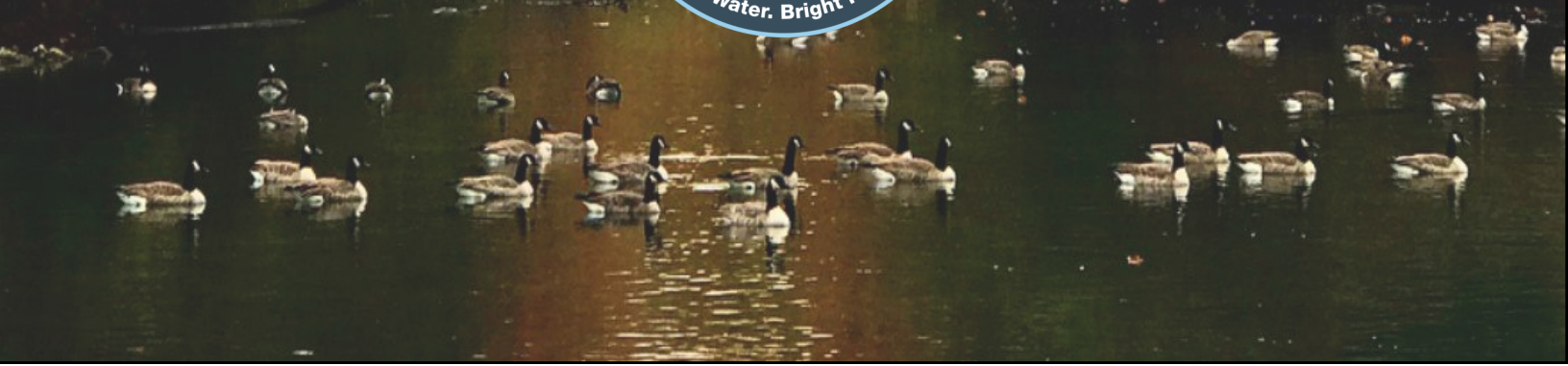


2022

Activity Report



Celebrating 16 Years of Success! 2006 - 2022



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Eagle Creek Representative
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Riley Creek Representative
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Jane McCleary
Pete Reynolds
William Doyle
Amy Downing
Lauren Sandhu*

*non voting

2022 Executive Committee

President, Bill Doyle
Vice President, Don Croy
Treasurer, Michael Reed
Secretary, Bob Connour

2022 Contact Information

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Findlay, OH. 45839-1237
Phone Number: (419) 889-7192
Email: coordinator@blanchardriver.org
Web Site: www.blanchardriver.org
Facebook: Blanchard River Watershed Partnership



Thank You to Our Supporters

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City of Findlay
Putnam County Commissioners
Village of Ottawa
Village of Bluffton
Maumee Watershed Conservancy District
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Hirzel Canning Company
Beerco
Millstream Area Credit Union
Dick and Jane McCleary

Thank You to Our Supporters

2022 Members, Corporate Sponsors and Major Donors

Donations Made in Memory of Dick McCleary

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Virginia Pilstl
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Linda Darnall
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Mary Louise Pollak

And THANK YOU to the MANY farmers, landowners and residents along the Blanchard River and creeks of the subwatersheds for their ongoing cooperation and permission for water quality monitoring, stream observation walks and assistance in discussing NPS-IS Plans. **Add your name to this list in 2023, get involved, volunteer and donate to the BRWP!**

Special thanks to all of the local, state, and federal agencies for their help and support!

Partnership Activities

this past year!

January 2022

- ◇ **\$80,000 from the American Rescue Plan Action Fund were allocated to the Riverside Dam and Reservoir engineering study through the City of Findlay.**
- ◇ Verdantas, formerly known as Hull and Associates, was hired by the BRWP to conduct the Riverside Dam and Reservoir engineering study.
- ◇ A kick-off meeting was held between the BRWP and The Nature Conservancy to begin the GLSNRP 11-06 project.



February 2022

- ◇ The BRWP was invited to present at First Presbyterian Church. This presentation focused on the mission and initiatives of the BRWP, and the benefits of rain gardens.

March 2022

- ◇ The Riverside Dam and Reservoir engineering study began in March with a cultural resources literature review of the project area.



April 2022

- ◇ The BRWP was invited to present to the Flag City Morning Rotary Club. This presentation focused on the mission and initiatives of the BRWP.
- ◇ The BRWP was invited to present to the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library. This presentation focused on the mission and initiatives of the BRWP.
- ◇ The BRWP partnered with the Findlay Brewing Company (FBC) and Flag City Clothing for an Earth Day Fundraiser. The FBC created and sold the Blanchard River Brew, and Flag City Clothing created a t-shirt to celebrate the FBC and BRWP collaboration. A portion of the proceeds from both the Blanchard River Brew and the t-shirts were donated to the BRWP to support water quality initiatives.
- ◇ The BRWP partnered with the United Way of Hancock County, Findlay City Schools, and the River Network to host the "Blue and Gold Goes Green" event. 60 students from the Blue and Gold Chapter of Findlay High School's National Honor Society worked to pick up litter in observance of Earth Day. Students worked to pick up litter throughout the Findlay High School campus and property over the course of three hours. All litter collected was documented using the Litterati App. 6,720 pieces of litter were collected.



May 2022

- ◇ The BRWP partnered with Findlay City Schools and the Mazza Museum to guide sixth graders from Donnell Middle School through soil and water conservation activities.
- ◇ On May 6th, 9th, and 16th, 200 students came to the Joseph and Judith Conda STEAM Education Center at the Mazza Museum on the University of Findlay campus. The students learned about soil and water erosion, watersheds, harmful algal blooms, native plants, and conservation practices. Using what they learned during the soil and water conservation activities, students evaluated the BRWP's new 7-acre restored floodplain project site on TR 89 in Findlay to come up with potential designs and features, which were shared with the project engineers from Verdantas.
- ◇ On May 25th, the sixth grade students presented their ideas for the 7-acre project site to the BRWP watershed coordinator, board members, and Findlay City School administrators. The students created clay models and PowerPoint presentations to showcase their ideas for the project site. These ideas were shared with both Verdantas and The Nature Conservancy.
- ◇ Two meetings were held at Chamberlin Hill Elementary School to discuss incorporating a rain garden into the school's Project Prairie installation via the Toledo Zoo.
- ◇ Preliminary designs and cost estimates for a rain garden on the University of Findlay campus were sent to the Lake Erie Commission for funding consideration.
- ◇ **\$80,000 from the Flood Mitigation Funds were allocated to the Riverside Dam and Reservoir engineering study through the Hancock County Commissioners.**
- ◇ BRWP Watershed Coordinator, Lauren Sandhu, graduated from the 2022 Hancock Leadership Program.



June and July 2022

- ◇ Spring macroinvertebrate sampling was conducted throughout the BRWP's sixteen sampling sites.
- ◇ The BRWP had a table display at the Putnam County Fair in Ottawa, Ohio.
- ◇ Riverside Dam and reservoir area engineering study fieldwork began.
- ◇ Eurasian watermilfoil, an invasive aquatic plant, was discovered by BRWP watershed coordinator, Lauren Sandhu, at one of the BRWP's macroinvertebrate sampling sites. The sighting was reported to the ODNR for species identification confirmation. The sighting and identification of the plant were confirmed, and a report was submitted to the USGS nonindigenous aquatic species database.
- ◇ A meeting was held between the BRWP, Verdantas, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), to discuss the eligibility of the Riverside Dam and Reservoir Area project for NOAA's "Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal" funding opportunity.
- ◇ Watershed Coordinator, Lauren Sandhu, was the speaker at the Nature Conservancy's July Lunch and Learn Series. The presentation provided an overview on the TR 89 7-acre restored floodplain project.



August 2022

- ◇ Watershed Coordinator, Lauren Sandhu, worked with Verdantas and Jennifer Williams Nonprofit Consulting to create an application package for NOAA’s “Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal” funding opportunity. The BRWP’s application package was successfully submitted via grants.gov on August 15th.
- ◇ The BRWP was asked to present an update on the Riverside Dam and Reservoir Area project at the Findlay City Council meeting on August 16th. An update was provided by Lauren Sandhu at this meeting.
- ◇ The BRWP was accepted into the Jumpstart Fundraising Program.

September 2022

- ◇ Fall macroinvertebrate sampling was conducted throughout the BRWP’s sixteen sampling sites. University of Findlay biology student, Megan Wilkinson, assisted Watershed Coordinator, Lauren Sandhu, with sampling and data analysis.
- ◇ Watershed Coordinator, Lauren Sandhu, and UF student, Megan Wilkinson, attended the 2022 HAB: State of the Science Conference in Toledo, OH.
- ◇ **The BRWP was awarded a \$500.00 President’s Discretionary grant by the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation.** This grant funded the BRWP’s Riverside Dam Restoration Project Community Update, which was held on September 23rd at Riverside Park. Fifty people attended this event. Jordan Rofkar, ecology and wetlands practice leader from Verdantas, presented three preliminary design drawings for the modification of the Riverside Dam. Watershed Coordinator, Lauren Sandhu, provided an overall project update and overview.
- ◇ **The BRWP received a \$5,000.00 grant from the River Network via the Ball Corporation** to create and launch litter clean-up kits and a week-long clean-up event.
- ◇ The BRWP partnered with the River Network and the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library to create litter clean-up kits. Ten kits were created and made available for checkout at the library from September 24th-October 1st. Each kit was a backpack which contained a litter grabber, trash bags, nitrile gloves, disinfecting wipes, and a safety vest. The kits were launched and promoted at the BRWP’s table display at Oktoberfest in downtown Findlay.
- ◇ Watershed Coordinator, Lauren Sandhu, presented to Chad Marzec’s Environmental Science class at Liberty Benton High School. The presentation focused on the initiatives of the BRWP.
- ◇ The BRWP met with H2Ohio Wetland Monitoring Program leaders to discuss the involvement of City of Findlay and Hancock County Schools in the program.

October 2022

- ◇ The BRWP partnered with Whirlpool-Ottawa to set up a week-long litter challenge for Whirlpool employees in the Litterati App. A total of nineteen people participated and collected 5,971 pieces of litter.
- ◇ University of Findlay biology student, Megan Wilkinson, presented the results of her macroinvertebrate sampling data analysis at the BRWP board meeting on October 27th.



November and December 2022

- ◇ Watershed Coordinator, Lauren Sandhu, attended and presented at the Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds conference on November 3rd and 4th. The conference was hosted by the Sand County Foundation. The presentation focused on the BRWP’s seven-acre restored floodplain project on TR 89, and the activities conducted for the sixth grade Donnell Students at the Mazza Museum in May of 2022.
- ◇ The BRWP hosted its 2022 Annual Meeting on November 18th. Meeting attendees were presented with an overview of the BRWP’s activities in 2022. An overview of the BRWP’s seven-acre restored floodplain project site on TR 89 in Findlay was presented by Conner Smith, leader of the ecological restoration practice at Verdantas.
- ◇ The Friend of the Watershed Award was presented to Mayor Christina Muryn and Colleen Benelli. This award is presented to an individual or organization that has been instrumental in the success and mission of the BRWP.
- ◇ Watershed Coordinator, Lauren Sandhu, met with administrators from Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School and the Toledo Zoo to discuss a Project Prairie installation along Tawa Run.
- ◇ The BRWP met with ODNR, H2Ohio monitoring leaders, and teachers from Donnell Middle School, Glenwood Middle School, Liberty Benton High School, and the University of Findlay to discuss student involvement in the program.
- ◇ Watershed Coordinator, Lauren Sandhu, and ODNR staff met with Chad Marzec’s Environmental Science class to discuss H2Ohio citizen science opportunities
- ◇ Chad Marzec’s Environmental Science class at Liberty Benton High School presented their ideas for a rain garden on school grounds to the BRWP.
- ◇ The BRWP was notified by NOAA that the “Ecological Restoration of the Riverside Dam and Reservoir Area” project was not selected for funding. The BRWP will pursue other funding sources in 2023.



BRWP Grants update November 18, 2022

GRANTS AWARDED	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	GRANT WRITER AND ORGANIZATION	IMPACT Acres, etc.	ENDING DATE
Great Lakes Commission GLSNRP-09-19-08	\$142,020	This grant will allow producers to be trained in using the Nutrient Tracking Tool (NTT) program. Producers will submit a data sheet which will be entered into the NTT program. Data entered will be: amount, method and time of fertilizer application, type, date, time and method used to establish crop, total yield and harvest date of each crop, and tillage method used. The program will produce a cost benefit analysis which will allow producers to see how BMP's will affect their yields.	BRWP, NCWQR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,173.27 acres of cover crops have been installed • 521.88 acres of cropland has been soil tested • 1,446.08 acres of cropland has undergone conservation tillage 	9/30/2023
Great Lakes Commission GLSNRP 11-06	\$129,070	This grant will allow for 7-acres of flood-prone cropland to be converted into a restored floodplain.	BRWP	None yet	9/30/2024
ARPA Funds—City of Findlay	\$80,000	These funds were used to facilitate a full engineering study of the Riverside Dam and reservoir area in 2022. The engineering study was conducted by Verdantas.	BRWP	The Riverside Dam and reservoir engineering study began in March of 2022, and will be complete in January of 2023.	1/31/2023
Flood Mitigation Funds—Hancock County Commissioners	\$80,000	These funds will be contributed to the pre-construction phase of the Riverside Dam and reservoir area project. In 2023/2024.	BRWP	None yet	TBD
Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation President's Discretionary Grant	\$500.00	This grant funded the catered breakfast for the Ecological Restoration of the Riverside Dam and Reservoir Community Update on September 23, 2022.	BRWP	Fifty people attended the Riverside Dam and Reservoir Community Update.	9/30/22
River Network, Ball Corporation	\$5,000.00	This grant allowed for the creation of ten litter clean-up kits and a week-long clean-up event in September of 2022.	BRWP	Ten litter kits were created, and will be utilized for future events.	10/31/22

2023 Projects

- Continue implementation of all active grants.
- Secure funding to support the pre-construction and construction phases of the Riverside Dam and reservoir area project.
- Provide support for partners in seeking grants for projects such as:
 1. agriculture BMPs to reduce sediment and nutrient loadings
 2. restoration of brownfield and riparian areas
 3. other projects as identified by our stakeholders and / or partners
- Continuation of existing BRWP projects:
 1. water quality monitoring
 2. community outreach/education
 3. river and litter clean-ups
- Write at least two NPS-IS Plans.
- Seek funding for the BRWP. Our main source of support is from our membership dues and sponsorships.

How can you help?

• Become a member and volunteer!

How Can You Stay in Touch?

• Follow us on Facebook at:

Blanchard River Watershed Partnership

• Visit our website at:

www.blanchardriver.org