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Help Wash Out Pollution in Washington County

In November 2010, the White River Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. received a two-year grant from IDEM (Indiana Department of Environmental Management). The funds of this grant will be used to employ a watershed coordinator, monitor water quality, map a watershed and develop a watershed management plan.

A watershed is all of the landscape that drains to a specific point. This grant will specifically focus on Mill Creek and Blue River watershed areas. If you or someone you know has an interest in water quality, water systems, watershed uses, water education and tours, and/or non-point source pollution, please consider joining our steering committee. We are looking for concerned citizens in the Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed and surrounding community to volunteer and help us protect and restore water quality in Washington County. As a voice in the community, help guide future activities to improve water quality in Washington County.

Join us at our first informational meeting, Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 3:00pm or 5:00pm at the Washington County Purdue Extension office, 806 Martinsburg Road, Salem, Indiana. For further information or questions, feel free to contact Whitney Sauerheber, Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed Coordinator at (812) 883-3704 ext.5.

- Protect the Water in Our Community!**
- ⇒ **Throw trash, cigarette butts, and fast food containers in trash cans.**
 - ⇒ **If possible, do not use fertilizers or do not over-use fertilizers.**
 - ⇒ **Recycle if possible! This includes aluminum, plastic, oil, and paper.**
 - ⇒ **Be aware of what is put into the septic system in your home.**

What is a Watershed???

A watershed is simply defined as all of the water from land that drains and collects in a body of water. An example of a watershed can be a lake, stream, river, pond, or ocean. Drainage basins are usually referred to large watersheds that have smaller streams or rivers running off of them, like the Upper and Lower Wabash River.

Within Washington County, Indiana, we have numerous watersheds. Blue River, Mill Creek, Lockwood Branch, Brock Creek, Highland Creek, Goose Creek, Haggatt Branch and Lake Salinda are examples of watersheds in our area.

Why is a watershed important? Or, why should I care about our watersheds? Becoming aware of our water resources will help us become aware of how we can prevent damage or help preserve our water resources. This can be as simple as throwing litter in specified containers or preventing to put harmful liquids in our storm drains. We all have a part to play when it comes to water quality. One small step or act can make our community watersheds better for tomorrow.



Filthy water cannot be washed.

West African Proverb



“When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.”

Benjamin Franklin



“All the water that will ever be is, right now.”

National Geographic



Much more fresh water is found under ground in aquifers than on earth’s surface.



“A corn field of one acre gives off 4,000 gallons of water per day in evaporation.”

High School Students Test Water Quality



Kiki Jones and Wendy Fleenor collect and analyze a water sample from Brock Creek.

Mr. Calhoun’s Chemistry II class at Salem High School has conducted water testing on Brach Creek in Washington County using Hoosier River Watch methods.

“The SHS science department has been water testing on Brock Creek and White River for over 15 years helping students understand the importance of water quality and how to monitor their water systems. We are looking forward to working

with the RC&D to expose our students to real life science in Washington County,” says Calhoun.

Mr. Calhoun also recently stated, “...we have got very good results. I’m glad the creek is flowing and clean now.”

Mr. Calhoun’s class will continue water testing over the year. Great results on a job well done!



Water Education

As part of the watershed funded grant from IDEM, water quality education will be available in the classroom with hands-on projects and activities. Students who become aware of water quality can be an important part of their community by using simple practices in their daily activities. Students will learn about water properties, conservation, uses, source and non-point source pollution, erosion, and many other water topics.

If you are interested in a classroom presentation, contact Whitney Sauerheber at (812) 883-3006 ext. 5.



White River RC&D is an equal opportunity employer.

Mill Creek-Blue River Watershed Project