

Walk the Path

that Water Walks at
Pathway to Water Quality

A Soil and Water Conservation Exhibit

www.pathwaytowaterquality.org

Home

1. **Rock Waterfall:** Tumbling water mixes oxygen into streams, improving habitat for aquatic life.
2. **Native Plants** (2 locations): Native plants and flowers grow better, have less disease and require less water and fertilizer.
3. **Pervious Concrete:** This conservation practice allows water to filter through to the soil instead of running off. Trapped water is cleaned before reaching groundwater supplies.
4. **Model Home:** The Home Area showcases native plants, trees, composting, a rain barrel and rain garden, raised bed garden, pervious concrete, and phosphorus-free fertilizer.
5. **Rain Barrels** (2 locations): Placed below a downspout, it collects and stores rain water to be used to water plants and flowers. This reduces your water bill and conserves water.
6. **Compost Bin:** Involves turning organic material into fertilizer for your gardens.
7. **Rain Gardens** (2 Locations): Plants absorb and filter impurities from rain water.

Water Quality

8. **Stream and Shoreline Protection:** Protects stream banks from soil erosion.
- 8a. **Front Pond Restoration:** Features native plants, mulch, shrubs, and a bench for wetland plants.

9. **Lakes & Natural Wetlands:** Wetland plants filter impurities from water before it enters other water bodies.
10. **Indiana Soils:** Learn about the characteristics of our soils and how soil affects water quality.
11. **Water Well:** See the working parts of a water well and a properly plugged well.
12. **Water History Cabin:** Learn more about water conservation over the years. Live interpreters will share our conservation message.
13. **Well Water Pump:** Cold water is yours for the drinking at the well.
14. **Education Area:** Hands-on soil and water activities will educate you about conservation.

Farm and Woodlands

15. **Two-stage Ditch:** Design includes a floodplain bench to reduce flooding and filter nutrients.
16. **Woodlands:** Good timber management makes woodlands productive, provides wildlife habitat, and protects soil health and water quality.
17. **Farmland:** See how cover crops and other conservation practices help keep the soil healthy and the land productive.
18. **Pasture Management:** Well managed pastures can improve animal health, increase profitability, and enhance wildlife habitat, all while protecting water quality.



Where does all the water go after it rains?

Did you realize there is a beautiful park-like exhibit at the Indiana State Fairgrounds that is a showcase for soil and water conservation? The almost one-acre vista known as the **Pathway to Water Quality** (PWQ) is a model watershed showing how land “sheds” water, or drains to a common place such as a river, lake or stream. A watershed is the area of land that catches rain and snow and drains into a stream, river, lake, marsh or groundwater. We all live in a watershed.

Celebrating over 20 years of conservation education, the exhibit that was established in 1993, has provided a “path” displaying how soil and water plays such an important role in our everyday life. Pathway to Water Quality exists to show the connection between healthy soils and clean water, why it is important, and what we can do at home, in business, and on the farm to protect our soil and water quality!

Located next to the Boy Scout Legacy Bridge, Pathway is an attractive nature area for fairgoers and tours. The PWQ exhibit contains practical displays and information for anyone who uses the land.

Why is this connection between soil and water so important for people to understand?

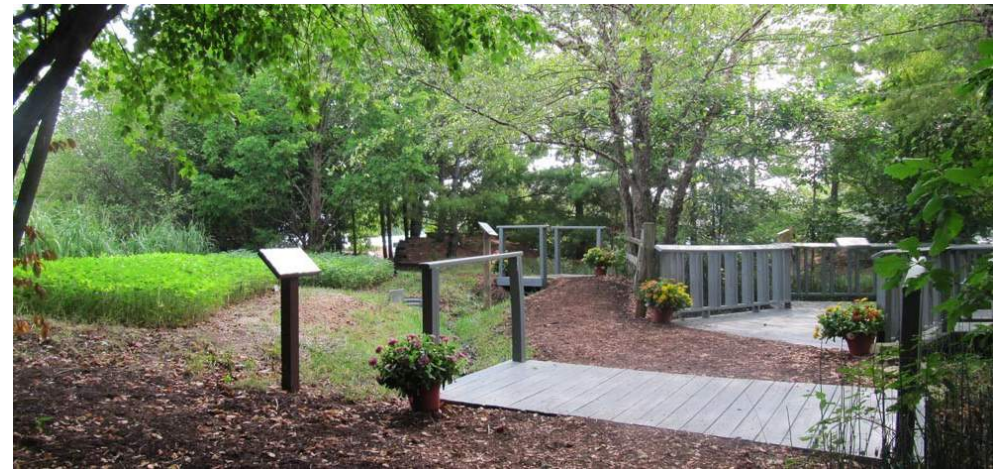
- Last night you slept in a building built on soil.
- You drink water that flows through soil and is cleaned by the soil.
- You breathe air that comes from plants growing in the soil.
- You even wear clothes made from plants that grow in the soil.

Soil and water make our lives possible. We also play on soil, drive on soil, eat food grown in or raised on soil, and take medicines from soil. The entire earth — every ecosystem, every living organism — is dependent upon healthy soils and clean water.

More about our story

Pathway to Water Quality was established at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in 1993. It is sponsored by eight state organizations and agencies who comprise the Indiana Conservation Partnership icp.iaswcd.org.

Volunteers from these groups work with PWQ’s host, the Indiana State Fairgrounds, to maintain the exhibit and educate the public about conservation practices.



Looking east into the Ag & Forestry area of Pathway, this is where you will learn the importance of cover crops and two-stage ditches to soil health and water quality.

The exhibit is open during the 17 days of the Indiana State Fair and for educational tours. Follow the path through this outdoor exhibit and discover how you can become a better caretaker of our natural resources!



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Look for online volunteer sign-up by the first of June!