

# Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

Annual Report  
2020



# CONTENTS

3

PARTNERSHIP SUMMARY

4

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

5

IN-PERSON OUTREACH

7

WORKSHOP

8

DIGITAL OUTREACH

10

2021 GOALS



# MISSION

The Allen County Partnership for Water Quality strives to promote improvement in water quality through collaborative education, engagement, and empowerment of Allen County citizens.

## ACPWQ SUMMARY

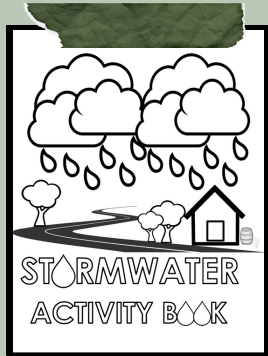
Allen County Partnership for Water Quality (ACPWQ) is a locally funded partnership that was the first of its' kind within the state of Indiana. ACPWQ focuses on these water quality problems: stormwater, watershed issues, and water conservation.

The Partnership has one part-time employee that works to meet two of the six minimum control measures, MCM, that are audited by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, IDEM, to protect stormwater. The 2 MCMs fulfilled by the Partnership are bold in the list outlined by IDEM:

- 1. Public Education & Outreach**
- 2. Public Involvement**
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post Construction Site Runoff Control
6. Good Housekeeping



# NEW MATERIALS

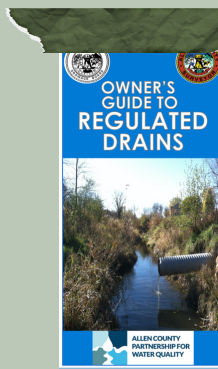


## NEW ACTIVITY BOOK

A new activity book was created to help teach Allen County youth about local watersheds. This booklet can be downloaded from the website or picked up at events!

## NEW BROCHURE

2020's new brochure is "Owner's Guide to Regulated Drains". This brochure outlines what a regulated drain is, how it is assessed, and how much they cost.



## NATIVE PLANT HANDOUT

This new handout is both an information card and seed paper handout. It promotes the use of native plants and the benefits they offer to cleanse stormwater.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

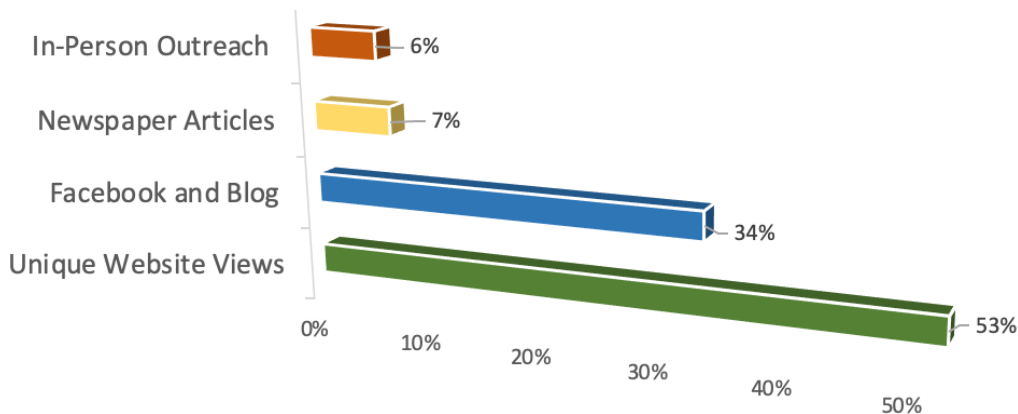
As an education-based organization, 2020 brought Allen County Partnership for Water Quality (ACPWQ) numerous challenges. Our main challenge was how to reach Allen County residents without going to events. To meet the need for stormwater education in our area, our efforts became focused on social media, bi-weekly blog posts, and newspaper articles. When in-person events did arise, we made sure to prioritize them and be present. Due to more office time, ACPWQ had the opportunity to create new materials, including a new activity book for children, a regulated drain brochure, native plant handouts, and various posters. Materials were created with the intention of being handed out at events but are also available on our website or upon request.



# IN-PERSON OUTREACH

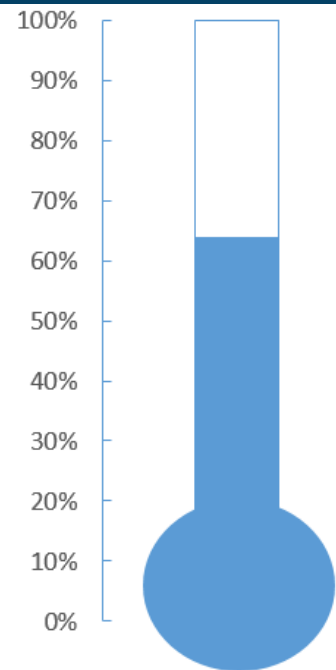
## EDUCATIONAL REACH BREAK DOWN

Below is a chart illustrating the breakdown of outreach for 2020. In total, we reached 36,574 people through the following mediums.



## IN-PERSON REACH

ACPWQ set out to reach 3,375 people in-person and attend 22 programs in 2020. As of March 2020, the Partnership was on track to exceed this goal, but due to COVID-19, we ended up falling short.



# 64%

of our in-person goal  
was met through  
attending 17 events.



STORY  
PHOTOGRAPH  
by Selenia

# 2020 EVENTS

## January

- It's Your Planet-Love It!- Girl Scouts Event
- Farm Show

## February

- World Wetland Day at Camp Scott
- Y-Care After School Programming
- Protecting and Maintaining Post Construction BMP Workshop

## March

- Heritage Elementary School Presentations
- Heritage Elementary School Presentations
- Y-Care After School Programming

## April

- Y-Care After School Programming
- Conservation Conversation
- Save Maumee Earth Day
- Little Jack's Daycare Presentation
- Earth Day at Eagle Marsh

## June

- Anthony Wayne Cub Scout Camp- 5 Days
- Conservation Crew at Fort Wayne Children's Zoo-Hoosier River Watch (x2)
- Conservation Crew at Fort Wayne Children's Zoo-Water Conservation

## July

- Conservation Crew at Fort Wayne Children's Zoo-Hoosier River Watch
- Conservation Crew at Fort Wayne Children's Zoo-Water Conservation (x2)
- Open Streets
- River Clean Up

## August

- Eco Fest
- BloomFest

## September

- Monarch Festival at Eagle Marsh
- Science Central Teacher Appreciation Day
- World River Day at Headwaters

## October

- Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana and Fort Wayne Community Schools STEM Conference Collaboration



\*Red text indicates canceled events due to COVID-19 totaling in 15 days worth of events

# 2020 TRAINING & CONFERENCES

## May

- Indiana MS4 Annual Meeting

## June

- Hoosier River Watch Training
- Getting Little Feet Wet Training

## August

- Indiana Water Summit
- Indiana Water Environment Association Conference

## September

- Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management Annual Conference

## October

- North American Association for Environmental Education Virtual Conference



\*Red text indicate cancelled events due to COVID-19







# OUR WORKSHOP

## Protecting & Maintaining Post Construction Best Management Practices Workshop

In Partnership with the Allen County Surveyors Office, The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative, the Maumee Watershed Alliance, and the Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council, ACPWQ provided a "Protecting & Maintaining Post Construction Best Management Practices Workshop" for contractors, developers, engineers and vacuum truck operators. The event was very successful as attendance at the workshop was around 64 people.

This workshop was designed for individuals involved in designing, installing, or performing maintenance of post construction best management practices installed on construction sites. Presentations included:

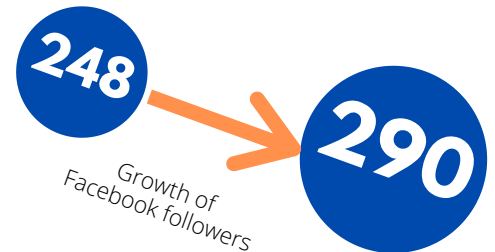
- Protecting & Maintaining Post Construction BMPs, Matt Jarrett, MS4 Coordinator, Allen County Surveyors Office
- Water Quality Units and inlet protection - Function and Maintenance, John Hallam and Ryan Wanninger, Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc., and Steve McCarthy, Hydro International
- Post Construction BMPs Monitoring and Maintenance, Jim Blazek, General Manager of D2 Land & Water Resource, Inc.

PDH's were offered for those in attendance.

# DIGITAL OUTREACH

@ACPWQ is organically grown, or we have not paid to reach more viewers on this platform. All of our reach, or views, is a direct result of our followers sharing the information. On January 1st, 2020, our page had 248 followers but has grown to finish the year with 290!

## FACEBOOK



### Top 3 posts include:

#1  
Grass Clippings  
512 people



#2  
Deicer Reminder January  
498 people



#3  
Deicer Reminder December  
329 people



## MONTHLY WATER QUALITY TIP

This program has a targeted monthly message to help improve water quality. Distribution of this information has been primarily through @ACPWQ Facebook Page, acwater.org, several homeowner's associations, and co-permits: Leo-Cedarville and Huntertown. Total reach of this program was 7,204 people.

### Top 3 preforming tips:

#1  
Scoop the Poop  
1,429 people



#2  
Keep Deicers Light  
1,179 people



#2  
Clean Storm Drains  
988 people

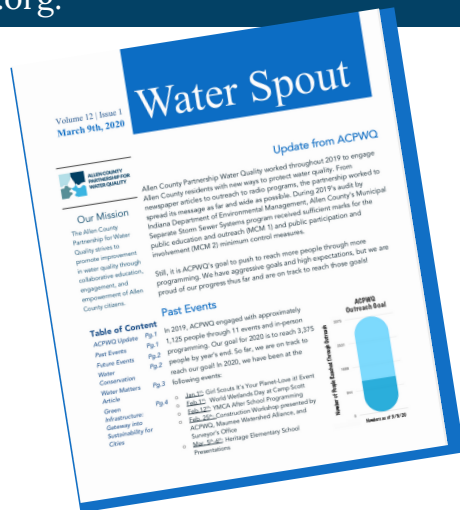




# DIGITAL OUTREACH CONTINUED

## NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Two additions of The Water Spout were written and distributed. The Water Spout is a publication written to help fulfill requirements for state and federal MS4 water quality regulations of educating elected officials and keeping them informed on ACPWQ activities. The Water Spout was distributed through an email listserv as well as published to [acwater.org](http://acwater.org).



Anthony Wayne Area Council Boy Scout's newspaper had a feature on the Partnership reminding scouts that we are a resource for them to use. Additionally, *Waynedale News* published "Keep Salt Light," an article discussing the importance of applying deicers properly.



## BLOG

ACPWQ's blog is a new biweekly program that began on October 23rd. We have promoted our blog through the Partnership's Facebook page and website. In October, with one post, the blog received 19 views. In December, that number has grown to 30 with four subscribers.

View ACPWQ's blog at [acwaterblog.org](http://acwaterblog.org)



# 2021 Goals

## IN 2021 ACPWQ PLANS TO...

See 3,375  
people in-  
person

Attend 30  
outreach  
events

Create new  
materials to  
hand out at  
events

Extend  
digital  
outreach  
numbers on  
blog and  
Facebook

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN 2020

The following organizations have worked with ACPWQ to help promote water quality education for Allen County residents.

### Government Entities

- Allen County Department of Environmental Management
- Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Allen County Surveyor's Office
- City of Fort Wayne Utilities
- Huntertown Utilities
- Leo-Cedarville Utilities

### Schools

- Heritage Elementary
- Little Jack's Daycare Presentation

### Non-Profits

- Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
- Girl Scouts of Northeast Indiana
- Little River Wetland Project
- Leo-Cedarville YMCA's After Care
- Maumee Watershed Alliance
- Science Central
- St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative



**ALLEN COUNTY  
PARTNERSHIP FOR  
WATER QUALITY**