

**Welcome to the 2018 Fall I.D.E.A. Conference**

**October 2, 3 & 4**

**Lake Monroe; Bloomington, Indiana**



*Review The Basics*

*Renew Your Mind*

*Regenerate Your Passion*

**Hosted by the North-Southwest Region  
Brown, Clay, Greene, Johnson, Monroe,  
Morgan, Owen, Parke, Putnam,  
Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo**

# THE HOTEL



Rooms are going quick book today!

To Reserve your room [Click here](#) or call 812-824-2628 to make your reservation.

Fourwinds Lakeside Inn & Marina in Bloomington, Indiana offers comfortable and spacious rooms and suites designed to make your stay relaxing and restful.



Crisp linens and cozy duvets welcome you in every room, with plush pillows for your ultimate comfort and support. Each room also comes with a mini-fridge, microwave, coffee maker, iron and ironing board, hair dryer, writing desk and WIFI.

We want you to feel right at home during your visit. Our friendly service-oriented associates are prepared to meet your every need to insure a positive guest experience and your complete satisfaction.

# GENERAL INFORMATION YOU WILL NEED TO KNOW

- All meals are included in the conference registration fees.
- Gate Fee into the lake will be waived.
- There will be sessions outside, bring appropriate clothing.
- Conference registration is \$125 and is all online this year.
- To register for the conference please go to:  
**[2018ideafallconference](#)** This year you can pay by Credit Card please be aware there are additional fees if you pay by credit card. You can still pay by check as well, just send a copy of your registration ticket with your check.
- The hotel does have a full service bar

# THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT TO BRING WITH YOU

- Lawn Chair
- Bug Repellant
- Walking Shoes
- Item to place in the Ticket Wars
- Money to buy tickets for Ticket Wars

# THE AGENDA

## Tuesday, October 2 Agenda

**1:00-2:30**      **Conference Registration at Fourwinds**

**3:00-4:00**      **Welcome: Family Feud Game**

**5:00-6:00**      **RAPTORS OF INDIANA at Big Oak Shelter House**  
**Moderator – Allison Shoaf Moderator**

Big Oak Shelter House and Lawn Area (on the hill above the public beach area)

Indiana Raptor Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue of injured or orphaned wild birds, their rehabilitation and return to the wild. Their officers, board, and volunteers are a community of human supporters who actively promote education of the public on the importance of habitat preservation and the appropriate care of injured birds. Their mission is comprised of a triad of objectives, none of which may be effectively achieved without the others: Rehabilitation, Education, and Conservation.

For their presentations Raptors of Indiana brings five live Indiana birds of prey – falcons, hawks, owls and they also include taxidermy specimens and bio facts (bird wings and parts). They will include natural history of common Indiana species, a comparison of diurnal and nocturnal traits and behaviors, and how human actions affect these birds both collectively and as particular species. The importance of habitat, respect and care for the environment is discussed.

**6:00-8:00**      **Dinner / Evening Activities at Big Oak Shelter**

- Food Truck
- Horse Shoes
- Corn Hole
- Bring your lawn chair

## Wednesday, October 3 Agenda

### 7:30-8:30 Breakfast and Conference Registration Continued

Breakfast Buffet will be in the Admiral Room (bring your ticket)

*Scrambled Eggs*

*Biscuits & Gravy*

*Bagels*

*Bacon*

*Breakfast Potatoes*

*Cereal*

*Sausage Links*

*Fresh Fruit*

*Coffee & Juice*

### 9:00-9:15 Welcome

### 9:15-10:15 Morning Sessions – ORANGE SESSIONS

#### Boat Tour of Lake Monroe: Speaker Rex Watters - Moderator TBD

Rex Watters is a Wildlife Specialist with Indiana DNR. Rex began his career with DNR in 1975 at Salamonie Reservoir. His career at Lake Monroe began in October of 1978, he will celebrate 40 years in October 2018 at Lake Monroe.

#### ***Session Description***

Space is limited on this session. This session will be repeated in the afternoon. Join 23 of your colleagues as you travel around the boundaries of Lake Monroe and hear about how the lake came to exist. The wildlife that makes the shores of the lake its home and keep your eyes open to try and catch a glimpse of one of the American Bald Eagles that call Lake Monroe home.

#### SOILS 101: Speaker Cara Bergschneider – Allison Shoaf Moderator

Cara Bergschneider is the District Conservationist with NRCS in Brown and Monroe Counties. Cara is a soil scientist and conservationist who loves learning about and sharing the wonders of soil. She was drawn to the Bloomington area because of the diverse community of specialty crop growers. Her passions include, gardening, medicinal plants, studying the interactions of the natural world and hiking.

#### ***Session Description***

In this session, Cara will take you on a unique journey into the wonders of the soil beneath our feet. You will discover the life inside the soil and

learn about the importance of understanding a soil test. Focus will be given to helping the participants comprehend how to interpret a soils test and why each basic element is critical to a healthy soils system. Understanding the role the lab plays and why choosing the right lab can make or break the results will also be discussed.

### **Accounting 101/Quick Books Overview:**

**Speaker TBD**

#### ***Session Description***

In the world of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, one big task is the accounting issues. Accounting can mean anything from processing and tracking payables and receivables to assigning and managing the districts whole budget. In this session we will discuss various ways of tracking, what needs to be tracked and handwritten journaling vs electronic. With a QuickBooks primer for those that just want to know more about how QuickBooks works and what it can do for your district, come to this session.

### **Well Water Testing: Speaker Ginger Davis – Eric Shidler Moderator**

Ginger has been in the SWCD world since 2008. Ginger started as an Earth team volunteer for Sullivan and Greene Counties, was a Watershed Coordinator for both Orange and Greene Counties under 319 grants, and after a short stint at DNR, Ginger is now the Conservation Administrator at Hamilton County SWCD. Ginger has a background in Geology, Hydrology, and Engineering. Ginger loves what she does and could not think of a better way to really make an impact in the health and wellbeing of our environment and community!

#### ***Session Description***

Protecting our groundwater resource and our community's peace of mind can be hard when providing news of high arsenic, but it brings an awareness of how precious our groundwater resource really is to our community. Hamilton County has developed a partnership with Great Lakes RCAP to provide private well owners with education and information about their wells. The health department and laboratories help support our well testing program, and our schools are combining a great laboratory experience with outreach program to get the word out. Our program begins with the partnership and ends with a safer community. Learn about how you can partner with your community

and conservation partners to create a program that really can make an impact.

**10:30-11:30 Mid Morning Sessions – BLUE SESSIONS**

**IT'S A MOBILE GARDEN! Speaker Greg Marlett  
– Shane Johnson Moderator**

Greg has been a resident of Morgan County for 25 years, he was hired by the Morgan County SWCD as a part-time Environmental Educator in 2015 and became the fulltime Conservation Programs Director in January 2018.

***Session Description***

The Mobile Garden Classroom was built from scrap materials but has become a major teaching tool for Morgan County SWCD. It showcases multiple conservation practices including container gardening, vertical gardening, mulching, rain barrels, and even solar energy production. It is currently in its 4th year of use and has been the recipient of grants from several entities, including the Community Foundation of Morgan County and the Morgan County Farmers Market Association.

**Ag 101: Speaker Dale Walker – Jennifer Creager Moderator**

Dale has been on board for 24 and counting years. He started out as an Erosion Control Technician (ECT) for Indiana Department of Natural Resources-Division of Soil and is currently the Resource Specialist for the Indiana State Department of Agriculture in Clay County. He is also the CREP Coordinator for the Middle Busseron Watershed. In his free time Dale serves as a Fire Chief, First Responder, President of the Fire Chiefs Association, Owen County Community Foundation, and Holding Corp. for Spencer Owen Community Schools.

***Session Description***

In Ag101 we will be taking a closer look at the no till drill. In Ag102 we will take a look at various types of ag equipment such as cover crop seeders, vertical tillage, round balers, liquid nitrogen applicators and more.

**Building More Effective Boards Speaker Steve Yoder, Purdue Extension - Andrea Oeding Moderator**

Steve Yoder is a Regional Educator in Community Development for Purdue Extension, joining the staff in 2012. His responsibilities include the design, refinement and delivery of high-quality educational programs that address local and regional needs throughout Indiana. His work focuses on the themes of quality places and community and organizational development, drawing on over 16 years of experience as an administrator and educator within the field of environmental and scientific nonprofits. Steve holds a B.S. in Social Ecology from the University of California, Irvine, and an M.S. in Rural Geography from Northern Arizona University.

***Session Description***

“Get the most out of the groups you work with by understanding the eight stages of the Board Development Cycle, and how each stage plays a vital role in building a more effective board. Learn ways to cultivate, orient, and evaluate members that will result in a more engaged and productive group

**12:00-1:30 Lunch, Business Meeting & Longevity Awards**

Lunch Buffet will be served in the **Commodor Room**

*Penne Pasta*

*Meat Sauce*

*Marinara Sauce*

*Caesar Salad*

*Bread & Herbed Olive Oil*

*Brownies*

**2:00-3:00**

**Afternoon Sessions – PINK SESSIONS**

**Boat Tour of Lake Monroe: Speaker Rex Watters**

**- Moderator TBD**

Repeat of morning session – see orange section for details.

**ENVIROTHON – What’s it all about?**

**SPEAKERS TBD – Jan Came Moderator**

***Session Description***

What is Envirothon? Who can participate? How can I get it started in my district? Learn the answer to these questions and more. Listen as you hear from the Indiana Envirothon Team members about the highlights of our states unique educational program.

**PERF Speaker Carl Bright – Deb Barnett Moderator**

Carl has 10+ years of experience as a Retirement Consultant for the Indiana Public Retirement System. Prior to joining INPRS, Mr. Bright was a minority owner in Foreside Financial Group. Throughout his 30+ year financial services career, Mr. Bright has been involved with 1940 Act securities compliance and servicing, mutual fund and commingle pool conversion services, individual and corporate trust services and series 7, 24, 27, and 63 investment management activities.

***Session Description***

Come and learn about your INPRS Retirement Plan, whether you are just starting out or nearing retirement. Attendees will learn how the retirement plan works and what benefit options are available at retirement.

**The Native Plant Project Speaker Shane Gibson, Environmental Education Director, Sycamore Land Trust – Allison Shoaf Moderator**

My hometown of Elwood, IN is in Madison County and is known as the home of Wendell L. Willkie and Red Gold Tomatoes. I had the good fortune to spend a great deal of time in the outdoors as a child. My house was the neighborhood hub for basketball and I was immersed in nature through hunting and fishing thanks to my late father. Those early experiences in nature were the seeds that are my life’s blossoming passions today.

I am a two-time graduate of Indiana University with a B.S. in Public Affairs (major: Environmental Science) and a B.S. in Elementary Education. I have spent most of the past 15-20 years working in education in formal school settings, residential nature camps, and nature day camp programs. I have been Director of Environmental Education at Bradford Woods, Indiana University's Outdoor Center, worked for Monroe County Community Schools in several capacities, was a naturalist with Indy Parks, and have performed ecological restoration with Eco Logic LLC. These experiences dovetail wonderfully with the goals and mission of Sycamore Land Trust.

I am married to a magnificent Bloomington High School North English teacher, have two boys, a dog, two cats, a rabbit, chickens, and, soon, honeybees."

### ***Session Description***

Habitats, biodiversity, adaptations, wild edibles, Native American and pioneer history, philanthropy, and health are just the beginning of the topics that can be included when growing native plants in schools. Sycamore Land Trust's mission is to preserve land in southern Indiana and to connect people to nature. By connecting young people to nature through native plants, our goal is to create the next generation of conservationists. Sycamore's Native Plant Project is a collaborative effort that includes many partnerships. This session will take you through the steps of building native gardens, growing seeds in class, and ideas of how to fund your project. You will also prepare seeds just as the students do and take it home to nurture.

**3:15-4:15 Late Afternoon Sessions – GREEN SESSIONS**

**Stress at Work, Stress in Life – I NEED HELP?**

**Speaker Courtney Stewart, – Jan Came Moderator**

Courtney Stewart holds a Master of Public Health degree from Indiana University. She has worked for Purdue Extension as a Health & Human Sciences Educator with a specialty area in Health & Wellness since Aug. of 2016.

### ***Session Description***

Stress is a major issue in today's society, we all have it. The question is, how does one manage this stress? Attend this session if you want to find ways to reduce stress both in your work life and your personal life. Have you ever been curious about meditation, just what it is and how it works, then you will enjoy the simple guided meditation at the end of the session.

**Basic Conservation Design Speaker Doris Scully  
Shane Johnson Moderator**

Doris started working for the NRCS in September of 1987, after graduating from Purdue with a degree in Agricultural Education. She served as a Soil Conservationist in Bloomington and Greencastle before becoming a District Conservationist (DC) for Owen County. She has served as a DC for Owen, Monroe, Brown and Clay counties. Her current position is the Conservation Delivery Team Leader in Greencastle serving 12 counties in the North part of the Southwest Area. She has been a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society for 30 years and has served on the Southwest Area Soil Health team since it began. She also farms with her husband and son in Owen County raising corn, soybeans, wheat and cattle. They are 100% no-till and cover crops and they use summer covers after the wheat for the grazing.

### ***Session Description***

NRCS Tech Teams who are they, what do they do, how SWCD's work with them? This session is designed as an overview of what the NRCS Tech Team is and does. It will highlight some of the various projects a Tech Team works on and why they do them. Such as what is a WASCOD, Waterway or HUAP and what does that have to do with the SWCD?

**Limestone it's the bedrock Dr. Clay Stuckey  
Martha Miller Moderator**

Clay Stuckey graduated from Bloomington High School and Indiana University where his undergraduate major was history. He graduated from the Indiana University School of Dentistry in 1975, and is now retired and living in Bedford where he practiced general dentistry for thirty-five years. He has had a life-long avocation of reading and writing

history and his articles have appeared in the Lincoln Herald, the Indiana Magazine of History, Indiana Folklore and Oral History, and the Hoosier Line among others.

**Session Description**

Clay tells the history of the limestone industry in Indiana in a way that acquaints people to its importance to our nation as a whole. He has found that Hoosiers don't appreciate the role of their state in providing limestone all around the country. He shares the geological reasons why the limestone district is where it is, the way the stone is quarried and milled, and provides an overview of the extent to which Indiana dominated the business. He discusses the unique limestone district that is comprised essentially of Monroe and Lawrence Counties. People are often amazed to discover that there were over 108 limestone mills in those two counties prior to 1950. Enjoy learning interesting fact such as: there is a 50 to 75% chance that any limestone in a building anywhere in North America came from one of those two counties and more.

**6:00-7:00 Picnic on the Tradewinds Patio**

**Dinner: Burger & Brats**

<i>Beer Boiled Brats</i>	<i>Assorted Buns</i>	<i>Ketchup, Mayo &amp;</i>
<i>Baked Beans</i>	<i>Assorted Cheeses</i>	<i>Mustard</i>
<i>Potato Salad</i>	<i>Lettuce, Tomatoes,</i>	<i>Cookies &amp; Brownies</i>
<i>Corn on the cob</i>	<i>Onion &amp; Pickle</i>	

**7:30-9:30 Evening Activities**

Additional Boat Rides, Euchre Tournament, and More...  
Networking, Games and Silent Auction closing at 9:30pm

**Thursday, October 4 Agenda**

**7:30-8:30 Breakfast**

Breakfast Buffet will be in the Admiral Room (bring your ticket)

<i>Scrambled Eggs</i>	<i>Biscuits &amp; Gravy</i>	<i>Bagels</i>
<i>Bacon</i>	<i>Breakfast Potatoes</i>	<i>Cereal</i>
<i>Sausage Links</i>	<i>Fresh Fruit</i>	<i>Coffee &amp; Juice</i>

**8:30-12:00    General Closing Session**

Keynote Speaker – Mitch Isaacs, Shafer Leadership Academy  
Mitch Isaacs was named Shafer Leadership Academy’s Executive Director in May 2015. In this role, he works closely with the organization’s board of directors to fulfill the mission of the organization. He is responsible for creating vision, connecting with stakeholders, administering program offerings and leading the organization in meaningful ways.

He is committed to enhancing the leadership skills of the community and dedicated to Shafer Leadership Academy’s mission to ensure that individuals who have the desire to demonstrate leadership have access to world class leadership training close to home.

Generational Communication Fusion: Leading Multi-Generational Teams is a hands-on journey to a better understanding of people and what makes them think and act the way they do, especially as it relates to their generational background. This workshop will equip participants to be more effective communicators and leaders through understanding the various generations in the workplace today. Ideal for professionals of any level working in a multi-generational team.

**12:00                    Thank you and Closing Remarks**

## A Little About Lake Monroe...



### The Building of the Dam at Lake Monroe

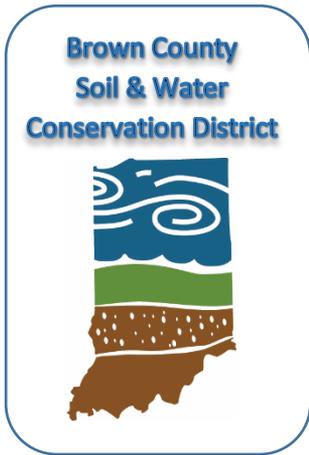
Construction began in November 1960 and the lake became operational in February 1965. Since its completion, Monroe Lake has prevented more than \$38 million in flood damage, or more than twice its original cost of \$16.5 million.

The Monroe Lake area was, until the early 1700's, undisputed Miami Indian land, even though occupied by both the Miami and Delaware tribes. The lake area was acquired legally from the Indians as part of Harrison's Purchase, by the Treaty of Fort Wayne, on September 30, 1809.

The first recorded white settlers arrived in 1815. Taken from <http://www.lake-monroe.com/History/history.html>

It is the largest man made reservoir in Indiana. Lake Monroe (also known as Monroe Reservoir) measures in at 10,750 acres. The Lake Monroe Reservoir on Salt Creek in the south-eastern part of the county, is used both for recreational purposes and to supply the majority of the county and the University with drinking water. Until the late 1960's, the main source of water supply was the smaller Lake Lemon (constructed 1953), in the northeastern part of the county.

# A Little About the Counties in the Hosting Region We are The North-Southwest I.D.E.A Region



Although it is only located less than an hour south of Indianapolis, one of the most densely populated areas of the state, Brown County feels like a different world. With a population of only 15,000 it is very remote compared to the large cities it is wedged between. Something else unique to this area is how heavily forested it is. It's estimated that 90% of the land in Brown County is forested. Much of that land is government owned, including: Brown County State Park, Yellowwood State Forest, Hoosier National

Forest, and DNR Stillwater Marsh. As you all may know, because of its scenic beauty, Brown County is a very popular tourist destination with over 1 million visitors per year.

Brown County ranks last in the state for number of farmland acres so many of the conservation practices involve smaller farmers and woodland owners. We have many specialty crop farmers, private lake communities, and pond owners that utilize the District for technical and financial assistance. We also offer educational programs such Master Naturalist, Native Plant Stewardship Course, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day, Ag Day Breakfast, and more.

Allison Shoaf has been the District Manager for 3 years now. She has a forestry degree from Purdue and therefore specializes in forest management, invasive species control, and native planting. She is the only district staff and the our office is not NRCS co-located so her job includes technical work as well as education and office administration. She sits on many local and regional boards including: Nashville Tree Board, Keep Brown County Beautiful, Salt Creek Preservation Group, Brown County Native Woodlands Project, and SICIM. You can contact her at [allison-shoaf@iaswcd.org](mailto:allison-shoaf@iaswcd.org) or 812-988-2211.



Clay County Indiana was founded in 1825. Its name is in honor of Henry Clay, a famous antebellum American statesman. Population of Clay County is 26,890.

Clay County covers 228,843 acres total-ranking 70<sup>th</sup> in the state. The land breakdown is as follows:

- Cropland-137,399-ranking 48<sup>th</sup> in the state
- Harvested Cropland-137,399-ranking 48<sup>th</sup> in the state
- Pastureland-8,819-ranking 30<sup>th</sup> in the state
- Woodland-12,852-ranking 30<sup>th</sup> in the state

There are 579 farms in Clay County and ranking 33<sup>rd</sup> in the state when it comes to their Conservation Accomplishments. Crops on these farms include corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, popcorn. We rank 19<sup>th</sup> in the state in hay production. Livestock on these farms include beef cows, milk cows, sheep and chicken. Almost 50% of the land has been mined for coal. Much of the mined land has been reclaimed and brought back into production. The top 5 conservation practices implemented in Clay County are cover crops, forest stand management, brush management, nutrient management, integrated pest management and grassed waterways.

Clay County has 2.78 square miles of water and currently has a 319 grant from IDEM for the Lower Eel River Watershed. The Eel River has 12 main tributaries that drain the LERW. CCSWCD also just completed a three year CWI grant, partnering with Sullivan County SWCD, which brought additional funding and BMP options to the landowners of Clay County.

Places to see include the Exotic Feline Rescue Center, Clay City Pottery, The Farm Connection, Lynn's Pharmacy Soda Fountain, Honey Hill Bistro, Clay County Indiana Historical Society Museum, Clay County Indiana Genealogical Society and Clayshire Castle.

Festivals/Fairs in Clay County include Clay City Lions Club Pottery Festival (June), Brazil Rotary 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration (July), Clay County 4-H Fair (July) and Clayshire Castle Medieval Faire (Sept).

Unique places to dine in Clay County include: (Clay City) Glory Days, Joe's Garage BBQ & Bakery, Bob & Angie's Hometown Café, Pizza Gallery, (Staunton) Lake House Restaurant, (Bowling Green) Pioneer Café, (Brazil) Honey Hill Bistro, Eddie's Sandwich Shoppe, Fifi's, Pappy's Barbeque, Alabama Bar & Grill, Family Table Restaurant, Mario Brothers, Sunrise Family Restaurant, Wings Etc., Maurizio's Pizza and Restaurant, Lynn's Pharmacy Soda Fountain, The Coffee Grounds, The Freeze and Jacks Fine Food.

There is a USDA Service Center in Brazil. This Service Center houses FSA, NRCS, ISDA and CCSWCD. CCSWCD currently has three positions. CCSWCD District Technician, Laura Stearley, has been with the SWCD for combination of 18 years. The District Coordinator, Jennifer Creager has been with CCSWCD for 10 years. Currently there is a subcontracted position of 319 LERW Coordinator. This position is occupied by Sage Danch, who just came on board in 2018. CCSWCD's Annual Programs, Meetings and Services sponsored by the local SWCD in conjunction with its partners include: Annual Meeting, Well Testing, Rainbarrel and Composter Sales, Clay County Nature Day, Clay County Nature Bowl, Envirothon, Farm Tour, Locally Led Meeting, various grants such as CWI and 319, Contractors Breakfast, Clay County 4-H Fair Outreach Booth, drill rental (2 drills), plat book and flag sales, Spring and Fall Forestry Workshops, INField Advantage, Ag Day, Government Day, Tree Giveaway, Woman's Learning Circle, invasive species outreach and others as requested by our partnering counties of Parke, Putnam, Owen, Greene, Sullivan and Vigo.

**Greene County**



My name is Casey Kennett and I have been with Greene County SWCD for almost 3 years. I attended Vincennes University and have a degree in Agribusiness. Greene County is the third largest county by land area in the state and also neighbors 8 other counties. Divided by the White River, the east side of the county consists of mostly forests and hills while the west side of the

county is very flat and used for crop farming and animal production.

Greene County ranks fourth in the state for having conservation practices completed or in the process of being installed. It is also home to a few special locations. Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area, south of Linton, has become one of the largest and most successful wetland restorations in the United States. It covers just over 9,000 acres and attracts all kinds of visitors each year many who are bird watchers. Another commonly visited place in Greene County is the Tulip Trestle, also known as the Viaduct. It is the longest rail trestle in the U.S. and ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world. The trestle, located just east of Bloomfield, is 2,307 feet long and 157 feet high and still remains in use today by the IN Rail Road Company. Also located in Greene County and parts of Sullivan and Clay is Shakamak State Park. The name Shakamak means “River of the Long Fish” and many people visit to mainly fish, camp, and hike. Greene County is full of nature’s beautiful treasures! Feel free to contact me at [casey-kennett@iaswcd.org](mailto:casey-kennett@iaswcd.org) or call the office at 812-384-4634 ext. 3. Our office address is 104 CR 70 E, Suite B, Bloomfield, IN 47424.



Monroe County is located about 50 miles south of Indianapolis. At the 2010 census the population was 137,974 with 54,864 households, and 27,315 families residing in the county. The population density was 349.7 inhabitants per square mile.

We are most known as the home of Indiana University and Lake Monroe, however there are many other fun and interesting things to do and see in Monroe County. If you're here on a Saturday morning April – November stop by and check out The Bloomington Community Farmers' Market, it is one of the areas most beloved traditions. With over 100 local vendors selling a wide variety of products. You can shop for fresh fruits and vegetables, local dairy products like milk, yogurt, and cheese, eggs, fresh and/or frozen meats including beef, pork, poultry, and lamb. You can also find locally made salsa, jam, jelly, honey, maple syrup, relish, and vinegar. If you have a green thumb, make sure to explore the plant vendors that offer a variety of non-invasive plants, flowers, and herbs, and non-food products like beeswax, and bar soaps.

Make a stop by Oliver or Butler winery and sample some of the best local wines in the State. Or if beer is more your liking then check out any of our local micro brewers such as Upland or Bloomington Brew House.

Love nature or biking? Then Monroe County is a place for you as it offers various options for folks that enjoy the out-of-doors sense. Take a hike through the Hoosier National, Morgan-Monroe State or Yellow Wood Forests. Meander a trail around Lake Griffy or stroll along the paths at Indiana University. Hop on a bike and try your best at the famous Hill Hundred bike route. Whatever you're looking for, Monroe County is the place – we have something for everyone!



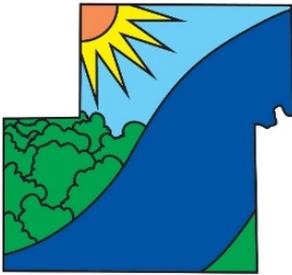
Morgan County, Indiana has a strong local economy that is also part of the greater Indianapolis area. Morgan County is strong in agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare. We also offer a climate very conducive to small business growth.

Morgan County is strategically located between Indy and Bloomington, offering quick

transportation options for products and people via a network of Central Indiana interstates. Morgan County is moments away from the Indianapolis International Airport with the world's largest FedEx air hub. Our safe and friendly communities, along with the lowest property taxes in the region make Morgan County a wonderful location for your home or business.

Experience the great outdoors with a kayak ride down the river or an afternoon spent on forest trails. Browse through independent shops in search of the perfect treasure to take home, and talk with local artists as they create one-of-a-kind pieces. Gaze at the stars at a NASA-affiliated observatory and space center, or play a round of golf at a course designed by World Golf Hall of Fame inductee Nick Price. Tour our family-owned honey and lavender farms, and enjoy tastings with live music at our winery. Local restaurants offer American soul food, spicy Cajun flavor from the bayou, international dishes, and plenty of sweet treats.

Specifically, our SWCD's mission is to sponsor educational opportunities for people of all ages and interests concerning the importance of our natural resources, and to encourage and promote voluntary conservation practices in the present and in the future. Clean streams and watersheds, healthy woodlands and eco systems, restored soil health and nutrient reduction for sustainable agriculture and sustainable urban greenspaces- that is our vision! Our Mobile Garden has reached over 700 students this calendar year alone! Our Well Water Test Kits are projected to reach 150 Morgan County residents this year! We actively strive to bring excellence to the classroom and other conservation outreach programs.



O W E N C O U N T Y  
SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The mighty White River splits the county at the eastern edge and follows a southwest course providing wide valleys of rich alluvial soil in many places and high bluffs made up of thick limestone escarpments. Water resources are abundant in Owen County with a large network of scenic tributary creeks rolling through the hills of the land, seep springs, underground aquifers, and the largest waterfall by volume in Indiana-Cataract Falls!

Home to Indiana's first state park, McCormick's Creek celebrated 100 years in 2016. A true gem with a spectacular limestone canyon, flowing creek, scenic waterfalls, and hiking trails, forests, and ravines that are full of plant and animal diversity. Part of the limestone belt, the historic Statehouse Quarry furnished limestone used for the Indianapolis Statehouse and the county has several limestone quarries still in operation today. This durable stone is especially adapted to the construction of piers, withstanding the action of frost and water for ages.

The Owen County SWCD is part of a community partnership to establish the MYPATH Trail System, which will provide many recreational opportunities on the Riverfront portion of the trail and improve safety on major walking routes in the town of Spencer. The SWCD is also kick-starting a new Cooperative Invasive Species Management group to help educate and manage the spread of invasive plant species.



Parke County Soil & Water  
Conservation District

Parke County is located in west central Indiana, along the Wabash River. It is famous for its 31 Covered Bridges and is known as “The Covered Bridge Capital of the World”! There is a Covered Bridge Festival each year that starts the second Friday of October and lasts 10 days and brings over 2 million people into the area. After visiting the Bridges you can also visit the three State Parks located in the county.

Turkey Run is one of the first State

Parks and has magnificent trails and views and is a favorite of canoers and hikers. Cecil Harden Lake (Raccoon Lake) is a flood control reservoir that is popular with boaters. Shades State Park, although lesser known, is a gem for hiking. Parke County has the highest amount of Classified Forest per acreage in the state and has no large industry other than agriculture. There is a large Amish population, with many small businesses that also contribute to the tourism of the area.

The conservation efforts in the area are mostly focused on agriculture and forestry as we have no large urban areas. We work with many absentee landowners that own forested property for hunting but live elsewhere. We have a CWI Grant with Vermillion County which enables us to hire a Conservation Technician to work with our producers on soil health and cover crops.



# **PUTNAM COUNTY**

## **SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Putnam County sits at the convergence of that which will be and that which was. To put it metaphorically, it's a place where a Tesla can share the road with a hay wagon, and all is just groovy. Situated two counties west of Indianapolis, two counties east of the state line, and threaded by blacktop arteries leading to every other urban center in the Midwest, Putnam County is the greatest place to be. Here you can spend your day in a peaceful rural world surrounded by corn, soybeans, and woodlands or hiking a stunning, trail-laden nature park easily rivaling many state parks. Later that evening you can sit in different world altogether, comfortably ensconced in one of Greencastle's downtown local breweries, or the brand new tap-house, or one of the chef inspired restaurants—all the benefits of a night in the city without any of the hassles.

Agriculture has been the focus when looking at conservation and it shows with 58% No-Till for 2018. But, Putnam County also has the Tesla crowd and a new focus has started for them. Mini-Grants are available for conservation programs like rain gardens and small pollinator plots in the back yard. We have started to use the Clean Water Clear Choices campaign to reach the urban population and lake residents. Partnering with the City of Greencastle on pollinator projects, MS4 compliance and sustainability programs. Putnam County is alive with conservation workshops during the week and a nightlife with live bands on the weekend.



Sullivan County, tucked away in the Southwest corner of Indiana along the banks of the Wabash River, is a gem of the Midwest made up of lakes, farms and charming small-town communities. Nicknamed the "Home of Outdoor Recreation," the county boasts over 26,000 acres of public recreational grounds. Sullivan County Park and Lake, a 468 acre lake constructed in 1968 as a flood control reservoir, attracts numerous individuals from around the state

interested in swimming, boating, camping and fishing. Sullivan County shares acreage with both Clay and Greene County to make up Shakamak State Park, and is also home to Greene-Sullivan State Forest and Turtle Creek Reservoir as well as the Historic Merom Bluff. Consisting of mostly rural space, charming small towns mark the landscape of the county and are reminiscent of the good old days of home cooking and friendly neighbors. Proud of their heritage, many communities host festivals throughout the year, including the Sullivan County Corn Festival held in the heart of the county seat, celebrating the agricultural industry that drives Sullivan County commerce.

Conservation practices are making strides in Sullivan County. With 74% no-till and 7,478 acres of cover crops planted in 2017, the Sullivan County SWCD and numerous partners are making strides to put conservation on the ground, with conservation efforts focused mostly on agriculture and forestry as our landscape does not currently contain any large urban areas. Currently hosting a 319 grant, with numerous successful 319s in the past, the Sullivan County SWCD is also providing cost-share through two DNR LARE grants and just completed a CWI grant with partner Clay County. Supporting a successful, yearly Indiana Master Naturalist class, the Sullivan County SWCD is always seeking volunteers for our Annual Wabash River Expedition which sends all county 8th graders, parents and volunteers down the Wabash River for an educational and conservation minded event!



The first settlers in the area arrived in 1816, the same year that the state of Indiana was established. Vigo County was formed in 1818 and included the area that later became Parke and Vermillion counties. In 1821, Parke County was formed, and on January 2,

1824, the Indiana General Assembly created Vermillion County out of Parke County; the act took effect on February 1. The county seat was established at Newport later that year, and it has always remained there.

The county was named for the southbound Vermilion River, which flows nearby. The name is spelled in the French/Commonwealth English style with a double letter "l", in contrast to the American English spelling of the adjacent Vermilion County, Illinois. This is one of only a few cases in the United States in which a county borders a county with the same name in another state. As of the 2010 census, the population was 16,212.

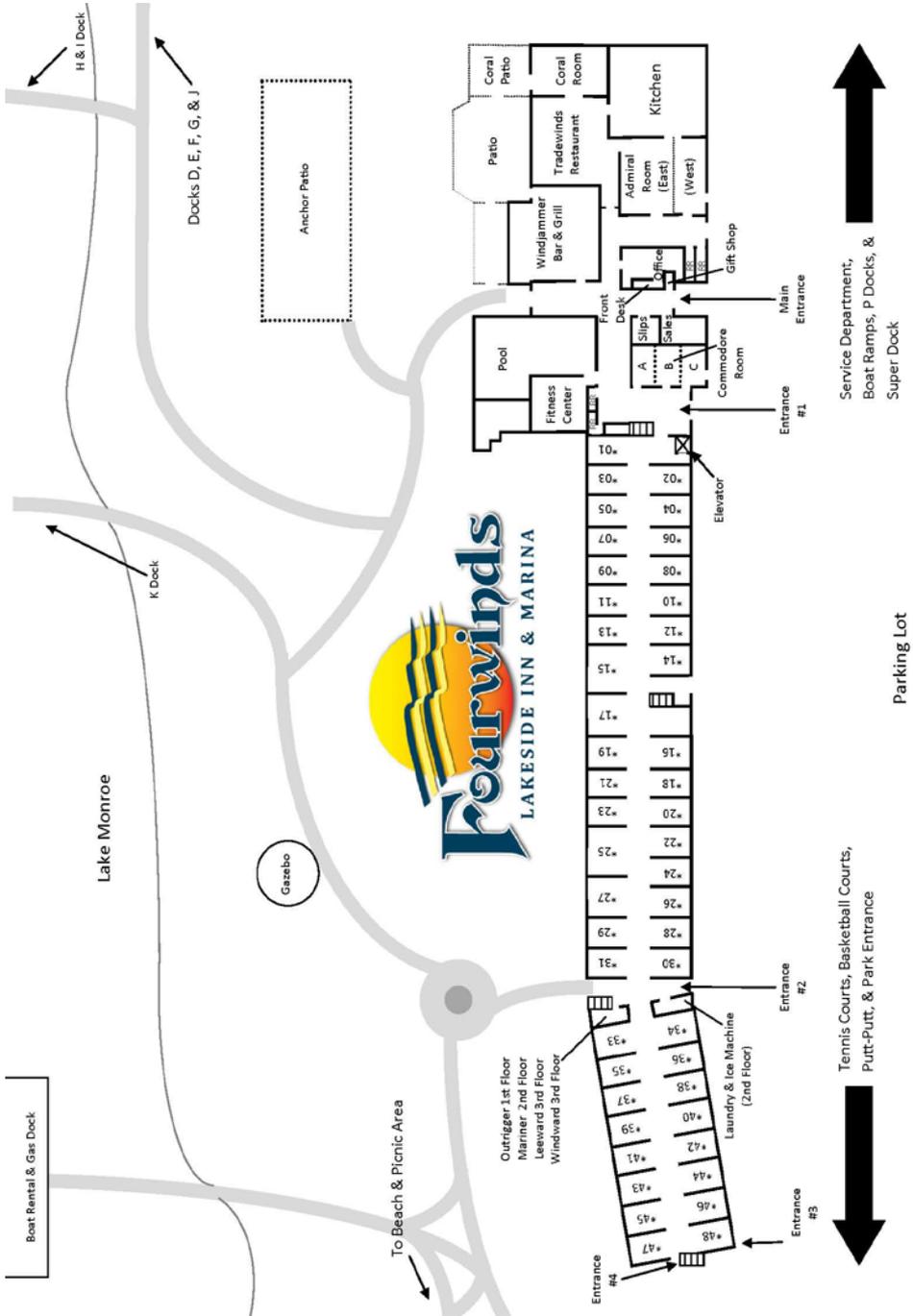
The Newport Hill Climb was first held in 1909. The event was started and stopped several times over the years, but the Newport Lions Club now runs the Newport Antique Auto Hill Climb; it has been held continuously since the 1960s and involves several hundred cars each year. (Wikipedia)



## VIGO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Vigo County is located on the banks of the Wabash River on Indiana's western border, Terre Haute has a rich and storied history as the capital city of The Wabash Valley. A regional hub for commerce, healthcare, industry & education, Terre Haute was once known as The Crossroads of America for its location at the intersection of the National Road and the north-south Dixie Bee Line. Vigo has approximately 27 miles of rails to trails in the county, allowing access from the east side of the county to the west side. Birthplace of the Coca Cola Bottle -World famous trademark created in 1915. Home to Griffin Bike Park, a 16- mile course, this bike trail was created in honor of Sargent Dale Griffin of Terre Haute, killed in Afghanistan in 2009. The county is home to five higher education institutions: Indiana State University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Ivy Tech Community College and Harrison College. Vigo County has several county and city parks equipped for different types of activities for the family. The county's newest conservation minded project is the Wabashiki Fish & Wildlife Area which is composed of 2,600 acres of floodplain along the Wabash River. In 2010, Vigo County Parks Department and the Department of Natural Resources joined together in a cooperative effort to offer this bird viewing paradise.

# Hotel & Grounds Map



# NOTES & THINGS TO REMEMBER