



Photo courtesy: IDEM

"No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man."
- Heraclitus

February 2022

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Coordinator

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Basic Training

May 13 - Bristol

Sept. 3 - Bristol

Instructor Training

March 24 - Indianapolis

Hoosier
Riverwatch is
administered
by:



Greetings Riverwatchers!

It has been seven years since Hoosier Riverwatch has seen a change in the coordinator role and while Carol leaves big shoes to fill, I look forward to the coming year with great anticipation. I am ecstatic to see data continue to trickle into the online database and have a growing pool of volunteers interested in instructor and advanced trainings. As I continue to meet the instructors that make Riverwatch what it is, my summer begins to fill with trips around the state to learn more about all the wonderful ways Hoosier Riverwatch is implemented.

In my seven-year career with IDEM's Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch, I have had the privilege of traveling to many hidden corners of the state to assess our waterways. This work has filled me with a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude to live in a state with such beautiful water resources. I hope I can bring this excitement and energy into the Riverwatch program as we navigate a return to offering more workshops, educational events, and opportunities to allow citizens of Indiana to become active members of monitoring these resources. I am looking forward to working with all of you to integrate much of the technology we have become accustomed to in the past two years into the program to streamline our learning, and of course, allow for more hands-on time in the stream! Keep your eyes on your email and future newsletters for spring training dates. I hope to see you all soon.

- Ross Carlson, Hoosier Riverwatch Coordinator

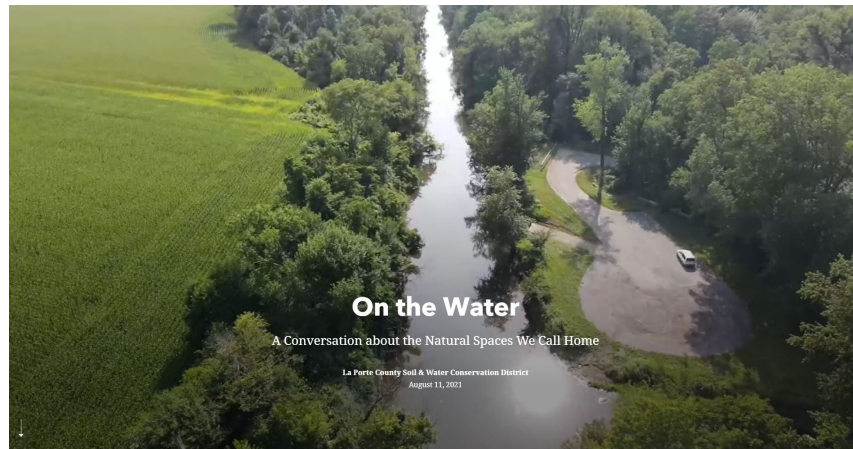
La Porte County *On the Water* Online Story Map



Wild Rice (*Zizania aquatica*).

☒: Pokagon Band Department of Natural Resources.

A partnership between the La Porte County Public Library and the La Porte County Soil and Water Conservation District has created an excellent story map entitled La Porte County *On the Water*. This multimedia digital essay explores the towns and citizens that call La Porte home, and their relationship with nature. Straddling the Great Lakes and Mississippi watersheds La Porte County's unique hydrology is rich in water resources. Learn more about actions underway to preserve these resources by viewing [La Porte County On the Water](#).



Hoosier Riverwatch Program Assessment

As the new Coordinator, I am diligently working to familiarize myself with all the facets of Hoosier Riverwatch, its history, and looking for areas to improve. As a volunteer-run program, there is no one more qualified to help in this endeavor than you, the volunteers!

If you have any suggestions or feedback, I welcome you to reach out to me to discuss how we can improve our services. You can email your suggestions to riverwatch@idem.IN.gov or call 317-308-3085, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Photo courtesy:
IDEM

Ross Carlson with a Channel catfish collected during and IDEM biological Survey.

Film Spotlight

Released in 2018, *Braided with the Current* spotlights the interconnection between the White River and the communities that it weaves through Director Katelyn

Calhoun was drawn to the river after discovering the canal and riverfront during a

run while in Indianapolis on business. She immediately fell in love with the area and since moving to central Indiana, she has continued to recreate on the river. With the opportunity to tell its story through the award of an Indiana Humanities Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust grant, Katelyn depicts the health of the river and its tremendous potential as a natural resource. Focusing on individuals who work, play, and live on the river, the White River itself becomes the main character connecting those living in Muncie through Indianapolis. This imagery of the film is fantastic, and I found myself itching for warmer weather and the return of fishing season while watching it. The full film can be found on the Tear Drop Picture site: <https://www.teardrop.pictures/work-03>. Currently, Tear Drop pictures is completing their upcoming film, *Hellbender in the Blue*, which will be showing at festivals around the state in 2022. This film focuses on the historic effort of rehabilitating Hellbender populations in the Blue River in southern Indiana. Keep an eye out as this is one you will not want to miss!



Photos courtesy of Teardrop Pictures



White River Alliance R.A.F.T. Data Studio

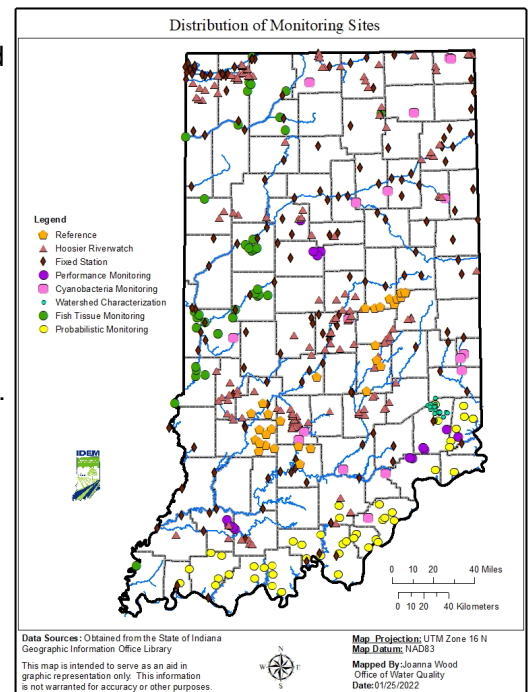


It has been a busy fall for the White River Alliance's River Assessment Field Teams (R.A.F.T.). Since beginning their sampling events in October, 21 R.A.F.T. teams have sampled 44 sites in Hamilton and Marion counties. The data have been compiled and presented beautifully in their [Online Data Studio](#). The Alliance is targeting the small and often overlooked tributaries of the White River to pinpoint which are contributing most to the degradation of the river. The program utilizes Riverwatch as a foundation, coupled with laboratory analyzed water samples, to provide data with a high level of quality assurance. The Indy Star recently sat down with the Alliance for a great [article](#) on the program and the steps they are taking to address pollution issues in the White River. To get involved in upcoming sampling visit the Alliance website [here](#).

IDEM's OWQ WAPB 2022 Monitoring

Can you follow all the acronyms? IDEM's Office of Water Quality, Watershed Assessment and Planning Branch staff are busy preparing for the upcoming 2022 season, but do you know the extent of what this involves? To assess surface water quality in Indiana's rivers, streams, and lakes for designated water uses and for other programmatic need, IDEM utilizes data from many projects. The following projects are scheduled to be completed during the 2022 sampling season.

- Probabilistic and Watershed Characterization in the East Fork White River, and Black Creek Watersheds to assess overall health.
- Fixed Station Monitoring at 165 sites across the state for trend analysis.
- Fish tissue Monitoring in the East Fork White River and Whitewater River watersheds to guide the Indiana Fish Consumption Advisory.
- Cyanobacteria monitoring at 22 public lakes and one dog park to ensure public health at these beaches.
- Cool water biotic index development to aid in the assessment of naturally cooler waters in the state.
- Reference site monitoring to identify sites with the least amount of human disturbance.
- Performance Monitoring to assess water quality improvement.



IDEM's 2019 Statewide Sample sites.



Photo's courtesy of IDEM



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Earth Day Elementary School Classroom Presentations

Attention educators! IDEM is once again offering Earth Day presentations given by one of its environmental professionals! Topics include air quality, land quality, water quality, and recycling. These hands-on presentations last between 30-50 minutes and are geared to supplement the STEM curriculum taught in schools. This is a great way to access the expertise of IDEM's seasoned employees and spark a passion for stewardship among your students. Registration opens January 28 and spaces fill fast! Visit [IDEM Earth Day Presentations](#) to learn more.



Photo courtesy Ross Carlson

Hoosier Riverwatch Mission

The mission of Hoosier Riverwatch is to involve the citizens of Indiana in becoming active stewards of Indiana's water resources through watershed education, water monitoring, and clean-up activities. Hoosier Riverwatch is a water quality monitoring initiative sponsored by the **Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Office of Water Quality**.

For more information, go to www.idem.IN.gov/riverwatch.



Photo courtesy IDEM