

Grant program's goal is a cleaner Wabash

Feb. 19, 2012 | Comments

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The Wabash River Enhancement Corp. has received \$1,332,900 in funding from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Section 319 program and local partners to directly enhance the Wabash River.

The money will be used locally as part of the ongoing watershed improvement projects in this region of the Wabash River.

Nearly a quarter of the project funding will focus on water quality monitoring efforts, including the Wabash Sampling Blitz held twice a year and professional water chemistry and biological monitoring.

WHO CAN APPLY

Applications are being taken for cost-share grants for projects big and small. Anyone can apply for a grant.

To find the qualifications and to apply for cost-share funding, visit www.wabashriver.net/costshare or contact Sara Peel at speel@lafayette.in.gov or (765) 337-9100.

The grant will provide funding to urban and rural residents throughout the area to improve water quality and water conservation on their property.

An example of an urban project would be using 55-gallon rain barrels. The grant reduces the cost to \$25 per barrel.

Each barrel will collect about 1,500 gallons of rainwater during the growing season.

Rural landowners also can apply for grants. A Warren County farmer is turning five acres into a prairie.

Grant money will pay for a plant list, the seed and installation.

PROJECTS

The WREC and project partners began accepting applications in

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December. Since then, six projects have received funding:

- Tree Lafayette: \$16,950 for 113 trees planted at the Greenbush and north Ninth Street projects.
- West Lafayette Tree Committee: \$20,000 for 150 trees planted through University Farms.
- Esman-Goforth Project: \$13,900 for pervious pavement, rain garden, rain barrel and native plantings.
- Boiler Green Initiative: \$7,000 for rain garden installation between Hillenbrand and Harrison halls.
- City of West Lafayette: \$2,000 for exotic species removal, native plantings and minor streambank stabilization efforts.
- Ahlersmeyer Project: \$400 for rain barrel installation.

-- Bob Scott/bscott@jconline.com

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