

Wabash River revitalization project receives \$2 million grant

BY QUINT HOLGUIN Staff Reporter

Jun 11, 2025



Stan Lambert is the executive director of WREC who gave the public an overview of the project being funded by the EPA cleanup grant.
Duncan Ways | Staff Reporter

Wednesday morning, the sun glistened off the Wabash River while the Greater Lafayette community gathered around to celebrate a \$2 million dollar grant. The grant is one of the first steps in revitalizing the banks of the Wabash, on both sides of the river.

Stan Lambert, the executive director of Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, spoke at the outdoor meeting about the accomplishment and the scale of the project.

The complete project will outline the Wabash with green spaces, parks and pedestrian friendly spaces. The new



zones are a collaboration between local, state and federal agencies, Lambert said. Multiple counties along the river, including Tippecanoe county, have worked with governmental departments like the Environmental Protection Agency to see the plan come to fruition.



Many community leaders within Greater Lafayette were present at the EPA's cleanup grant press conference Wednesday morning.

Duncan Ways | Staff Reporter

"We are working regionally together with our partners in all five counties to be able to start developing and implementing that grant program," he said.

Before any development starts, the ground has to be cleared for all hazards, including mineral contaminants and remnants of a portable toilet rental site.



'Pearl of the Wabash' sculpture revealed at Tapawingo Park

BY EMERY DENHAM Staff Reporter  3 min to read

"I know there's (polychlorinated biphenyls) contamination and lead contamination from legacy industry here, but that's what the EPA is able to do" EPA administrator Anne Vogel said.

The stretch of land currently marked for redevelopment sits between the river and Sycamore Street, where many old businesses used to operate. Until the early 2000s the site was a mill for the city of Lafayette where a split canal powered the water wheel, according to maps of Lafayette from 1868.

The West Lafayette Mayor, Erin Easter, and the Lafayette Mayor, Tony Roswarski, were in attendance at the press conference. Both highlighted the collaboration of multiple programs and both cities to achieve the redevelopment plan.

The redevelopment will bring both cities together and form a much stronger community, creating a far better quality of life for all, Roswarski said.



A map of Lafayette displays how it looked in 1868.

Duncan Ways | Staff Reporter

The Lafayette mayor also discussed the financial means behind the project, saying the city matched other donations with a \$500,000 contribution to the future park, bringing the total amount up to \$2.5 million.

“(We) continue to grow that vision of recreation on the Wabash,” Easter said. “We are using the Wabash River as a zipper to connect our two communities instead of as a dividing line.”

Tippecanoe County Commissioner, Tom Murtaugh, in line with his duties as commissioner, has served as the Vice President of WREC since 2009. During the press conference, he reflected on his relation with the river throughout his childhood.

“I can remember the Wabash River was something we shunned as a kid ... And I love the fact WREC is changing that,” Murtaugh said. “Increasing water quality within the watershed itself and getting people to the river.”

— *Additional reporting by Duncan Ways, Staff Reporter*



5/30/25 Views of the Wabash

BY CJ ACEVEDO Staff Reporter





6/11/25 Stan Lambert speaks on EPA grant

Duncan Ways | Staff Reporter Jun 11, 2025

MORE INFORMATION



Purdue Equestrian team takes home first national championship title

