



ALLEN COUNTY
PARTNERSHIP FOR
WATER QUALITY

Our Mission

To promote improvement in water quality through collaborative education, engagement, and empowerment of Allen County citizens.

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Update from ACPWQ

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality (ACPWQ) has worked diligently during these uncertain times to create new content such as a new brochure, activity books, handouts, and posters for when outreach can resume back to "normal." Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the partnership has created more Facebook and newspaper resources to educate residents about stormwater and water pollution, reaching over 7,000 residents. We are currently working on several other exciting projects, more details on those during the next edition of the Water Spout.

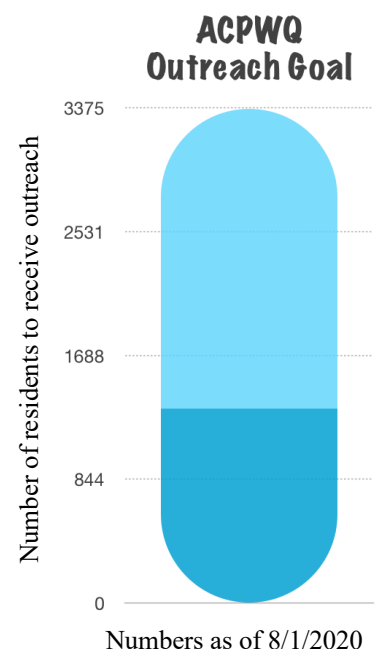
Past Events

Allen County Partnership Water Quality (ACPWQ) created a goal at the beginning of 2020 to double the number of outreaches attended and triple the people engaged. To reach this goal, ACPWQ needs to attend 22 programs and reach 3,375 people during 2020. As of March 2020, the Partnership was on track to exceed the goal established in January.

Due to COVID-19, many events around the county were canceled or done on a smaller scale. Reaching our goals have become more challenging, but we continue to work towards seeing them complete. As of August 1st, we have been at 14 events/outreaches and engaged 1,326 residents of Allen County.

Outreaches since last Water Spout:

- Mar. 11th: YMCA After School Programming
- Jun. 16th, 24th, 30th & Jul. 8th, 14th, 22nd: Conservation Crew Presentations at Fort Wayne Children Zoo



Future Events

- Aug. 9th: Eco Fest
- Aug. 29th: Bloom Fest
- Sept. 19th&20th: Anthony Wayne Cub Scout Camp



Events Canceled due to COVID-19

- Apr. 8th: YMCA After Care Programming
- Apr. 18th: Conservation Conversation
- Apr. 19th: Save Maumee Earth Day
- Apr. 22nd: Little Jack's Daycare Presentation
- Apr. 26th: Little River Wetland Projects' Earth Day
- Jul 12th: Open Streets
- July 25th: River Clean Up at Fort Wayne Children Zoo
- Sept. 13th: Little River Wetland Projects' Monarch Festival Celebration
- Sept. 26th: World River Day
- Oct. 17th: Girl Scouts and FWCS STEM Event

Water Quality Education Specialist Training and Conferences:

- Jun. 13th: Hoosier River Watch Training
- Jun. 17th: Getting Little Feet Wet Training
- Aug. 12th: Indiana Water Summit
- Aug. 26th: Indiana Water Environment Association Conference
- Oct. 14th-17th: North American Association for Environmental Education Virtual Conference



Water Conservation

Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. Take shorter showers. Only wash your clothes if they are dirty. Buy low flow shower faucets and dual flush toilets. Make sure the dishwasher is full before running it. The list goes on and on for ways that you can reduce the amount of water that you consume. One way that does not get talked about nearly enough is to reduce your consumption. Did you know that it takes approximately [700 gallons of water](#) to produce the cotton needed to make a t-shirt? Did you know that the UN Conference on Trade and Development listed the fast fashion industry is the [second-largest polluter](#) behind oil?

Sometimes making a difference for our water resources include making conscious purchases. Before deciding to purchase a new shirt, check-in by asking yourself: "Do I need a new shirt?" "Can I get it second hand?" "How long will that be a part of your wardrobe?" Remembering virtual water-or the water not seen to make the product- is a leading contributor to our global water shortages, especially in the years to come.

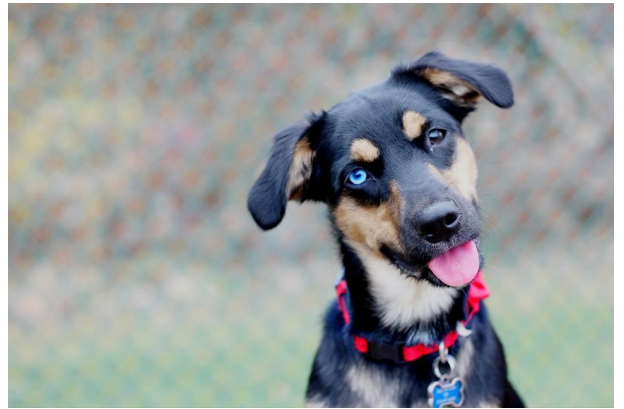
Water conservation isn't a simple one solution fits all. Each individual can take actions that can protect our rivers and the water quality in our watershed. What will you do to make a difference?

Water Matters: Scoop the Poop

By Jacquelyn Buck

When thinking about ways to enhance your life, consider making a pledge that will help you improve the health of your pet and water quality. Picking up pet waste is something that is associated with taking a pet on a walk, but have you thought about the feces out in your yard? When was the last time you took the time to pick up your pet's waste? Pet waste that sits in the yard can cause a slew of problems.

You might be asking yourself, what is the harm in a few piles of dog poop? For starters, there is a whole lot more than a few piles! The American Veterinarian Medical Association estimates that there are approximately 76 million dogs in the United States, and according to the Environmental Protection Agency, on average, a dog will excrete three-quarters of a pound of waste per day, which equates to approximately 235lbs of waste per year per dog. So, for the United States alone, our pets create around 57 million pounds of waste every day or 20.8 trillion pounds of waste every year.



All of that waste has two natural lifecycles that it can go through. One option is pet waste remains wherever the pet chooses to drop it. Pet waste can contain bacteria and viruses that are responsible for the spread of tapeworm, roundworm, E. coli, and so much more. Pet waste that remains on lawns can lead to other pets getting sick while also putting humans at risk of contracting campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis, and toxocariasis. These bacteria and parasites may cause abdominal cramps, fever, coughing or wheezing, hives, and possibly permanent vision damage. Some people believe that it biodegrades quickly, therefore it is out of sight and out of mind. However, the process to biodegrade pet waste takes approximately a year to complete. It is a common assumption that animal waste will make good fertilizer; however, it is more likely to kill the surrounding area or turn it yellow than to provide nutrients for your lawn.

Alternatively, dog waste can wash away, ending up in our waterways. Pet waste in rivers is not only an unappealing concept, but it is grosser than you may know. Have you ever walked past a waterbody that was green and smelly? Perhaps it was murky, and there were signs advising people to avoid swimming, boating, and fishing in the water. These are all byproducts of the excess nutrients decomposing in the water, allowing for rapid growth in algae. This alga is unappealing to look at, but the pathogens listed above make the water unsafe for recreational use!

So, when thinking of ways to help improve your life, consider an option that will promote better water quality and health for your pet and neighbors.

News from Downstream!

EPA Administrator Wheeler Promotes Trump Administration Commitment to Clean Up Great Lakes, Support Ag Community in Northwest Ohio

Contact Information: EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

07/20/2020

Toledo, Ohio (July 20, 2020) - Today, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler visited northwest Ohio where he announced more than \$12 million in grants and projects that will benefit Great Lakes cleanup efforts in the Toledo area. He also toured two local farms to observe conservation efforts made by the local agriculture community.

"EPA is working closely with the City of Toledo and Ohio authorities to clean up sites and return the Maumee River system to full health," **said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler**. "Now is the time to clean up past pollution and marine litter on the Maumee River, which in turn will help reinvigorate Toledo and northwest Ohio's future."

"EPA is proud to support so much Great Lakes activity in the Toledo area with GLRI funding," **said Regional Administrator and Great Lakes National Program Manager Kurt Thiede**. "We look forward to working with our state and local partners on projects that will help restore the Maumee Area of Concern and protect Lake Erie from further impacts of trash."

"This grant funding is great news for Toledo, the Maumee River watershed, and our Great Lakes. Ohioans rely on our waterways not only for drinking water, but they also support fishing and tourism industries that employ thousands. I applaud EPA for awarding these grants and making Northwest Ohio a priority. I will continue my work as co-chair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force to support programs like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in order to protect the economic and environmental well-being of our region," **said U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH)**.

"The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has done tremendous work to improve water quality, restore native habitats, and combat invasive species. In Northwest Ohio, the health of Lake Erie is both a quality-of-life and economic issue, and it's essential that the GLRI program has the resources needed to continue their efforts. Thank you to EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler for his commitment to cleaning up and improving our nation's water so that Americans can be assured their water is safe, and wildlife can live and thrive with clean water," **said U.S. Congressman Bob Latta (OH-05)**. "With the announcement of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Trash Free Waters grant to the city of Toledo, there is a specific focus to rid the rivers that drain to Lake Erie of pollutants, which will both boost our economy and improve the health of Ohioans and wildlife."

Following his press conference with local and state officials, Administrator Wheeler toured Kurt Farms and Kellogg Farms, both of whom are part of the Blanchard River Demonstrations Farms Network (BRDFN), where he heard first-hand about nutrient management practices to promote local soil and water conservation efforts. The BRDFN is a 5-year joint partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Ohio Farm Bureau, with \$1 million in GLRI funding.

Administrator Wheeler began his visit holding a press conference at Walbridge Park where he announced more than \$12 million in Great Lakes grants and projects, including a \$414,000 Great Lakes Restoration

Initiative (GLRI) Trash Free Waters grant to the city of Toledo. The city will install trash collection devices along the shorelines of rivers that drain to Lake Erie.

In July 2019, Administrator Wheeler [launched the Trash-Free Great Lakes program](#) in Cleveland, Ohio to remove trash, litter and garbage - including plastics - from marine and freshwater environments. EPA requested competitive applications for \$2 million in GLRI funding for community-based projects to clean up beaches and waterways to ensure the Great Lakes watershed continues to provide habitat for wildlife and drinking water and recreation for all Americans. Administrator Wheeler [announced the first-ever Trash Free Waters grant](#) for the Great Lakes in Milwaukee last month.

He was also joined by Ohio Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Mary Mertz, State Senator Larry Obhof, State Senator Theresa Gavarone, State Senator Rob McColley, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz, and EPA Region 5 Administrator Kurt Thiede.

"Ohio EPA is pleased to continue this important work with our federal, state, and local partners, restoring Maumee River tributaries and other streams that feed our Great Lake Erie," **said Ohio EPA Director Laurie A. Stevenson.** "This funding accelerates these projects that are particularly focused on addressing contaminants in sediment. Hopefully this will be a catalyst for more projects in the coming months and years."

"The Ohio Department of Natural Resources is incredibly grateful for the support of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as we work to rebuild and enhance wetlands and forested areas, protect critical wildlife habitat, and improve water quality throughout the Maumee Area of Concern," **said Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director Mary Mertz.** "We value the US EPA as our partner to invest in long-term conservation work that will have a positive impact on this area for generations."

"We look forward to working with the US EPA on the Trash Removal project, Functional Litter-acy: Trash Trappers for a Cleaner Toledo," **said Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.** "We anticipate that the proven technology of the trash traps will help us to remove large amounts of litter and debris from our waterways before they get to Lake Erie, thereby improving water quality and the aquatic habitat. Debris is not only unsightly, it acts as a medium by which toxins travel and we need to do more to prevent plastic from entering our waterways so microplastic is not created."

Administrator Wheeler also highlighted \$10 million in partnership with industry for a sediment cleanup in Otter Creek and \$200,000 partnership with Ohio EPA to evaluate cleanup options at Swan Creek. An additional \$1.8 million in GLRI grants to the Ohio DNR were announced for habitat restoration projects in the AOC. At Maumee State Forest, DNR will use GLRI funding to convert farmland to wetland and forestland, resulting in 157 acres of restored state forest. DNR will also enhance 1,000 acres of the Magee Marsh State Wildlife Area through improved fish passage, managing water levels and controlling invasive species.

Allen County Partnership for Water Quality

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