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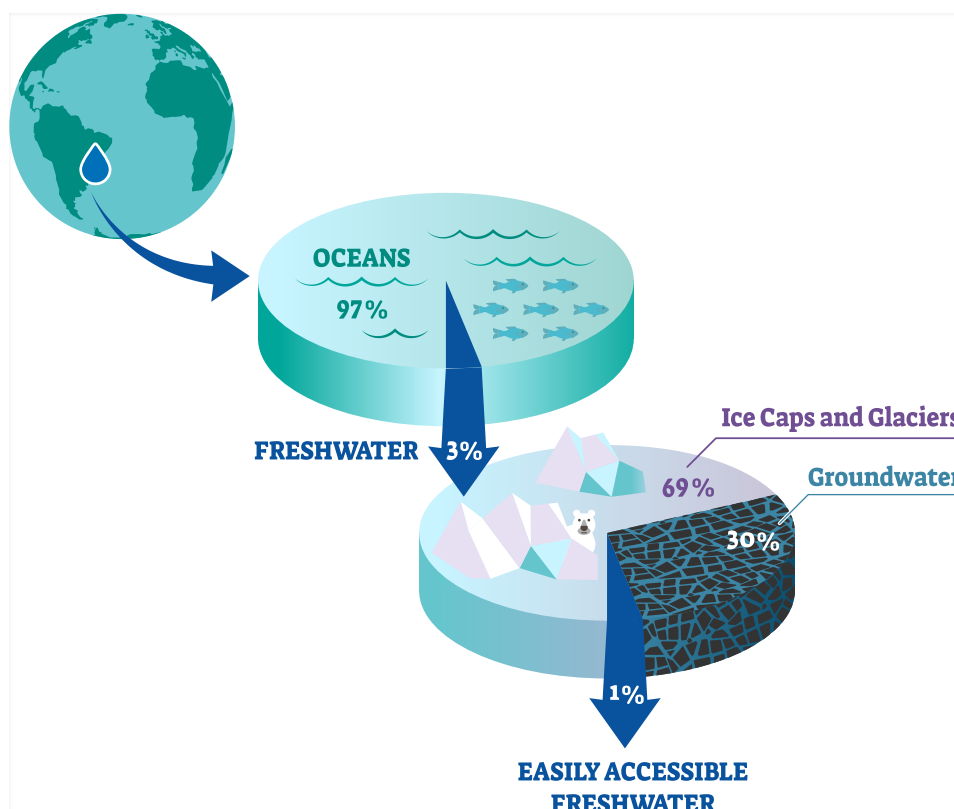
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Our Drinking Water

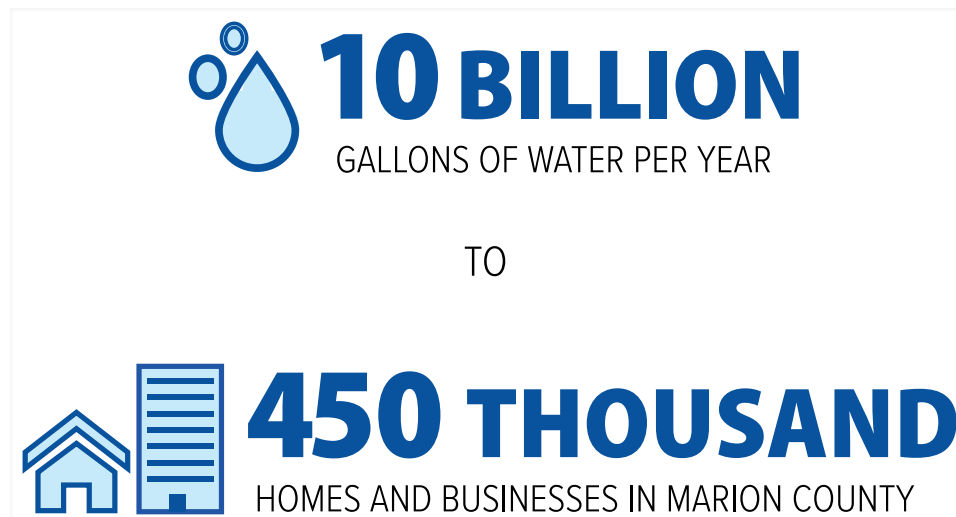
Approximately **97%** of all water on earth is unable to be consumed (saltwater).

Of the world's water which can be consumed (freshwater), only **1%** is **easily accessible**.



When we turn on our faucet, whether at home or at work, clean water runs freely out. Do we give a second thought as to how it got there?

Behind the scenes in Marion County, dedicated water professionals work around the clock to maintain the infrastructure required to deliver



Delivering this clean water to our community is no easy task. In addition to surface water that is more easily accessible, we need to use groundwater as a source of our drinking water.



Journey with us to understand how the **Marion County Wellfield Education Corporation** together with our city, state, and federal governments protect our drinking water sources and how YOU can be a part of ensuring clean water reaches everyone in our community, not only today, but for future generations.

Where does our drinking water come from?



In Marion County, drinking water can come from **surface water** (rivers, lakes, streams) or **groundwater** (water in the tiny gaps between rocks, soils, and sediments under the ground).

The **3 water utilities** collect the surface water and/or pump groundwater from **72 wells**.

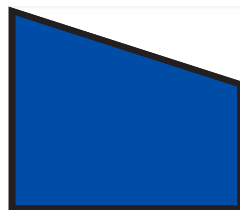
Watch this video to learn more about groundwater:





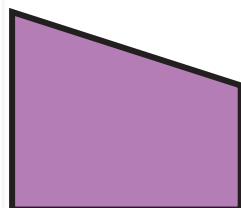
The land around the 72 wells are called "wellfield protection areas" or "wellfields."

Wellfields are categorized by the amount of time for **groundwater** to travel to the wells - important in understanding the how fast contaminated groundwater could reach the wells.



5 year time of travel

In these areas it takes **5 years** for groundwater to travel to the wells.



1 year time of travel

In these areas it takes **1 year** for groundwater to travel to the wells.

Marion County has **7 wellfields**.

The 7 wellfields cover a total area of 33 square miles.

- 1** Fall Creek Wellfield
- 2** Ford Wellfield
- 3** Geist Wellfield
- 4** Lawrence Wellfield
- 5** Riverside Wellfield
- 6** Speedway Wellfield
- 7** South Wellfield



You may see this sign as you drive in a wellfield.



How do I know my water is **safe to drink**?

Business activities in the wellfields are regulated by various federal, state, and local laws to ensure water **reaching the wells** is not contaminated.



To ensure water is then **purified** by the public utilities, each utility is required to publish a yearly Consumer Confidence Report detailing how the water meets state and federal drinking water purification standards.

Read the latest reports from Marion County's utilities:

- [Citizens Consumer Confidence Report](#)
- [Lawrence Consumer Confidence Report](#)
- [Speedway Consumer Confidence Report](#)



Although not specific to Marion County, the Indiana Water Monitoring Council (a non-profit founded in 2008), produces an annual **Indiana Water Report** to describe more public, private, and non-profit water monitoring and research activities throughout Indiana.

- [Indiana Water Report](#)

Protecting Our Drinking Water

In an addition to federal, state, and local laws, the **Marion County Wellfield Education Corporation (MCWEC)**, a 501(3)c non-profit corporation, was established in 1996 through the Marion County Wellfield Protection Zoning Ordinance to support the protection of groundwater and drinking water supplies in Marion County.










MCWEC responsibilities include:

- Providing FREE technical assistance and equipment to businesses in the wellfields
- Public outreach to promote awareness of protecting groundwater
- Documenting potential groundwater contamination sources and providing data for identified groundwater contamination sources in the wellfields

Keeping Track - Potential Sources of Groundwater Contamination

Businesses that are **potential sources of groundwater contamination** in the wellfields are categorized with a primary code based on business activities.

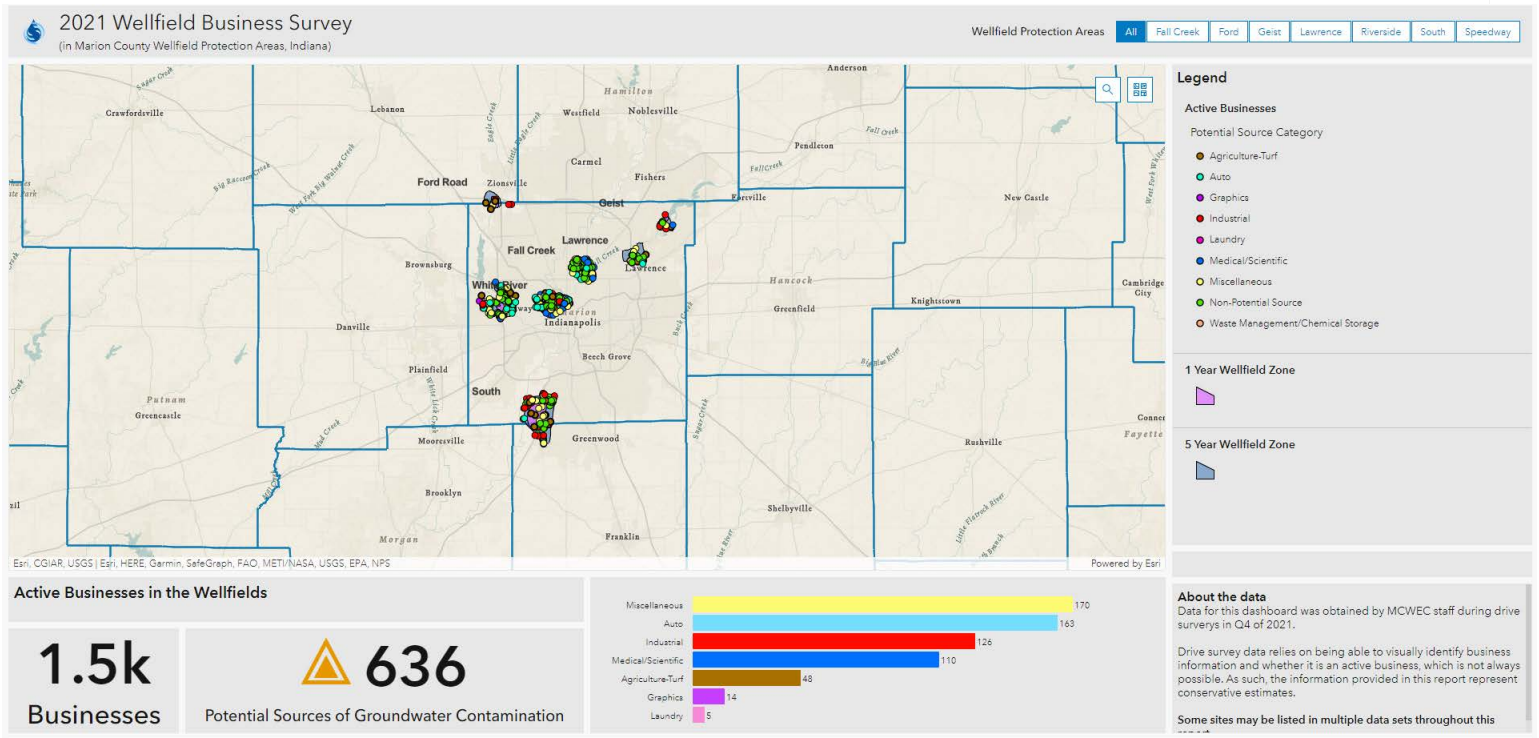
Agriculture		farms, golf courses, and parks
Auto		gas stations, auto repair, washing and sales facilities, truck terminals and state/municipal fleet sites
Graphics		printing facilities (paper, textiles and signage)
Industrial		fire stations, utilities, large industry sites, waste handling/storage/recycling sites, refineries, and bulk terminals
Laundry		commercial dry-cleaning facilities
Medical / Scientific		hospitals, medical clinics, dentists, training and research facilities, medical/scientific waste disposal facilities
Miscellaneous		unknown/unidentifiable businesses, production of food and beverages, and other businesses that may contain minor sources

Any business that does not fall into a potential source category is marked as a "non-potential source." This includes properties with no known history of sources and other businesses that are considered low to no risk of having potential groundwater contaminants on-site.



MCWEC Wellfield Business Survey

Each year, MCWEC documents these **potential groundwater contamination** sources through drive surveys in the wellfields. Staff visually identify the type of business and the status of operation (active or inactive). Sources located with a 1/4 mile of the 5 year wellfield zone are also included in the drive survey.

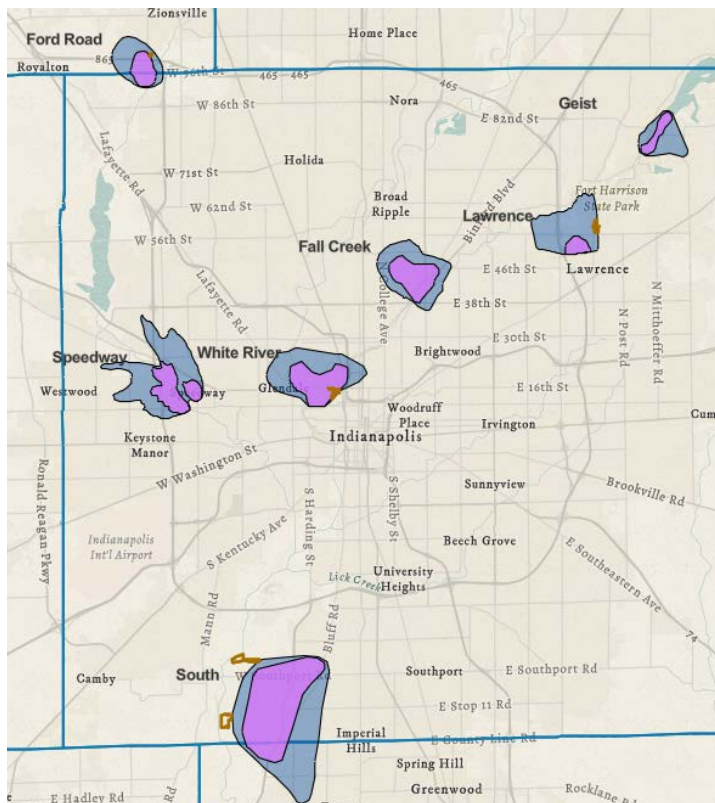




Other Potential Sources of Groundwater Contamination

In addition to drive surveys conducted by MCWEC, federal and state agencies produce data sets to help identify potential sources of groundwater contamination.

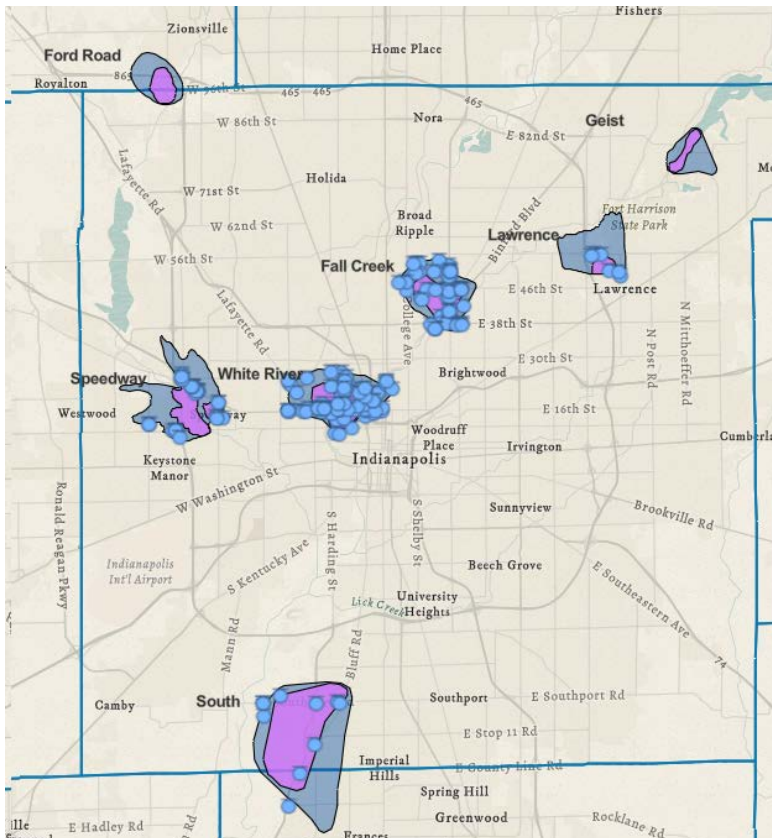
Data limitations: The regulatory databases have limitations as to the accuracy of the information within them, as they are updated at varying time points across each year. As such, the information provided in this report represent conservative estimates based on the various limitations of the source data. Some sites may be listed in multiple data sets.



Landfills

Permanent land disposal facility including municipal waste.

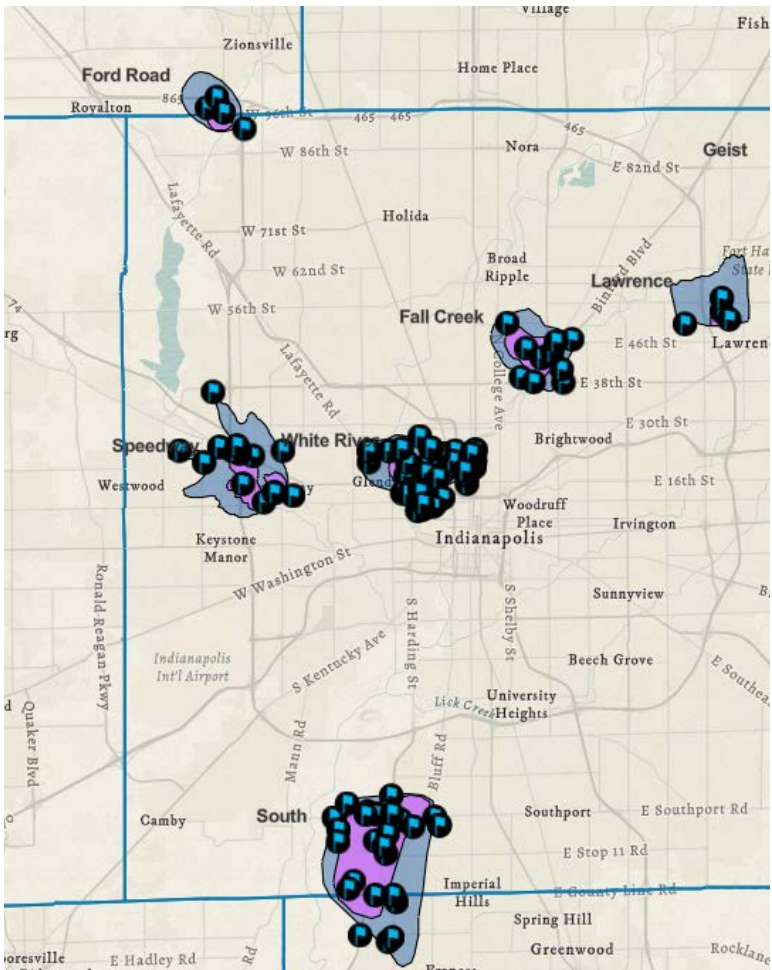
Source: Indiana GIS API, March 2022



Underground Storage Tank Sites

An underground storage tank (UST) system is a tank and any underground piping connected to the tank that has at least 10 percent of its combined volume underground. Indiana's Office of Land Quality is responsible for monitoring USTs.

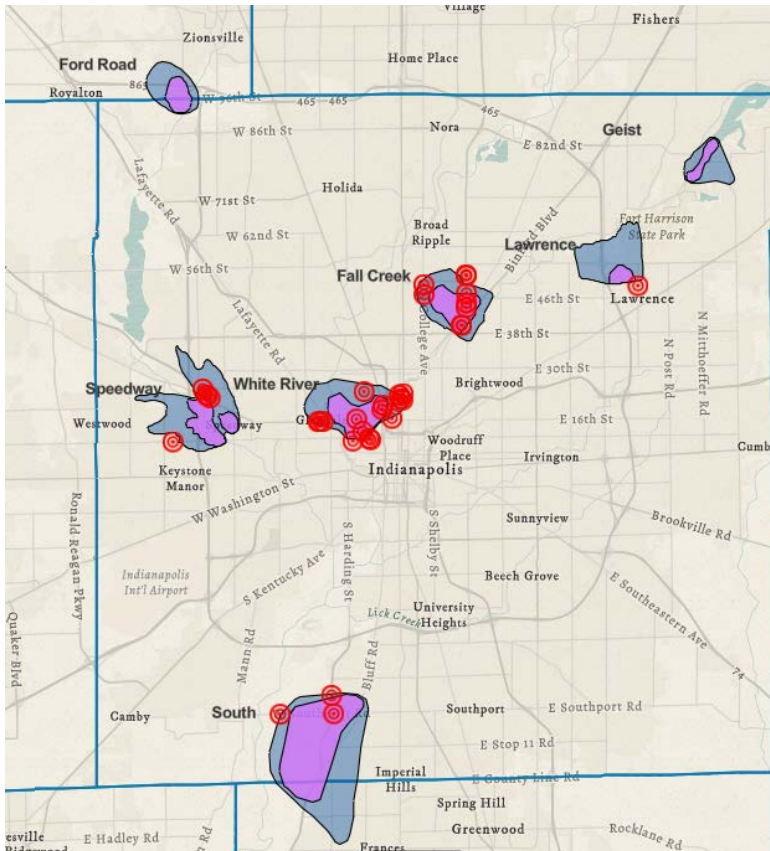
Source: Indiana GIS API, March 2022



National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Sites

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States.

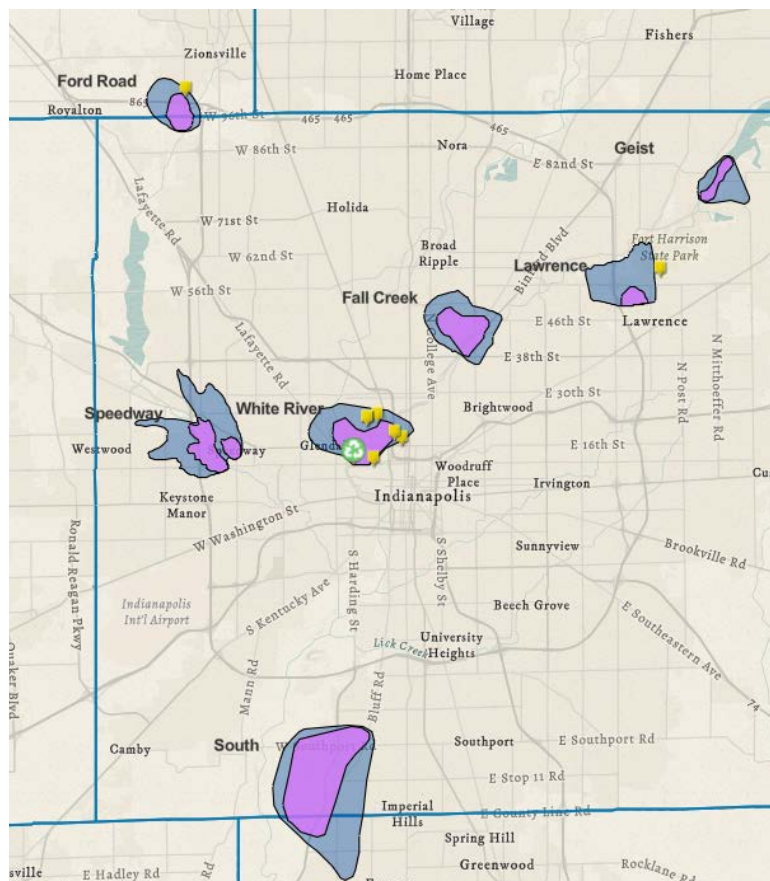
Source: Indiana GIS API, March 2022



Hazardous Waste Reporters

A Hazardous Waste Reporter is a facility that generates, treats, stores, or disposes of hazardous waste as defined by the U.S. EPA.

Source: Indiana GIS API, March 2022



Waste Disposal, Storage, and Recycling Sites

Sites where waste is temporarily stored for disposal or recycling.

Source: Indiana GIS API, March 2022



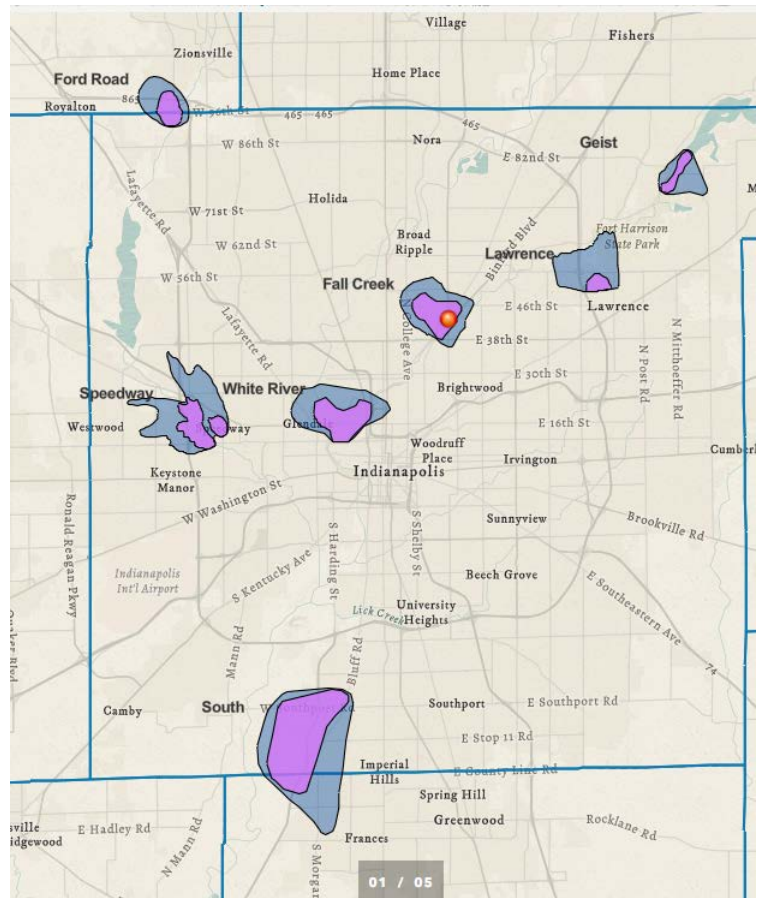
Identified Groundwater Contamination Sites

Sites which have had **identified groundwater contamination** are regulated through different federal and state programs to ensure they meet cleanup laws.

***Data limitations:** The regulatory databases have limitations as to the accuracy of the information within them, as they are updated at varying time points across each year. As such, the information provided in this report represent conservative estimates based on the various limitations of the source data. Some sites may be listed in multiple data sets.*

Superfund Sites

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act informally called "**Superfund**", allows the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to clean up contaminated sites and forces the parties responsible for the contamination to either perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-led cleanup work.

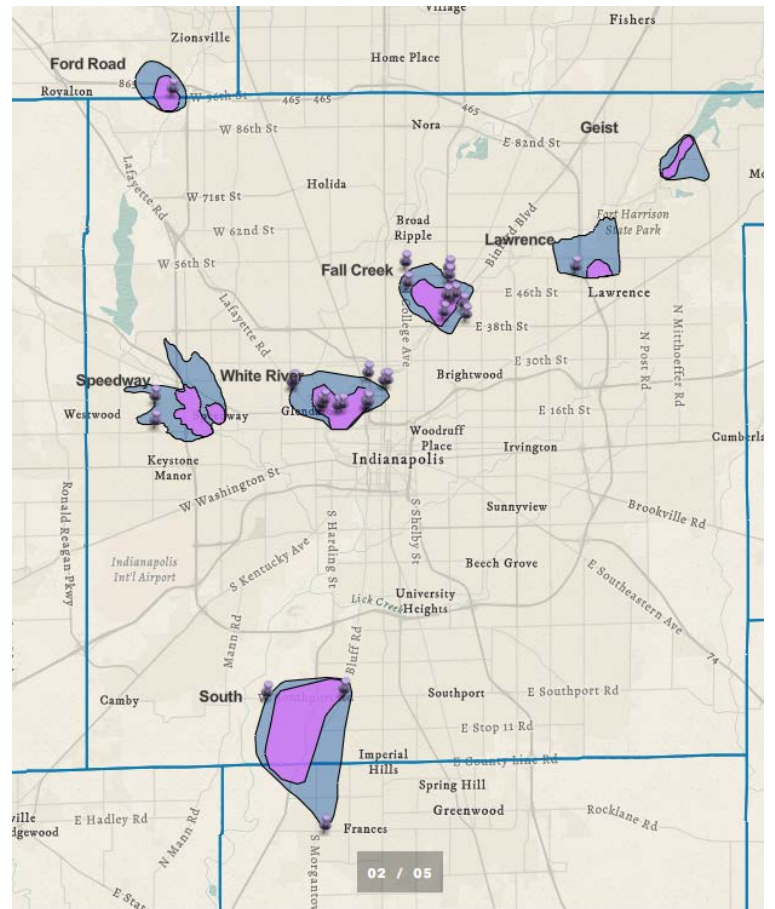


Source: Indiana GIS API, March 2022

State Cleanup Sites

Indiana's **State Cleanup Program** manages sites that are contaminated with hazardous substances or petroleum, but are not included on the National Priorities List of the federal Superfund program.

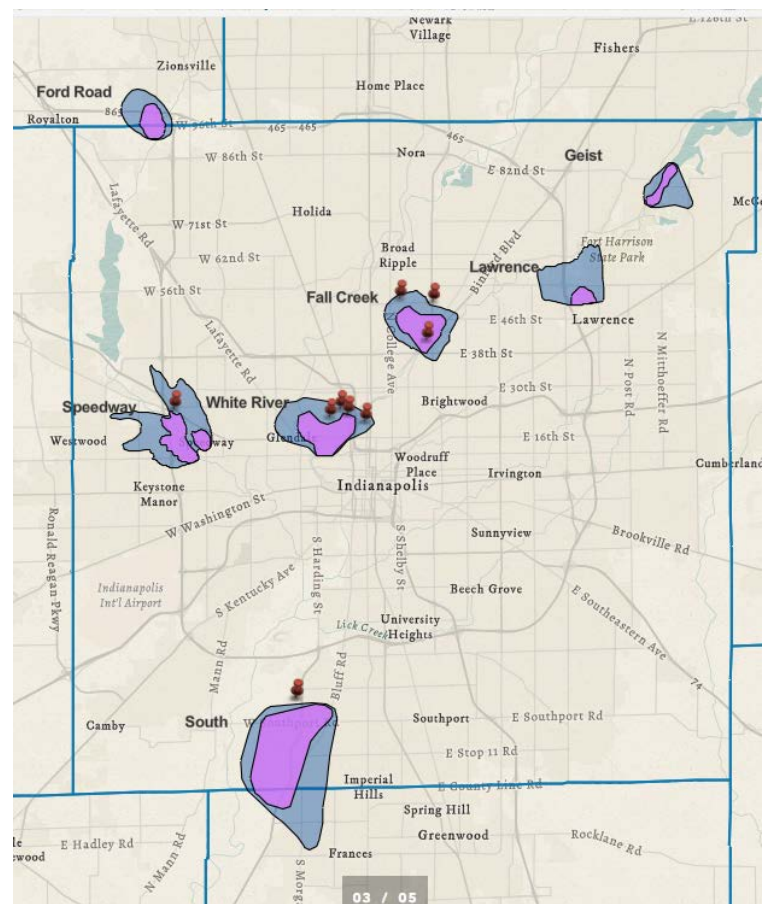
Source: Indiana GIS API, March 2022



Voluntary Remediation Program

Indiana's **Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP)** provides a process for property owners, operators, potential purchasers, and third parties to voluntarily address (by investigating and, if necessary, remediating) property that is or may be contaminated.

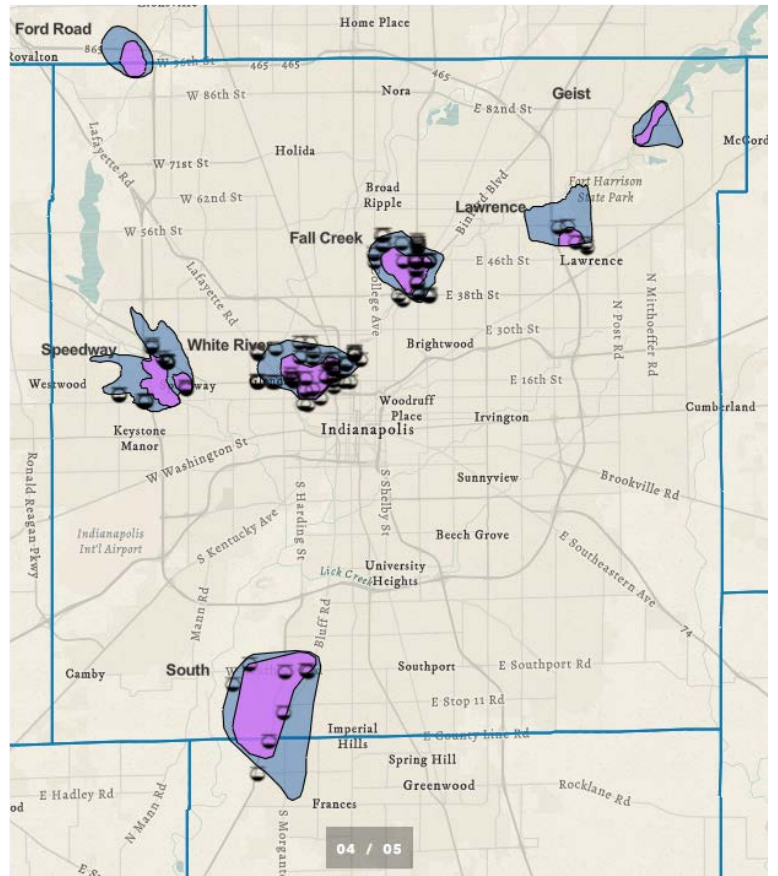
Source: Indiana GIS API, March 2022



Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites

An underground storage tank (UST) system is a tank and any underground piping connected to the tank that has at least 10 percent of its combined volume underground. When a regulated UST has a leak or spill, Indiana's Office of Land Quality is responsible for ensuring adequate investigation and cleanup of the resulting contamination.

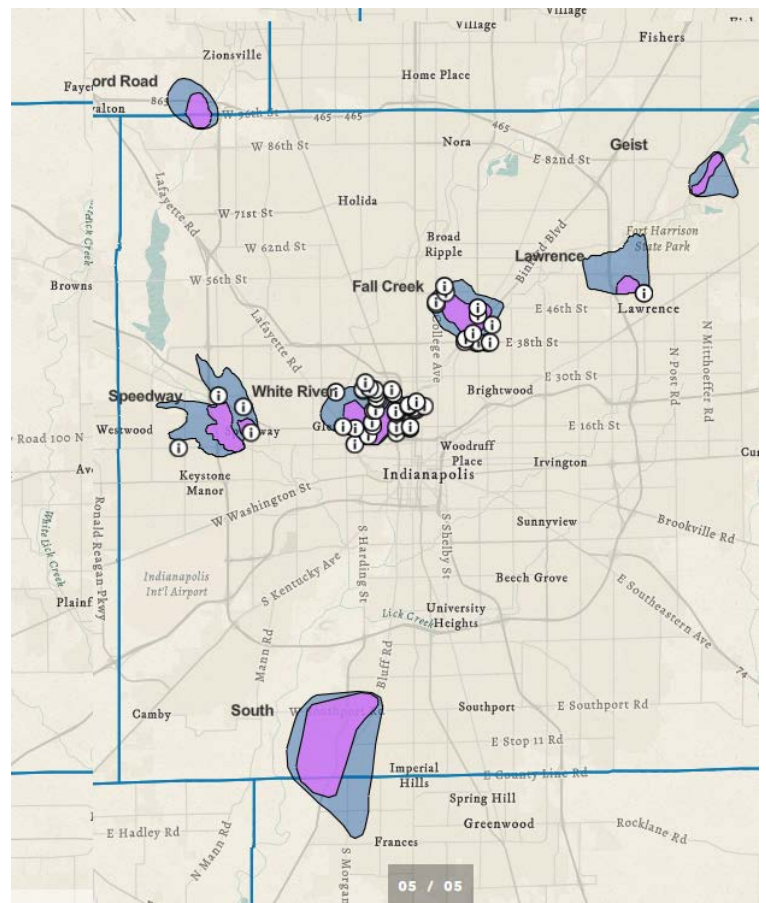
Source: Indiana GIS API, March 2022



Brownfields

A brownfield is a parcel of abandoned or undeveloped land due to the presence or potential presence of contaminants that pose a risk to human health and the environment. [Indiana Finance Authority](#) assists communities with brownfield redevelopment.

Source: Indiana GIS API, March 2022



Groundwater Protection Activities in 2021

Despite COVID-19 limitations, the Marion County Wellfield Corporation provided free technical assistance to businesses and various outreach activities to the public as well as identified new business activity in the wellfields.



Outreach in 2021

Educational and technical activities reached both businesses and the general public.

17

businesses assisted through site visits, phone, and email

\$14k

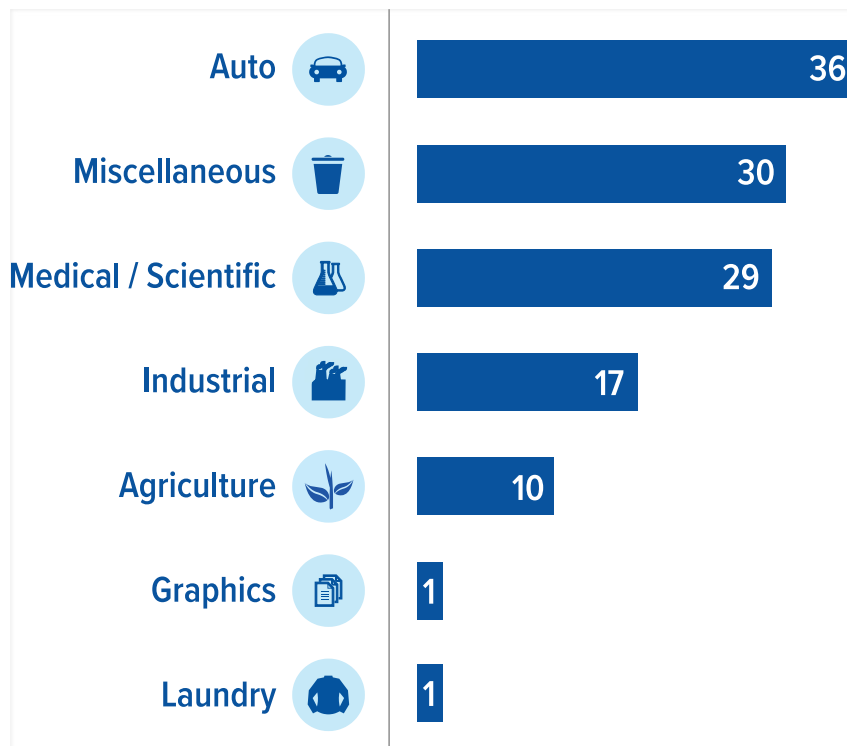
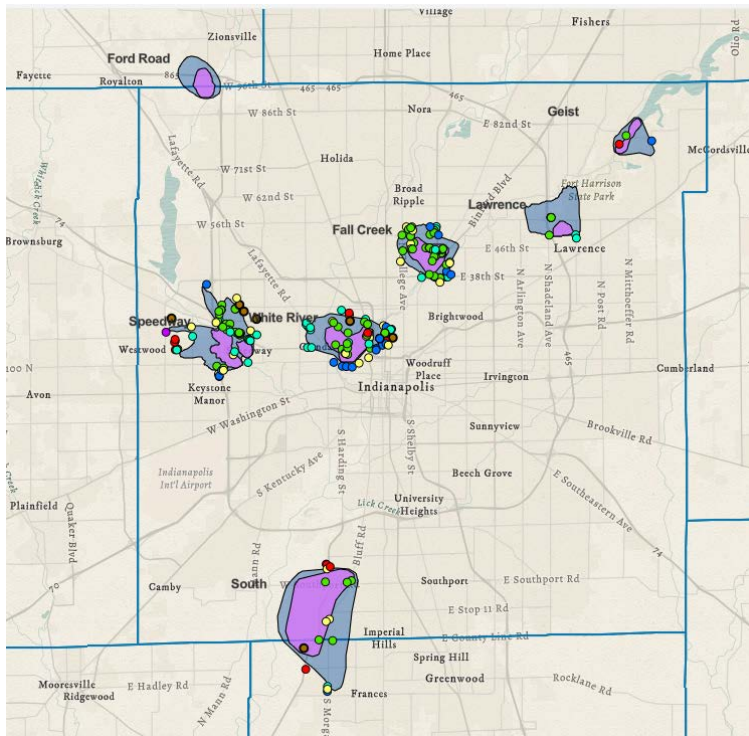
in secondary containment equipment donated

**Educational
ARTICLES**

**EARTH DAY
booth**

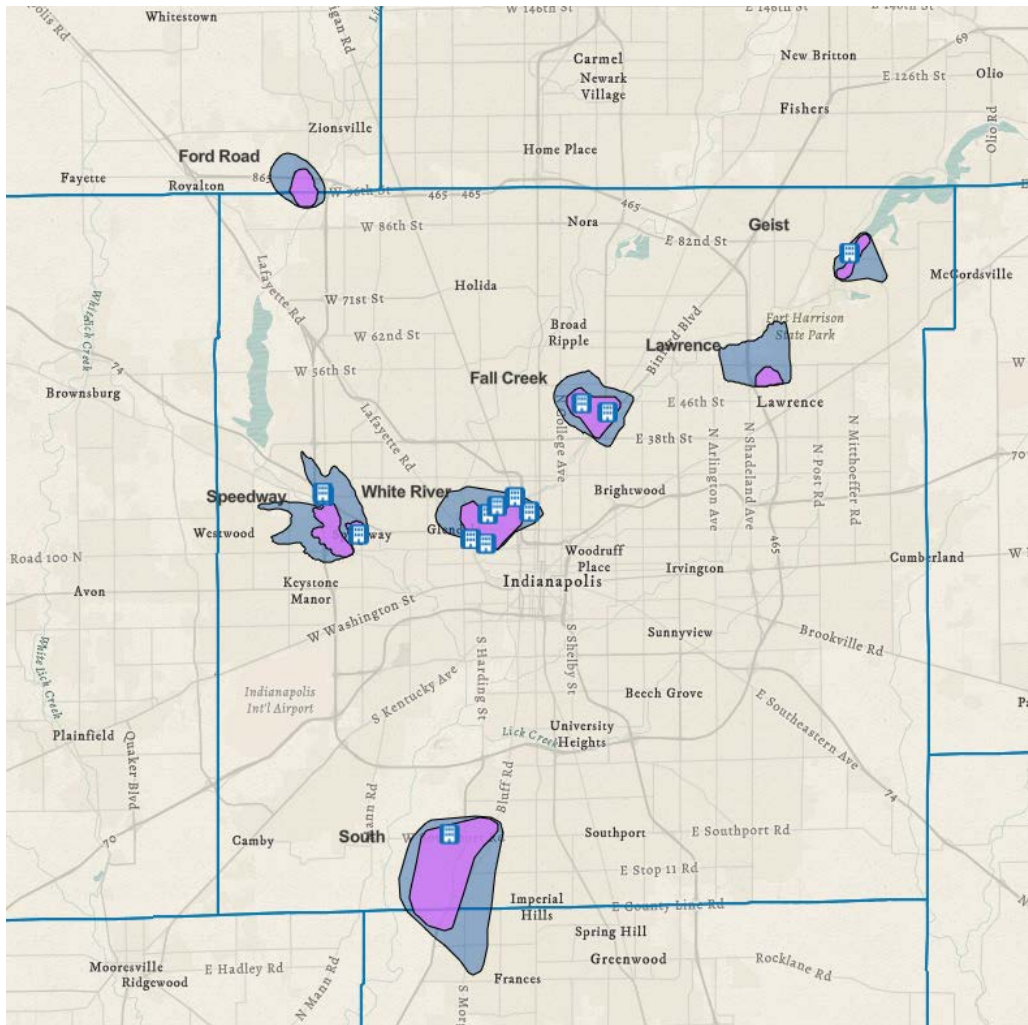
Business Added to Potential Source Database in 2021

During the yearly drive survey completed in the 4th quarter of 2021, **216 business operations** in the wellfields were newly identified as potential sources of groundwater contamination.



New Development in the Wellfields in 2021

The [Wellfield Protection Secondary Zoning Ordinance of the City of Indianapolis](#) (Section 742-204) requires any new construction in the wellfields to submit plans to be assessed by a Technically Qualified Person (TQP) with respect to potential for groundwater contamination.



Source: Indianapolis TQP Program



What can I do to protect our drinking water?

All businesses, individuals, and private well owners should follow safe practices for management of chemicals, waste, liquids, or other substances that could contaminate groundwater resources.

Businesses

If your business is located in one of the Wellfield Protection Areas (defined by any part of your parcel touching a wellfield zone), you are **required by law to maintain compliance** with the [Marion County Public Health Department Wellfield Protection Standards](#) and the [Wellfield Protection Secondary Zoning Ordinance of the City of Indianapolis](#) (Section 742-204).

To assist you in becoming compliant, the Marion County Wellfield Education Corporation offers a **FREE, VOLUNTARY, & CONFIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM** for businesses in Wellfield Protection Areas.

How does the assessment work?

Business assessments aim to help prevent or minimize future chemical leaks or spills that might impact Marion County groundwater resources and are independent of any regulatory agencies. The program is voluntary and confidential. The Marion County Wellfield Education does not share assessment information to any governmental agencies.



Schedule FREE assessment

Call (317) 630-9060 [or submit online](#) to get started.
Llama (317) 630-9060 [o en linea](#).

Complete site visit

A trained environmental professional will visit and assess your business operations related to potential groundwater contaminants.

Review suggestions for your business

Receive a report with suggestions related to related to chemical/waste handling, storage and disposal; educational signage; spill kits; emergency response spill prevention plans and more.

Receive FREE equipment

Some businesses may also be eligible for FREE secondary containment equipment, spill kits to prevent / clean up hazardous spills, or outdoor drinking water protection signs.

Implement recommendations and train employees

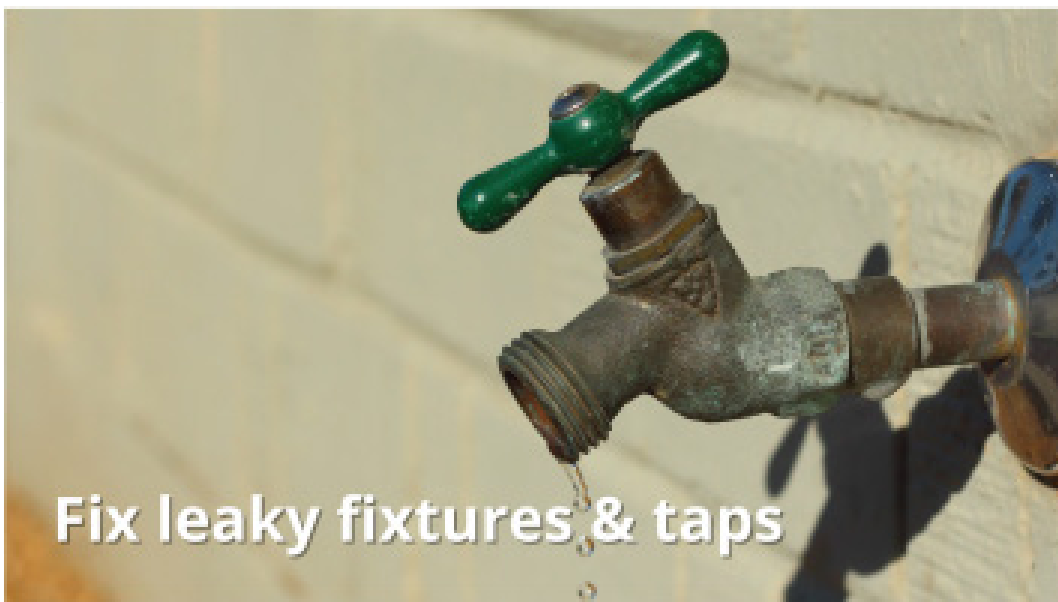
Now you can be confident you are protecting our drinking water!

Additionally, the Marion County Wellfield Education Corporation website (www.MCWEC.org/businesses) contains many free downloads and resources to assist businesses in groundwater protection.



Individuals and Private Well Owners

Individuals and private well owners can also help protect drinking water through their daily practices, community programs and waste management.





SATURDAYS
9am - 2pm

First Saturdays
Traders Point Collection Facility
7550 N. Lafayette Rd.

Second Saturdays
Perry Township Govt Center
4925 S. Shelby St.

Third Saturdays
IMPD Training Facility
9049 E. 10th St.



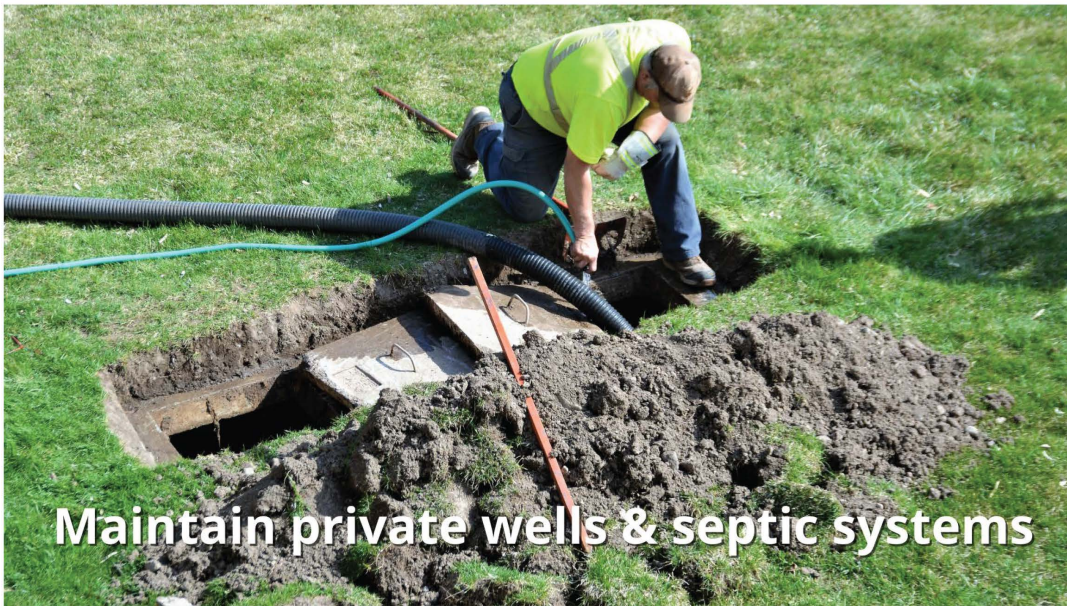
NATIONAL GROUNDWATER AWARENESS WEEK

March 6-12, 2022

SHARE

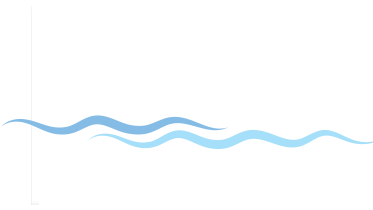
LINK IN BIO → like ♡ FOLLOW





We applaud YOU!

To all business owners, individuals, community organizations, legislators, professionals, and countless others who have dedicated time and resources to protecting Marion County's drinking water resources - we extend our gratitude for the clean water we drink and use day in and day out. **THANK YOU!**



About the Authors

The Marion County Wellfield Education Corporation

The Marion County Wellfield Education Corporation (MCWEC) is a 501(3)c non-profit corporation established in 1996 by the Marion County Wellfield Protection Zoning Ordinance to support the protection of groundwater and drinking water supplies in Marion County, Indiana.

***Our Mission:** to prevent contamination to the groundwater resource of Marion County through public awareness and education.*



Chris Barnett

Board President / Treasurer
Marion County Wellfield
Education Corporation

Tom Crouch

Vice President
Marion County Wellfield
Education Corporation



Rachel Walker

Secretary
Marion County Wellfield
Education Corporation

John Havard

Board Member

(Citizens Energy Group)



Keith Holdsworth

Board Member

(Department of Metropolitan Development,
City of Indianapolis)

Joe Merrick

Board Member

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Jason Ravenscraft

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(Marion County Public Health Department)

Dan Settle

Board Member

(Lawrence Utilities)



John Mundell

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Mundell & Associates, Inc.

The Marion County Wellfield Education Corporation board members and [Mundell & Associates](#), a local environmental consulting firm under contract with MCWEC, contributed to this yearly report.

Learn more about MCWEC programs and activities at www.MCWEC.org or contact us by email at info@mcwec.org.

Credits

For questions about data, please contact info@mcwec.org.

World's Water data	USGS , accessed 2/27/22
Citizen Scientist River Sampling photo	The White River Alliance
Identified and Potential Source Data	Indiana GIS API , IndianaMap

www.MCWEC.org/yearly-report