

Brought to you by the:

Cedar Creek Watershed
Steering Committee

St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative
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www.sjrwi.org

*For more information,
please contact:*

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Soil & Water Conservation District
260-484-5848 x3

DeKalb County
Soil & Water Conservation District
260-925-9560 x3

Noble County
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Cedar Creek Watershed



Water quality begins with YOU!

Water Quality Challenges

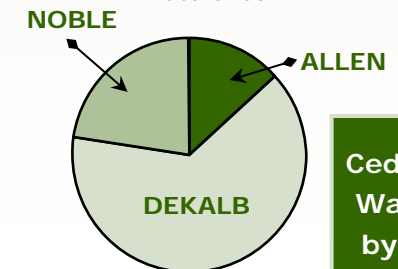
- Bacteria keeps surface water of the Cedar Creek in non-attainment for state water quality standards
- Pesticide and nutrient runoff threatens the surface and ground water quality
- Erosion and sediment loading threaten drinking water supply, drainage, water quality and aquatic habitat

What Can I Do?

- Clean up litter around your neighborhood
- Use lawn & garden chemicals according to directions
- Clean up after your pets
- Keep household & automotive chemicals off your driveway & out of the storm drain
- Establish woodlands, wetlands, field borders & streamside buffers on your land
- Adopt-A-Stream see <http://www.in.gov/dnr/riverwatch>
- Maintain your septic system
- Landscape wisely
- Deter nuisance geese

Fun Facts

- Called *Mes-kwah-wa-se-pe* or "old redwood creek" by Native Americans
- Cedar Creek is the largest tributary of the St. Joseph River, draining 174,780 acres in northeastern Indiana
- The Cedar Creek rises in northwestern DeKalb County and joins the St. Joseph just below the Cedarville Dam in Allen County
- Once a meandering stream, upper Cedar Creek was channelized (straightened and deepened) in the early 20th Century for agricultural and urban drainage, which has increased the watershed's vulnerability to erosion and contaminated runoff
- Once home to 27 species of freshwater mussel, Cedar Creek has experienced a drastic decline in mussel population since the 1980s
- DeKalb County makes up 64% of the Cedar Creek Watershed



Cedar Creek Watershed
by County

The Cedar Creek Watershed

The Cedar Creek drains three counties - Allen, DeKalb & Noble

ACRES Nature Preserves in the Cedar Creek

- Bicentennial Woods
- Little Cedar Creek Wildlife Sanctuary
- Meno-Aki Nature Preserve
- Rodenbeck Nature Preserve
- Vandola Nature Preserve

Indian Lake—Headwaters of the Cedar Creek

SWPI Research Area

Auburn, population 12,074, is the largest city in the Cedar Creek Watershed

Impaired Streams for E.coli contamination

- Cedar Creek
- Willow Creek
- Diehl Ditch
- Dosch Ditch
- Garrett City Ditch
- Little Cedar Creek
- Metcalf Ditch

Metea Park

The Cedar Creek is the largest tributary of the St. Joseph River

Eastern Subcontinental Divide between the Great Lakes & Mississippi Watersheds

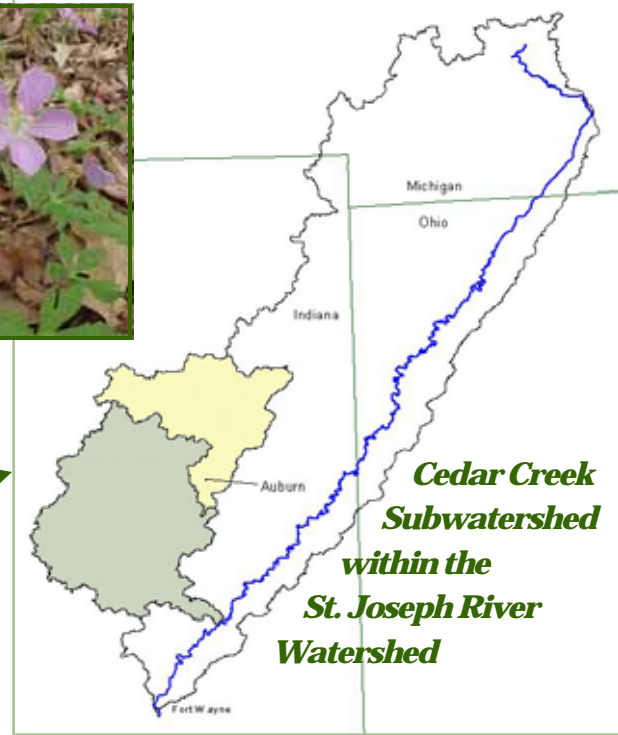
A 13.7 mile segment of the Cedar Creek from CR 68 to the St. Joseph River has been designated as an "Outstanding State Resource Water" and is one of four streams in Indiana's Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers system which includes rivers or streams that have particular environmental or aesthetic interest.

- Cedar Creek on Tonkel Road
- Matson Diehl on CR 39
- Garrett City Ditch on CR 15
- Diehl Ditch on CR 19
- Walter Smith Ditch on CR 39
- David Link (Swartz) Ditch on CR 37
- Dibbling Ditch on CR 18
- Willow Creek on SR 327
- Black Creek on CR 7A
- Little Cedar Creek on CR 64



Cedar Creek Sampling Sites

- ▲ Historical Sites
- ▲ Current Sampling Sites



Wetland along Chapman Road

Meet the Cedar Creek Mascot "Chubby"

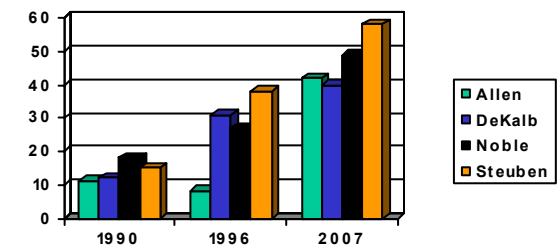


Water Quality Monitoring in the Cedar Creek

The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative samples 10 sites in the Cedar Creek Watershed. Samples are taken weekly from April through October. Basic chemical analysis is done onsite, including water temperature, pH, conductivity, turbidity, total dissolved solids, dissolved oxygen, air temperature, cloud cover, time and general conditions. Bacteria, pesticide and nutrient sample analysis of samples is provided by the City of Fort Wayne at their water treatment plant and water pollution control laboratories.

The agriculture community is working to address water quality. Farmers use Conservation Tillage (at least 30% residue left on fields) to help reduce erosion from their crop fields.

No-till Corn Adoption Trends in the St. Joseph River Watershed



No-till Soybean Adoption Trends in the St. Joseph River Watershed

