

NEWS RELEASE

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Wabash Water Quality Sampling Blitz – 200 stream sites and 150 volunteers telling us what is going on in our watershed?

Volunteer to be part of the second annual Spring Wabash Sampling Blitz this April 15th! Join 250 volunteers to collect a snapshot of the water quality of the Wabash River, Wildcat Creek, and their tributaries. Since the fall of 2009, volunteers throughout the Region of the Great Bend of the Wabash River watershed volunteered each spring and fall to complete a snapshot of water quality throughout the watershed. This spring, we're expanding to include sample sites within the Wildcat Creek watershed. Volunteers monitor temperature, water cloudiness (turbidity), nutrient levels, and pathogen concentrations. Volunteer with a friend, your family, or alone and we'll assign you a partner. Volunteer to sample your local stream, your favorite canoe spot, or try a new stream within the Wabash River or Wildcat Creek watersheds.

How it works? WREC and Purdue University will provide all of the equipment necessary for sample collection and analysis. Volunteers will analyze collected samples for a variety of nutrient, metal, and general parameters at three staging locations. Staging locations are assigned as sampling slots are available on a first volunteer, first assigned basis. These locations include the Beck Agricultural Center on U.S. 52, the Tippecanoe SWCD office on Troxel Drive, and Independence Park in Independence. Arrive with your partners to be assigned a group of sampling sites – sites are assigned based on location choice and selected access difficulty ranging from easy access (walk right in sites) to where you'll need to channel your inner mountain goat (difficult). Our staging location volunteers will provide all sample collection equipment and instructions, maps, and driving directions. They will not provide you with waders, boots, dry clothes, bug spray, ivy off, or food.

What now? Don your waders or knee boots and spend approximately two hours wading through three to five stream sample sites. At each site, you will need to identify an appropriate access point. After entering the stream, wade to the center and fill your provided sample bottles. Then, measure stream temperature and water cloudiness with the provided thermometer and turbidity tube. Once complete, photograph the stream and any unique or interesting features and travel to your next site. Once you've sampled all of your streams, return to your staging location to filter your samples for laboratory analysis, measure water quality with provided test strips, and download your photos.

Want more information? Visit www.wabashriver.net/wabash-sampling-blitz to view videos that detail sampling, review previous results, and read about past events. Volunteer to be part of the second annual Wabash Sampling Blitz online at <http://tiny.cc/SpringBlitz2011>.

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Related Web site: www.WabashRiver.net

To receive copies of the result maps after the 15th, contact Ron Turco or Sara Peel