Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy
Cultivating Leaders * Creating Solutions * Connecting People and Water

Group Projects from the 2023 Academy

Academy participants work together to develop a project that contributes to the watershed community in Indiana. These projects can be used by others and advance watershed management in Indiana.

Note: These projects were created by the participants, and are not a product of Purdue University. For more information, please contact the authors listed.

Group 1: Junior Riverwatch Curriculum
Dylan Allison, Jason Auvil, JD Sparks
Develop guidelines and curriculum for youth water education. The curriculum attempts to model Hoosier Riverwatch monitoring techniques. Ideally, activities can be implemented into and satisfy the requirements for environmental merit badges for the Boy Scouts or other youth outreach targeting ages 10-17. Youth that complete the requirements may receive recognition through an earned merit badge, patch, or sticker.
Presentation Guide

Group 2: Using Google Earth to Identify Impacts on Your Watershed: Part 1
Lisa Thole-Hetler, Shelley Lukemeyer, Cecilie Keenan
Use Google Earth to tell the story of our watershed including wetlands, land acquisition and invasive species.
Presentation Google Earth: WACF parcels Google Earth: Invasive species

Group 3: Using Google Earth to Identify Impacts on Your Watershed: Part 2
Walt Hessler and Rob DeBeck
Use Google Earth to tell the story of our watershed focusing on agricultural impacts.
Presentation

Group 4: Green Infrastructure for Youth
Madison Neher, Noah Rudko and Iris O'Donnell Bellisario
Highlight green infrastructure practice aspects including a green infrastructure tour of Greater Lafayette, building a youth activities kit focused on native plants, seed germination, the scientific method and addressing the question "what is a watershed" and highlighting funding options or donor resources.
Presentation Activities google site

Group 5: Septic Packet
Kyla Dick, Michelle Cohen, Alicia Symons
Create a septic packet targeting new homeowner education including development of realtor information, maintenance information in sticker format, links to online databases, EPA informational booklet information and flow chart on septic use and maintenance.
Presentation Septic Packet google site

Group 6: Journey Through the Watershed: Teaching Children about the Importance of Healthy Watersheds Through Gameplay
Cass Steininger, Megan Crecelius, Emily Russell

Create *A Journey Through the Watershed* which is a "candyland-style" game where children can learn about different aspects of watershed health and its importance. On each move, players draw cards that either allow them to advance or cause them to move back based on the attribute on that card. Each card has a prompt and explanation. Positive attributes allow players to move forward whereas negative ones cause backward movement. Categories include physical watershed categories, bio-indicators, outside factors with negative impacts on stream habitat and more.
Presentation Create a Journey Game – Google Site

Group 7: PAPR Category 14: Manure Management in Your Watershed
Sean Huss, Sarah Brackney
Create a video for posting on Purdue Extensions OISC Educator Resources Website which consolidates extension publications which focus on manure. The video includes a review of manure effects on water quality, considerations for neighbors, manure application timing and rate, eutrophication impacts, nutrient management and mitigation and highlight the importance of testing.
Video

Group 8: River Inventory Process
Justin Norgan, Shaun Grace
Develop a process to inventory river characteristics with a focus on corridor characteristics, observable outflows, invasive species presence and the need for bank stabilization. The inventory combines video and mapping efforts to assess potential downstream impacts.
Presentation Google site St Joe River map

Group 9: Urban Inventory of Christiana Creek, Indiana
Monica Davis, Natasha Kauffmann
Complete an inventory of the Indiana portion of Christiana Creek with a focus on assessment of urban development and hardscape impacts, flooding and tributary health. The inventory combines video and mapping efforts to inform the local public, educate recreationalists on the opportunity to enjoy Christiana Creek's rapids and promote tourism options.
Presentation Inventory Link

Group 10: Watershed Wagon/Watershed Dream Trailer
Kyle Burchett, Megan Malott, Leah Walthery
Review current and past teaching tools for watershed education as well as current educational trailer models, investigated how to create an accessible education trailer with a regional Indiana focus.
Presentation

Group 11: Stormwater Education along the Prairie Duneland Trail
Samantha Fazekas, Amanda Vandenoever
Develop educational information on greenway, blueway and park features along the Chesterton/Portage Bike Trail with the goal of developing educational interpretive signage to be posted which will highlight waterways, watersheds and more.
Presentation

Group 12: Utilizing Watershed Surveys for Mental Health
Susie McGovern, Liz Symon, Ashton Spencer
Create a model watershed survey highlighting the mental health benefits of being out in nature and tailoring the survey to those in therapy or struggling with mental health issues. We will also discuss how watershed groups can use/implement the surveys.
Presentation Guide Website