



**Cleaner  
Water**  
*at the Source -*

**Cleaner  
Water**  
*at the Tap*

When you turn on the faucet, you should be confident that you and your family are getting the cleanest drinking water possible. Protecting water quality in the St. Joseph River is the first step toward ensuring safe water at a reasonable cost.

In Fort Wayne, New Haven, and Allen County, nearly 300,000 residents rely on drinking water that comes from the St. Joseph River. Fort Wayne's Three Rivers Water Filtration Plant processes and distributes an average of 34 million gallons of safe, clean water each day.

### Caring for the St. Joseph River is Everyone's Job

Keeping the St. Joseph and its tributaries clean and pollution-free is the job of *everyone* who lives, works and plays in the St. Joseph River watershed. *You* can help!

Approximately 95% of the land in the watershed is privately owned. Rural and urban residents alike affect the quality of the river through everyday activities. How you care for your field or lawn, how you dispose of household chemicals and what you do with livestock or pet waste can have a big impact on the condition of water in the St. Joseph River.

The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative is the only organized group working on behalf of the entire watershed. Its mission is to protect and improve the quality of the water in the St. Joseph River by working with residents, businesses, and government agencies to promote watershed education, watershed planning, and the use of best management practices.

Because you care about clean water  
*as a drinking water source, for recreation and  
as a wildlife habitat...*

We invite you to join with us to protect and improve the St. Joseph River and its watershed.

**Learn...** more about water quality and your watershed

**Donate...** to support the Initiative's operating expenses and special projects

**Volunteer...** your time as a water quality monitor or educator

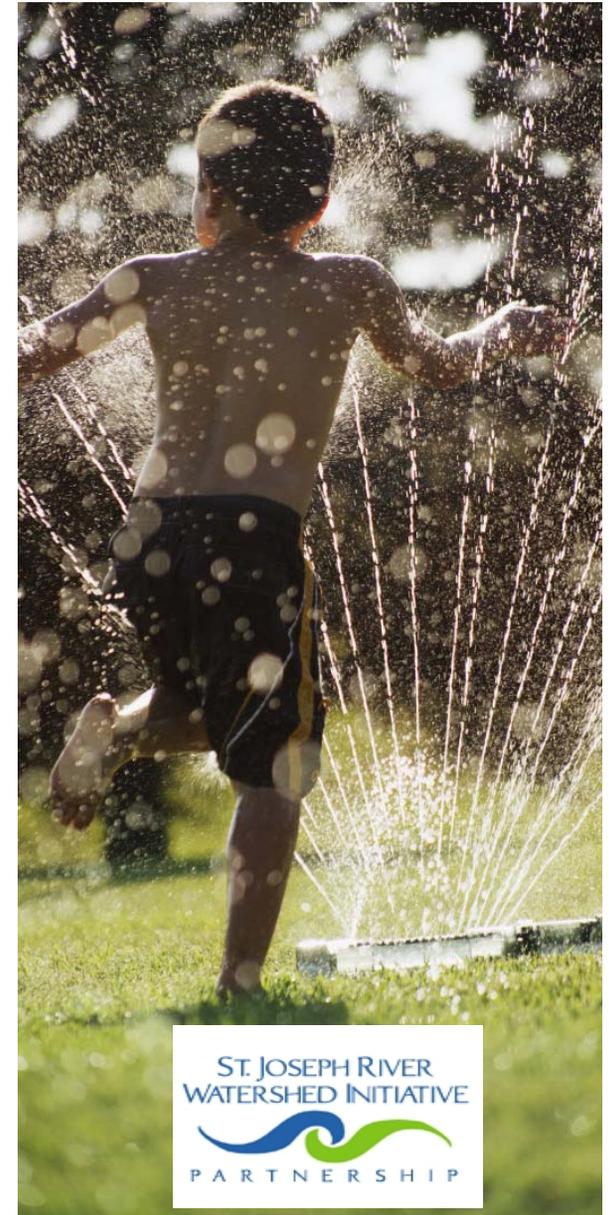
**Serve...** as a technical advisor or member of the Board of Directors



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# Our Water Our Future



# The St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative Partnership

In 1995, the Environmental Working Group's report *Weed Killers by the Glass* documented the presence of pesticides in Fort Wayne's tap water. This was a wake-up call that spurred the city, county and concerned citizens from across three states to join forces and work together to improve the quality of water in the St. Joseph River, the source of Fort Wayne's drinking water.

Incorporated as a not-for-profit in 1998, the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative has worked tirelessly to educate stakeholders about water quality, to encourage best management practices on the land, and to work with local communities on watershed management planning.

The Initiative's water quality monitoring program began in 1996 and continues to the present. Weekly sampling at sites across Indiana, Ohio and Michigan during the recreational season has produced an extensive water quality database. This information is accessible to the public at the Initiative's website, [www.sjrwi.org](http://www.sjrwi.org).

## Taking a Watershed Approach

The St. Joseph River watershed encompasses 694,000 acres and is part of the Western Lake Erie Basin and the Great Lakes watershed. The St. Joseph flows from its headwaters in Hillsdale County, Michigan, through Williams and Defiance counties in Ohio, into DeKalb County, Indiana. Picking up water from tributaries in Noble and Steuben counties, it flows into Allen County where it meets the St. Marys River in downtown Fort Wayne, forming the Maumee River. The Maumee, the largest tributary of the Great Lakes, flows from Fort Wayne to Toledo, Ohio, where it enters Lake Erie at Maumee Bay.

