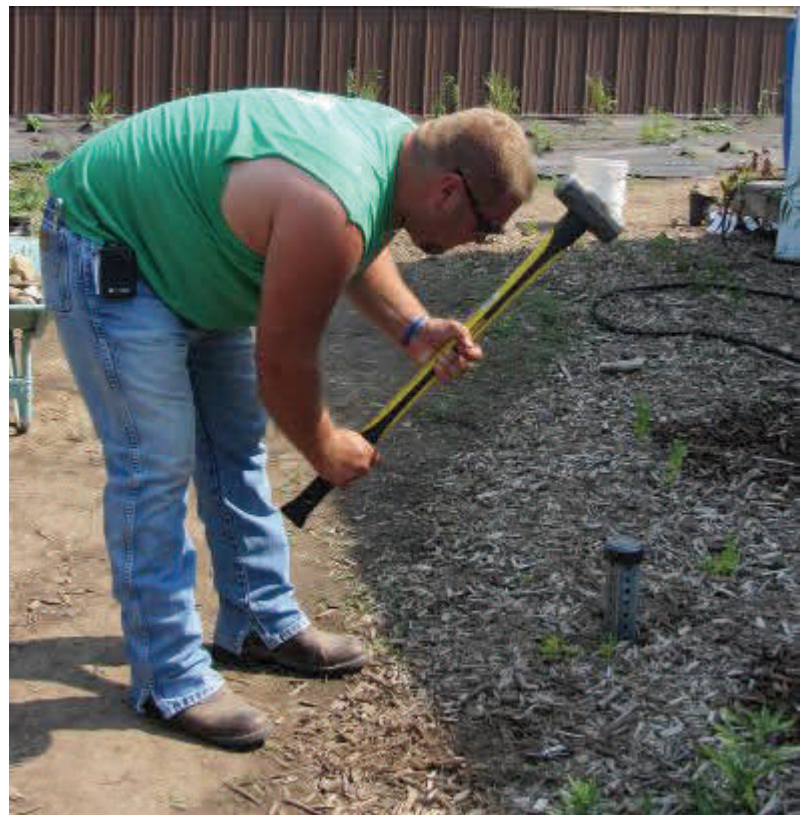


Signage

Proper signage is necessary for our Community Conservation Walk to educate as it invites visitors of all ages to come explore. They are the result of hours of La Porte County SWCD collaboration with a talented interpretive nature artist and were then produced right here in La Porte county.



Partner Organization-La Porte
County Highway installing signs



Pollinator Power

Pollinators provide
one out of every three
bites of food we eat.

WOW

What are pollinators?

Pollinators are flying organisms that transfer pollen from flower to flower, plant to plant. Pollinators are bees, moths, butterflies, beetles, hummingbirds, hummingbird moths, bats and birds.



Soldier Beetle



Silver-spotted Skipper



Cabbage White Butterfly



Macroplea Nuda Flea

Many plants worldwide are grown for food, beverages, spices and medicines. Animals must pollinate ALL these plants. In the U.S., pollination by honeybees, native bees and other insects support products valued at tens of billions of dollars annually. WE depend upon the foods, products and financial benefits supplied by pollinators.



Yellow-faced Bumblebee



South Eastern Blueberry Bee



Wild Columbine



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Conspicuous



YOU CAN HELP pollinators by creating an inviting sanctuary for 'THEM'!



- Grow native plants, shrubs and trees on your property.
- Create a protected area out of the wind.
- Provide water, put out shallow bowls filled with water and be moist sand.
- Provide safe and natural licks.
- Supply housing materials.
- Small various sized diameter PVC tubing bundled together.
- Wood with drilled holes.
- Eliminate pesticides.



Funding for this project was provided in part by the following:



LaPorte County
Soil & Water
Conservation District



Compost Happens

COMPOST is the finest plant food around...and it's **FREE**—just like rain water.

You can make compost in your own backyard from organic ingredients like yard waste and kitchen scraps. Waste material transforms into a rich mixture of nutrients that plants need to grow healthy and strong.



Good Reasons to Compost:

- reduce trash
- save money
- less need for fertilizers
- valuable nutrients will be recycled back into the soil

Backyard Compost Recipe

Ingredients:

- Green clippings
- Brown scraps



- Food & house packing
- Coffee grounds
- Egg shells
- Not meat, grease, oil, products, bones or dairy products



Remember, just as you be sure to sprinkle and turn into small pieces—remove plastic, newspaper, foam, envelopes, & leaves

The Simple How To:

1. Layer green & brown ingredients. The smaller the ingredients, the quicker compost will happen.
2. Add just enough water to dampen pile.
3. Turn pile every few days.
4. Compost is ready when ingredients are dark brown, crumbly and earthy smelling.
5. Spread around the base of flowers, gardens and trees. Sit back and watch it all grow!

Yard trimmings and food waste combined equal 21 percent of the US municipal solid waste stream. Composting offers every homeowner a way to reduce the waste stream, reuse material that would otherwise be burned and recycle valuable nutrients.

For more information on composting, visit the website: www.composting.org



Prairie

MAGIC! That's what a prairie is.

Amazing invisible things happen: transformation, visual wonders, beauty, fire, life and death.

DID YOU KNOW?

From early spring until frost, there are always flowers blooming on a prairie. Each week, new plants bloom at an easy-to-learn rate. Prairie plants start out ankle high in the spring. Weekly as new plants bloom, they're taller and larger. By mid-summer new plants can be eye level. In full blooming flowers can tower over your head!

FLOATING FLOWERS

All season long you'll see pollinators busy at work quietly whirling above the prairie looking like flowers themselves in all their color and variety. The pollinators are busy doing their work - transferring pollen from flower to flower - ensuring that plants will produce the food we eat and products we depend on.



THE INVISIBLE UNDERGROUND

You can't see it - but it's all going on! The underground world is a busy place. It's where the roots of the plants grow, where the soil is rich with life. It's where the worms, moles, and other creatures are working hard to keep the soil healthy. The underground world is a hidden world, but it's just as important as the world above ground.



Funding for this project was provided in part by the following:

INDIANA
LAKE MICHIGAN
COASTAL PROGRAM

Emerald



Jimmy F. New
Foundation



Lafayette County
Soil & Water
Conservation District



Rainfall + Rainbarrel = FREE WATER!

YOU and your family can help
conserve water with a rain barrel.

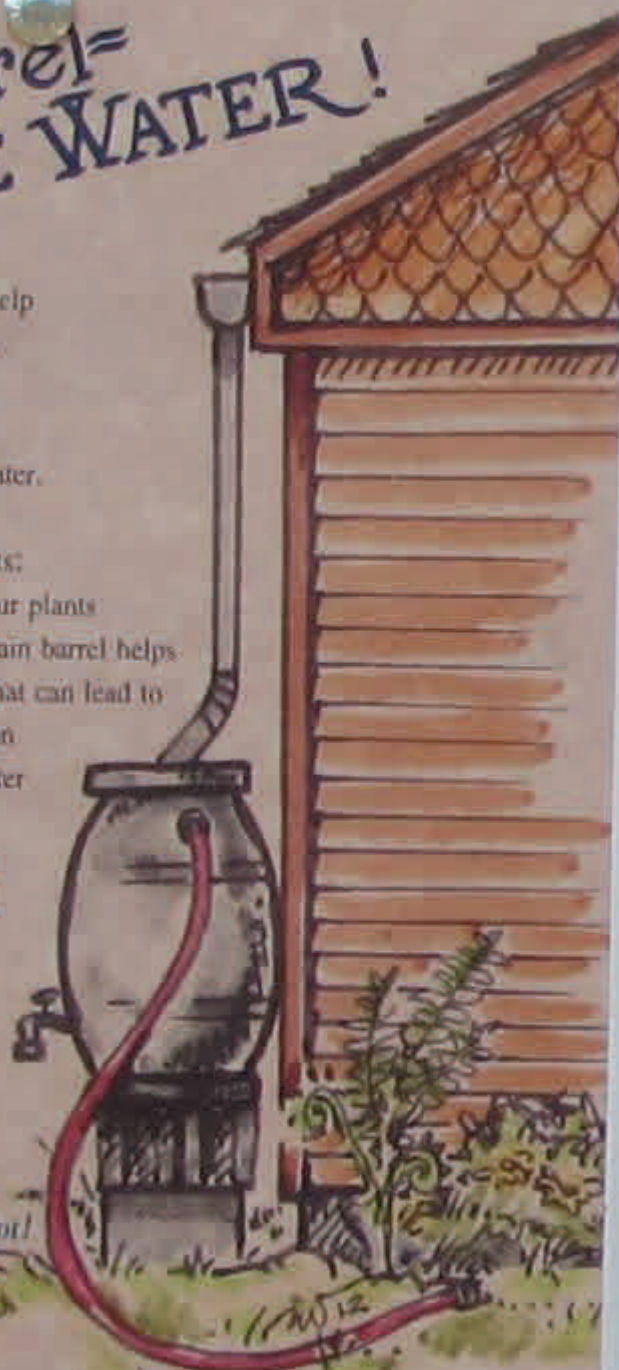
Each time it rains, we have the
opportunity to collect free rain water.

Rain barrels provide many benefits:

- Rainwater is better for your plants
- Rainwater collected in a rain barrel helps
prevent roof top run off that can lead to
erosion and water pollution
- Rain barrels will store water
where you need it:
 - The garden out back
 - On the roof top deck

A rain barrel does need not to be
connected to a downspout to
collect rain water.

*If each of us does a little,
together we will accomplish a lot!*



Reading 24, the poster was
provided to you by the following:





Lynda Wallis, interpretive art sign designer,
Visits SWCD exhibit and Community Conservation Walk
during 2012 Fair
(Nicole Messacar, SWCD Education Coord. & Lynda Wallis)





Installation of Kiosk sign



Front & Back of Kiosk sign
During 2012 Fair



Bee Species sign at Arch

Individual Plant Species Stakes



Fairgrounds street sign