



Press Release from...

Wabash River Enhancement Corporation

200 North 2nd Street Lafayette, Indiana 47901

IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 1, 2021

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Wabash River Water Quality Improvements and Funding

The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) has been awarded a \$325,000 grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and United States Environmental Protection Agency. These section 319 grant funds are designated to address non-point source pollution and water quality in our portion of the Wabash River watershed, known as the Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash River. The funds will be used for a two-year grant period; 2021-2022. WREC is completing another \$304,350 grant from the same program for 2019-2020.

A majority of the 319 grant funds are for the Cost-Share Program, a financial incentive program to assist with the installation of pollution reducing, water quality improving practices. The remainder of the funds are for an education and outreach program and water quality testing. \$226,500 was allocated to the 2019-2020 cost share program. \$227,000 is available for the 2021-2022 cost share program.

In 2019 and 2020, 319 funds were used to install:

5 rain barrels, 5 rain gardens, 1 bioswale, 12 Urban Trees, 0.47 acres of turf to native plantings, 1 Stormwater retrofit, 597 acres of cover crops, 5681 ft of grassed waterways, 280 ft of streambank stabilization, 9,769 ft² of Heavy Use Area Protection, 3 grade bank stabilization structure, 1 stream crossing for cattle, and 1 equipment modification.

These projects collectively reduced 35,171.36 lb. nitrogen (N), 17,511.55 lb. phosphorous (P), and 16,390.79 tons of sediment (S) from entering the Wabash River.

Additionally, 222 total rain barrels were distributed in 2019 and 2020 through the rain barrel program funded by Tipmont REMC Envirowatts, contributions from the Cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette, and individual homeowners.

Applications are currently being accepted for urban and agricultural cost share projects. Applications are due March 15, 2021 for both urban and agricultural projects. Second round agricultural project applications are due May 31, 2021. More information and applications for the program are available at our website: <http://www.wabashriver.net/costshare/>

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