



29 May 2020

Sina Parks  
Montgomery County SWCD  
2036 E Lebanon Road  
Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933

Dear Sina:

Over the past month, we have been working to map the watershed land use, wetland coverage and soils as well as compiling and identifying sample sites with regards to historic sample site locations. Watershed data indicate the following about the Walnut Fork-Sugar Creek Watershed:

- The Walnut Fork-Sugar Creek Watershed lies mostly in the Tipton Till Plain Section while the lower portion of the watershed is within the Entrenched Valley Section and of the Central Till Plains natural region. Based on Omerniks' ecoregions, the Walnut Fork-Sugar Creek Watershed lies within the Eastern Corn Belt Plains.
- Two significant natural areas are located within the Walnut Fork-Sugar Creek Watershed. These include the Walnut Fork Wildlife Refuge, which is owned by the Indiana DNR and managed by NICHES Land Trust, and Calvert and Porter Woods, owned by Indiana DNR. Additionally, 14 endangered, threatened, or rare species are located within the watershed according to the DNR Division of Nature Preserves. These include two state endangered birds and one state endangered reptile as well as one state threatened tree species. Six species of special concern are also located within the watershed with most of these representing freshwater mussels.
- Cultivated cropland covers nearly 84% of the Walnut Fork-Sugar Creek Watershed, while open space (5%), deciduous forest (5%) and developed open space (2%) cover much of the remaining watershed area. Residential development, grassland, forestland and wetlands are also present within the watershed.
- Hydric soils, those that developed under wetland land uses, cover 19% or about 17,800 acres of the Walnut Fork-Sugar Creek Watershed.
- Highly erodible soils are located throughout the watershed covering nearly 65% of the watershed. In these areas, it is especially important to maintain soil cover to reduce wind and water erosion impacts.
- Nearly 99% of the watershed is covered by soils that are not suitable for septic tank usage.

Over the next few months, we will continue to build the watershed inventory, complete mapping of the field inventory conducted in early May, review the historic water quality data in more detail and schedule the first public meeting as conditions allow.

Documentation of in-kind services: The Montgomery SWCD is reviewing sample site locations and working on options for the first public meeting.

Sincerely,

Sara Peel, CLM



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