

Lower Fall Creek Watershed Management Plan  
Newsletter update  
November 17, 2008

Activities continue in the Lower Fall Creek Watershed.

- The Backyard Conservation workshop held on November 12, 2008 was well attended and positive comments were received as workshop attendees learned how to construct a rain barrel, how to attract wildlife to their backyards, and how to have their backyards certified as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the Indiana Wildlife Federation. One workshop remains for this phase of Lower Fall Creek Watershed project: Regulated Drains and Natural Waterways. This workshop will be held in early 2009 and will involve presentations and discussions on the differences between natural channels and regulated drains, what can be done and what should not be done along these types of water systems, and how actions in and around natural streams and regulated drains affect water quality downstream. More information will be provided through the Lower Fall Creek Watershed Alliance's website ([www.lowerfallcreek.org](http://www.lowerfallcreek.org)) as this workshop is developed.
- As a part of the planning phase, the Marion SWCD was provided funding to install water quality demonstration projects throughout the watershed. Project ideas have included rain gardens, bio-filtration areas, and critical area plantings all designed to filter pollutants from the water prior to reaching Lower Fall Creek, its tributary streams, or the groundwater. Project locations are still being determined as the Marion SWCD continues to work with local partners to identify highly visible areas where residents can view the projects and learn how water quality is being protected.
- The first Social Indicators survey, designed to identify the needs and concerns of the watershed regarding water quality and the Lower Fall Creek, has been conducted. The Lower Fall Creek Watershed Alliance has partnered with Purdue University to complete this confidential survey of watershed residents. Over 1,000 randomly selected residents within the Lower Fall Creek Watershed received a several page survey with questions assessing:
  - Types of pollutants in Lower Fall Creek;
  - Consequences of poor water quality in Lower Fall Creek; and
  - Practices to improve water quality in Lower Fall Creek;

Results from this survey will be compiled and presented to the public and the Lower Fall Creek WMP Steering Committee in early 2009.

- A public meeting to present the full Draft Watershed Management Plan (WMP) will be held on January 15, 2009 at the Lawrence Government Center. Over the last months, Steering Committee members and IDEM have reviewed the WMP and provided their comments. These comments will be incorporated and the Draft WMP will be discussed at the public

meeting along with information on how the public can review and comment on the plan prior to submission to IDEM.

- The final Steering Committee meeting will be held on January 29, 2008 and will involve discussion of overall project results, accomplishments, and next steps. The Marion SWCD has applied for funding to implement the Lower Fall Creek WMP and hopes to hear soon if that funding will be provided to continue the hard work of the Steering Committee will increasing the number of “in the ground” projects throughout the Lower Fall Creek Watershed.