting a clear right-of-way, and facilitating eye contact and awareness between drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Take the survey below to let us know what safety factors are important to you.

[Take Survey](#)



Rain Barrel Cost-share has Run Dry!

Thanks to previous grants to WREC from Tipmont Envirowatts, residents of Tippecanoe County were able to purchase rain barrel kits at a reduced cost. The kit includes a barrel, stand, diverter, and educational yard sign. While the grant has expired, Barrels are still available to purchase at full cost. Purchasing information is on our website: http://www.tippeconow.com/opt_rain_barrel.php

Thank you to Tipmont Envirowatts for funding this program for many years!

Interested in installing a rain garden or cover crops, but don't know where to start? WREC offers free technical assistance and advice on how to make your home or farm river friendly! We also have other cost share funds for river friendly practices at home or on the farm. We can arrange a contact-free site visit, or provide input via email. Contact us for more information. Email us at watershed@wabashriver.net to set up your site visit.



Greater LAFAYETTE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The City of West Lafayette, the City of Lafayette, and Tippecanoe County came together to write a Greater Lafayette Climate Action Plan.

Visit the newly launched website to learn more about the climate action initiatives that we're working towards to ensure that the Greater Lafayette region is protecting the quality of life for generations to come. Find out how to get involved, and take the community survey, to lend your voice.

Community Input Survey
#1

Upcoming Community Events

- [Kids Fishing Day at McCallister Park](#): June 19 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Lafayette Parks, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and the Lafayette Breakfast Optimist Club will provide all the tools necessary to teach your youngsters the basics of fishing. This catch and release event is FREE & open to all kiddos ages 3-14 years.
- [WREC Green Tour stop #2](#): June 16, 10am-Noon: With a lot of help from our friends, WREC has undertaken a major invasive removal project on our 106 ac natural area along the Wabash River. The project is restoring woodland and savanna habitats. Join for a moderately rugged hike to showcase the work completed thus far and the vision for the property's future. Registration required on wabashriver.net.
- [Sand Ridge Discussion and Easy Hike](#): June 26, 9-10:30am. NICHEs in partnership with Wabash Township is managing a portion of Sand Ridge Cemetery as a natural area, to care for rare endangered plants. Hear the story of how NICHEs became involved at the site and get an update on the status of the native species present on site.
- [TICT Panel](#): June 16, 6:30-7:30pm. Join members of the Tippecanoe Invasive Cooperative Taskforce (TICT) as they present information on locally found invasive species and the best way to "knock them out."

What's in Bloom?



Blueflag Iris



Spiderwort



Penstemon

The plants above are putting on a show this time of year. Blueflag iris loves full sun and moist soils. Their unique leaves add an interesting structural element to landscaping. Similarly, spiderworts have interesting leaves and vibrant purple flowers. They are great for dry shady 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!

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



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WREC Wire

March 2021

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

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

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

[Cost Share Info](#)

Introduction to Soil Health for Non-operating Landowners



Folks that own farmland but do not farm it themselves, WREC has created a video just for you! To help you to better understand the health of the soil on your farm fields, we worked with experts from Purdue's Conservation Cropping Initiative and the USDA NRCS to create this introductory guide to four basic indicators of soil health.

After watching the video, join us on March 10 at noon for an online Q&A with our speakers.

[Watch the Video](#)

[Register for the Q&A](#)

Tippecanoe Area Plan Commission Wants to Hear from YOU!

They need YOUR input on the construction of new roads, sidewalks, trails, and bike paths! On March 10th at 6 p.m., the Area Plan Commission will host a virtual public meeting to discuss this topic. It will be streamed on the county [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. Mark your calendars, we would love to hear your comments at the meeting

[Facebook Event](#)

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

Indiana's wetlands need your help. State Senate Bill 389 would repeal Indiana's Isolated Wetland Law. If passed, it removes protections for these important state regulated wetlands, including 80% of Indiana's wetlands. This bill has passed in the Senate and is headed to the house. Please contact your State Representative and urge them to vote No on SB 389.

The Hoosier Environmental Council put together a "Myth Busters" document that addresses many false claims about the bill. Check it out here: tinyurl.com/SB389Mythbusting

[Find Your Representative](#)

Electronics Recycling Event



April 3, 8am-2pm
Oscar Winski E-waste, 1449 Veterans Memorial
Free for Tippecanoe County residents ONLY



Tippecanoe County residents can recycle their electronics for FREE at this e-waste recycling event. Just bring your electronics to 1449 Veterans Memorial Parkway on April 3, 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.

Wabash Sampling Blitz

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

Wabash River Enhancement Corp.
invites you to the:

Wabash Sampling Blitz

Friday April 9 and
Saturday April 10, 2021
9am-5pm

More info and registration:
wabashriver.net/wabash-sampling-blitz/

A photograph of a man wearing dark clothing and waders, standing in a shallow stream. He is holding a long, clear plastic tube vertically, likely a transparency tube used for water sampling. The background shows trees and rocks along the riverbank.

[Volunteer for WREC Work Days](#)



Please join us to manage invasive plants along the Wabash River! Each workday is limited to 12 people and sign up is required. We have a variety of tasks to accomplish during workdays including hand pulling garlic mustard, cutting and stacking honeysuckle brush, removing fencing, and collecting litter. Tasks vary by time of year and can be adapted to meet volunteers' skills and abilities.

Invasive removal workdays will take place at our natural area near the Ravines Golf Course in West Lafayette, near the intersection of Kerber and Division Roads. Directions will be emailed to you after sign up. This property is not currently open to the public outside scheduled work days with staff.

[Learn More and Register](#)

Native Plant Sales Coming Up!

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

- Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Native Plant Sale. The SWCD will publish an order form on their website. You'll be able to view what plants will be available, and under what conditions they grow the best. You have the option to pre-order your plants by early April or purchase what is available for day of sale. Plants are \$2.50 each and pickup and sales will be at Ross Hills Camp on May 8, 2021. Keep an eye on the [SWCD website](#) or social media for announcements and the order form.
- Prophetstown State Park Native Plant Sale. Prophetstown harvests seeds from plants on their property, germinates them in their greenhouse through the winter, and sells the plugs to the public in May. Check out the [IDNR calendar of events](#) for more information.
- The Land Nursery is a West Lafayette nursery that specializes in native plants. Check out [The Land Nursery website](#) for a plant list and contact information.



WREC'S TOOL LIBRARY

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

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

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WREC Wire

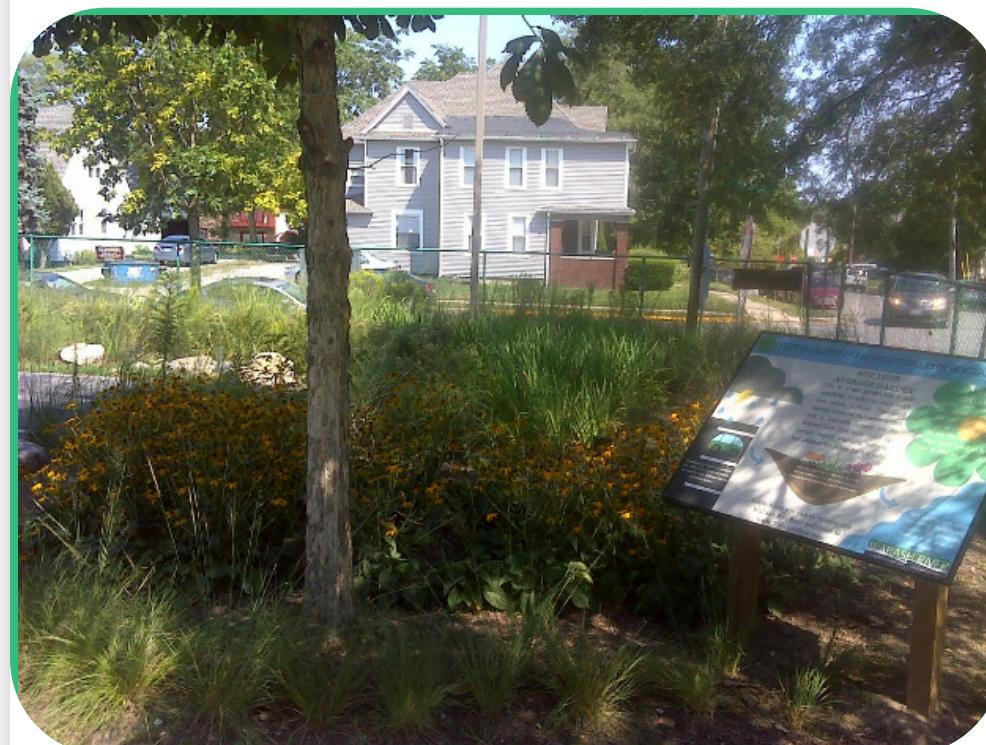
May 2021

2021 funded Cost Share projects

WREC's cost share committee has reviewed this round of cost share applications and chosen a variety of projects to help fund. We're very excited to see these projects implemented. Here's a brief overview of what's to come this year:

- Bank Stabilization and native plant buffer
- Two rain gardens
- Three native plantings
- Tree plantings with Tree Lafayette
- Turf-to-tree conversion
- 3 grassed waterways
- 4 acre Ag to prairie conversion

Thanks to everyone that applied! We encourage you to apply for the first time or again in the future. WREC will have additional cost share funds for more urban projects in 2022. Second round Agricultural applications are due May 31! Please contact us to schedule a site visit if you're interested in learning about how you can help the Wabash River at home or on the farm. We'd love to come by to talk with you and provide input, as soon as it is safe to do so! We can also video chat or look at pictures of your property and exchange input over email.



Native Plant Fest with Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District

WREC was excited to be a part of our County's first Native Plant Fest, organized and hosted by the Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District! On Saturday May 8, TC SWCD had their annual native plant sale, along with a ton of presentations, demonstrations, hikes, and cooking tutorials (Yes! Cooking tutorials!). WREC staff lead several of those activities including an overview of our cost share program, a rain garden walk-and-talk discussion, and a garlic mustard & nettle pesto demonstration. We were pleased to be a part of this great event and we look forward to helping out with 2022's Native Plant Fest!





Green Tour: Land Management along South River Road

Meet your neighbors, build community, and learn about different stewardship efforts in the neighborhoods along the Wabash River. Each event is hosted by a different neighbor on their property. They will share what projects they have undertaken, funding programs, and their motivations during a property tour.

Registration is required. To register visit <http://www.wabashriver.net/green-tours/> or call Shannon Stanis at the Wabash River Enhancement Corp. at 765-807-1312.

Directions and parking information will be emailed after registration.

Green Tour 2021: Land Management on South River Road



April 14, 4pm:
Neighborhood
honeysuckle removal



June 16, 10am: Large-
scale woodland
restoration



June 23, 5pm: Woodland
invasive species control

July 24, 11am: Floodplain
conversion from corn/soy
to wildlife habitat

July 24, 1pm: Turf grass
to prairie restoration

Wabash Riverfest 2021 Update

WREC's Board of Directors and our Wabash Riverfest Committee are excited to present "River Days"! June 25- July 18, 3 weeks of social distanced family fun featuring:

River Float Trips, Charcoal Drawing Classes, Guided Riverside Hikes, Rock climbing wall, unstaffed educational booths, a 5k, and a scavenger hunt using the GooseChase app.

We believe that these events will be feasible to host with social distancing guidelines and recommendations from the health department. There will be prizes for participants in the scavenger hunt and 5k! These outdoor, free, and fun activities will allow active engagement with the Wabash, while keeping our community safe.

We will be updating WabashRiverfest.com soon with event details and sign up information. Keep an eye out for more updates!



Invasive Plant Removal on Your Own

Finding a way to exert some energy outdoors does a world of good for our physical and emotional well being, especially now. Local natural areas need your help removing garlic mustard. This plant can be found in the majority of our natural areas. If you take a walk, bring a trash bag and keep an eye out for garlic mustard! It is easily hand-pulled, and should be bagged and thrown in the trash after you pull it. These are some properties in Tippecanoe that could use some TLC from you and some garlic mustard relief!

- Prophetstown State Park - Please contact the naturalist for information about pulling garlic mustard at Prophetstown: Jenna Freeman jparks@dnr.in.gov
- The Wabash Heritage Trail - in the wooded areas on the West Lafayette side
- Niches Land Trust - War on Weeds at multiple properties - contact Sam@nicheslandtrust.org for more info
- Prophets Rock - along wooded trail next to stream
- Happy Hollow Park



Composting Web of Life

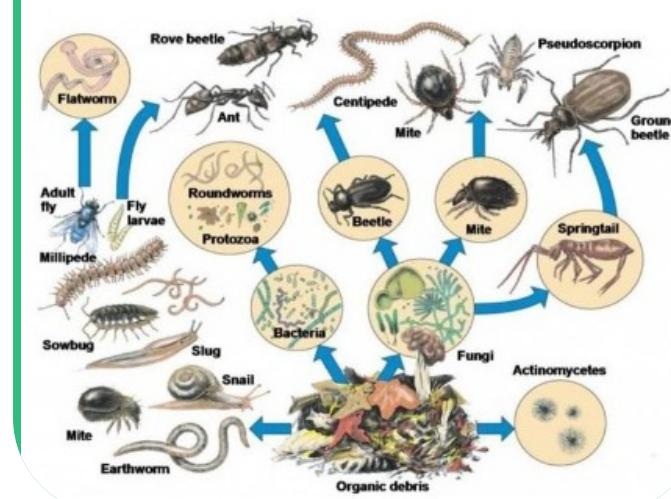
The USDA estimates 30-40% of the food produced in America is wasted and not eaten. Much of that waste is sent to a landfill. Landfills are designed to encapsulate waste, not to break it down. It is an anaerobic environment, meaning there is little to no oxygen in the piles of waste. This produces methane, which is a greenhouse gas. Like recycling and non-compostable waste, the best option is always to not produce the waste in the first place. Pay attention to what you're buying and how you plan to use that food before it goes bad, don't buy more than you can eat, and learn the real meaning of the sell-by or use-by dates on packaging.

Even when we're careful to not waste food, we often still have organic waste. Composting utilizes all kinds of living creatures and nutrient cycling to break down organic matter aerobically (with oxygen) and reduces the amount of methane produced. From fungi to microbes, from bacteria to invertebrates, these organisms interact to break down your banana peels, apple cores, and coffee grounds.

For a deep dive in to the science of composting, check out the link below:

Science of composting

Web of Soil Organisms



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

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WREC Wire

November 2021

Land Management on WREC Properties

Deer population management is an important component of landscape restoration. White Tail Deer populations have a huge impact on vegetation growth and forest health. Deer eat the buds and shoots of growing woody plants and forbs. They have a special preference for eating young oaks. An over population of deer can prohibit young oaks from growing up into the canopy, changing the forest composition over time. They also can over browse the herbaceous layer and prevent a forest from having diverse flowers and grasses in the understory.

WREC is working to restore woodland and savannah ecosystems on some of our Wabash Riverfront properties. As part of this restoration, we are allowing a select few volunteers and neighbors to hunt our south river road property to thin the deer herd to a healthier level. The hunting program takes place November 1-30, 2021. We will not be hosting volunteer workdays or leading any hikes during November while our property is hunted. We are excited to add this important management technique to our toolkit. We are grateful to have assembled an excellent crew that values safety, respect, and good communication.

Thanks to everyone that has volunteered with us or another organization to improve habitats and forest health along the Wabash River! [Check out this article](#) to learn more about deer biology and history of deer populations.



Left: Forest with healthy
understory
Right: Over-browsed
forest with no understory
Photos by Charles Smith

Winterize your Rain Barrels to Protect them

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

Winterizing your rain barrel

Drain the water

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

Store the barrel

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

Restore the downspout

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

A diagram titled "Winterizing your rain barrel" with four main sections: "Drain the water", "Store the barrel", "Restore the downspout", and "Empty the barrel". Each section contains text instructions and a small image. The "Drain the water" section shows a close-up of a spigot being turned off. The "Store the barrel" section shows two red barrels standing upright. The "Restore the downspout" section shows a white downspout connected to a gutter.

Ready for some heavy lifting? We need your help!

This December and January we need some strong volunteers to help us move piles of fence up a big hill. Earlier this year, awesome volunteers from Subaru of Indiana Automotive removed old fence at the bottom of a ravine by the Wabash River. Now we need help getting it up the hill so it can be out of the woods for good and recycled! Old fences are not good for the woods, they can hurt wildlife and humans. This is a great volunteer opportunity for a gym, group of friends, or individuals who want to help nature while also working out. If you are interested in helping with this task, please reply to this newsletter or email watershed@wabashriver.net to set up a time.

Importance of Dead-standing Plants

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

Local Volunteer Opportunities

WREC won't be hosting a work day in November, but there are other opportunities to improve ecosystems in the Wabash River Watershed!

- Weed Wrangle at Tippecanoe County Amphitheater: Saturday November 20. Contact Mary Cutler for more information: 765-567-2993
- RIP Squad Volunteer workdays, for more info: Patty Jones removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com, 765-463-3050 (please leave voicemail)
 - Tuesdays Nov 2, 9, and 16 at Prophets Rock
 - Thursdays Nov 4, 11, 18 at Ross Hills



WREC'S TOOL LIBRARY

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

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



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

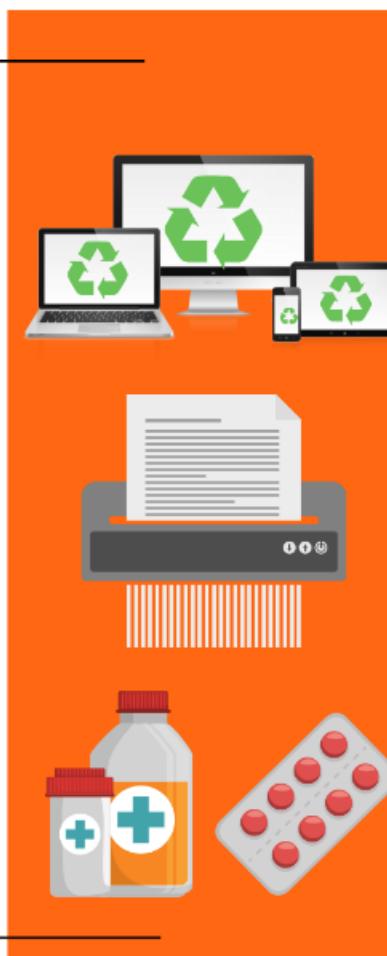
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WREC Wire

E-waste Paper Shredding Medicine Disposal

Oct 16, 2021
8am-2pm
McCutcheon High School
**Free for Tippecanoe
County residents**



Recycling Event: E-Waste Day

Sat. October 16th | 8am - 2pm

McCutcheon High School
4951 US-231, Lafayette

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

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

In addition to electronics recycling, paper shredding and safe medicine disposal will also be available at this event. Shredded paper should never go in to mixed recycling. The pieces of paper are too small to be sorted at the sorting facility. Using a shred service ensures that your documents are securely shredded and then sent directly to a paper recycler. Medicine should never be flushed down the drain at home. Waste water treatment plants are unable to filter them out of the waste water, and medication can impact the health of our waterways and can be stored in the tissue of the fish that people eat. Safe medication disposal is good for us and good for our watershed. Needles, liquids, and powders not accepted.

Thanks to the Better Business Bureau of Central Indiana for their support in providing this service.

Business Systems Solutions E-Waste Day:

Wednesday and Thursday
Oct 20 and 21
8am-5pm
1211 Cumberland Ave West Lafayette

Business System Solutions' bi-annual Electronic Waste Recycling Drive: Most items are free, but there is a \$20 charge for TVs and CRT monitors. They CANNOT accept refrigerators, washers and dryers, stoves, light bulbs, paint, chemicals, wood or furniture. For more information visit www.bssconsulting.com/ewaste

Friday Oct. 22 from 10am-1pm
West Lafayette Near Ross Hills Park

We need help to stack the brush into piles so the Niches Land Stewards can easily make their way deeper into the woods to cut more invasive shrubs. All that un-piled brush makes the woods difficult to navigate! No experience is required, just dress for the weather with closed toed shoes and long pants/sleeves, and be prepared to move some brush.

RSVP & questions to watershed@wabashriver.net
Event limited to 12 people. Social distancing is very easy for this volunteer work & property.

Property closure note:
This WREC property is not open to the general public just yet. The property will be hosting a deer hunting program in the month of November. All November volunteer work days on the property are canceled.

Do you CrossFit? Love to heavy lift? We need your help!

This December and January we need some strong volunteers to help us move piles of fence up a big hill. Earlier this year, awesome volunteers from Subaru of Indiana Automotive removed old fence at the bottom of a ravine by the Wabash River. Now we need help getting it up the hill so it can be out of the woods for good and recycled! Old fences are not good for the woods, they can hurt wildlife and humans. This is a great volunteer opportunity for a gym, group of friends, or individuals who want to help nature while also working out. If you are interested in helping with this task, please reply to this newsletter or email watershed@wabashriver.net to set up a time.

Fall 2021 Wabash Sampling Blitz

Thank you to our 100+ volunteers that sampled over 240 streams this September! We'll have the results of this year's Blitz available in a few weeks on our website. Each stream is unique, some are deep and others shallow. This fall, many of our volunteers found their streams dry. This is common for this time of year, especially with the drought we had earlier. We learn lots about our waterways with every visit. Here are some fun photos from the Spring 2021 event with higher water levels.



What's in Bloom?

It's officially fall! Those of us with native plantings are starting to see the skeletons of this summer's blooms. Dead-standing plant materials are vital to the ecosystem in several ways. Goldfinches are feasting on blackened purple coneflower heads and cup plant heads. As the temperatures drop, native bees will take refuge in the hollow stems of these native plants to over winter. There are a few plants that are still actively growing and feeding the pollinators before our first hard frost hits.



New England Aster (*Sympyotrichum novae-angliae*) love full or partial sunlight. This bright purple flower has a yellow center and is often visited by long-tongued bees such as bumblebees.

bees and leaf-cutter bees



Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) is reaching the end of its growing season and starting to go to seed. This is arguably when it puts on the best show. It's slowly shifting from a vibrant green to a bright copper, and the contrast is striking. The fuzzy seeds are a valuable food source for small birds throughout the winter.



Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.) is often inappropriately blamed for fall allergies. Fall allergies are more typically caused by ragweed (another native, though not as showy!), and not this bright yellow wildflower. Though they can be aggressive spreaders, a stand of goldenrod mixed with purple asters is a truly stunning fall wildflower combination.

Winterize your Rain Barrels

It is about time to drain your rain barrel and disconnect it from the downspout to prepare for winter. We recommend doing this before the first frost of the year, usually in mid-October. 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! We have Eco-Champion Signs available for anyone that would like to showcase their Rain Barrel to their neighbors and friends. Reply to this newsletter if you'd like one!

RAIN BARREL WINTER GUIDE



Mulch your leaves for the Wabash River!

Soon, the leaves will change colors and trees will drop their leaves
What you do at home with the fallen leaves can have a big impact on wildlife and
the Wabash River.

Leaves, twigs, and grass clippings are rich in nutrients. Excess nutrients in our
waterways can cause harmful algal blooms which can deplete the water of oxygen.
Without oxygen, life in the water cannot survive!

River Friendly Lawn Care Options:

- A. Mulch the leaves into your lawn. Simply leave them where they are and go over them with your lawn mower. They will be broken in to small pieces and will slowly break down over the winter. By spring, they'll entirely disappear!
- B. Cover flower beds and vegetable gardens with a thick layer of leaves & twigs as winter garden mulch.
- 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!

River Friendly Lawn Care Benefits:

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



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WABASH RIVER ENHANCEMENT CORPORATION

WREC Wire

September 2021



Replacement Trees Offered

Redbud
Yellowwood
Overcup Oak
Tulip Poplar
Black Oak

CALLERY PEAR REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

We are offering free native trees when you remove your invasive Callery Pear tree.

Learn more and apply at

[http://www.wabashriver.net/
callery_pear_replacement/](http://www.wabashriver.net/callery_pear_replacement/)



Callery Pears (or Bradford pears and other cultivars) are invasive in Indiana. They are commonly planted in landscaping and were a popular street tree for many years. Unfortunately, their seeds spread from a landscape setting to other sites like natural areas, pastures and right-of-way's. Once there, they can quickly displace native species.

The Callery Pear Replacement Program offers one free replacement tree for a Callery Pear tree being removed from your property or on City street right-of-ways. This program is only open to residents of Tippecanoe County, Indiana. We have different funding sources for street tree replacement and private property replacement.

Approved applicants will receive a native tree or shrub from the Tippecanoe County Soil and Water Conservation District during their fall native tree and shrub sale on September 30, 2021. We do not currently have funds to help with the costs of removing the invasive tree. We are actively seeking grants for invasive removal. All participants will be responsible for removing their invasive tree, providing proof of removal in the form of before and after pictures, picking up their native replacement, and planting their native replacement.

Deadline to apply is September 10, 2021.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Fall Native Tree and Shrub Sale

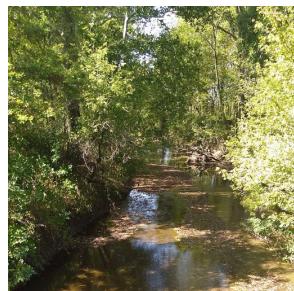
Add beautiful native trees and shrubs to your landscape! The Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting their annual fall native tree and shrub sale. Their pre-order only sale offers 35 native species, all of which are grown at a nursery in Hendricks County, Indiana. All species are sold in 3 gallon pots, and are \$25 each. For an order form, please contact Soil and Water or visit their website. Order deadline is September 25, 2020. Tree and shrub pick-up will be by scheduled appointment only on Thursday, October 8, 2020 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm at Tippecanoe County's Ross Camp, 9225 W 75 S, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

www.tippecanoecountyswcd.org
lanae.woods@in.nacdnet.net

Thank you to our volunteers!

Wabash Sampling Blitz

Friday, September 10 and Saturday September 11 | 9AM - 5PM



Volunteers are out this weekend collecting a snapshot of the water quality in the Wabash River watershed! During this event, volunteers sample streams that lead to the Wabash River. No experience is required and the event is open to all ages. This is a fun way to explore your community, learn about local waterways, and help protect the Wabash. We host the sampling blitz twice a year- once mid April and once mid-September. The first sampling blitz was in the fall of 2009! Data from each event is mapped on our website, so you can learn about water quality in our area anytime! 2021 data will be posted later in November. Big thanks to everyone sampling this weekend!

[Learn more](#)

What's in Bloom?

The Fall equinox is on September 22. The summer wildflower season is finishing up with some great colors. The native plants below are currently in bloom. If you're interested in including native plants in your landscaping, contact WREC for a free site visit and we can talk about what plants would work best for your property.



Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) has a striking red bloom in the summer and they rely on hummingbirds for pollination. They like partially sunny areas with moist or wet soil conditions.



Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*) has lavender blooms, and similar to its relative Cardinal Flower, they grow best in damp, woodland conditions. Bumblebees are common visitors to these flowers.



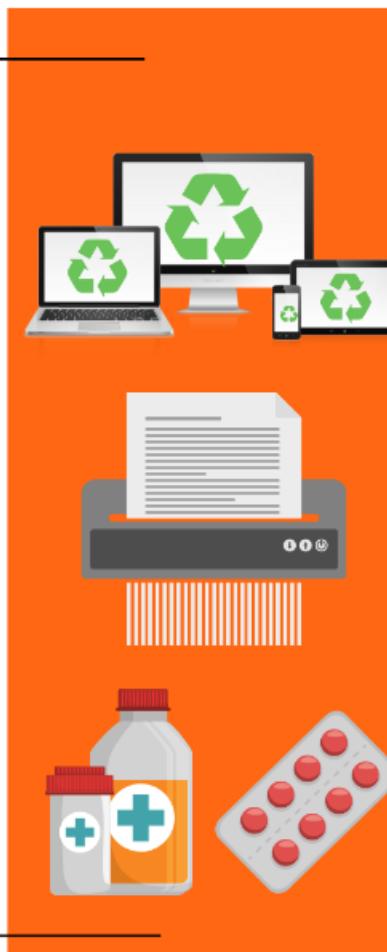
There are a variety of native sunflowers (*Helianthus sp.*). They typically love sunny conditions and grow very tall, sometimes up to 10 feet. While the blooms are not as big as propagated sunflowers, they are still a great food source for birds.

E-waste Paper Shredding Medicine Disposal

Oct 16, 2021
8am-2pm
McCutcheon High School
Free for Tippecanoe County residents



TIPPECANOE COUNTY
Recycling & Solid Waste



Recycling Event: E-Waste Day

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4951 US-231, Lafayette

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



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