



## WATER IN THE NEWS

# Water Conservation At Work

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### **Jackson Street Beautification Project, Anderson Indiana**

Submitted by: Jeremy VanErman, City of Anderson

Recently, the conditions of Anderson, Indiana's downtown thoroughfares prompted a review of some of the city's infrastructure. Sidewalks, lighting, and alleys were evaluated to identify needed repairs and to check for compliance with recent updates to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This review identified a number of deficiencies. In order to address the problems identified, a request for an engineer's report was made to the city's Engineering Department by and through the Anderson Board of Public Works.

The proposed improvement project area was designated as Jackson Street from 8th to 15th consisting of seven blocks. The Engineering Department worked with the Anderson Municipal Light & Power Company to prepare the existing conditions surveys needed to develop a budget for the proposed project.

With city blocks between 250 and 300 feet long and seven blocks to evaluate for on each street, these surveys covered nearly 4,000 lineal feet that were field-measured, assessed for condition, mapped and drawn into improvement plans along with estimates for proposed construction.

Proposed improvements include:

- Sidewalk repairs and replacement with decorative finish treatments
- ADA accessibility upgrades (ramps) and crosswalk improvements with decorative finish treatments
- Updated and improved decorative lighting with updated underground work.

## Jackson Street continued...

The Madison County Council of Governments recommended that these improvements include the addition of “Green Space” through Tree Planters and Vegetative Planter Strips. These elements would work together with the improved street and sidewalk lighting and would provide decorative accents to newly repaired sidewalks and required ADA improvements.



## IDEM's Impaired Waters

By: Greg Bright, Commonwealth Biomonitoring

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) collects a LOT of water quality information. Data collected includes both chemical and biological information. Every two years, IDEM analyzes all their recently-collected water quality monitoring data and prepares a “303(d)” list. The number 303(d) refers to a section of the Federal Clean Water Act which requires each state to identify waterbodies which do not meet the state’s water quality standards and to establish a priority order for actions to improve them. This list is also commonly referred to as the “impaired waterbodies” list.

A list of impaired waterbodies in Indiana can be found on the IDEM website (<https://secure.in.gov/idem/nps/2348.htm>). In 2012, Indiana had 3040 separate waterbodies on its list. Twenty different monitored parameters caused at least one case of water quality impairment. The parameter responsible for the largest proportion of impairment was E.coli (making up 35% of all

impairment listings). The parameters with the next highest proportions of impairments were PCBs in fish and impaired aquatic communities. These two parameters each account for an additional 20% of the listings. Other parameters which make up at least 5% of the impairment listings included nutrients, low dissolved oxygen, and mercury in fish.

Which parts of Indiana had the most number of impaired waterbodies? Lake County led the way with 122 listings. Other highly urbanized counties (Porter, Marion, and Allen) also had higher than average numbers of impaired waterbodies. But there are some surprises in the list too. Less populous counties such as Whitley, Perry, Spencer, Pulaski, Dubois, Harrison, Steuben, Lagrange, Kosciusko, and Posey also have a higher-than-average number of impaired waterbodies.

## Make the Water Conservation Pledge

Submitted by: Jill Hoffman, Empower Results

Have you made a difference for our water yet? The Clear Choices Clean Water program aims to raise public awareness about the choices we make and the impact those choices have on our community's water supply. People can make a difference in so many ways by doing things that help protect our water such as using phosphorous-free fertilizer, installing native plants or disposing of pet waste.

And, the Clear Choices Clean Water website makes making a difference easy. As part of the program, the public is challenged to make online pledges on the Clear Choices Clean Water website, The [water conservation pledge page](#) shows ways to conserve water inside your house and outside and helps participants see how their individual behaviors can impact the water demand in our area.

For those who enjoy a little friendly competition, when they take the pledge they can see if their neighbors are also pledging to conserve water. And, if they're not, the site provides email and social media sharing options to help them encourage them to make the water conservation pledge.

"We are working to make water conservation fun and meaningful for every family," said Jill Hoffmann, Executive Director of the White River Alliance. "Not only will our online pledges teach people how to conserve, they'll also learn why conservation is so important. According to a recent report from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, unless we begin managing our water resources more efficiently, parts of Indiana could be faced with a water shortage in the future. A change in our attitudes regarding water use needs to be part of the long-term solutions and cultivating that change takes time, creativity, and intentional public engagement."



## DNR Studies Walleye Mortality on Lake Monroe

Submitted by: IDNR

Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) biologists are tagging walleyes on Monroe Lake to study fishing mortality for the species.

During the last couple of weeks, biologists have used electrofishing to catch walleyes for tagging.

"So far we have tagged 78 walleyes with an overall goal of tagging at least 200 over the next couple of weeks," said Sandy Clark-Kolaks, who works for the Indiana DNR as a southern region fisheries research biologist.

The majority of those caught were male fish and ranged in length from 19 to 27 inches. Walleyes will be tagged with either a single or double plastic spaghetti tag near the dorsal fin. Anglers who catch a tagged walleye should remove the tag with a knife or scissors and return the tag to the DNR.

The study will help biologists understand how many walleyes anglers harvest from Monroe Lake and when. "Information from studies from like these help us with modeling of different length-limit scenarios," Clark-Kolaks said.

Tags can be returned through tag return envelopes available at boat ramps, boat ramp gate houses, the Paynetown DNR office or the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife field office in Bloomington.

On the envelopes are questions about name and address, the tag(s) number, and whether you harvested the fish. Tag envelopes can be returned to any location where they were obtained.

Please only include tag(s) from one fish per envelope. Tags also can be mailed to the DNR Bloomington Field Office, 5596 E. State Road 46, Bloomington, IN 47401, with the above information included.

For more information, visit [wildlife.IN.gov/3279.htm](http://wildlife.IN.gov/3279.htm) or email Clark-Kolaks at [sclark-kolaks@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:sclark-kolaks@dnr.IN.gov).

## Save the Date!

### North American Lake Management Society 35<sup>th</sup> International Symposium

Join NALMS for the 35th Annual Symposium November 17-20, 2015 in Saratoga Springs, NY.

In 2015 NALMS travels to Saratoga Springs, New York for our 35th Annual Symposium. NALMS Affiliate member, the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA), hosts this year's conference and attendees will enjoy a unique conference experience at the Saratoga City Center. They anticipate that 400-600 attendees will join them from around the world to attend the Symposium's many workshops and presentations. You can view information here regarding the symposium:

<http://www.nalms.org/home/conferences-and-events/nalms-upcoming-symposium/nalms-symposium.cmsx>

### 10<sup>th</sup> National Monitoring Conference

Join the National Monitoring Conference May 2-6, 2016 Tampa, Florida

This national forum is designed for all water stakeholders, including federal, state, tribal and local water professionals, non-profits, academia, and volunteer citizen scientists.

Attendees will network, develop partnerships and new skills, and exchange information and technology related to all water resources, including rivers and streams, lakes, wetlands, coastal waters and estuaries, groundwater, and processed water. Conference themes attract professional papers and posters addressing a variety of topics ranging from monitoring and assessment to protection and restoration. See the announcement here:

[http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2016/NationalMonitoringConference2016\\_STD.pdf](http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2016/NationalMonitoringConference2016_STD.pdf)

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## Recent News Releases

The annual closed fishing season on sections of Trail Creek and the East Branch of the Little Calumet River has been lifted under an emergency rule. See entire article here:

[http://www.in.gov/activecalendar\\_dnr/EventList.aspx?view=EventDetails&eventidn=7853&information\\_id=16171&type=&syndicate=syndicate](http://www.in.gov/activecalendar_dnr/EventList.aspx?view=EventDetails&eventidn=7853&information_id=16171&type=&syndicate=syndicate)

A restoration project that involves dredging sediment from Spring Mill Lake at Spring Mill State Park is underway. Visitors can still use the lake for fishing and boating. See entire article here:

[http://www.in.gov/activecalendar\\_dnr/EventList.aspx?view=EventDetails&eventidn=7842&information\\_id=16080&type=&syndicate=syndicate](http://www.in.gov/activecalendar_dnr/EventList.aspx?view=EventDetails&eventidn=7842&information_id=16080&type=&syndicate=syndicate)

Tribes in 13 states receive \$4.2 million from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for Conservation Work. See article here:

<http://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ID=5C492917-B605-2F4E-817D3F194D58808D>

Settlement for \$8.75 million reached at Centredale Manor Restoration Project Superfund site in North Providence, RI. See entire article at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/FC0B6D44F81F763185257E2A0055435A>

Methyl bromide investigation expands to Puerto Rico. See entire article at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/d7aabf794fc3378085257e290067ea86!OpenDocument>

## LARE Logjam Removal

By: Ashlee Haviland, IDNR Lake and River Enhancement Program

The goal of logjam removal projects is to reduce erosion and sedimentation in rivers and streams due to logjams. Logjams that redirect water energy towards streambanks, potentially undercutting roads and other features can cause great concern, as well as those that markedly affect stream channel patterns.

In some streams logjams also have the potential to reduce recreation and stream use. If the logjam does not create an increase in hydraulic head then actual impact of a logjam should not be described as flood-causing. Woody debris provides valuable habitat for fish, wildlife, and other aquatic organisms, so removal of logjams must be weighed against the impacts on fish and wildlife habitat. Expertise within DNR will be utilized to help determine these potential impacts. If approved, the removal of such logjams must be conducted in a manner that minimizes impact on both the aquatic habitat and the land used to access the stream for logjam removal.

A maximum of \$35,000 will be available for a logjam removal project on an eligible site and waterway. A cumulative maximum of \$100,000 will be available for all logjam removal projects on any single waterway. For each project, a minimum of 20% of the total project cost must be contributed by the project sponsor. A portion of the local match (up to half) may be in the form of “in-kind” services.

In spring of 2014 the LARE program awarded a grant for four logjams on Plummer Creek in Greene County. The landowner and Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District were able to assist and provide access to the sites of the logjam. The logjams on Plummer Creek were considered mainly Condition 3 logjams, which means they contain large accumulations of lodged trees, root wads, and/or other debris that are inter-locked and commonly span the entire width of the stream. With Condition 3 logjams,

large amounts of fine sediments typically have not yet covered or become lodged within the obstruction.



*Logjam site along Plummer Creek, Greene County*

Removal of logjams is typically done in late summer. However sometimes springtime conditions allow for the logjam to be removed before the heavy spring rains arrive, possibly depositing more logs. Removal of the logjams on Plummer Creek was completed during the summer of 2014.



*Landowner with logs removed from Plummer Creek*

**Indiana Water Monitoring Council**  
100 North Senate Ave Indianapolis,  
IN 46204

**Phone:**  
317-308-3179

**Fax:**  
317-308-3219

**E-Mail:**  
[info@InWMC.org](mailto:info@InWMC.org)

Like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/inwmc>

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## Become a Member!

The Indiana Water Monitoring Council (InWMC) invites you to [become a member](#) today!

The InWMC addresses the full range of water resources, physical, chemical, and biological, including ground and surface waters.

We invite you to become a part of the InWMC -- a diverse and interesting group of individuals and organizations that collect, use, or study water monitoring data in Indiana.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more or click [here](#) to join today!

InWMC serves as a broad-based collaborative body to help achieve effective and efficient collection, interpretation, and dissemination of basic data and processed information for use in addressing issues of Indiana waters.

### Membership Types:

General Members. General members are dues-paying members with voting privileges and may participate in all InWMC activities, including the chairmanship of subcommittees. Dues are \$10/year.

Affiliate Members. Affiliate members pay no dues and do not have voting privileges, but may participate in InWMC activities, including participation on subcommittees, except subcommittee chairpersonship.

Join the InWMC today at:

<http://www.inwmc.org/page-303780>