



2025 Indiana Conservation Partnership Accomplishments





The Indiana Conservation Partnership

The [Indiana Conservation Partnership](#) (ICP) is comprised of eight Indiana agencies and organizations who share a common goal of promoting conservation. To that end, the mission of the Indiana Conservation Partnership is to provide technical, financial and educational assistance needed to implement economically and environmentally compatible land and water stewardship decisions, practices and technologies.

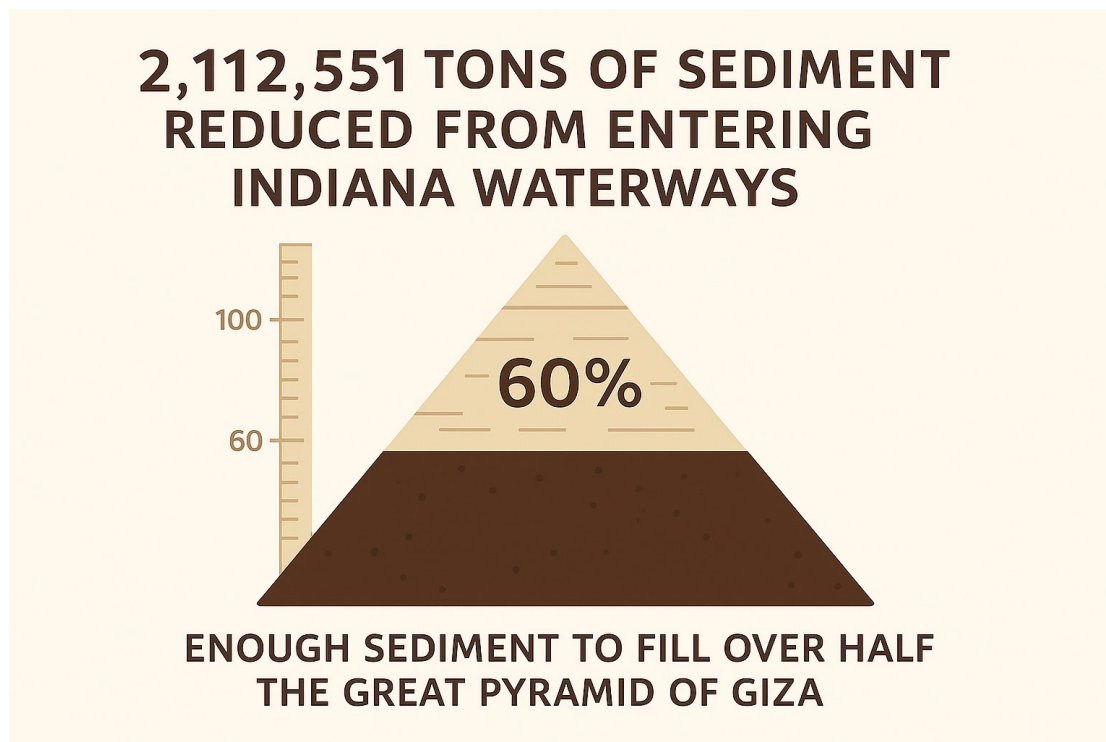
ICP entities that work with private landowners to provide direct technical and/or financial assistance for conservation projects share data with necessary formal agreements in place (1619 compliance, MOA's, etc.) to exchange information while always protecting personally identifiable information.



Key Highlights Accomplished by Private Landowner and the Indiana Conservation Partnership

In 2025 over **44.8 thousand** conservation and farm best management practices were implemented. **18.4 thousand** of these practices were modeled to quantify reductions of sediment and nutrients entering Indiana's waterways.

Sediment Reduction



Thanks to the efforts of the ICP and private landowners 2,112,551 tons of sediment were estimated to be saved from entering Indiana's waterways.

This much soil would fill about 21 thousand train cars, which would be a train longer than the width of Indiana. That is enough sediment to fill over half of the Great Pyramid of Giza.

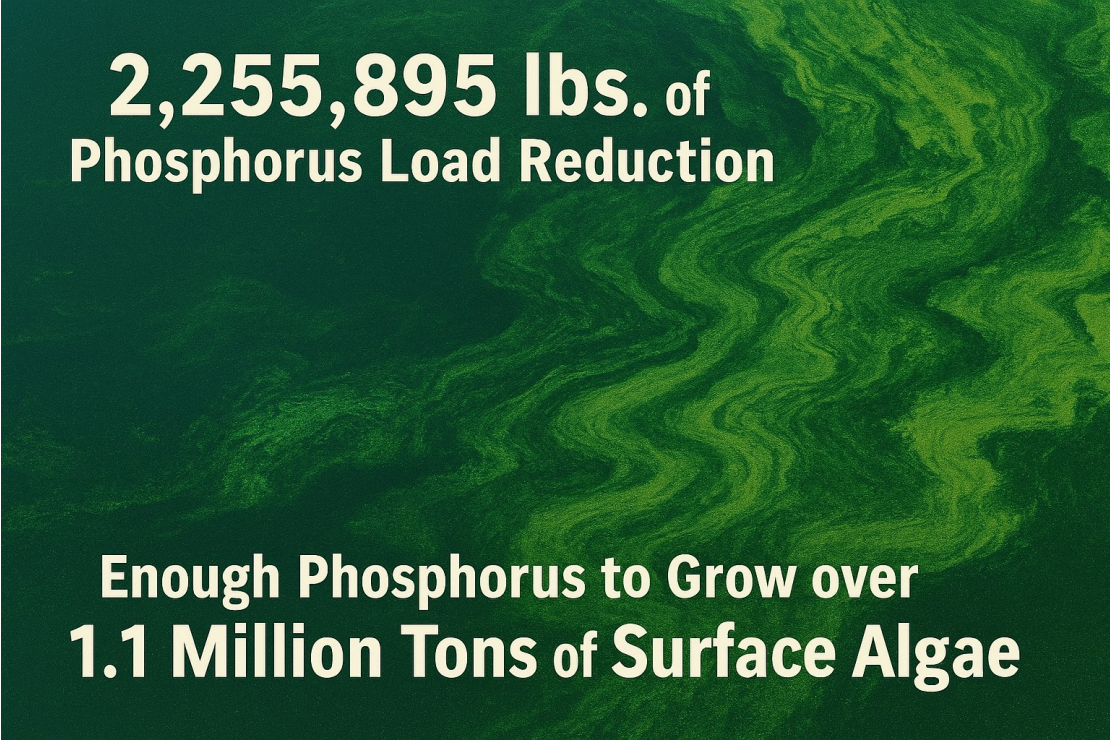
Soil conservation provides many benefits, including preventing the loss of soil productivity. According to a study by USDA there is estimated average benefit of \$1.01 \$/ton of soil in soil productivity from preventing erosion. This results in over \$2 million dollars of soil productivity that were retained from the ICP's efforts.

Phosphorus Reduction

2,255,895 lbs. of phosphorus were estimated to be saved from entering Indiana's waterways, which is enough to fill 11 train cars.

This is the equivalent amount of phosphorus contained in over 12,915 tons of 10-20-10 fertilizer, which is over **\$8 million dollars worth of fertilizer**.

This much phosphorus would be enough to grow over **1.1 million tons of surface algae**.



**2,255,895 lbs. of
Phosphorus Load Reduction**

**Enough Phosphorus to Grow over
1.1 Million Tons of Surface Algae**

Nitrogen Reduction

4,585,326 lbs. of nitrogen were estimated to be saved from entering Indiana's waterways, which is enough to fill more than 22 train cars.

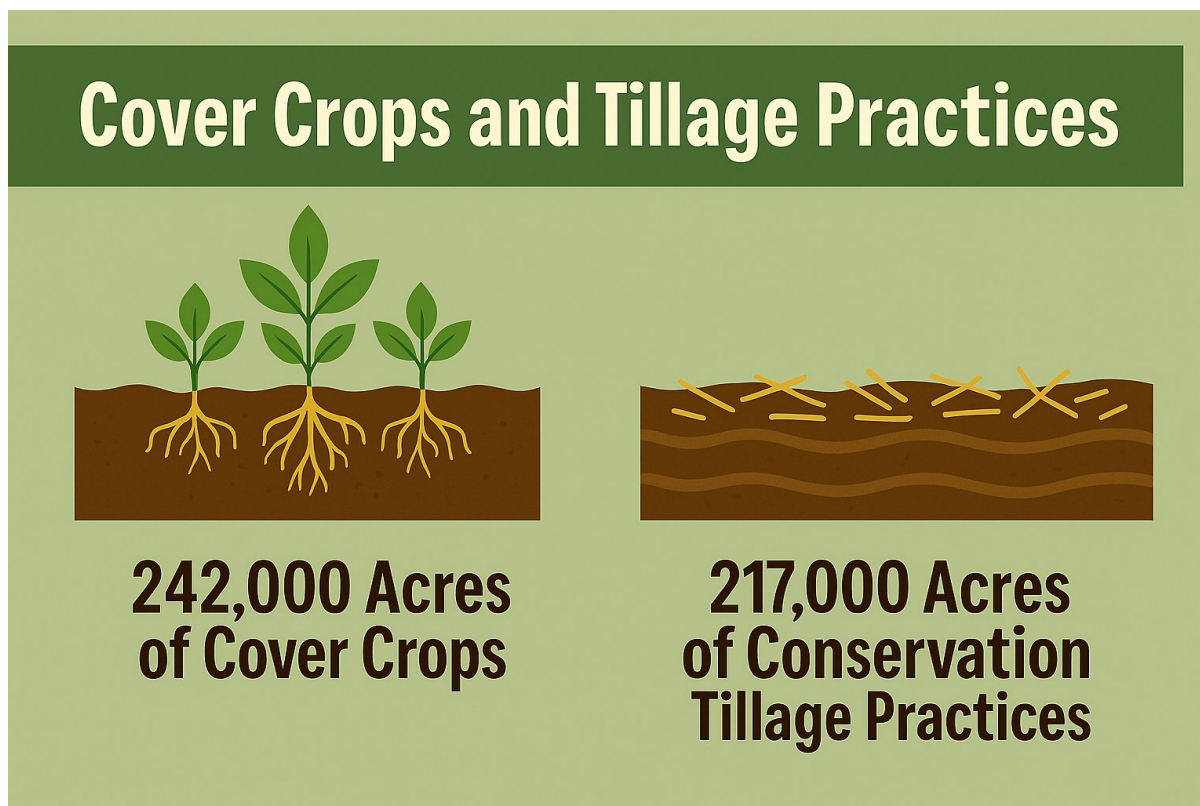
This much nitrogen is equivalent to the amount of nitrogen in about **4,900 tons of urea** fertilizer, which is about **3 million dollars** worth of fertilizer.

**4,585,326 lbs.
of Nitrogen Load Reduction**



4,900 Tons of Urea Fertilizer

Cover Crops and No-Till



Utilizing cover crops and no-till and reduced-till agricultural systems are ways that Indiana producers can improve soil health and reduce soil erosion on their fields.

In 2025 the ICP assisted in more than **8.4 thousand cover crop practices**, which covered about **242 thousand acres**. This is about 90% percent of the area of Marion County.

The ICP assisted growers in over **3 thousand no-till practices**, which covered over **113 thousand acres**.

Additionally the ICP assisted with over **2.7 thousand reduced till practices** totaling over **104 thousand acres**.

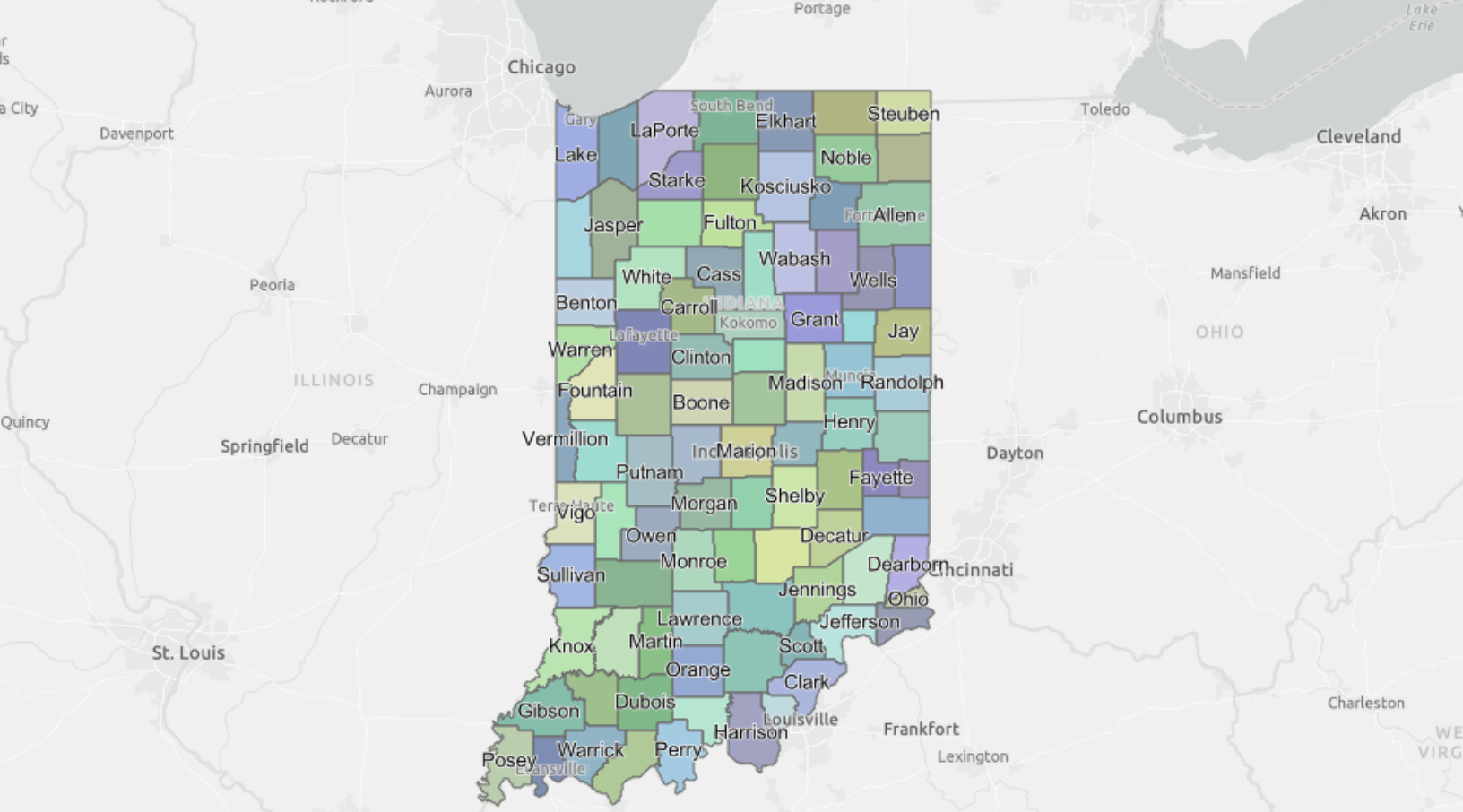
In total the ICP assisted with **no-till and reduced-till practices** covering over **217 thousand acres**.



Wetlands and Ecosystem Best Management Practices

Along with providing erosion control, and improving soil health, some practices that the ICP helps to implement create or provide natural ecosystems,. Natural ecosystems provide numerous benefits, like increasing the population of pollinating insects, or acting as a natural water filter for sediment and nutrients. Below are some key types of best management practices that promote natural ecosystems that ICP assisted with in 2025

BMP Type	Amount
Wetland creation, enhancement, or restoration	603 Acres
Grassy, pollinator, and wildlife habitat plantings	5,156 Acres
Tree or shrub plantings	1,055 Acres



County Conservation Reports

A lot of the work that the ICP does is at the county level, with Soil and Water Conservation Districts, NRCS field office staff, and ISDA resource specialists, and other ICP staff all working collaboratively to help private landowners with their resource needs.

Use the below QR code to access a web map that includes the county conservation reports



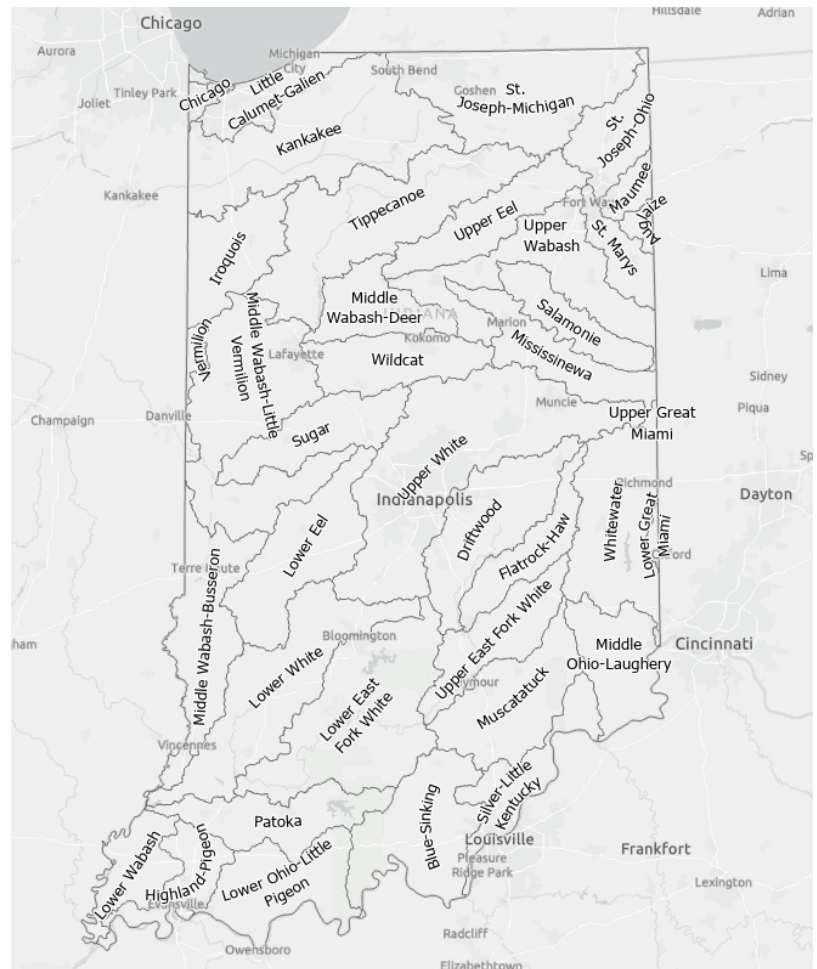
Load Reductions by HUC8 Watershed

HUC8 Sediment and Load Reduction Maps Load Reduction maps are included in the Appendix

- [Sediment](#)
- [Phosphorus](#)
- [Nitrogen](#)

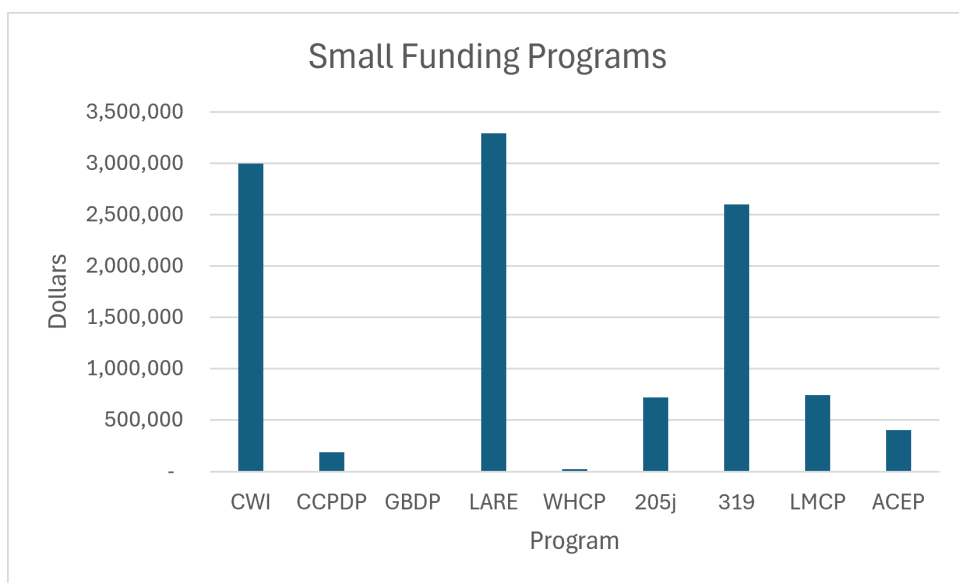
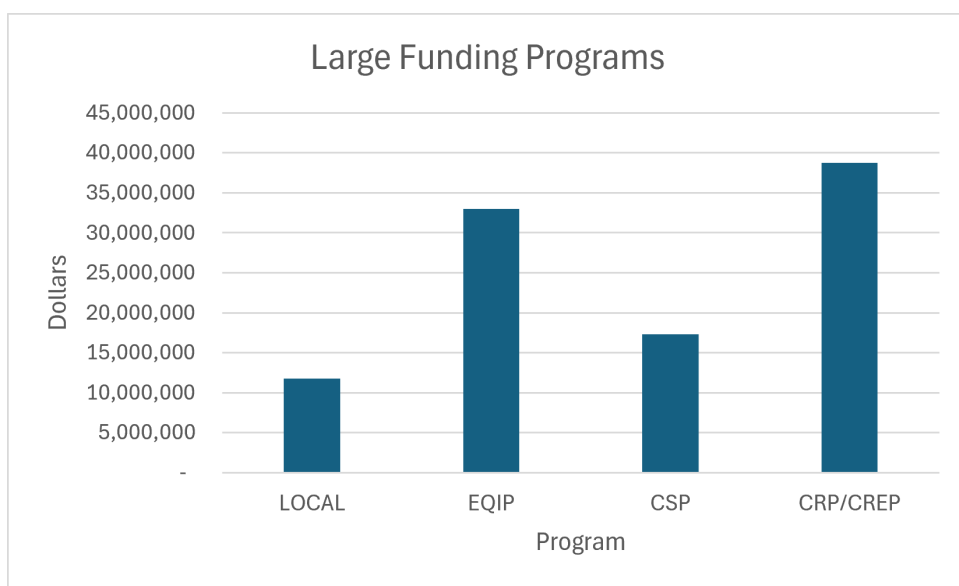
The practices highlighted in this report were completed via voluntary conservation efforts from private landowners in Indiana with support from the Indiana Conservation Partnership. This report does not capture the many unassisted in-field and edge-of-field practices landowners install and pay for themselves. Reductions in dissolved nutrients, such as dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP) and nitrate (NO₃), are not accounted for by the Region 5 Model.

Load reductions continue for the life of the practices modeled (e.g., grassed waterways are designed to be 10-year practices, while cover crops are 1-year practices, established annually). Some ICP practices were not modeled because they were not associated with sediment loss, and therefore not covered by the EPA Region 5 Model.



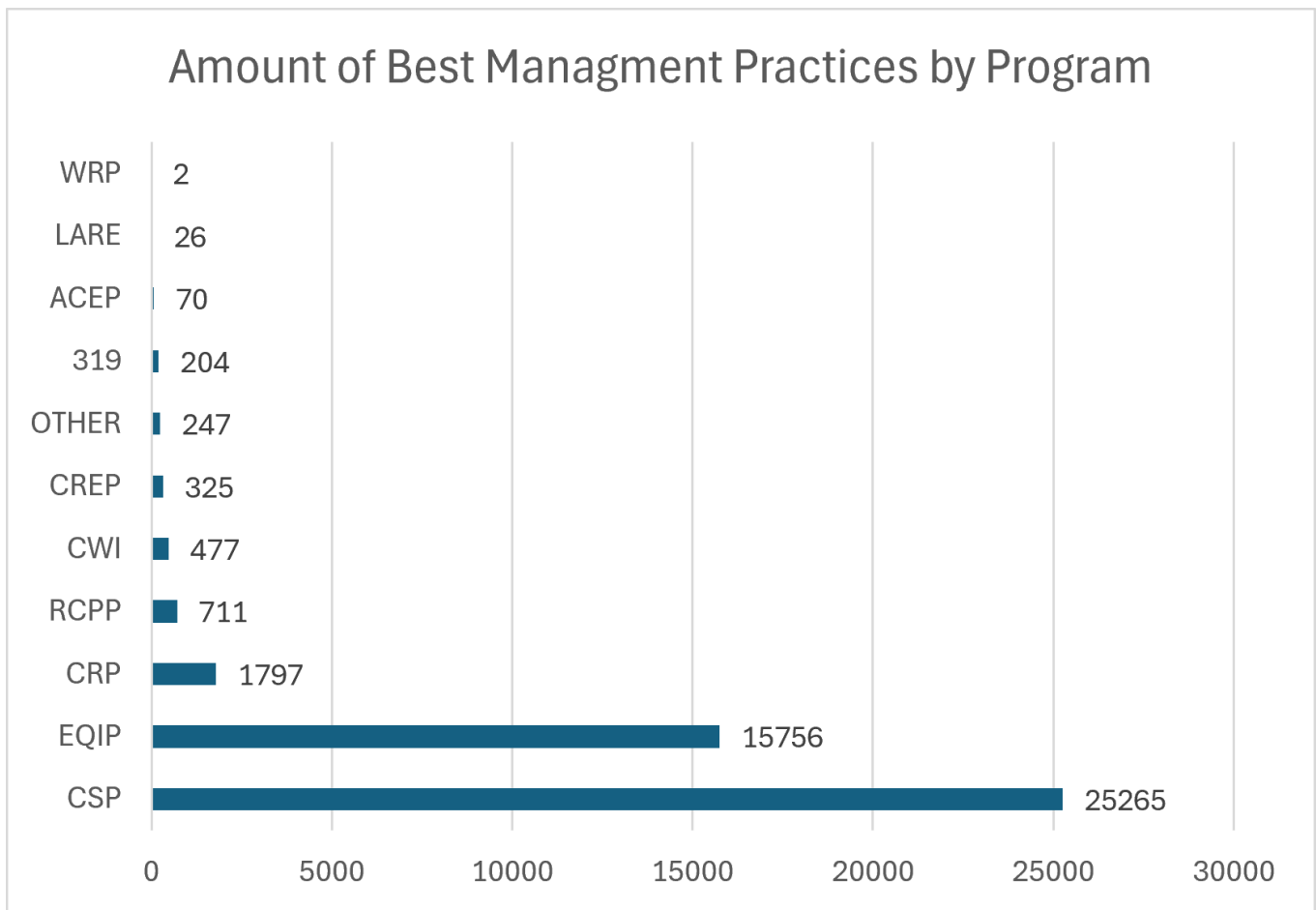
ICP Funding

The ICP shares financial data for all conservation practices at the county level, on an annual basis, per conservation program published online. Find out how much local, state, and federal conservation dollars came into your county on the ICP County Conservation Reports web map . Total public conservation funding in 2025 totaled over \$111 million dollars.



Conservation Programs

Many different partners work through many different programs to accomplish the private land conservation work in the state of Indiana, each program works to fulfill a different need or niche in the landscape of private lands conservation.

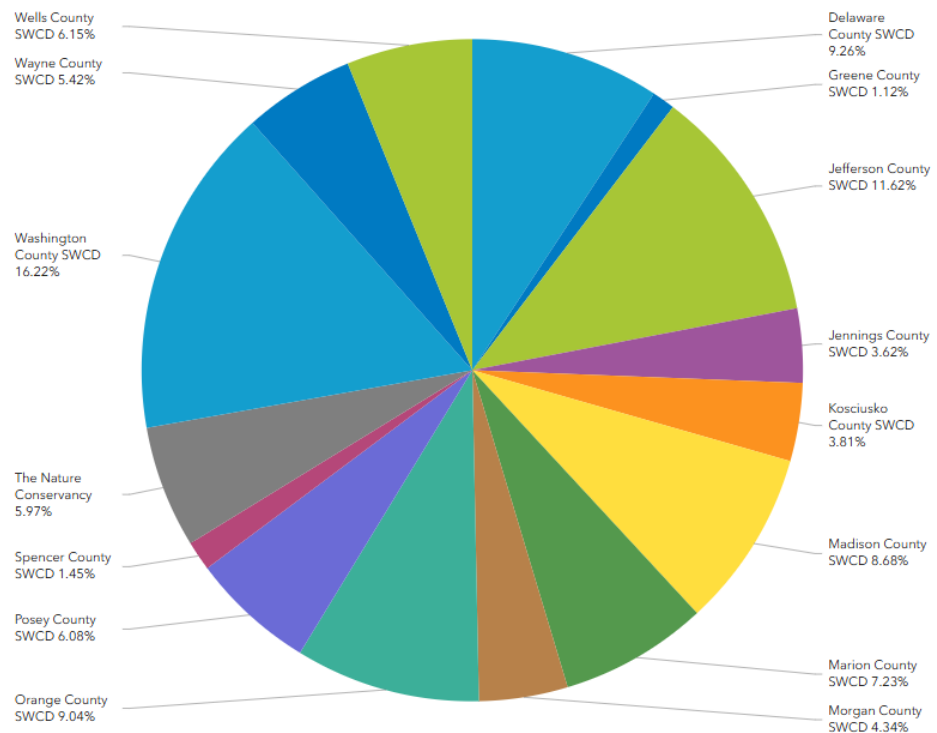


Clean Water Indiana (CWI)

Clean Water Indiana (CWI) provides financial assistance to support conservation practices that reduce nonpoint source pollution. Administered by the Division of Soil Conservation, CWI funds education, technical assistance, training, and cost-share projects through Indiana's Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other conservation organizations.

The program also supplies matching funds for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and other statewide initiatives, which promotes management systems that improve soil health, water quality, and farm profitability.

2025 CWI Funding by Project Lead



Key Highlights:

- 26 Competitive Grant Applications Representing 34 Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- 362 Best Management Practices Installed Using CWI

48,976 Tons of Sediment Load Reduction

99,635 lbs. of Nitrogen Load Reduction

49,810 lbs. of Phosphorus Load Reduction

E.P.A 319 Grant Program

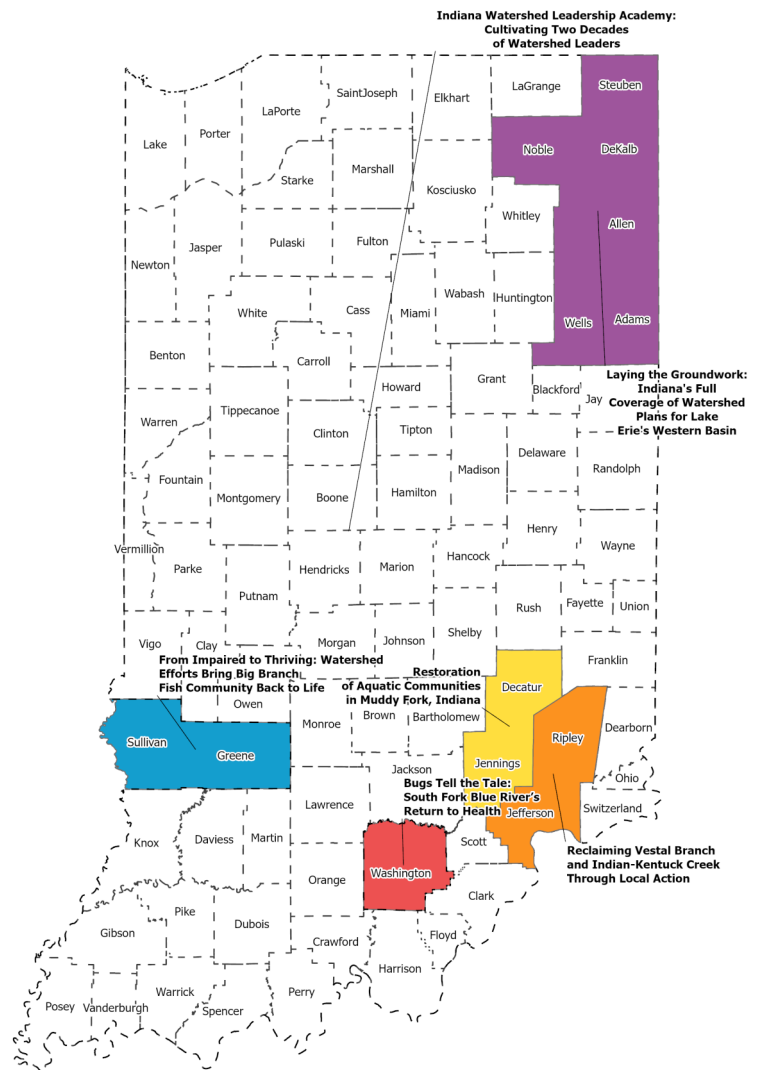
Section 319 of the Clean Water Act was created in 1987 to strengthen federal support for state and local efforts to reduce nonpoint source pollution. In Indiana, Section 319(h) grants are pass-through funds managed by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to improve waterways and address nonpoint source issues. Eligible applicants include local governments, nonprofits, and universities, with funding supporting activities such as technical and financial assistance, education, training, demonstration projects, and project-effectiveness monitoring.

Key Highlights:

- Indiana ranked #1 nationally in 2025 for the number of published NPS Success Stories, with 13 stories.
- Indiana leads EPA Region 5 and ranks #5 nationally with 31 published success stories to date.
- Indiana leads EPA Region 5 and ranks #4 nationally for the number of documented improved waterbodies, with 60 waterbodies showing measurable improvements due to NPS reductions.

To View EPA Success Stories visit:

<https://ordspub.epa.gov/ords/grts/f?p=109:9940::::9940:::map>



Indiana Small Farms Conservation

Indiana Small Farms Conservation provides technical assistance to help small farms and gardens improve soil health through conservation-focused farming practices. The program supports a resilient, diversified local food system where conservation is integrated across all farms and strengthened by county-level partnerships. Soil health management is emphasized as a foundation for environmental stewardship and healthy food production, recognizing the connection between soil, crop, animal, and human health. Farmers consistently report feeling more supported, connected, and empowered to adopt and share conservation practices as a result of the program's guidance

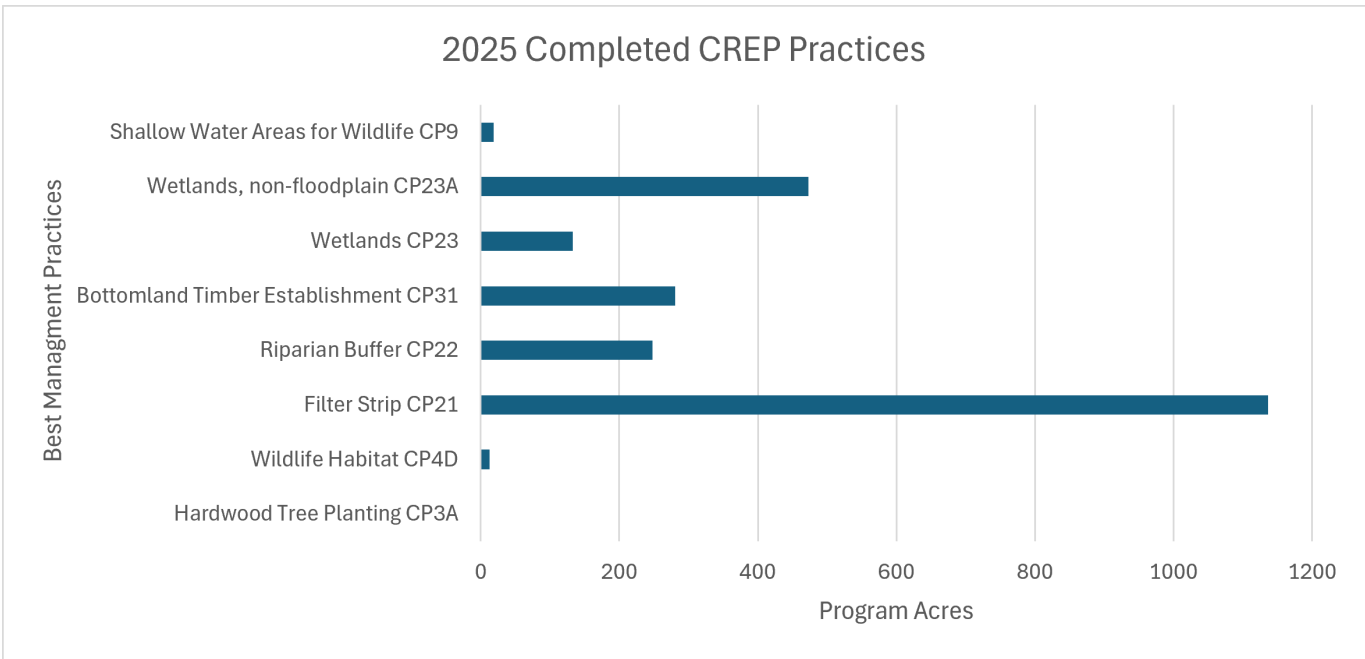
Key Highlights:

- 1,150 Technical assistance visits to provide producers with site-specific conservation practice recommendations.
- 3,300+ Acres visited to provide assistance for best management practices on Small Farms in Indiana.
- 23,500 people reached via attendance at educational events, workshops and site visits.
- Expertly-designed resources for small farmers available for free at www.insmallfarms.org/resources and archive of educational videos at Small Farm Updates .



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), a targeted extension of the Conservation Reserve Program, is administered by the Farm Service Agency in partnership with states, Tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations. CREP focuses on specific conservation challenges by enrolling environmentally sensitive land in long-term conservation contracts. Participants receive annual rental payments, cost-share assistance, and other incentives to implement and maintain conservation practices.



Key Highlights:

Estimated Sediment and Nutrient Load Reductions from CREP BMPs	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration
- Sediment - 8,697 Tons - Phosphorus - 10,818 lbs. - Nitrogen - 21472 lbs.	606 Acres Compiled or Installed 956 Acres Enrolled	67.3 Acres of New Trees Were Planted 40,362 Trees planted



2025 Conservation Transect

The conservation transect is a visual survey of cropland in the state. It was conducted between March and April 2025 by members of the Indiana Conservation Partnership. The primary purpose is to estimate the amount of cover crops that are employed by Indiana farmers, show and a more complete story of the state's conservation efforts, outside of cost shared BMPs.

The Conservation Transect estimated that Indiana farms planted over **1.62 Million acres of living cover**.

For more information about the Conservation Transect see: <https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/conservation-transect/>



National Collaboration

Watersheds span state and political boundaries. The ICP is proud to work with other states in the Midwest and across the country to improve water quality and promote science-based practices that reduce nutrient runoff and build soil health. The ICP collaborates through:

- Mississippi Hypoxia Task Force
- Indiana's Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA)
- Domestic Action Plan (DAP)
- Great Lakes conservation (Tri-State Watershed Alliance)



Significant Water Bodies

The Indiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy underwent a major update in 2025, and this refreshed guidance plays a central role in the ICP. The ICP highlights the positive impacts of conservation practices on key drinking water sources across Indiana, particularly in watersheds with significant agricultural land use. To identify your watershed, explore how farmers are improving water quality, and learn about common conservation practices visit [Indiana's Nutrient Reduction Strategy website](#).

To view one page data sheets for significant water bodies please use the online version of this report

Resources

For more information visit the ICP member websites

Indiana Conservation Partnership—

USDA NRCS—<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/indiana>

USDA FSA—<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/indiana>

Indiana State Department of Agriculture Division of Soil Conservation—<https://www.in.gov/isda/divisions/soil-conservation/>

IDNR LARE—<https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/lake-and-river-enhancement/>

IDEM 319—<https://www.in.gov/idem/nps/funding/clean-water-act-section-319h-grants/>

IDEM 205(j)—<https://www.in.gov/idem/nps/funding/clean-water-act-section-205j-grants/>

Indiana Association of Soil and Water Districts—<https://iaswcd.org/>

Indiana State Soil Conservation Board—<https://www.in.gov/isda/boards/state-soil-conservation-board/>

Purdue Extension—<https://extension.purdue.edu/>

A web version of this report with interactive features can be found at:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/843ab0b0806649abb13d135c27452f72>

Or by scanning the QR code



Appendix - HUC8 Load Reduction Maps

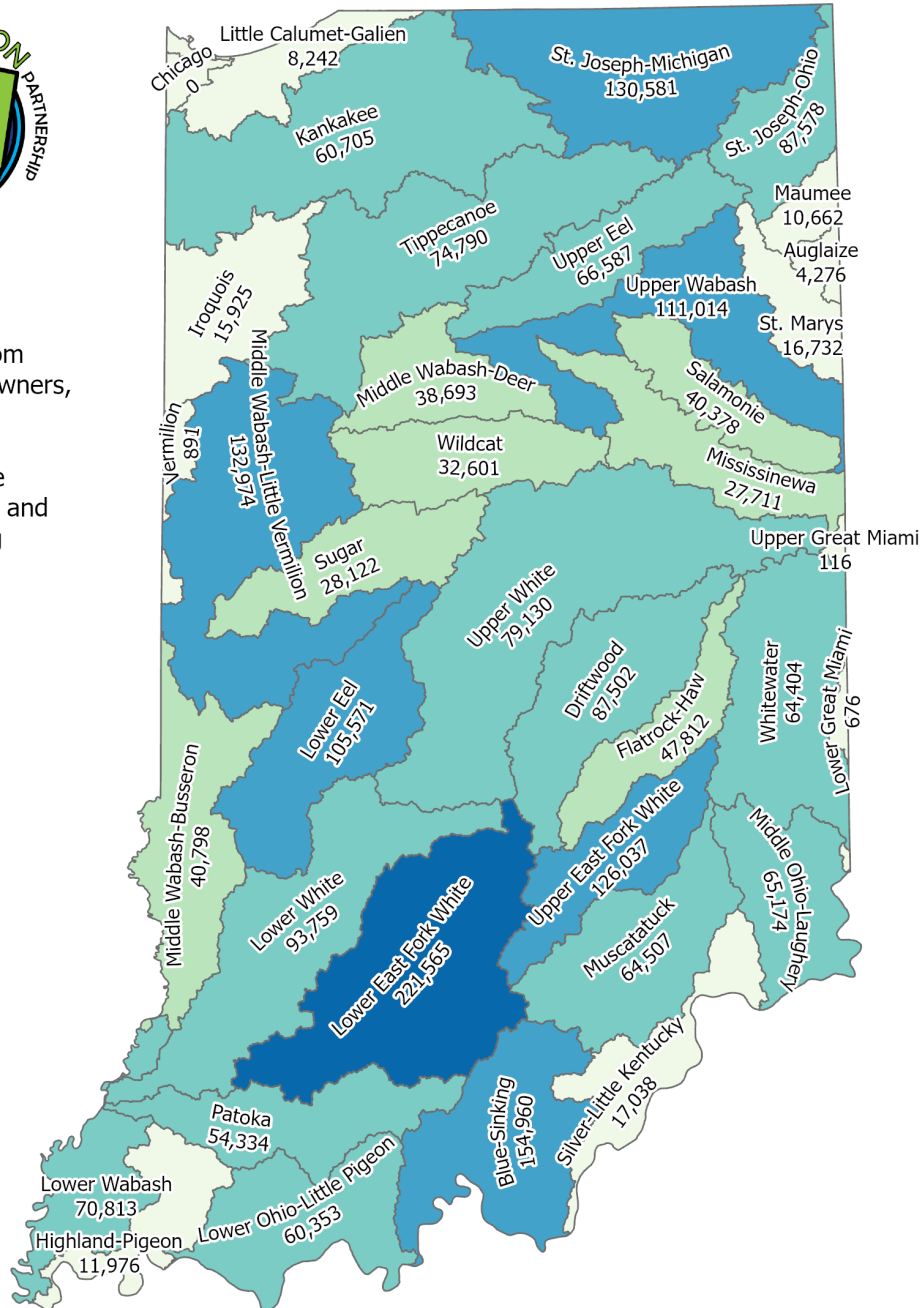
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Phosphorus Load Reduction From Best Management Practices Active in 2025 - Lbs.



Since 2013 voluntary conservation efforts from Indiana's private landowners, with support from the Indiana Conservation partnership (ICP), have reduced over sediment and nutrients from entering Indiana's waterways.

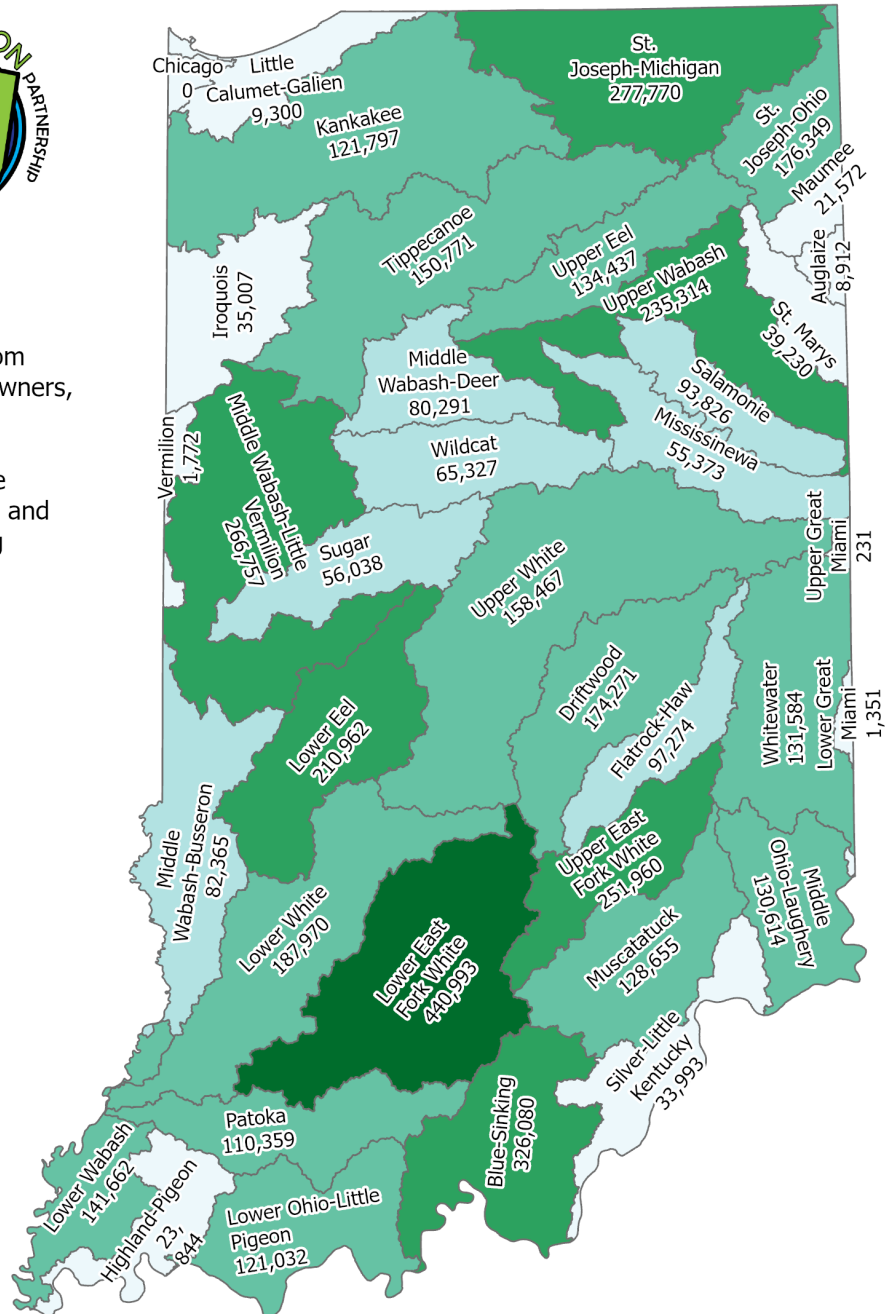


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