



Ripple Effects

Eagle Creek Watershed: We're All in It Together

Mission Statement

To utilize a holistic approach to watershed management with the ultimate goals of improving water quality, increasing public awareness of watershed water quality, and encouraging stewardship of the watershed's resources.

ECWA Concerns

- Lawn chemicals, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, and resultant algal blooms.
- Degradation of aquatic habitats as a result of increased sedimentation.
- Nutrient loading; harmful levels of herbicides and other chemicals.
- High levels of *E.coli* and other pathogens.
- The public's level of understanding of the watershed and its value as a natural resource.

JOIN US!

We welcome your participation. Should you have an interest in joining the ECWA, please contact John Ulmer at remlu@tds.net

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Workshop Attendees Tour Wastewater Treatment Plant

On October 7, sixteen interested individuals toured the United Water Belmont Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility and learned important facts and statistics about water quality and public health. This Healthy Water, Healthy People workshop was sponsored by the Eagle Creek Watershed Alliance in cooperation with IndyParks and the DNR's Natural Resources Education Center and included

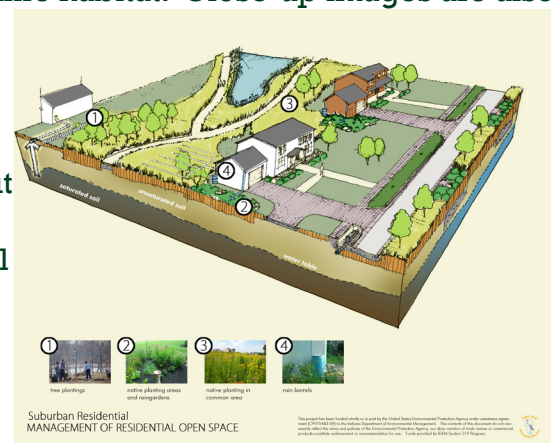


an overview of Indiana water quality and public health, a presentation on the sources of disease and land use triggers, and discussion on how each of us can do our part to make a difference. Hands-on activities and a tour of the plant kept attendees active and engaged. United Water operates the Belmont and Southport Wastewater Treatment Plants in Indianapolis, serving 800,000 residents and 41,000 businesses. Combined, these wastewater treatment plants process around 250 million gallons of water per day, making them an important piece of the clean water puzzle.

New BMP Graphics Available!

The ECWA education committee is pleased to announce that a series of graphics have been developed depicting best management practices (BMPs) for agricultural, farmstead, suburban residential, and urban commercial landscapes. The graphics, created by Green 3, show landscape-scale improvements that can be implemented to improve soil and water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. Close-up images are also available to show bioswales, rain gardens, rain barrels, and two-stage ditches in more detail.

These graphics are posted on the ECWA website for easy viewing, but are available for use in public presentations and other educational endeavors. Contact coordinator@eaglecreekwatershed.org if you would like to utilize these great educational tools!



ECWA Cost-Share Program Protects 14,705 Tons of Soil!

Agriculture Liaison Harold Thompson has been hard at work promoting the Eagle Creek Watershed Alliance Cost-Share Program to producers in the watershed. And as the 2nd year of the current three year Eagle Creek Watershed IDEM 319 Grant comes to an end, quite a bit of progress has been made spending down the available cost-share funds. Nearly \$66,000 of the awarded \$191,500 has been spent, with approximately \$71,000 earmarked for projects in the works. Eleven projects have been completed ranging from cover crops to no-till equipment modifications, impacting nearly 4200 acres of land. As part of the program requirements, estimated load reductions for nutrients and sediment must be submitted for each completed project. With the close of the 8th quarter of a 12 quarter project, an update on the estimated pollutants prevented from entering our lakes and streams is in order. Nearly 14,705 tons of sediment per year, 9.25 tons of phosphorus per year, and 18.5 tons of nitrogen per year will be averted from the lakes and streams of the Eagle Creek Watershed. This is equivalent to approximately 730 tri-axle loads of soil and 6,153 fifty-pound bags of 12-12-12 analysis fertilizer. A breakdown of reductions for each project is listed in the table below.

Project Type	Subwatershed	Acreage	Soil Reduction (tons/yr)	Total P Reduction (lbs/yr)	Total N Reduction (lbs/yr)
Conversion to No-Till	Dixon Branch	905.7	2949.68	3450.72	6901.43
Conversion to No-Till	Dixon Branch & Finley Creek	503.9	1764.18	2423.76	4842.48
Conversion to No-Till	Dixon Branch & Mounts Run	391.2	1433.32	1881.67	3759.43
Conversion to No-Till	Dixon Branch, Finley Creek, & Mounts Run	307	1149.81	1476.67	2950.27
Cover Crop	Dixon Branch & Finley Creek	503.9	1764.18	2423.76	4842.48
Cover Crop	Eagle Creek Reservoir, Fishback Creek, & Mounts Run	701.5	2793.75	3336.05	6671.44
Cover Crop	Finley Creek	275	1052.35	1322.75	2642.75
Cover Crop	Finley Creek	272	1040.87	1308.32	2613.92
Cover Crop	Fishback Creek	42	201.76	240.24	480.9
Cover Crop	Fishback Creek	79	358.8	377.62	754.45
Cover Crop	Jackson Run	40	195.41	228.8	458



Make a Clear Choice for Clean Water

By now, you have probably heard about rain gardens and native plantings or how important it is to use phosphorus-free fertilizer (or no fertilizer) on your lawn. Hopefully you have taken these ideas to heart and started practicing conservation in your own yard or neighborhood. If so, or if you are planning to, make it official by taking the pledge at www.clearchoicescleanwater.org! This newly launched website features four main campaigns: lawn fertilizer, pet poo & other piles, native plants & gardens, and septic

systems. The website includes answers to frequently asked questions, environmental and health impacts, supplier lists, and other resources for each of the four campaigns. Most importantly, each campaign offers the opportunity to take an online pledge. Once you have pledged to stop using phosphorus fertilizer on your lawn, pick up your pet's waste, utilize native plants in your yard, or properly maintain your septic system, you will be added to the interactive map and informed of how much water pollution you are preventing from entering our streams and lakes. You can also zoom in on the interactive map to see how many of your neighbors are doing their part for water quality. Visit the Clear Choices Clean Water website today to learn more and make a difference!

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