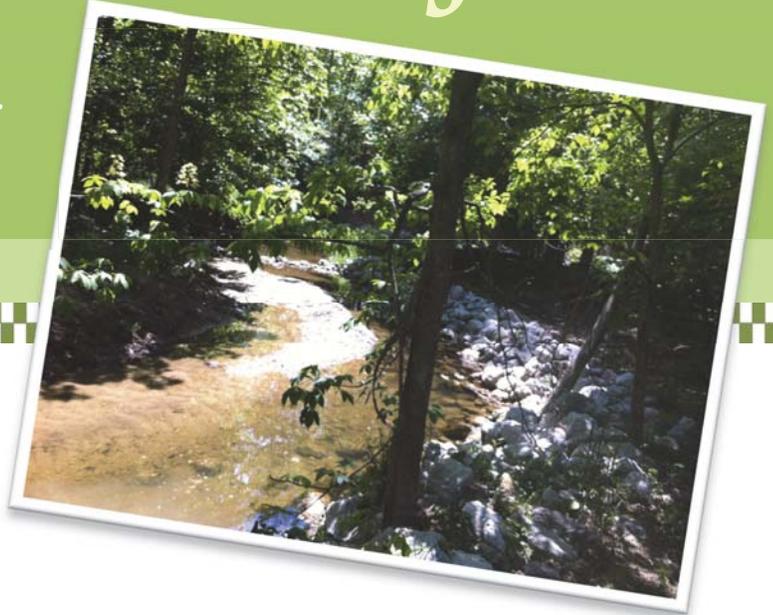


# Watershed Projects

*Well done is better than well said.*

-Benjamin Franklin



## Project Highlights

### Thorpe property

The project purpose was to delineate wetlands and develop a concept plan for reducing sediment and controlling storm water in the Martin drainage.

### Ed Center Property Master Plan

This document was created to evaluate existing conditions and propose a direction for the future use and management of the Education Center property on Hwy 13

### Invasive Species Grants

Matching Grants from LARE to control invasive species like Starry Stonewort and Eurasian Milfoil

### Ritter Branch

The purpose was shoreline stabilization, grade control and emphasis on erosion control from the agricultural areas flowing into Hindman Lake. It also included agricultural erosion control projects up in the watershed to the headwaters at the Continental Divide



## Importance to Lakes

Each year, the WACF relies heavily on grants from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife's Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Section, to fund studies, construction projects, and regular aquatic weed control programs, which are all aimed at insuring clean water today and for future generations. In June 2010, the State's budget crisis caused the DNR to suspend all new LARE grants indefinitely. For WACF, this means funding for significant projects like construction projects on the properties bordering Dillon Creek are also in jeopardy. While WACF waits for project funding, a significant amount of sediment continues to be washed into Lake Wawasee every time it rains, and the sediment problem continues to grow.



*When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world. - John Muir*



## The Watershed is fragile

The Wawasee watershed is fragile. The smallest actions – on land and water – can have a great and lasting impact on the quality of water in the watershed. Boats, shoreline development, and even the plants and animals on the land can have a negative effect on water quality. Remaining a good steward of this important resource requires a full understanding of the threats and corrective actions necessary to minimize negative impact on the watershed.

Sediment and nutrients (namely phosphorus and nitrates) and

pathogens (primarily E. coli) are currently present in the lakes and streams of the Wawasee Area Watershed. They compromise the health, aesthetics, and recreational value of our lakes and streams. They are the result of human actions. Although some of these threats can be treated and neutralized, some change the lake forever.

Deep draft boating in shallow lake waters can stir up nutrients that are deposited on our lake bottoms. Improper boating can tear up the

lake bottom and threaten vegetation and wildlife, and it can also significantly decrease water clarity of lakes because it stirs up sediment and nutrients. The nutrients spur the growth of aquatic plants and algae in the water.



## Dillon Creek is important to Lake Wawasee

As one of the main sources of water inflow to Lake Wawasee, Dillon Creek has a significant impact on the quality of water in this lake. Every year, Dillon Creek deposits a considerable amount of sediment in Lake Wawasee. This impact is evident in the large sediment plume that appears where its waters enter the lake after big rainstorms

Run-off from farms and residential properties, which contain fertilizers and animal waste, can also have harmful effects. Toxic, blue-green algae is just one example. This dangerous algae can sicken and kill fish and other animals, and is dangerous to humans.

In addition to blue-green algae, starry stonewort is another invasive algae is beginning to show dangerous effects in the Wawasee Area Watershed. First seen in Michigan in the late 1990s, these aggressive and destructive algae appeared in Lake Wawasee in 2010.