

Press Release from...
Wabash River Enhancement Corporation
200 N. 2nd Street Lafayette, Indiana 47901

IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 6, 2012 CONTACT: Sara Peel (765) 337-9100; speel@lafayette.in.gov

Wabash River Enhancement Corporation Receives \$1.3 million in Funding

The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation (WREC) announces the receipt of \$1,332,900 in funding from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's Section 319 program and our 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. The grant will provide funding to urban and rural residents throughout the area to improve water on their property while also continuing water quality monitoring and target education programs throughout Greater Lafayette and Tippecanoe County.

WREC will use over \$650,000, by providing up to 75% of the costs for qualified urban and agricultural projects. To receive funding, projects must meet three criteria: 1) Be located within the target area (mapped in green on the enclosed figure); 2) Be a project type listed on the fundable projects list; and 3) Be approved by WREC's urban and agricultural cost-share committees and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. 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 Wabash River Enhancement Corporation and our project partners began accepting applications in December. Since that time, we've provided funding for six projects including:

1. Tree Lafayette: \$16,950 for 113 trees planted at their Greenbush and north 9th Street project
2. West Lafayette Tree Committee: \$20,000 for 150 trees planted through University Farms
3. Esman-Goforth Project: \$13,900 for pervious pavement, rain garden, rain barrel and native plantings
4. Boiler Green Initiative: \$7,000 for rain garden installation between Hillenbrand and Harrison Halls
5. City of West Lafayette: \$2,000 for exotic species removal, native plantings and minor streambank stabilization efforts
6. Ahlersmeyer Project: \$400 for rain barrel installation

Nearly a quarter of the project funding will focus on water quality monitoring efforts including the Wabash Sampling Blitz held twice a year in the Spring and Fall and professional water chemistry and biological monitoring. These funds will allow WREC to inform residents as to the Wabash River's status. In addition, the funding will allow WREC to maintain the three installed water flow gauges, collect water chemistry samples twice monthly at locations throughout the watershed, and monitor tributaries' biological communities.

The remainder of the funding will fund WREC's targeted education program that offers the annual Green Practices Tour, field and demonstration days, volunteer monitoring via Hoosier Riverwatch, Wabash Riverfest, and maintenance of www.TippEcoNow.com. All of these efforts focus on connecting

Greater Lafayette to the Wabash River and helping residents make informed decisions on behalf of the river.

Additional information about the project's progress can be found at www.WabashRiver.net.

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