

St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative Public Outreach Project

Project Description:

The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative Public Outreach Project is a 2-year, Section 319 Grant funded, project to provide public outreach and education on non-point source pollution issues in the St. Joseph River Watershed. This \$164,055 project (\$84,495 grant plus \$79,560 In-Kind Match, will allow the Initiative to:

1. Hire a Special Projects Administrator to inform, educate, and assist the public in the St. Joseph River Watershed,
2. Continue implementing the St. Joseph River Watershed Management Plan,
3. Hold workshops and public meetings targeting the agricultural community and homeowners in the watershed, focusing on water quality data, Best Management Practices (BMP's), new technology, and funding options,
4. Develop and maintain a web site to disseminate project information to the public,
5. Provide news releases about the project to the local media,
6. Collect water samples at several locations within the St. Joseph River Watershed and share that information with the public.

Agencies Involved:

This project is under the local leadership of the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative (Initiative). The Initiative works directly with a number of agencies, including the six County Soil and Water Districts in the Watershed, the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, and the City of Fort Wayne.

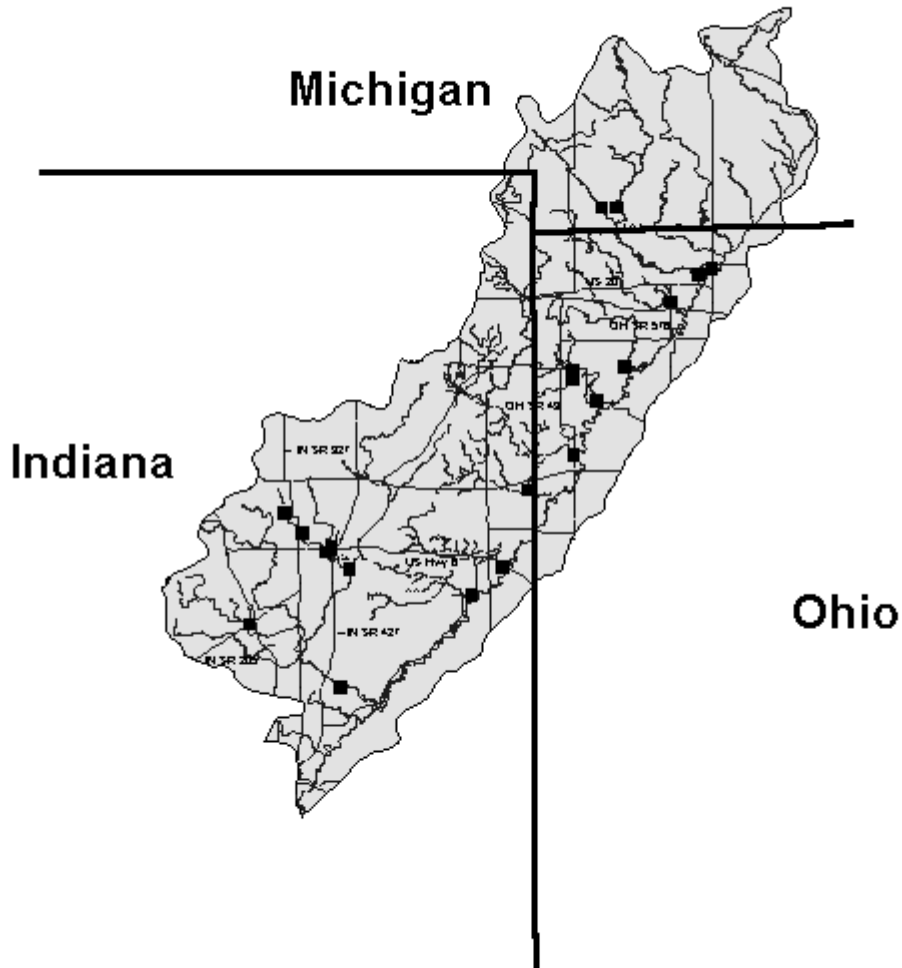
Project Area:

The project area is located within the St. Joseph River Watershed. The St. Joseph River originates in Hillsdale County, Michigan and flows southwesterly through Williams County, Ohio before entering Indiana. It crosses the Indiana State line in DeKalb County and flows into Allen County where it joins with the St. Marys River in downtown Ft. Wayne. The union of the St. Joseph River and the St. Marys River forms the headwaters of the Maumee River. (The Maumee River flows northeasterly back into Ohio and eventually discharges into Lake Erie). The St. Joseph River serves as the drinking water supply for over 200,000 people in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The watershed covers 694,400 acres, with 79% as agricultural land, 10% woodlands or wetlands and 11% urban areas or other uses. Previous monitoring studies conducted by the City of Ft. Wayne and the Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), as well as other studies completed, indicate that potentially harmful levels of pesticides, pathogens, nutrients and sediment are present in the St. Joseph River.

For more information contact the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative at (260)426-4637, ext. 3

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St. Joseph River Watershed
Public Outreach Project Area



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