

Facts about Wabash River and Sugar Creek

- The Wabash River is the official state river of Indiana and flows 475 miles from the headwaters near Fort Recovery, Ohio, to its confluence with the Ohio River.
- The Wabash runs freely for 411 miles from the dam at Roush Reservoir (Huntington County) to the Ohio River, making it the longest free-flowing stretch of any river in the United States east of the Mississippi River.
- Wabash is the English spelling of “Ouabache” – the French name for the river. French traders named it after the Miami Indian name, *waapaahsiiki*, meaning “it shines white.”
- The Wabash is the largest northern tributary of the Ohio River and has 12 major tributaries of its own – Eel, Little, Little Wabash, Mississinewa, Patoka, Salamonie, Tippecanoe and White rivers, and Sugar and Wildcat creeks in Indiana, plus the Embarras and Vermillion rivers in Illinois.
- Seventy-three of Indiana’s 92 counties lie within the Wabash River watershed, which drains almost 75 percent of Indiana.
- Despite losses in biodiversity, the Wabash River section around Terre Haute is home to 61 species of plants, animals, and habitats considered rare, threatened or endangered
- The Wabash contains numerous species of mollusks, including such federally endangered species as the clubshell, Eastern fanshell, tubercled blossom, rough pigtoe, ring pink, pink mucket and white wartyback.
- Bald eagles, once federally endangered, now nest in the Wabash River/Sugar Creek corridor. So do Great blue herons.
- Sugar Creek valley, bordered by Shades and Turkey Run state parks, contains spectacular geographic features – sandstone cliffs, waterfalls and backbones. Several are considered nationally significant and two are designated National Natural Landmarks: Pine Hills and Rocky Hollow-Falls Canyon.
- Several rare aquatic species, including the federally endangered clubshell mussel and the state-endangered gilt darter thrive in Sugar Creek.
- Ice age remnants such as Canada yew, Eastern hemlock and white pine are abundant along Sugar Creek.

Wabash River/Sugar Creek Corridor Restoration Project



Illustration by Rebecca Mauser/DNR Division of Communications