

## WHAT MADE OUR RIVER'S WATER SO DIRTY?

During the 1920's Fort Wayne was part of the "rust belt" where industry ran dirty and unregulated. Mercury, PCB's, and heavy metals still loom in the river bottoms from that era. We currently have "dangerous levels" of Mercury, between Fort Wayne and New Haven, levels considered unsafe by the EPA. Historically, we also live in an agricultural area that has farmland runoff; pesticides, herbicides, insecticides & manure drain from fields into open water and a large urban population locally.

In the early 1900's, sewer systems to collect storm water, domestic sewage from toilets and industrial waste from companies, through a single pipe that combined underground. During dry weather each pipe is supposed to transport all wastewater into a sewage treatment plant where it is treated properly. Today, when rainwater flows into the pipes it exceeds the capacity of the aging system and spews a "discharge" of basically raw sewage into the rivers. Our city has grown to almost 350,000 people but our sewers haven't grown. Fort Wayne currently has 44 CSO points and has an average of 71 CSO discharges/year. So basically, every time it rains 1/10th of an inch, sewage is spewing directly into our local waterways. This is now being addressed through a long-term control plan, spending approx \$240 million over the next 18 years.

In 1984 the U.S. Environmental Agency closed Fort Wayne Reduction Landfill (aka. Adams Center Landfill) because 91 hazardous chemicals had leaked into the ground and "spilled" volatile liquids into the Maumee. Now it's listed as a Federal Super-Fund Site which is one of the top 1,100 most contaminated/toxic areas in the USA.

Toxic levels of PCB's & Hg continue to plague fish in our area that have led to Fish Consumption Advisories. In fact, there were more than twice the FDA's allowed limit of PCBs. PCB's have been linked to cancer in lab animals and health problems in humans including birth defects, bone and joint deformities and liver and skin cancer. Indiana has zero stream miles, zero Great Lakes shoreline miles, and zero inland lake acres that fully support fish consumption. ...Continued on back...

Local County health dept. / stakeholders have identified failing septic systems and straight pipe discharge from septic tanks as significant sources of water pollution in the St. Joe/Maumee Watershed. These discharges are illegal according to the EPA but still exist in our watershed. Senate Bill 620 passed in 2005 and is allowing companies/local governments a variance from pollution standards, which allow permits for "legal dumping" until 2010.

There are 249 active National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permitted dischargers in our St. Joseph/Maumee Watershed. These permits allow companies to legally dump into the river or other open water area. Fort Wayne lists 38 significant contributors that are discharging contaminants to all 3 Rivers LEGALLY. 7 of these are "major" discharges, allowing over 1 million gallons per day, per pipe, which are releasing pollution daily into our important waterways.

Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Water Quality 303 (d) List of Impaired Waters includes all of the St. Joseph, St. Mary, and Maumee Rivers in Allen County in the 2006 report. Advisories from IDEM list "ALL of St. Joseph River had a severity ranking of high for levels of FCA for PCB's, Mercury and E. coli." This is the same source where over 200, 000 families get their drinking water!

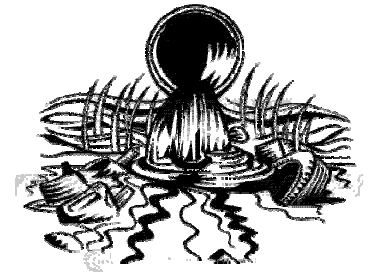


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## WHATCHA' GONNNA DO ABOUT IT?

Water Pollution...Are you part of the solution, or part of the problem?

Help us to speak for your rivers...  
For your rivers have no voice  
**Save Maumee**



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PLEASE CONTACT US FOR  
FURTHER QUESTIONS &  
INFORMATION

## SAVE MAUMEE'S VISION

Do you remember the 3 Rivers Raft Race, swimming on the Johnny Appleseed Beach or canoeing fun for the whole family on your favorite natural resource? Instead of adding river fun to your summer agenda, one must avoid contact with the water? The signs posted around it even say so! No one seems to remember the reason the rivers have been celebrated in the past, bringing prosperity, population and civilization to our area, making Fort Wayne~The Summit City! Why does our great City of the 3 Rivers focus on junk food alley and beer tents for their celebration?

Think of all the money being spent on the River Greenway. Wouldn't clean rivers to go hand-in-hand with the new sidewalks? Bliss could then be described as strolling down the River Greenway teeming with healthy wildlife, eatable fish, breathtaking views and desirable thick shoots among grass & bush... All pristine and without garbage, of course, as nature has intended. Area residents have the right to experience our rivers without trash, stench, bacteria, E. coli, fish consumption advisories and habitat alterations.



You can help save our water; so tangible and important; overlooked and precious, two-thirds of the world yet only 1% drinkable, governments make laws protect and cannot enforce set legislation, yet take money from corporations to pollute it by granting licenses to discharge into it. We are tired of being cordial to a problem that is urgent.

River restoration is a necessity, not a luxury. U.S. citizens depend on the services that healthy streams and rivers provide at an extremely fundamental level. Please invest in Natural Capital!

## CURRENT PROJECTS

Annual Earth Day Since 2005 & 1st Annual Canoe Clean-up. Can YOU Clean-Up 2008 Save Maumee organizes citizens to gather and to cleanse the Maumee riverbanks of rubbish & plant seeds that are secured by erosion control mats. Since 2005 we have cleaned up approx. 7 tons of garbage. Save the date for our Earth Day 2010 &



Erosion Control Mats  
Execution of our restoration activities in 2007—2009 has been extremely effective

Free Canoes Sept, 12 2009!

### Restoration Activities

We have secured over 10,000 sq. ft. of erosion control mats, planted over 500lbs of Indian Grass, Virginia Wild Rice & Switch Grass. Planted over 700 trees on riparian areas; Tulip (Poplar) Trees, Chinkapin Oak, Cottonwood, Paw Paw, Persimmon, Burr Oak, Swamp Oak, etc. We are setting the example of

effective ways to help with the #1 pollutant in our watershed, sedimentation / erosion.

### How Riverbank Planting Helps

Streambank stabilization projects are currently receiving 0 dollars in Indiana. 85% of wetlands and most of the forested corridors in Indiana no longer exist. Planting aids in combating erosion by protecting shores through reduction of fast-moving, rising water with destructive energy. It helps with flooding because trees and grasses will release water over a longer period of time, produce enzymes which will absorb bacteria and settle out suspended sediment. Plantings alleviate pools of standing/stagnant water so West Nile will not be passed on in the mosquito or human population.

### Continuing Education for 2009

Now our volunteers include a watershed expert, 3 Master Naturalists and a Biologist that will assist current Upper Maumee Watershed Management Plan. CALL to attend a meeting or get involved. We are currently seeking our professionals to assist with the Indiana Watershed— if you have information we need YOU!

Speakers and Educational Programs are available for any group and will enhance your knowledge of local river conditions. View our Power Point Presentation on the website or email [savemaumee@yahoo.com](mailto:savemaumee@yahoo.com)

## MISSION STATEMENT

Save Maumee Grassroots Organization is dedicated to raising awareness about the conditions of the 3 Rivers in Fort Wayne, Indiana while facilitating ecosystem restoration projects; ultimately repairing and improving the St. Joseph, St. Mary and Maumee Rivers to reverse the affects of pollution. Revitalizing the St. Joe/Maumee Watershed will protect and restore the environment, while



Protecting and cleaning our rivers will improve economic, aesthetic and recreational value.

improving the economic, aesthetic and recreational value. We are organizing hy-

pothesis driven restoration projects, which place a high priority on

monitoring, developing and restoring rivers with a positive environmental impact. Research into historical importance of our navigable waterways and current pollution conditions began in 2001 and Save Maumee began bank-stabilization projects in 2005.

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