

# The Water Drop

Spring 2023



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.*

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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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## White River Clean Up 2023



On Saturday, March 11, 2023 volunteers from the Morgan County area came together to clean up the White River. This was one of the larger turn outs to date! It was so nice to see new volunteers, as well as, repeat volunteers. The weather was great this year and this created a good opportunity for volunteers to get outside and create a positive impact on our local river.

The event started at the Three Rivers S.R.A. The volunteers were given information and thanks from Bill Dials, Stormwater Coordinator for Morgan County. After the safety information meeting, volunteers were able to pick which section of the White River they wanted to work on cleaning up. This year we added Old Town Waverly Park to our locations. Our other locations on the White River includes, Henderson Ford, Paragon, and Three Rivers.

There were many volunteers of all ages. Families, friends, teams, and individuals came together to cleanup along the White River in Morgan County. Like years past, this group worked to pick up the litter that

throw out or that has been washed down to the area due to flooding. There were so many single use water bottles discarded/washed up on the banks of the river.

Volunteers collected the litter and debris to allow the waste to be disposed of properly.

The volunteers were able to fill a 15-yard dumpster. The dumpster was completely full! Volunteers were able to collect 92 tires. The tires were hauled up to Big O' Tires by Doug Peine of Peine Engineering and the folks of Jackson Junk. Big O' Tires has been a great supporter of this event. Each year they take the tires and dispose of them for Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality.

Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality would like to thank Morgan County Recycles, Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District, Morgan County Parks and Recreation, Jackson Junk, Mr. Sanitation, Peine Engineering, and Big O' Tires – Mooresville for all their help and support to help make this clean up event successful. But the biggest **THANK YOU** is going out to all our volunteers that showed up and gave it their all cleaning up around the banks of the White River!



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## Rain Gardens and Water Filtration

During the month of April, we visited the 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes at John R. Wooden Middle School in Martinsville and taught about water filtration/rain gardens. This was a fun and messy lesson!

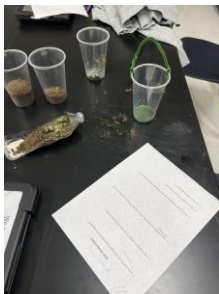


Lisa with Morgan County Soil & Water Conservation District co-taught the lesson with me. We were able to spend all 55 minutes with the students in Mrs. Beltran's and Mrs. Mathew's class.

We started the lesson with a discussion on the scarcity of freshwater and freshwater's importance to everything. Next, we started adding in information and engaging the students on water pollution. The Clean Water Act of 1972 was discussed.

I got to discuss impervious and pervious surface with the classes. Many students did not know what (the proper word) a storm drain was. Once a picture was shown many students were able to tell us they know where some are in town. Details about wastewater versus storm drain system were given to the classes.

The question, "Can soil clean water?", was presented to the class. Many students felt soil would make the water dirtier. We gave supplies and directions for the students to run an experiment to answer the question we presented.



We demonstrated making the "polluted water". The "polluted water", consisted of water, vegetable oil (represented leaked vehicle fluids), green sugar sprinkles (representing fertilizer or road deicer salt), chocolate breakfast cereal (representing litter or animal waste), and some dried parsley leaves (representing grass clippings/yard waste).

The first demonstration we presented was what runoff looks like on "IMPERVIOUS SURFACES". We took a 2 liter soda bottle with the side cut out, laid it flat and applied non-drying modeling clay. The modeling clay represents "impervious surfaces" for this demonstration. We also had a storm drain/catch basin we created by using a plastic cup. We slowly poured the "polluted water" over the impervious surface (the bottle was tilted). The students observed that the "polluted water" flow over the surface and into the catch basin.

The next demonstration was of impervious and pervious materials in one bottle. "Polluted water" was poured over the impervious surface. The students noticed that the "polluted water" just ran off into the pervious material (garden soil). The garden soil was able to absorb the "polluted water" and slow the flow. It was noticed that the garden soil also, prevented the larger pieces of pollution from flow of the runoff. The runoff from the bottle was collected in the "catch basin". There was less water and it was a bit cleaner. Some students had sediment in their catch basins. This was because this is an experiment replicating nature. Things do not always go as planned.



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Then we were able to demonstrate the runoff flowing through a piece of cereal rye. This was a success! Though in this experiment it did not show how the water was absorbed into the soil (I think I needed to include a piece with more soil) it did show how the water was MUCH cleaner. On the last day of lessons, we were able to have a group of 2 students at each table run the experiment using the cereal rye, while the other group ran the experiment using only soil. Great opportunity to compare and contrast the experiment.

The students worked in groups of 2 or 3. Each group was given a water bottle that had a side cut out. Then each student was given a piece of clay, a cup of soil, an “polluted water”. They worked through the model and answered questions about: Can soil clean water? Making predictions on what pollution will be removed, and if stormwater was treated before flowing into local waters.

This lesson was a good success. The students were engaged and seemed to enjoy the hands on activity. We are already planning the activity for next year!

If you would like more information on Free Educational Opportunities like this, email Rachel at: [swed@morgancounty.in.gov](mailto:swed@morgancounty.in.gov)



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## Impervious Surfaces

As land is urbanized with growth, the natural landscape is changing. Buildings, roads, housing additions, parking lots (impervious surfaces) and so on are replacing, forests, farm fields and grassy areas (natural areas). The natural areas play a part in the water cycle as it allows the water to seep into the ground (infiltration). With less natural areas, the water has fewer places to seep in. This creates stormwater runoff and flows over the impervious surfaces until it goes through the storm drain system.

An impervious surface is any surface that is a hardened or paved surface that does not allow water to pass through. Examples of impervious surfaces are: roads, rooftops, sidewalks, pools, patios, parking lots, basically anything that does not let water pass through.

With watersheds becoming more urbanized, vegetation is being reduced and impervious surfaces increasing, less water is able to infiltrate the ground. This is causing more stormwater runoff. The stormwater runoff is then collected in the drainage systems that flow directly into local streams. With stormwater not seeping into the ground, this increases the possibility of pollution, flooding, and erosion.

According to the Chesapeake Bay Program, the impervious surfaces increase the amount and speed of the stormwater runoff and alter the natural stream flow & pollute aquatic habitats.

Pollution from the stormwater runoff is increased as it flows over the impervious surfaces. Pollutants can be leaked fluids from vehicles, litter, animal waste, and yard debris, amongst other things. It is very important for the stormwater to remain as free from pollutants as possible. The stormwater flows into the storm drain system until it reaches a local body of water. Stormwater is not treated before it flows into the local waters.

[Stormwater Runoff | Chesapeake Bay Program](#)

<https://durhamnc.gov/864/Impervious-Surface>

[https://www.usgs.gov/special-topic/water-scienceschool/science/impervious-surfaces-and-flooding?qtscience\\_center\\_objects=0#qt-science\\_center\\_objects](https://www.usgs.gov/special-topic/water-scienceschool/science/impervious-surfaces-and-flooding?qtscience_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects)

[https://maps.indiana.edu/previewMaps/Environment/Land\\_Cover\\_Impervious\\_Surfaces\\_2001.html](https://maps.indiana.edu/previewMaps/Environment/Land_Cover_Impervious_Surfaces_2001.html)





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## GET INVOLVED!

Morgan County (*Indiana*), here is your chance to show us your photography skills! We are asking for current photographs of fish caught in Morgan County Waters.

When you go for a hike/walk near Morgan County Waters take photographs of the turtles and eagles you see!

Submit your entries daily for a chance to win gift cards from local businesses.

This contest is open from April 12 until October 31, 2023. See the flyers below for more information.

We can't wait to see your photos!  
*Here are the links:*

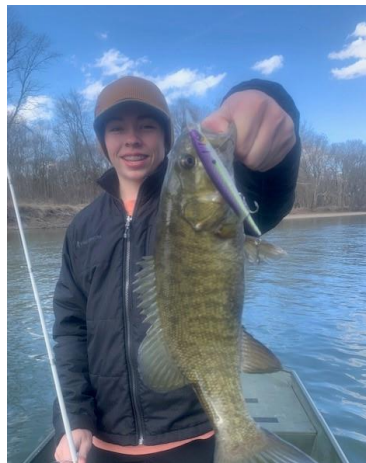
### **Morgan County Fish:**

<https://forms.gle/x76UFqYaVj3MnTad9>

### **Morgan County Turtles & Eagles:**

<https://forms.gle/rQ7731bMiNsPWuMy8>

If you have questions, please email:  
[swed@morgancounty.in.gov](mailto:swed@morgancounty.in.gov)



# The Water Drop

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Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality

## Show us your Fish

Help promote Water Quality in Morgan County

### Keep It Clean Campaign

Let's show what we have to lose

**Send us your photos of the fish you catch in Morgan County, IN  
for a chance to win \$100 gift card from local businesses**



Scan this QR CODE to  
send one picture per day  
to be entered to win



[www.mcpwq.org](http://www.mcpwq.org)  
[swed@morgancounty.in.gov](mailto:swed@morgancounty.in.gov)



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GET INVOLVED!

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Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality

## Eagles & Turtles of Morgan County

Help promote water quality by showing what's at stake

## Keep It Clean Campaign

Send us your photos of the Turtles & Eagles you see in Morgan County,  
IN for a chance to win \$100 gift card from local businesses



Scan this QR Code and send  
one picture per day to be  
entered to win



[www.mcpwq.org](http://www.mcpwq.org)

[swed@morgancounty.in.gov](mailto:swed@morgancounty.in.gov)

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## GET INVOLVED!

### **SPRING TOX AWAY DAY**

**June 24th, 2023**

### **MOORESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**

**8:00 am – 1:00 pm (rain or shine)**

**MORGAN COUNTY RESIDENTS ONLY**

*Businesses are not included (due to the volume of material);  
they may call **NuGenesis** at 800-487-1010 to make other arrangements.*

**What You Can Dispose of for Free:** **Prescription Medications & Sharps**, Oil fuels, Antifreeze, Motor Oil/Filters, Adhesives, Driveway Sealers, Stain, Pesticides, Herbicides, Fertilizers, Pool Chemicals, Varnish, Auto Batteries, Oil Base and Latex Paints, Paint Tubes/PCB, Ballasts, Acids & Bases, Household Cleaning Agents, Rechargeable Batteries and Weed Killers.

**We Accept All Appliances (CFC & non-CFC) for Free:** Refrigerators, Freezers, Air Conditioners, Stoves, Washers, Dryers, Water Heaters, Microwaves, Humidifiers, and De-Humidifiers. **FEES for TELEVISIONS and MONITORS: \$20.00 each**

**FEES for TIRES are as follows:**

Car/Light Truck Tires: First 6 free——\$2.00 per each additional tire (12 max)

Heavy/Truck Tires: First 2 free——\$5.00 per each additional tire (6 max)

**Farm tractor Tires (54" diameter & greater): intact, \$75.00 each; if fully**

**Quartered (No Halves & No Thirds): first two quartered tires for free;**

**\$15.00 for each additional quartered tire (6 max)**

Tires on rims are an additional \$1.00 each

**WE WILL NOT ACCEPT:** Asbestos, Lab Chemicals, Large Propane Tanks, Explosives, Ammunition or Firearms, Medical or Infectious Waste, Radioactive Materials.

Conducted by:

**Morgan County Solid Waste Management District; 765-342-2533**

[www.morgancountyrecycling.org](http://www.morgancountyrecycling.org)

With the support of:

The Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality

The Indiana American Water Company

Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District

The Healthier Morgan County Initiative

Morgan County Substance Abuse Council



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GET INVOLVED!

## Community Event Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Additional Info</i>
6/6/2023	Morgan County Native & Invasive Plant Partnership Monthly Meeting	6:00p	Sadler Room – County Admin Building
6/14/2022	Morgan County Soil & Water Conservation District Monthly Meeting	6:30p	Sadler Room – County Admin Building
6/24/2023	Morgan County Tox Away Day	8:00a – 12:00n	Mooreville High School
7/4/2023	Morgan County Native & Invasive Plant Partnership Monthly Meeting	6:00p	Sadler Room – County Admin Building
7/7/2023	Morgan County 4-H Fair Starts		Morgan County Fairgrounds – Come see us at the Fair!
7/12/2023	Morgan County Soil & Water Conservation District Monthly Meeting	6:30p	Sadler Room – County Admin Building

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## CONTACT US

Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality

765-342-1064

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<https://mcpwq.org>

