

**ANNUAL REPORT OF
LA PORTE COUNTY SOIL AND
WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

Supervisors, Staff, and Affiliates

2017

Board of Supervisors

Don Lode
Sacha Gee-Burns
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Greg Thoman

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Nicole Messacar
Ethel Turkowski
Sheila Batchelor

Partnership Staff

Randy Dickson, NRCS
Gene Matzat, Purdue Extension
Rick Brown, LaPorte Co MS4

Indiana Conservation Partnership

Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
ISDA Division of Soil Conservation
State Soil Conservation Board
Purdue Cooperative Extension Service
USDA Farm Service Agency
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Affiliate Members

Abbett Farms LLC
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LaPorte County Farm Bureau Inc.
La Porte Savings Bank
Minich Dairy Farm
Rolling Prairie Conservation Club
Saugany Lake Conservation Club
Larry Smith, Halderman Farm Management
Tryon Farm Institute, Inc.

Education and Outreach

2017

Michigan City High School Wolves Receives Governor's Award

Excerpted from Indiana Department of Environmental
Management Riffles and Pools Hoosier Riverwatch Spring 2018 newsletter

The Michigan City High School Wolves Environmental Restoration Team was 1 of 3 groups recently awarded a 2017 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. During the 2016-17 school year, the team launched an environmental stewardship project at Hansen Park in Michigan City.

The project focused on restoring and monitoring vital riparian habitat along Trail Creek, a designated cold-water salmonid tributary to Lake Michigan. Leaders and Cofounders of the team include MCHS biology teacher Stephanie Dege and LaPorte Co. SWCD Education Outreach Coordinator Nicole Messacar. Additional support, training and funding were provided by teacher volunteers, experts in environmental education and other partners.



2016-17 Staff & Students-Michigan City High School Wolves Environmental Restoration Team

The 27 students formed 5 work groups:

- Removing invasive plant species along Trail Creek and Hansen Pond
- Establishing diverse native wetland plants in Hansen Pond
- Planting native bur oak trees
- Starting a long-term water quality monitoring effort in Trail Creek
- Conducting a public relations campaign through various online and other media outlets.

The students gained valuable experience through this important hands-On effort, which will also have a positive impact on the whole community. The results are a financial savings to the city parks department, benefits to park patrons and visitors, protection of the Trail Creek watershed through reduced erosion and improved water quality and fish populations.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◇ INAUGURAL CREEKNESS STAKES FOR TRAIL CREEK WEEK
 - ◇ MICHIGAN CITY HIGH SCHOOL WOLVES HANSEN PARK STEWARDSHIP PROJECT
 - ◇ INFIELD ADVANTAGE
 - ◇ KANKAKEE RIVER DAYS EXPANDS TO 2 WEEKS
 - ◇ COMMUNITY CONSERVATION WALK POND EXHIBIT RENOVATION—PARTNERSHIP WITH SERVISCAPE
 - ◇ LARE GRANT—WATERSHED STUDY OF KABELIN DRAIN
 - ◇ COMMUNITY AND CLASSROOM EDUCATION INCLUDING:
 - NWI REGIONAL ENVIROTHON
 - 5th Grade Conservation Field Days
 - LAPORTE COUNTY FAIR
 - LAPORTE COUNTY ROW CROP FOOD PRODUCERS TEAM AG DAYS
- (THIS IS JUST A SAMPLING OF THE CONTINUED EFFORTS OF YOUR SWCD)

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Kankakee River Basin Commission
Unity foundation of LaPorte County
Michigan City Sanitary District
Liz Rassel & Tony Ekovich
Republic Services
LaPorte County Conservation Trust
LaPorte Area Lake Association
Northwest Indiana Paddling Association

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Financial Report

2017

