

The Water Drop

Summer 2022



Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality

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The Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality is a group of five local governments working together to meet our National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Permit. Our mission is to bring stormwater pollution awareness, preventions and solutions for the residents of Morgan County through public education and community involvement.

Did you know that The Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality has a new website, Facebook page and Instagram?

<https://mcpwq.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/Morgan-County-Partnership-for-Water-Quality-106226147941275>

<https://www.instagram.com/mcpwq46151/>



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This summer has kept us busy at Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality! We were able to present to mini 4-H Camps and at the Mooresville Public Library in the months of June and July.

The program was started with reading *A Seriously Silly Story of a Waterdrops Journey* by Martha Miller. This opened up a discussion on where stormwater flows and where it goes after it discharges from the storm drain system. The participants learned that stormwater is not treated before it is discharged into local waterways. We then talked about the importance of keeping stormwater clean.

We worked on a rain garden in a bottle/water filtration project. This was a hands-on watch and learn project. Each participant was given a water bottle. Since the water bottles are clean we can observe all the different layers we will add to make the rain garden.

Gravel, sand, garden soil, and mulch were the substrates or layers of the rain garden in the bottle. These different layers help filter out pollutants and slow the flow of water. We could see each layer building on top of the next as we added the layers.

Each participant was given clean water in a cup. This was to represent stormwater before it collected pollutants on its runoff path. A small capful of vegetable oil was placed in the cup of water. This was

to represent fluids leaked from a vehicle. We observed that water and oil do not mix very well! Next, a few small scoops of potting soil were added to the water with oil. The potting soil represented sediment runoff from construction sites. This really turned the water murky! The last items that were added were small plastic pony beads. The beads represent litter. With the oil, potting soil, and beads added to the water it makes the water look bad. This is a great visual of polluted water. A line is drawn on the cup to show the level of the water.

The participants then slowly (to avoid making a mess) pour the polluted water into their rain garden in a bottle. Once the water starts to work its way through the substrate, we could see the water looked a bit cleaner. The trash (plastic pony beads) were trapped in the mulch preventing it from moving further. The oil and the sediments from the construction site were trapped in the layers of the substrates.

We asked the question can dirt clean water? There were varying answers at the beginning of the program. After we ran through the rain garden in a bottle many participants were excited to see that dirt/rain gardens can help clean our water!



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Around Morgan County

Did you know.....

Old Town Waverly Park is current home to a White River Art Canoe!

The White River Alliance enlisted local artists to paint canoes with themes about water. Once the artists finished painting their individual canoe, the canoes were placed in different communities throughout the state. Each canoe is painted with a relevant water theme. This year Morgan County is hosting a canoe at The Old Town Waverly Park.

Old Town Waverly Park is current home to the Agriculture and Livestock canoe painted by Indiana artist, Sarah Jones. It is a great mural representing water, agriculture, and livestock! Water is important in life, agricultural, too. Understanding the importance of water quality and water conservation is needed in today's world. Below, you can see the work the artist has done to help convey this message.

Visit Old Town Waverly Park today and check out this art canoe!

White River Alliance <https://thewhiteriveralliance.org/programs/white-river-art-canoes/>



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Youth in Action

Martinsville youth, *Maddie MacPhee*, is busy working on her Gold Award for Girl Scouts! Below, you will find an article that *Maddie MacPhee* has written about this project. Please consider supporting her project!

As an Ambassador Girl Scout and a 7-year member, it was time for me to decide what project I would like to complete for my Gold Award project in 2021. A good Gold Award project should have a link to a global or



national issue, be sustainable, take at least 80 hours of my time, and address an issue that I am passionate about. This is the highest award that a Girl Scout can achieve and I wanted it to succeed. My future plans are to attend college and earn a degree in

wildlife biology. Preserving nature and the ecosystem are important to me. It didn't take very long for me to find a project that I knew I could be passionate about that affects wildlife worldwide.



When you look around Morgan County, you see the beautiful features of Indiana. To help keep these amazing places safe and clean, I have decided to build and install monofilament fishing

line collection tubes at some of the more popular fishing spots along the White River. I first noticed a need for them while attending the White River clean-ups that were hosted by the Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality. I saw first-hand the damage that the fishing line could do to our environment.

After some research, I found out that it is very hard for monofilament fishing line to break down and that it must be recycled in order to keep it from our landfills, rivers, ponds, and lakes. There were also several different types of collection tubes that were available to build or buy. In 2022, I built my first collection tube! The style I decided on would hold quite a bit of line, be easy and safe to use, and has a hinged door to prevent birds from trying to nest in it. It was on display at the River Clean-Up this year and at the Morgan County Fair. I want to educate people how dangerous the fishing line can be to wildlife. It can get tangled around their bodies and end up in their stomachs. Often times, it debilitates the animal or they die.

With help from the Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality and donations from citizens, I will be able to construct several of these collection tubes and install them throughout the county. The MCPWQ has also agreed to help keep the collection tubes emptied and the line recycled so that the project will go on even after I move on to college. Look for the collection tubes at the Henderson Ford, Three Rivers, and Paragon River access sites. If you would like to help in any way, please contact me through our troop email at POPTroop60151@gmail.com. Hopefully, we can add a few more locations! Thank You!

Maddie MacPhee

Girl Scout Troop #60151



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News from Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation

Two Morgan County Farms Receive Statewide 'River-Friendly Farmer' Award

Martinsville, IN (September 1, 2022) – The Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) honored local farmers, Tom and Debra Carter and Mike and Jeff Buis, as recipients of the 2022 River Friendly Farmer Award. Nominated by the Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District, the two farms are two of 48 Indiana farms who received this statewide award this year during the Indiana State Fair.



Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch addressed the recipients and their families at the event recognizing them for their implementation of conservation practices, like no-till farming methods and cover crops. These methods of conservation farming help to prevent sediment and nutrient run off from entering creeks, streams, and other sources of surface water. Cover crops can also sequester carbon from the atmosphere and help to store it in the soil. Randy Kron, President of Indiana Farm Bureau, offered thanks and appreciation to these farmers and landowners who go the extra mile in protecting Indiana's natural resources.

The Carter and Buis farms have implemented these practices, along with many others, to build habitat and conserve our natural resources for decades! These practices have prevented erosion of the soil and sediment in the streams that run through their farm ground. To find out more about conservation farming and what the Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District can do for you, visit www.MorganCountySWCD.org.

Sponsored by Indiana Farm Bureau, the River Friendly Farmer Award program began in 2000 and has honored over 1,100 Indiana farms.

For a complete list of this year's winners go to: <http://wordpress.iaswcd.org/river-friendly-farmer-award/>.



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Storm water tips on social media....

We have started posting Stormwater Tips on our social media accounts!

The tips include celebrating the 50th anniversary of The Clean Water Act, what should/shouldn't go down a storm drain, cleaning up after your pet, yard debris and so much more!

Stay tuned for each tip!



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GET INVOLVED!



2022
SWCD FALL
FOLIAGE
CONSERVATION TOUR

October 5, 2022 ~ 6:00 pm
Morgan Monroe Forestry Fire Training Center
Morgan-Monroe Forestry, Martinsville, IN
Learn more about how the DNR takes care of the state
forests & take a short guided hike with us!

More details at: www.MorganCountySWCD.org

REGISTER HERE:
<https://tinyurl.com/conservationtour2022>



To learn more about the tour by going
to the SWCD website:

www.MorganCountySWCD.org

or register for the event by going to

<https://tinyurl.com/conservationtour2022>

Community Event Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Meeting Time</i>	<i>Additional Info</i>
9/19/2022	Morgan County Native & Invasive Plant Partnership – WEED WRANGLE	12n-6p	This is a WEED WRANGLE at Old Town Waverly Park! We will be working to Morgan County Parks tackle invasive plants! Join us for the fun and learning!
10/4/2022	Farmers' Day	4p – 7p	Morgan County 4-H Fairgrounds
10/5/2022	MCSWCD – Conservation Tour	TBD	www.MorganCountySWCD.org
10/18/2022	Morgan County Native & Invasive Plant Partnership – WEED WRANGLE	12n-6p	This is a WEED WRANGLE at Old Town Waverly Park! We will be working to Morgan County Parks tackle invasive plants! Join us for the fun and learning!
10/29/2022	Morgan County Recycling – TOX AWAY DAY	8a – 1p	https://www.morgancountysolidwaste.org

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