

The Water Drop

Volume 1

January, February, March 2021



Our goal is improving stormwater quality and decrease erosion and flooding. We will offer and encourage education and community involvement to achieve our goal.

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<https://mcpwq.org/>

Welcome to the first edition of The Water Drop! This newsletter is a combined effort of The Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality and The Morgan County Soil and Water District working to bring you reliable information to help our community.

Every quarter we will send out new information to our community.

If you have a suggestion for certain information to be included in our newsletter, please reach out and let us know!

You can send an email to: swed@morgancounty.in.gov



765-349-2060

swcdoffice@morgancounty.in.gov

<https://www.morgancountyswcd.org>

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Despite difficulties in 2020, the Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District has been busy helping to implement conservation practices in our communities! The District rolled out a new Local Conservation Grant program in 2020 in which local landowners can apply for grant funding of conservation projects. Projects that have been accepted in the program this year vary widely, but can include just about anything that benefits soil health, erosion, and water quality. Using Conservation Tracking provided by the ISDA, it has been calculated that the enrolled projects have resulted in a sediment load reduction of 830 tons this year! **This is equivalent to approximately 100 single axle dump trucks!** This is remarkable and great news for our local creeks, streams, and waterways. The Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District is continuing this program and other grant funded programs that are aimed at reducing erosion and sediment load into our waterways in 2021. If you would like to solve an erosion problem on your own land, get more information on the available programs online at www.morgancountyswcd.org and click on the Programs link.

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Another way that Morgan County SWCD has been assisting local landowners and public parks in 2020 is by performing free plant surveys. The goal of these surveys is to identify invasive species of plants and give the owner information on how to safely eliminate them. Invasive plants can quickly take over an area and eliminate the

beneficial native species of plants that are a food source for many species of insects, birds, and other wildlife. Some of the most common species found widely in Morgan County are garlic mustard, Japanese Stiltgrass, Wintercreeper, Asian Bush Honeysuckle, and Poison Hemlock. While the focus of these surveys are to identify the invasive species, native species of plants are also cataloged so that they may be protected and their growth

encouraged. If you would like to book a property plant survey for your property, please email invasivesmorgancounty@gmail.com to set up an appointment.



Did you know that native plants can help reduce sediment from going into waterways?

When it rains the water travels through the path of least resistance. That means over areas that the water can flow easily. Streets, gutters, drive ways, parking lots allow for storm water to move quickly. Storm water run off can flow over more natural areas, too.

As storm run off goes over an area that is more natural, it can take soil sediments with it. The storm runoff may end up in the storm drain and other water ways. Since the storm runoff collected some soil sediment as it traveled to the storm drain or water way, it can create problems for the water way.

The sediment clouds the waterway. The sediment can create problems for the aquatic life in the water ways. Fish may have trouble breathing. Aquatic plant life may not grow.

Native plants have root systems that help soil in place. The native same plants help create channels that allow the water get absorbed slowly into the soil. The water that is absorbed slowly helps recharge the underground water stores.

Not only do native plants help hold soil in place, but native plants can act as a purifier! The roots and soil of the native plant act as a natural filter. The native plants can slowly purify imperfections (some fertilizers) from surface water.

By choosing to plant native plants you will be helping hold soil in place and contribute to the health of streams, rivers, and aquatic life.

References

<https://indiananativeplants.org/native-plants/why-we-care-about-native-plants/>
<https://lakes.grace.edu/native-plants/>

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Welcome!

The Morgan County Soil and Water Conservation District would also like to welcome its newest Board Supervisor, Mrs. Debbie Carter and its two newest Associate Supervisors, Mr. Stan Diamond and Mr. Tom Carter. They all three have been long-time residents of Morgan County and bring a wealth of knowledge and interest to the board and increase the diversity within it! We are excited to see where their dedication to conservation within Morgan County will lead us all!

The Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality



Happening NOW!

Please visit our webpage to sign up for this event!

<https://mcpwq.org/events/>

Join the Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality in cleaning up an area around a storm drain, a creek bank, or a drainage area. For more information and to register for this VIRTUAL event visit our website:

<https://mcpwq.org/>
or email: swed@morgancounty.in.gov

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Coming Soon...

The Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality has several events coming up in 2021.


SATURDAY,
MARCH 13, 2021

MORGAN COUNTY
**WHITE RIVER
CLEAN - UP**

Henderson Ford, Three Rivers and Paragon
Public Access Sites

9am-12Noon

Meet at **THREE RIVERS S.R.A.**
(4715 IN-67, Martinsville, IN 46151)
Lunch is provided following the clean up at Gatti's Pizza
in Martinsville, IN



CALL BILL DIALS FOR MORE INFORMATION
AND TO RSVP
765-342-1064
BDIALS@MORGANCOUNTY.IN.GOV

YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER
ONLINE AT:
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/FRUPNRUERDJMG3TG6](https://forms.gle/FRUPNRUERDJMG3TG6)

ADOPT-A-DRAIN

Looking to
VOLUNTEER?

COMING!

The Morgan County Partnership for Water Quality is working to set up an Adopt-A-Drain Program in Morgan County! Take a moment to sign up to be notified when the program is up and running!

<https://forms.gle/2LpT9ijLmZhXTNSA7>

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Find us on Facebook and Instagram

Contact Us

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