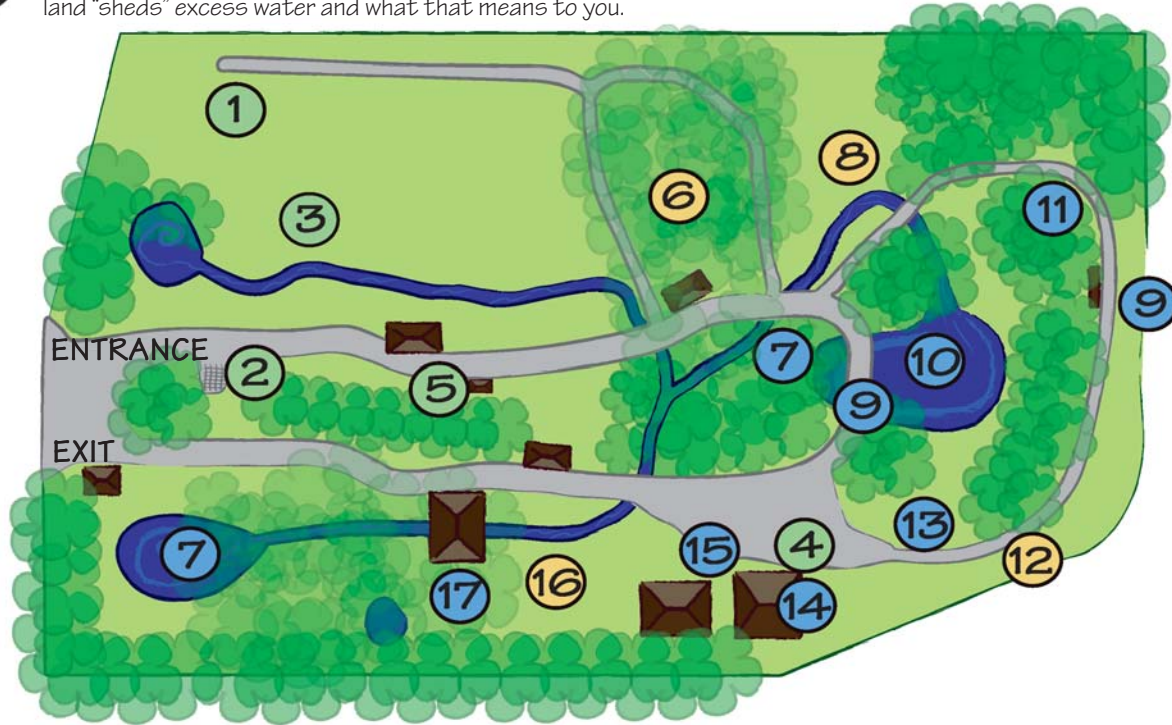




Walk the Path that Water walks...

Where does all the water go after it rains? How does what people do on their land at home, on the farm and in the cities effect water and soil quality? Pathway to Water Quality can show you. Pathway is a model watershed that shows you how land "sheds" excess water and what that means to you.



WHAT CAN I DO AT HOME?

1 Native Plants

Native plants tend to grow better than introduced species because they have evolved under local growing conditions. They are less prone to disease and, once established, require less watering and fertilizer. They can also reduce the amount of lawn you need to mow.

2 Pervious Concrete

Pervious concrete allows water to filter through it where pollutants are trapped and cleaned before running into the soil and the earth below. That way, dirty storm water doesn't run off into our water supply.

3 Backyard Conservation

Ponds, wetlands, tree plantings, composting, mulching and creating wildlife habitat all help the environment and enhance your surroundings.

4 Rain Barrel

Rain barrels, placed below a downspout of a roof gutter, collect and store rain water that can be used to water plants and gardens. Rain barrels conserve water and reduce water bills.

5 Rain Garden

Rain gardens use plants to absorb and filter rainwater that would otherwise wash pollutants from your lawn, driveway and street into storm drains, which lead to our rivers, lakes and streams.

HOW DOES SOIL AFFECT WATER QUALITY?

7 Stream & Shoreline Protection

Protecting streambanks and shorelines with vegetation or rock prevents soil erosion and protects aquatic habitat. (Two Locations)

9 Soils Awareness Mobile

Come explore soils with this mobile exhibit from the Chicago Field Museum, at the Pathway August 16- 17.

10 Lakes & Natural Wetlands

Wetlands help clean-up water before it enters rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater.

11 Soils in Indiana

Learn about soil characteristics and how soil quality affects the quality of water that contacts it.

13 Water Wells

See the working parts of a water well, and a properly plugged well.

14 Water History Cabin

Learn about water conservation and how water was used in the early 1900's.

15 Well Water Pump

Come enjoy a cold, clear drink of well water! Groundwater quality is protected by good landcare practices.

17 Education

Through the covered bridge and into an area where you will find hands-on water quality activities for the young and the young at heart.

WHAT CAN I DO ON THE FARM & WOODLANDS?

6 Woodlands

Good timber management makes woodlands productive, provides wildlife habitat and protects water and soil quality.

8 Farmland

Farmers manage their land and install conservation practices to protect water quality and keep the land healthy for farming.

12 Farm Assessment

Learn how the Farm Assessment program can help you evaluate your property for pollution and health risks.

16 Pasture Management

Well managed pastures can improve animal health and performance, increase profitability, and enhance wildlife habitat while protecting water quality.





Sponsors & Contributors



Fun Facts

- ◆ *Pathway to Water Quality is a model watershed. (A watershed is the area of land that catches rain and snow and drains into a stream, river, lake, marsh or groundwater.)*
- ◆ *There is 50 times more water underground than in the world's lakes, rivers and oceans.*
- ◆ *Indiana has 595 different types of soils.*
- ◆ *The average shower uses 10 to 20 gallons of water.*
- ◆ *More than 50 percent of Indiana's 23 million acres are planted in crops every year.*
- ◆ *Today the same amount of water is on the earth as there was 2,000 yrs. ago.*
- ◆ *Sandy soil is the type of soil most likely to allow groundwater contamination.*
- ◆ *Lake Superior is the largest lake in North America.*
- ◆ *Covering soil with organic matter will protect it from erosion.*
- ◆ *The first water pipes in the U.S. were made from logs.*
- ◆ *A person should consume 8 glasses of water a day to maintain health.*
- ◆ *As rivers flow into the ocean, the water cycle keeps the ocean levels the same.*

Now that you're water wise, take a quiz for a prize!

(Prizes available in the Education Area while supplies last.)