

Upper Sugar Creek Watershed Project
3rd Quarter Update: May 18th- August 17th
Sara Peel, Arion Consultants

The second draft of the Watershed Management Plan was submitted to IDEM on August 15, 2022. Watershed inventory efforts continued this quarter with steering committee members completing 8 of 29 (20 of 29 total) targeted inventory areas. Historic water quality data and desktop inventory and windshield survey data were added to the draft Watershed Management Plan.

Water chemistry monitoring occurred on May 24, June 27, and July 25, 2022, this quarter and will continue monthly. Biological monitoring occurred in July and August with fish community assessments occurring July 18-20 and August 1 and macroinvertebrate community and habitat assessments occurring July 15-16, 2022. Macroinvertebrate community identification is underway and the species list as well as IBI, mIBI and QHEI data will be included in the next draft of the watershed management plan.

The Upper Sugar Creek steering committee met on July 12, 2022, and reviewed desktop inventory efforts completed to date to identify relevant relationships; selected water quality benchmarks and reviewed upcoming education and outreach events. The Wabash College students are working on compiling public meeting comments and results and those will be incorporated into the next WMP draft. The project website was updated within the Montgomery County SWCD website and has been updated several times since its creation. The Montgomery County SWCD social media is used to promote the project and has been updated 9 times this quarter with information relevant to the project. The Upper Sugar Creek informational brochure continues to be distributed including at the Montgomery, Boone, and Clinton County 4H fairs (July 10-23, 2022) and at high-profile locations. Hoosier Riverwatch training occurred on June 21, 2022, with 10 participants trained and can now monitor in the Sugar Creek Watershed. The farmer float trip occurred on July 26, 2022. The farmer's listening session occurred on August 15, 2022, with 60+ farmers in attendance. The SWCD newsletter was distributed on July 22, 2022, and contained an update on the Sugar Creek project. A press release highlighting the farmer listening session was deployed on August 4, 2022.