Environmental Profile: Monroe County, Indiana

Information & County Contacts

Monroe County Visitor’s Center:
(812) 334-8900

Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District:
(812) 334-4325 ext. 115

Land, Water, & Biodiversity & Conservation Efforts:

Lake Monroe

Indiana's largest lake, near the Indiana University campus, features a scenic stone-bluffed shoreline and wooded hills. Monroe Lake is located in south central Indiana. The lake was completed by the Corps of Engineers in 1965. While this area of southern Indiana is known as the "The Limestone Capital of the World," at one time it also had several salt deposits, creating a lucrative trade by rafting the mined salt down the creek that would one day become Monroe Lake. Hence the name, Salt Creek.¹

¹http://www.lake-monroe.com/html/about.html
Morgan-Monroe State Forest

Morgan-Monroe State Forest encompasses more than 24,000 acres in Morgan and Monroe counties in south central Indiana. The forest land encompasses many steep ridges and valleys, and is forested with some of the state's finest hardwoods. The original settlers of the area cleared and attempted to farm the ridges, but were frustrated by rocky soil unsuitable for agriculture. The state purchased the eroded, abandoned land to create Morgan-Monroe State Forest beginning in 1929.²

Local Environmental Challenges:

Bennett Stone Quarry

The Bennett Stone Quarry, which is also known as the Bennett's Dump site, consists of two adjacent parcels totaling about four acres and is located approximately 2.5 miles northwest of Bloomington. The site was formerly a limestone quarry pit, filled with various waste materials, including demolition debris, household wastes, and electrical parts.³

²http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry/4816.htm
³http://www.epa.gov/region5/superfund/npl/indiana/IND006418651.html