

2015 Lake and River Enhancement Program - WLEB Initiatives

DeKalb County

DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded a grant by the Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Program of IDNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife of \$12,000 for Watershed Land Treatment projects for landowners in the Cedar Creek Watershed in DeKalb County. In this cooperative effort, employees of the SWCD, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and Indiana State Department of Agriculture-Division of Soil Conservation assist local landowners in selecting practices and measures to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients leaving their fields in the watershed of Cedar Creek. Such practices might include planting of cover crops, nutrient management and waste utilization, installation of grassed waterways or buffer strips near waterways. Cedar Creek flows into for approximately 32 miles in DeKalb and Allen Counties, eventually joining the St. Joseph River and includes a watershed of nearly 175,000 acres.

The LARE grant provides up to 80% cost-share to landowners utilizing approved methods to reduce erosion and sedimentation.

City of Fort Wayne

The City of Fort Wayne was awarded a grant of \$32,000 for Streambank Stabilization efforts on the banks of the Saint Joseph, Saint Mary's and Maumee Rivers in Fort Wayne. They are completing a new Riparian management plan for the Three Rivers (St. Joseph, St. Mary's and Maumee) that merge within the city and eventually flow to the Western Lake Erie Basin. The LARE grant will be utilized for a Design/Build project in which the erosion control measure is both designed and installed in one smooth effort, as opposed to waiting a year in between design and installation. The LARE program finds that these kinds of projects can be built both quickly and more economically when the extent of the problem is documented ahead of time. The areas to be addressed with this grant will include severe bank erosion near the "Old Fort" area on the bank of the St. Mary's River. The grant funds will be added to with \$8,000 from Legacy Funds that the City of Fort Wayne has to stabilize streambank erosion along a 300 foot stretch of river bank adjacent to the Old Fort.